Athens Democracy

*Hint – You only need underlined or bolded terms.

Intro Question -

What does democracy mean to you?

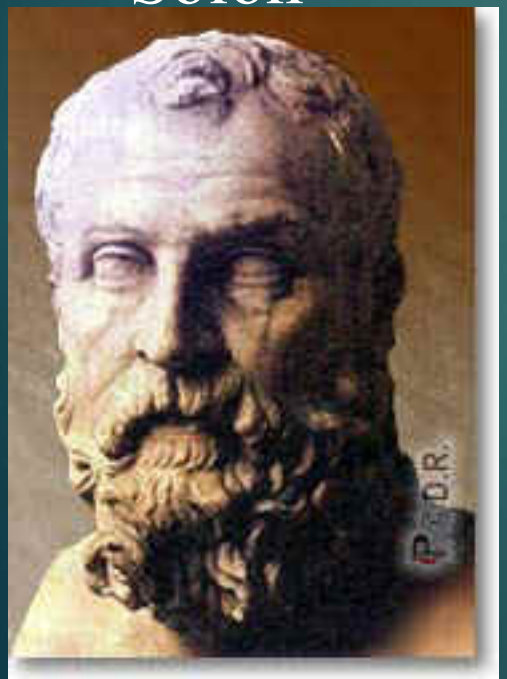
Greece, Athens & Athens Law

- Greece started about 2000 B.C. by establishing cities in valleys along Greece's rocky coast.
- Each city-state had its own government due to their geographic locations.
- Athens was the largest & most powerful city state in Greece.
- Athens first had a **monarchy** (government controlled by one person)
- Athens government developed into an **aristocracy** (State ruled by noble class)
- Citizens – Only citizens were all free adult males
- Slaves - formed 1/3 of the Athens population

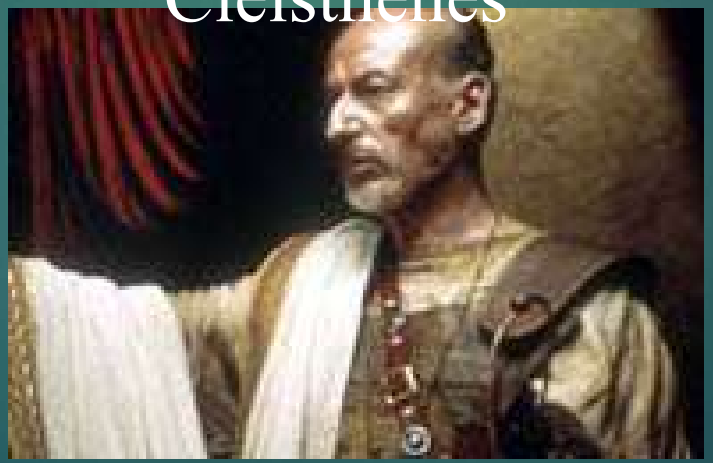
Maps of Ancient Greece

Democratic Greek Leaders

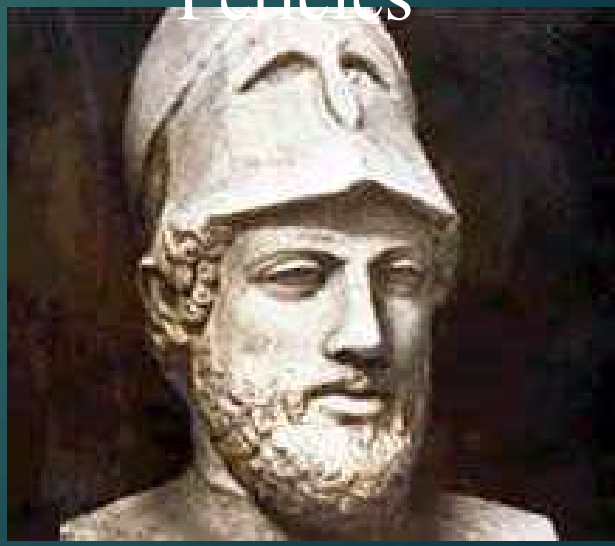
Solon



Cleisthenes



Pericles

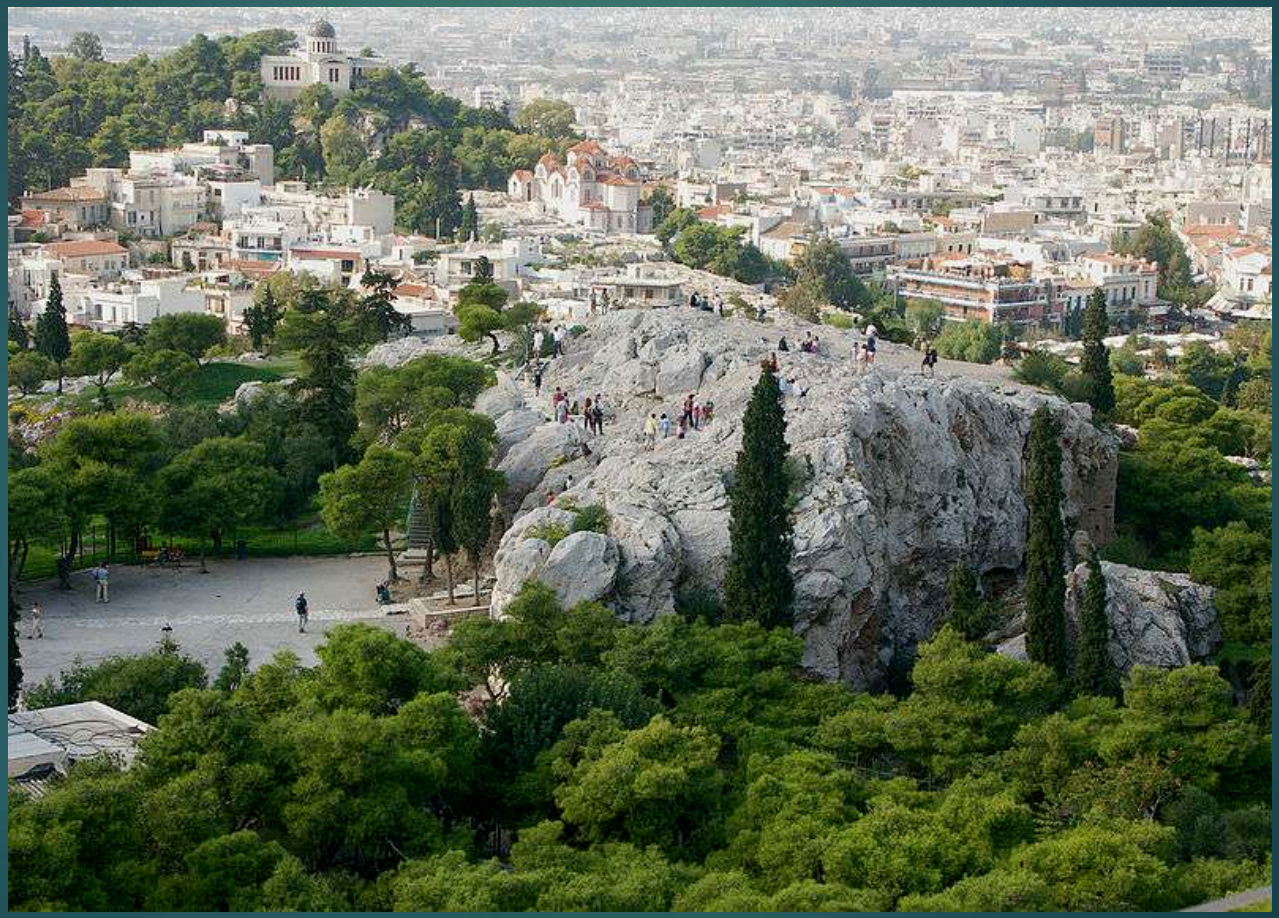


Elected chief Archon (statesman) in 594 B.C. to help solve the problems of Athens

Solon (SO-luhn)

- Solved Athenian Problems –
  - Eliminated Debt Slavery
  - Eliminated Farmer Debts
- Established four classes of citizenship based on wealth, rather than heredity.
- Created a council of 400, increasing government size.
- Introduced a code of laws, which gave citizens the right to bring charges against wrongdoers.
- Encouraged the export of goods, which became a profitable overseas trade.

- Solon relinquished power after he completed his work.
- In just 4 years, Athenian elites revolted against his reform.
- Solon called Athens stupid and cowardly.



Cleisthenes

(Klice-then-eez)

A rich and powerful aristocrat

- In 508 B.C. he introduces new reforms
- Wanted to break up the power of the nobility
- He allowed all citizens to submit laws for debate & passage
- He reorganized the assembly to make Athens a *Full Democracy* (Every Athenian man would have one vote, and they would all meet and vote on what to do. The big meeting was called the Assembly)
- Created the council of Five Hundred, (a smaller council of 500 men, who were chosen by a lottery, and changed every year)
- Regarded as the *Founder of Democracy* in Athens

Quick Recap!

Your notes should have the following terms/items. You should go back now to highlight them.

- Athens
- Monarchy v. Aristocracy
- Citizens in Athens were…
- Solon
  - Athenian Problems Solved
  - Code of Laws
- Cleisthenes
  - Full Democracy
  - Council of 500

Greek – Persian Wars 490 B.C. - 479 B.C.

Persia invades Greece causing the Greek city-states to unite. Greece defeats Persia & creates an alliance of 140 city-states called The Delian League, with Athens as its lead city-state.

The Battle of Thermopylae

Greek Golden Age

- Defeating the Persians in 479 BC led to a new sense of confidence and freedom in Greece.
  - The 5th BC century was known as the Golden Age of Greece, when **Pericles** introduced the idea of direct democracy in Athens, where citizens rule directly and not through representatives.
- But this did not last long…

- Tensions between Athens and Sparta led to the Peloponnesian Wars, which Sparta won. After this, Greece was conquered by King Philip of Macedonia.
- King Philip II conquered Greece quickly, but he was assassinated in 336 B.C.

- His son Alexander (Alexander The Great) became king.
  - Alexander was only 20 when he became king.
  - But he was wildly successful.
  - He died of an illness.

Quick Recap!

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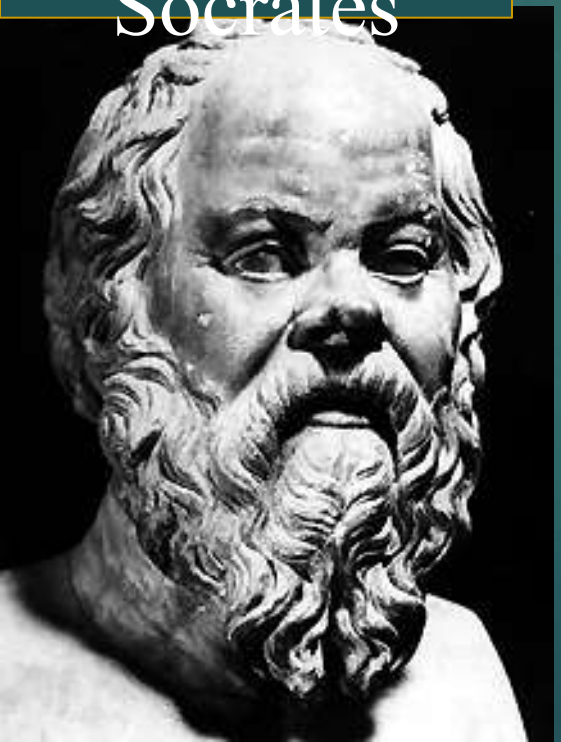
- Greek-Persian Wars
- 479 –
- Pericles
  - Golden Age
- Peloponnesian War
- Alexander the Great

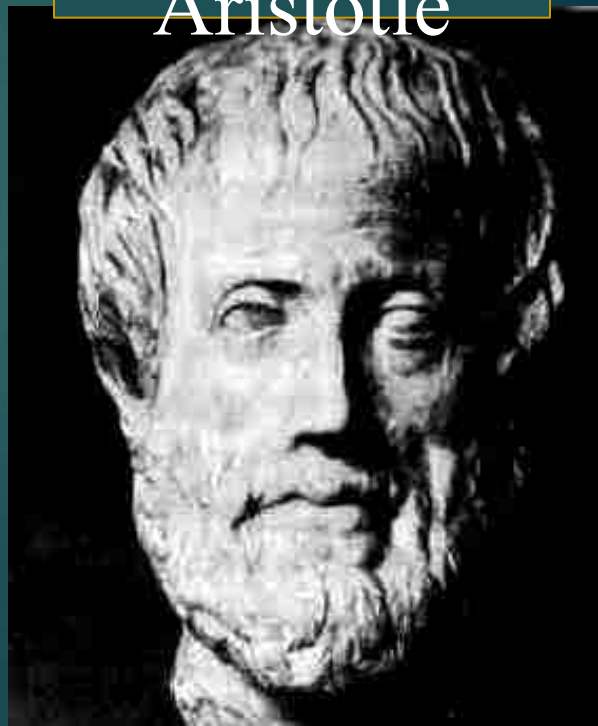
Greek Philosophers

Plato

Socrates



Aristotle



Intro Question -

- What type of person is best fit to rule others?

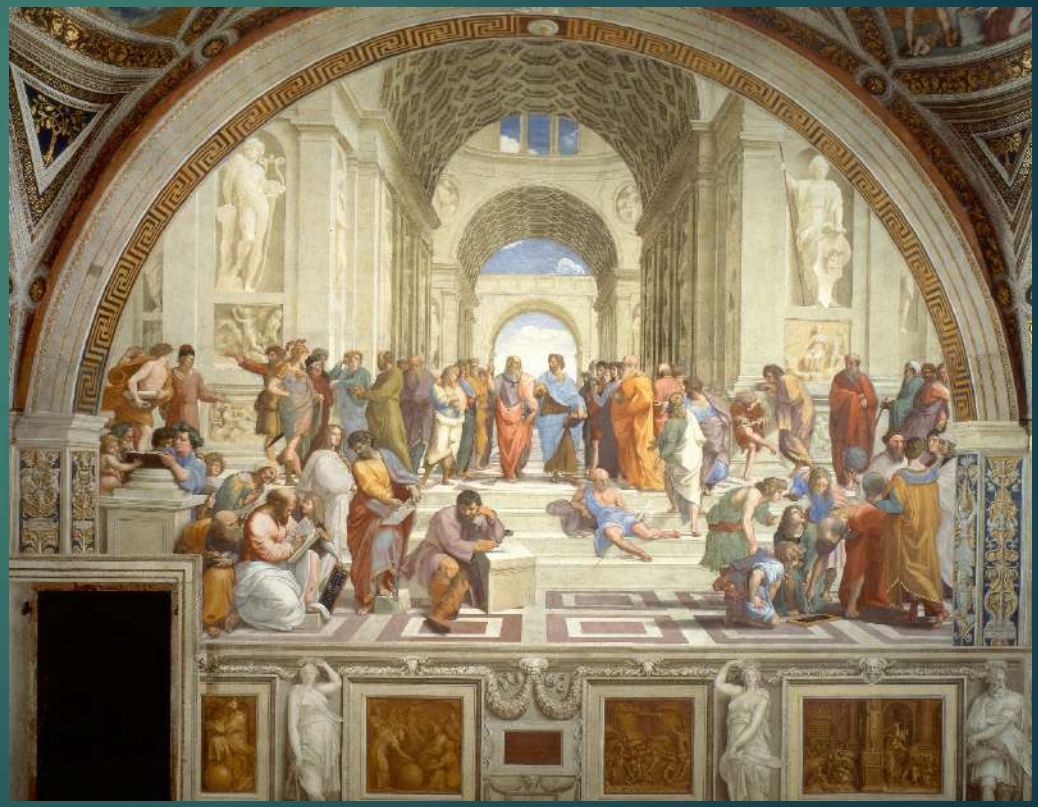
II) Changes in Greek Democracy

- After the Peloponnesian War was over, all the cities of Greece were worn out & poor, which led to philosophers seeking new ways of thinking.
- Philosophers, including **Socrates**, **Plato**, and **Aristotle**, use logic and reason to explore new ideas, creating an atmosphere conducive to democracy.
- **Socrates** encouraged his students to examine their most closely held beliefs and used a question and answer approach that became know as the **Socratic method**.
- Try this out!
  - Ask your neighbor: What is something you believe in?
    - Then – Why?
    - And Again, Why?

Changes in Greek Democracy

- Socrates' most famous student **Plato** was best known for his most famous work ***The Republic***, which set forth his vision of a perfectly governed society.

- This society was governed not by the richest or most powerful, but the wisest.



Changes in Greek Democracy

- Plato's student **Aristotle** examined the nature of the world and human belief, thought and knowledge.

- The Greeks develop a number of ideas about and institutions for governing that are important in our government today such as a Natural Law in the universe, use reason to predict patterns, and separation of powers by different branches of government.

Quick Recap!

Your notes should have the following terms/items. You should go back now to highlight them.

- Socrates – Socratic Method
- Plato – Government should be ruled by…
  - Wrote The Republic
- Aristotle – Examined…
- Natural Law of Universe =

ROME

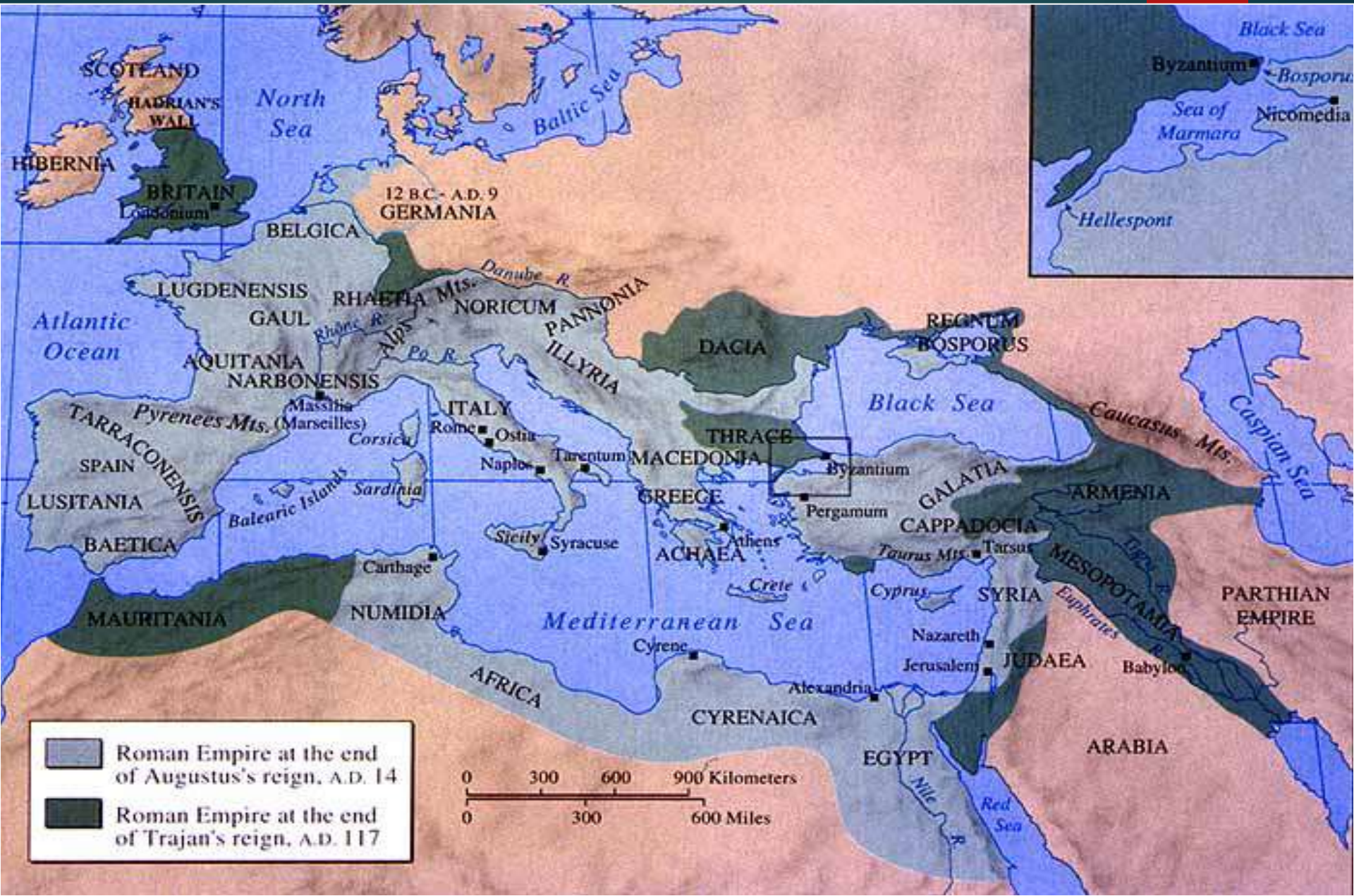
III) Rome Develops a Republic

- With the Greek civilization in decline a new civilization rose to power. The early Romans (Latins) became familiar with Greek ideas when they defeated them for control of the Italian peninsula, and adapted elements to their culture.

III) Rome Develops a Republic

- Around 500 BC, Rome develops a government called a **Republic**
  - Citizens (free born males) elect leaders to represent them.
- Romans also established a government with separate branches, the legislative branch was made up of the **Senate** (primary government agency) and two assemblies

Roman Expansion



III) Rome Develops a Republic

- Expansion creates problems for the Roman republic, with civil wars and rule by dictators

- Rome ends democracy and becomes an empire by 27 BC under the rule of emperor Augustus.

IV) Roman Law

- New Roman Law = All people must obey laws
  - Equal treatment, innocent until proven guilty, burden of proof on accuser, any law that was unreasonable could be set aside.
- Romans wrote down these laws in the **Twelve Tables**.
- Nearly a 1000 years later Emperor **Justinian** compiled all the Roman laws called the **Code of Justinian**, which later became a guide for legal maters throughout western Europe.
- Roman law furthers democratic traditions in Rome and in civilizations that follow.

Quick Recap!

Your notes should have the following terms/items. You should go back now to highlight them.

- Roman Republic
- Roman Senate
- Roman Twelve Tables
- Code of Justinian