

Classical Civilization: Mediterranean--Rome

I. Rome location—7 hills on the Tiber River

A. Origins:

1. Legend: Romulus & Remus (21 April 753 BCE) - Romulus kills Remus & found Rome
2. Etruscans dominated the area after 650 BCE--introduced Greek gods/goddesses--borrowed heavily rather than independent invention; common language was Latin
3. 390 BCE—Celts or Gauls sacked Rome allowing the Romans to fill the vacuum
 - height of power was ca. 300 BCE, communal existence w/ elected officials, women's equality, excellent roads, & a lunar calendar; polytheistic; priesthood called the Druids; used Greek for record keeping but left no writing

A. Technology:

- www—roads (53,000 mi), aqueducts, concrete (used pozzolana mortar from volcanic stone)
- sea routes from the Red Sea down the African Swahili Coast & India for pepper (19 ports along the Malabar Coast of India)
- Pantheon (150' wide concrete dome), coliseum (used the groin vault), Circus Maximus (held over 250,000, chariot racing)
- vast numbers of slaves possibly kept Rome from greater mechanization
- salt was an essential part of Roman success w/ over 60 salt works; soldiers were sometimes paid in salt

B. Law: 450 BCE—Law of the 12 Tables—confirmed privileges of the patricians; (innocent until proven guilty; united people)

- people equal under the law; accused could face accuser & defend self; guilt had to be clearly established; applied to all

C. Social:

- 509-30 BCE—Romans revolted against Etruscans & est. aristocratic republic—birth of Roman Republic or SPQR (Senatus Populus Que Romanus=the Senate & the People of Rome)
 1. Power in the patricians (land owning aristocrats) (Senate had 300 = continuous stability)
 2. Assembly had plebians (common people)
 3. Both patricians & plebians were hereditary
- Patriarchal families—husbands could legally kill wives for adultery; sell them or children; woman was head of home but could not own property; family was the basic unit of society under the authority of the paterfamilias (oldest male in the family); women were still subordinate; practiced infanticide; husbands could kill wife for adultery; most upper class women had first child at age 15; upper class women had some education while lower class women worked; life expectancy for males b/t 20-30
- citizenship continued to expand as time went on but the privileges of citizenship became weaker
- Slavery was part of life; manumission was common; slaves used in mining, agriculture, household care, & tutoring
 - slaves came from conquered areas; in Gaul, Caesar brought back 500,000 during 9 years of fighting
 - emperors had up to 20,000 slaves while some wealthy families had as many as 4,000
 - most famous slave revolt was Spartacus in 73 BCE; a gladiator who fled to Mt. Vesuvius & led over 100,000 slaves in a two year revolt against Roman rule; Rome eventually defeated the slaves w/ 8-10 legions & then crucified thousands along the Appian Road
- language (Latin) was influenced by Greek

E. Military formed the foundation of the Roman govt

1. the Roman Legion—standardized, organized, & well-disciplined
2. originally the military was not a "standing army" but w/ the Marian Reforms in 107 BCE, Rome adopted a permanent standing army
3. conscripts enlisted for a period of 20 years & were promised land after their service until 212 CE when many outside Italy became citizens through the military
 - Rome had gained control over the Italian Peninsula by providing citizenship to the people

F. History of the Republic after the Etruscans

- Roman Republic—kings overthrown in 507 BCE; power to male citizens; wealthy votes counted more—soon became hereditary; elected officials as representatives (Senate, 300=continuous stability) (Assembly of plebians); social classes (patrician—wealthy landowning & plebeians—ordinary citizens); expanded; 3 Punic Wars w/ Carthage & four Macedonian Wars w/ Greece; slave revolts (Spartacus, 70 BCE); slave not used in military; republic collapses w/ increase internal turmoil & was replaced by military dictatorships
- Expansion under the Republic—conquered Italy, Carthage, Greece—assimilated others into state by citizenship
 - Gaul (area of France) added by Julius Caesar (58 - 51 BCE) & Britain in 43 CE
- 3 Punic Wars—defeated Carthage, a Phoenician colony (Hannibal w/ 50,000 & 60 elephants @ Cannae, kills 40,000 Romans) (Punic is Latin for Phoenician) wars also naval; Rome developed the corvus (similar to a gangplank) to "invade" an enemy's ship
 - 1st 264-241 BCE Rome wins & takes Sicily - mainly a naval war
 - 2nd 215-201 BCE Hannibal attacks Spain, then Italy
 - at the Battle of Cannae Hannibal lost to the Romans & retreated to Africa where Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal at the Battle of Zama in 202 BCE
 - eventually Hannibal would commit suicide rather than be captured by the Romans in 183 BCE
 - 3rd 149-146 BCE Carthage totally wiped out after being besieged for 3 years

H. Roman Empire (30 BCE-476 CE)—rise of powerful generals & prof. armies, urbanization, poverty

a. 1st Triumvirate—Julius Caesar, Pompey, Crassus (dies)

- in a civil war, Caesar kills Pompey & becomes dictator, he is then assassinated in 44 BCE (the same year he

- declares himself perpetual dictator, Octavian (his grand nephew) is his heir
- Caesar reformed the calendar—was used until Pope Gregory XIII in 1582
- b. Who would rule? the 2nd Triumvirate: Octavian=Rome, Antony=Egypt, Lepidus=N. Africa
- c. 42 - 31 BCE-Lepidus lost his position, Oct. opposes Ant. & Cleo.—defeats them at Actium in 31 BCE—Octavian is now the emperor & the Republic is dead
- d. Octavian becomes Augustus ("most revered one")—1st emperor (27 BCE - 14 CE)—while not taking the title of "dictator", Octavian ruled as one & gradually replaced opponents in the Senate w/ his followers
- e. Augustus establishes the elite Praetorian Guard (would later cause problems); new system of coinage, public services, tax collection, & building projects; enlarges & secures the Empire w/ colonies—Pax Romana Era (27 BCE to 180 CE) until death of Marcus Aurelius when his son Commodus took over marking the start of the decline
 - Golden Era--civil service established, Rome's population grew to 750,000, gave free grain to citizens, gladiators & chariot racing, growth of agriculture, trade, bureaucracy; literature grew (Virgil & Horace);
 - legal rights of women, slaves, & children were strengthened; Innovations in civil engineering & monumental architecture; road network stretched 53,000 miles; bureaucracy grew; civil service established, Rome's population grew to 750,000, gave free grain to citizens, gladiators & chariot racing, growth of agriculture & trade (Chinese silk made its way to Rome—causes currency problem w/ \$\$ going to China); literature grew: w/ Virgil & Horace, poets, & Livy, a historian
- f. Julio-Claudian emperors:
 - Octavian (aka. Augustus)—tried to conquer "barbarians" but failed
 - Tiberius (14 -37 CE)—tended to be paranoid
 - Caligula (37-41 CE)—possibly insane; assassinated
 - Claudius (41-54 CE)—ordered the colonization of Britain; executed wife & married his niece
 - Nero (54-68 CE)—killed himself

followed by 3 inept emperors (68 - 69 CE)—period of civil war

then the Flavian Emperors (69-96 CE):

- Vespasian (69-79 CE)—built the coliseum; put down first Jewish revolt & destroyed the temple
- Titus (79-81 CE)—very popular leader
- Domitian (81-96 CE)—murdered

followed by the Five Good Emperors (Antonines, 96-180 CE)—no heirs but hand-picked:

- Nerva (96-98 CE)
- Trajan (98-117)—advanced deep into Parthian territory
- Hadrian (117-138 CE)—surrendered Meso. back to Parthians; crushed the Jewish revolt of 132-135 CE led by Simon Bar Kokhba (led to the diaspora); built the wall in Britain (Hadrian's Wall)
- Antoninus Pius (138-161 CE)—peaceful time
- Marcus Aurelius (161 - 180 CE)-- Golden Age of Rome despite the Plague that would kill up to 5 million; Roman defense of the East was weakened by soldiers dying; Marcus Aurelius would die from the Plague

I. Start of the decline—Commodus (180-192 CE-murdered) - start of Germanic invasions

- a. enemies: Barbarian Germanic tribes - not organized
 - internal revolts - more slave revolts (Spartacus), Jewish revolt; in general, the gov't. tried to calm the people by organizing food supplies & distribution
 - invasion by the Parthians (Rome's most formidable enemy)—an invasion in 53 BCE had failed
 - internal - many generals revolted
 - In the 2nd century CE the latifundia arose—large estates/farms w/ slaves that would gradually push non-slaves off the farmland; latifundia would be nucleus of the manor in the medieval time period
- b. 3rd c. Crisis (b/t 235 - 284 CE)
 - empire undergoes massive convulsions & nearly collapses; inflation & food prices up; gold/silver reserves depleted; less Au/Ag in coins leading to lack of confidence in coinage & to barter; pop begins shift urban to rural
 - Pra. Guard starts selecting rulers; many assassinations (20 emperors in 49 years)
 - barbarians started raided into the northern empire (Rome paid off) & hyperinflation
 - another Plague from 251 to 256 killed up to 5,000 people a day in Rome (lack of immunity)
- c. Diocletian (284-305 CE)—strips the Senate of its power, makes Rome a totalitarian state; enlarged army w/ Germanic troops; froze occupations (hereditary caste system—start of feudalism?); divided Europe into E (he ruled from Nicomedia—present day Ismir in Turkey) & W w/ Maximian in the Wes (ruled from Milan); had to pay off the wealthy while poor farmers became indebted & often sold into slavery; persecutes Christians
 - by splitting the empire Diocletian would lay the foundation for the creation of the Byzantine Empire in the east
 - one of the biggest persecutors of Christians
 - military became a defensive one w/ the *limitanei* along strategic rivers serving as borders & the *comitatus* or mobile army Diocletian visited Rome only after ruling for 20 years & then only stayed for 6 weeks; two years later he "retired" to the countryside

- d. Constantine (288-337 CE)—Edict of Milan (313 CE) proclaimed the toleration of Christianity; moved capitol to Byzantium (renamed Nova Roma or more popularly Constantinople, the capitol of the E. Roman Empire); wealthy moved there causing the city of Rome to fall further behind
 - Council of Nicea (325 CE) 300 bishops convened—issued the Nicene Creed (affirmed the divinity of Jesus)
 - on the way back to Rome Constantine killed three of his sons
 - When Constantine died he left the empire to relatives who immediately set into killing the others (Delmatius & his sons were killed by their cousins; his other half brother Julius, was then killed; his three sons (Constantine, Constantius, & Constans) started killing one another until only Constantius was left)
 - e. Theodosius (392 -395) reunited the Empire & was the last emperor to rule over the whole empire; in 392 CE all pagan ceremonies banned & temples destroyed in Constantinople; no toleration accepted
 - when Theodosius took over the Germanic tribes had been given semi-autonomous status
 - Visigoths in 395 moved east led by Alaric into Italy; besieged Rome for 2 years until the doors opened in 410 CE & they rushed in sacking Rome
 - Attila began a series of invasions defeating Roman armies until his death during a wedding night to one of his many wives when he suffered a nasal hemorrhage & drowned in his own blood; w/ the death of Attila the threat of the Huns collapsed but this opened the area to a power vacuum that the other tribes started to fill
 - f. farther east the Parthians ruled (247 BCE - 224 CE) in Iran followed by the Sassanids from 224 - 651 CE
- J. Religion in Rome, including Christianity
1. While the Romans had a number of "original" gods & goddesses, in the end it was an amalgamation of many cultures, including the Greeks & Etruscans
 - as the empire grew, Rome assimilated other religious practices, such as from Egypt
 - as part of the cult practices, emperors were seen as divine
 - polytheism would start to fade as Christianity became the official religion
 - viewed the natural world as a place filled w/ numerous invisible shapeless forces called numina
 2. While the Greek genius was in politics, Roman genius was in engineering
 3. Jewish revolts—66 CE revolt was crushed in 70 CE along w/ the destruction of the temple
 4. Christianity—Jesus
 - a. some Jews under Hellenism started believing in a messiah; growth of mystery religions (if believers followed practices then afterlife would be groovy)
 - b. Jesus born b/t 4-6 BCE; after death missionary work spearheaded by Paul in Med. Sea; Christianity reached out to the lower classes
 - c. characteristics
 - mono—Trinity
 - Paul (4 journeys b/t 45-58 CE)--missionary activity
 - persecution; while Judaism was legal, Christianity was not=rivalry
 - belief in eternal judgment, Messiah, original sin
 - holy books: New Testament
 5. Conflicts included--Arianism denied that Christ was divine; Constantine issued the Nicene Creed of 325 CE banishing Arius
 - Gnostic Gospels: discovered in 1945 in upper Egypt; contains 52 texts; written by the Gnostics, those who claimed secret divine knowledge; were an early challenge to the established church claiming a good god & an evil god
 - late 200s rise of Manichaeism; denied an omnipotent being; dualism b/t good/evil
 - 431 Council of Ephesus condemned Nestorianism & affirmed Mary to be the Mother of God
 - 451 Council of Chalcedon affirmed Jesus had two natures (aka Hypostatic Union)
 6. rise of the Catholic Church formed (pope, cardinal, priests, nuns)
 - during the reign of Diocletian, the empire had been divided for admin. purposes into geog. units or dioceses; Christian bishops made these their HQ or sees w/in the urban centers; the center of the bishops authority was his cathedral or "chair"; when Const. moved the Roman capitol to Constantinople, the Roman bishop filled the authoritarian void; tradition had Peter being killed in Rome; pope= Latin papa (Father); missionary activity targeted kings;
 - Church takes on an Empire structure w/ dioceses, bishops in major urban areas (sees—Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Constantinople)
 - Constantine (288-337 CE) - 25% of the empire was Christian at the time; favored Church hierarchy
 - 335 Council of Jerusalem rejects the mandate to be circumcised
 - St. Augustine (354 - 430) *The Confessions* wrote about good vs. evil, his journey to Christianity; *City of God*—said that the Church could not sin & the Church was the City of God; a Christian view of history
 - St. Ambrose—called for Church authority over political authority; males should run the Church; priests celibate
 - St. Jerome—translated the Greek Bible into Latin (called the Vulgate meaning "popular version")
 - Theodosius 380 CE proclaims Christianity as the official religion, banned paganism in 393, persecutions now switch to the other side
 7. Diffusion
 - contagious:
 - 318 first monastery was established & 321 Sunday established as official state day of rest
 - 432 St. Patrick to Ireland

