Option 4 Rotational Work- Roman Slavery

Directions

Read the attached documents and analyze the various characteristics of Roman slavery by reviewing the following documents.

Directives

Economics 6- Explain and compare the causes and effects of different forms of coerced labor systems.

Products (Choose 1 Only)

- Write an opinion based editorial (Op-ed) from the point of view of a scholar or citizen arguing for or against the institution of Roman slavery. Include a well-chosen image that represents your view. Can be completed in Word or Publisher. Remember if Publisher, save as a PDF file before you drop to Turnitin.com. Should be a minimum of one page in length.
- Create an appropriate cognitive organizer that represents the directives above. Go to https://education.wm.edu/centers/ttac/documents/articles/graphic_organizers.pdf to see examples of various forms and their uses. Smart Art in Word has a lot of these pre-packaged.
- Create a power point that uses images and information to address the above directives. Needs to be 7 slides minimum. Save as a PDF prior to dropping into Turnitin.com.

Lesson 1

Student Handout 1.2—The Slave Supply: Primary Source Documents

Document A

The *Digest* was a compilation of more than 700 years of Roman legislation enacted under the emperor Justinian in the early sixth century CE. This selection shows that war was a source of slavery:

> … Slavery is an institution of the ***ius gentium,*** whereby someone is against nature made subject to the ownership of another. Slaves (*servi*) are so-called, because generals have a custom of selling their prisoners and thereby *preserving* rather than killing them; … When a place is captured by an enemy … freemen become slaves …

Source: *The Digest of Justinian* 1.5.4 and 11.7.36, Vol. I, trans. Alan Watson (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1985), 15 and 354.

Document B

Velleius Paterculus was a Roman historian who wrote in the first century CE. Sometimes large numbers of people were captured in one war alone:

> During this period, including the years which immediately followed and those of which mention has already been made, more than four hundred thousand of the enemy were slain by Gaius Caesar and a greater number were taken prisoners. Many times had he fought in pitched battles, many times on the march, many times as besieger or besieged. Twice he penetrated into Britain, and in all his nine campaigns there was scarcely one which was not fully deserving of a **triumph**. His feats about Alesia [in Gaul] were of a kind that a mere man would scarcely venture to undertake, and scarcely anyone but a god could carry through.

Source: Velleius Paterculus 2.47, *Compendium of Roman History,* trans. Frederick Shipley (Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1924), 153.

Document C

Suetonius was a second-century-CE Roman writer. In this selection we learn about the abandonment of Gaius Melissus:

Gaius Melissus was born at Spoleto; he was free-born, but abandoned because of an argument between his parents. Because of the interest and efforts of the man who brought him up, he received a higher education and was presented as a gift to Maecenas to use as a grammarian. Because he realized that Maecenas liked him and accepted him as he would a friend, he retained the status of a slave even though his mother claimed his freedom on his behalf, and he preferred his present status to that due to his true birth. For this he was soon freed, and became friendly with Augustus; …

Source: Suetonius, *Grammarian* 5, qtd. in Thomas Wiedemann, ed., *Greek and Roman Slavery* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1981), 118.

Document D

The *Theodosian Code* was a compilation of fourth- and fifth-century Roman laws, published in 438 CE. This selection is from a law passed by Constantine in the early fourth century CE:

The August Emperor Constantine, to the Italians.

In accordance with the decisions of earlier emperors, any person who lawfully obtains a new-born child in any manner and intends to bring it up, shall have the right to hold it in a state of slavery; so that if after a series of years anyone asserts that it is free, or claims it as his own slave, that person must provide another similar slave or pay an equivalent price.

Source: The *Theodosian Code* 5.10.1, qtd. in Thomas Wiedemann, ed., *Greek and Roman Slavery* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1981), 118-9.

Document E

P. Oxy. 744 is a letter written on papyrus in Egypt in 1 BCE. A man tells his wife to expose their baby if it is a girl:

Hilarion to Alis his [wife], heartiest greetings, and to my dear Berous and Apollonarion. Know that we are still even now in Alexandria. Do not worry if when all the others return I remain in Alexandria. I beg and beseech of you to take care of the little child, and as soon as we receive wages I will send them to you. If–good luck to you!–you bear offspring, if it is a male, let it live; if it is a female, *expose* it. …

Source: *P. Oxy.* 744, in Mary F. Lefkowitz and Maureen B. Fant, ed., *Women's Life in Greece and Rome: A Sourcebook in Translation* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 2005), 187.

Document F

The novelist Longus wrote the story of *Daphnis and Chloe* in the second or third century CE. Although this narrative is fictional, it reflects some aspects of reality that Longus' contemporaries would have recognized:

While pasturing his flock on this estate [near Mitylene] a [slave] goatherd name Lamo found a baby being suckled by a she-goat. … Naturally he was amazed, and coming closer he discovered a male child, … he waited until nightfall and brought everything to his wife, Myrtale: the tokens [of identity], the child, and the goat as well. …

When two years had been accomplished, a [slave] shepherd named Dryas was pasturing his flock on an adjoining farm when he happened upon similar discoveries and sights. … a newly-lambed ewe kept visiting this shrine of the Nymphs [and feeding another child]. This child was female … he picked up the baby in the crook of his arm … And when it was time to drive his flock home, he returned to his farmhouse and told his wife what he had seen, showed her what he had found, and urged her to regard it as a little daughter and raise it …

[Many years later both babies are recognized by their parents.] What's this I see? What has become of you, my little daughter? Are you still alive too …? There was a time when I had little to live on: ... During that time a daughter came along. Reluctant to raise her in poverty, I … abandoned her …

[The boy's father] Dionysophanes cried out … We abandoned them both, we have found them both …

Source: Longus, *Daphnis and Chloe* 1.2-6 and 4.35-6, trans. Jeffrey Henderson (Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 2009), 17-21 and 195.

Document G

Suetonius was a second-century-CE Roman writer. In this selection we read about kidnapping:

Many evil precedents that were harmful to public order had either carried on from the habitual lawlessness of the civil war period, or had actually arisen since peace had been restored. **Brigands** went about openly carrying swords, which they claimed were for self-defense, and in the countryside travelers were kidnapped without discrimination between slave and free, and held in the prisons (*ergastula*) belonging to the landowners; …

Source: Suetonius, *Augustus* 32.1, qtd. in Thomas Wiedemann, ed., *Greek and Roman Slavery* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1981), 113-4.

Document H

This contract on papyrus records the sale, in 142 CE, of ten-year-old Abaskantis:

In the consulship of L. Cuspius Rufinus and L. Statius Quadratus, at Side, before L. Claudius Auspicatus, **demiurge** and priest of the goddess Roma, on 26 Loos. Pamphilos, otherwise known as Kanopos, son of Aigyptos, from Alexandria, has purchased in the marketplace from Artemidoros, son of Aristokles, the slave girl Abaskantis, or by whatever other name she may be known, a ten-year-old Galatian, for the sum of 280 silver *denarii*. M. Aelius Gavianus **stands surety for** and guarantees the sale. The girl is healthy, in accordance with the Edict of the Aediles … is free of liability in all respects, is prone neither to wandering nor running away, and is free of epilepsy …

Source: *P. Turner* 22, in Keith R. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1994), 2.

Source I

Suetonius was a second-century-CE Roman writer. This selection shows one way of acquiring a slave:

Staberius Eros was a Thracian bought at a public sale, and later set free because of his interest in literature. …

Source: Suetonius, *Grammarians* 13, qtd. in Thomas Wiedemann, ed., *Greek and Roman Slavery* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1981), 127.

Document J

In 301 CE, the emperor Diocletian published the Edict of Maximum Prices in an attempt to control inflation. It imposed severe penalties on those who charged more than the maximum prices. But the law could not be enforced and was revoked shortly afterwards:

Types of slaves	Prices
[Male slave …] Between the ages of 16 and 40	30,000 *denarii*
Female of age above-specified	25,000 *denarii*
Man between 40 and 60	25,000 *denarii*
Female of age above-specified	20,000 *denarii*
Boy between 8 and 16; also girl of age above-specified	20,000 *denarii*
Man over 60 or under 8	15,000 *denarii*
Female of age above-specified	10,000 *denarii*

Note: It is difficult to give a modern dollar equivalent for the value of one *denarius*, especially considering that Diocletian published this edict at a time of rapid inflation. But for comparison it may be useful to keep in mind that a free farm laborer earned 25 *denarii* a day, a painter of pictures 150 *denarii*, and a tailor between 40 and 60 *denarii*, depending on his skills. Students should notice the discrepancy in the prices of slaves depending on age and gender.

Source: Diocletian's Edict of Maximum Prices, *ZPE* 34 (1979), 177, adapted from Thomas Wiedemann, ed., *Greek and Roman Slavery* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1981), 105.

A defeated barbarian kneels before the Roman emperor. Second century CE

Relief on sarcophagus. Rome, Vatican Museum

Source: UCLA Hoxie Slide Collection, # MSR A164, http://www.hoxie.ucla.edu/