

# ANCIENT ROMAN

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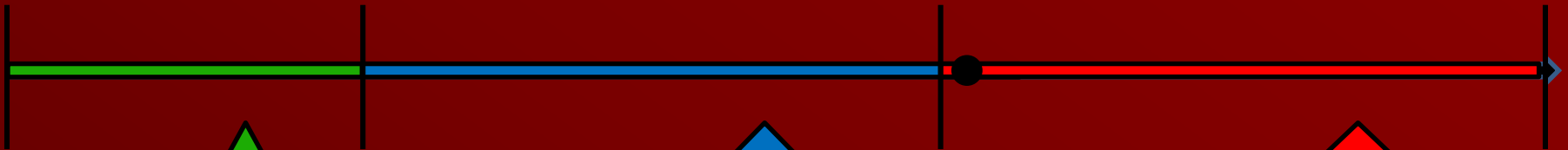
# TIMELINE

753 BC

509 BC

27 BC

476 AD



## MONARCHY

- \* Foundation of Pomegranate
- \* Etruscan Domain
- \* Conflicts plebeian-patricians
- \* Formation of social structures and Roman policies

## REPUBLIC

- \* Predominance of the Senate
- \* Punic Wars
- \* Military expansionism
- \* Rome as a superpower
- \* Slave revolts

## EMPIRE

- \* Height of Roman domination
- \* *Roman Peace*
- \* Border problems with "barbarians"
- \* Division of the Empire
- \* Fall of Rome

B.C

A.D

# TRAINING

The Italian Peninsula was occupied by different peoples, from the 11th century BC. The mixture of these peoples led to the ethnic and cultural configuration of Rome.

PEOPLE	LOCATION	CONTRIBUTIONS MAIN
Etruscans	North of the Peninsula Italic	Militarism Urbanization
Italiotas (Latins, sabines, etc.)	Central region of Italian Peninsula	Language
Greeks	South of the Peninsula Italic ( <i>Magna Greece</i> )	Architecture Religion Political system



- Tribos Latinas
- Tribos umbro-sabélicas
- Tribos ilíricas
- Núcleo originários dos etruscos
- Território cartaginês
- Domínio grego

- Rome was founded in 753 BC, from the union of different agricultural and pastoral villages, motivated by the Etruscan invasion of the region.

Myth of **Romulus and Remus**–  
traditional explanation about the  
origin of the Roman people



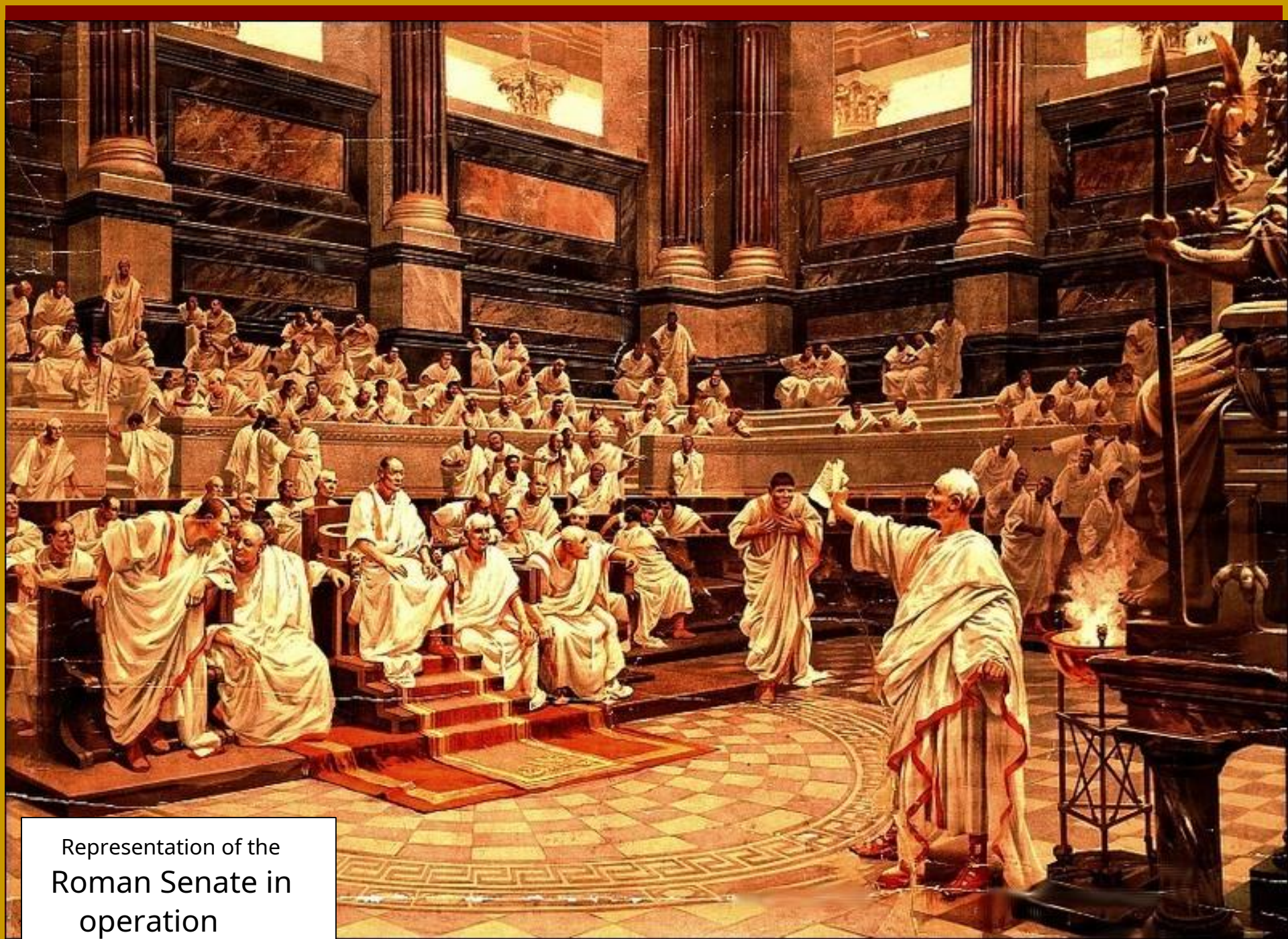
- The Etruscans centralized the government, expanded the population and promoted important works, such as draining swamps, building bridges and the first city wall.

# THE MONARCHY (753-509 BC)

## THE MONARCHY (753-509 BC)

- King shared power with the Senate and an Assembly.
  - **THE Senate**(from the Latin senex, “old”) was composed of patricians over 45 years of age. Over time, it became the main Roman institution.
  - **THE Assembly**It was a military council formed by young warrior leaders, who decided on war or peace.
- Ongoing power struggles between Etruscans and local peoples.
- Kings begin to grant **benefits to the population** common without the Senate's knowledge, concentrating power in their hands.

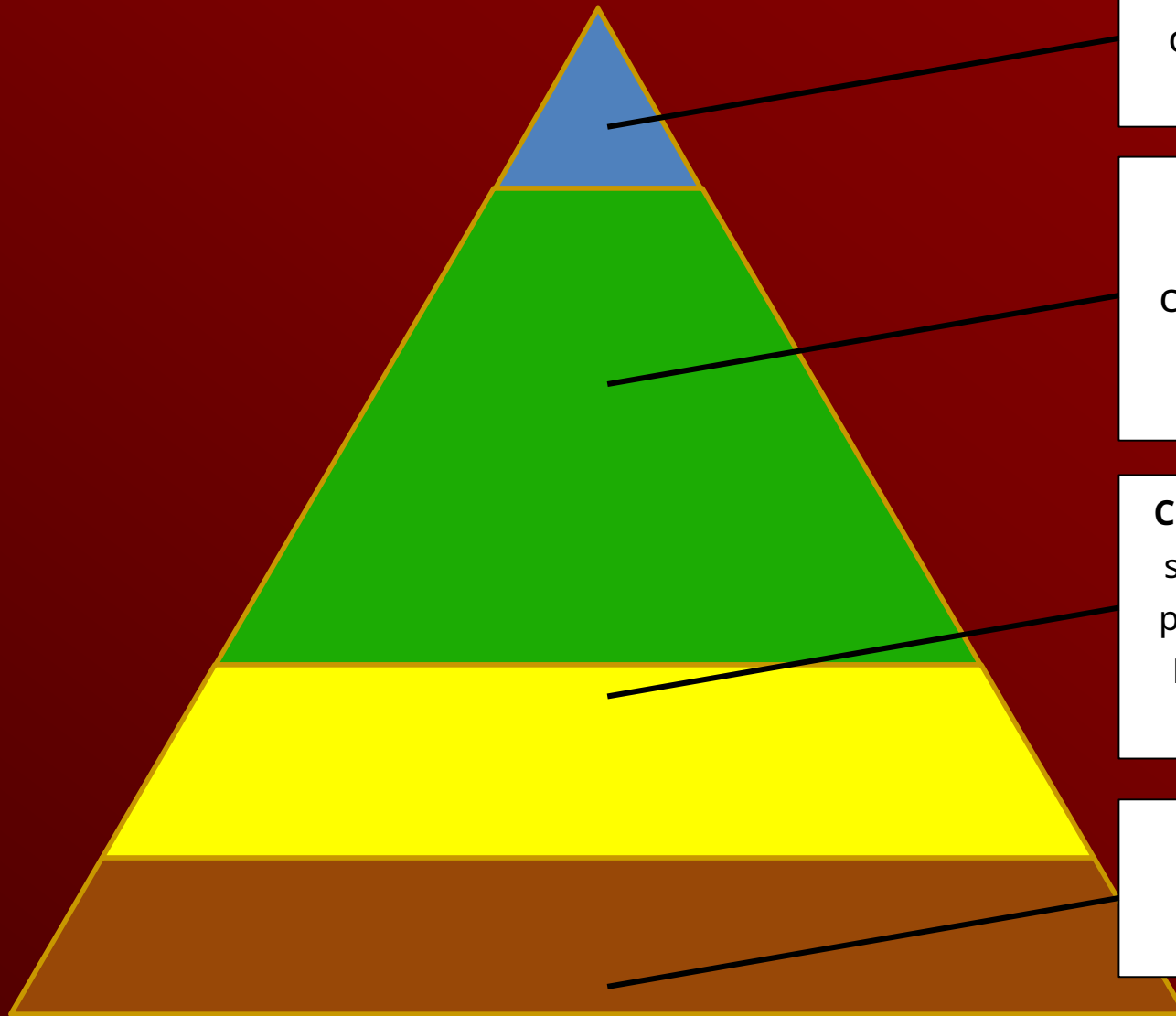




Representation of the  
Roman Senate in  
operation



# ROMAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE



**Patricians**—Elite, made up of large landowners rural.

**Commoners**—Majority of the Roman population, composed of peasants, artisans and merchants free

**Clients**—Free individuals, sometimes foreigners, who provided direct services to the Patricians in exchange for benefits

**Slaves**—Coming from wars, or captives by debts

- Fearing that they would lose importance, the Roman patricians deposed the last Roman king, Tarquinius, and implemented a new system of government, inspired by the Greek model – the **Republic**.
- The Senate assumes political command and becomes the main Roman body.

*PUBLIC RESOURCES:* “public thing”,  
collective administration and  
transparent



*Senatus Populusque Romanus*  
“Senate and the Roman People”

# THE REPUBLIC (509 TO 27 BC)

## THE REPUBLIC (509 to 27 BC)

- The republic maintained the privileges of the elite, but reorganized the political system.
- The result was an intensification of social conflicts, with the common people and slaves pressuring the patricians for reforms and better living conditions.
- Commoners refused to work in the fields, to serve in the army, and threatened to found their own city if negotiations did not succeed.  
advance.

CONSULATE: Two consuls elected by the magistrates for terms of just one year.

One of the consuls was in charge of public administration, and the other of the army.

SENATE: Expanded to 300 members. It made the final decisions about war, taxes and laws.

### MAGISTRATES

- **Praetors:** Justice
- **Censors:** Statistics and Senate Presidency
- **Edis:** Organization urban
- **Quaestor:** Tax collection

### ASSEMBLIES

- Assembly of the tribes
- Plebeian assembly
- Centuriate assembly



## THE CONQUESTS OF THE PLEBS

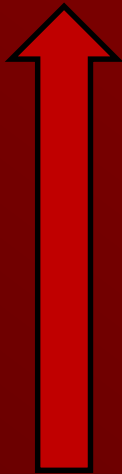
- After many struggles, refusing to work and fight in wars, the commoners conquered a series of rights:
  - The end of debt slavery
  - The permission of marriage between plebeians and patricians
  - The creation of a magistracy for the plebs – the **Tribune of the Plebs**, who could veto Senate decisions considered bad for the common people
  - The access of plebeians to the office of priests
  - The obligation to choose a plebeian Consul
  - The first written code of Roman laws, in 450 BC – the **Law of the Twelve Tables**-, which guaranteed legal equality to all free men (theoretically).

## CONSULATE

Consul Patricio and Plebeian Consul



SENATE: Expanded to 300 members. It made the final decisions about war, taxes and laws.  
Commoners access



## MAGISTRATES

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## ASSEMBLIES

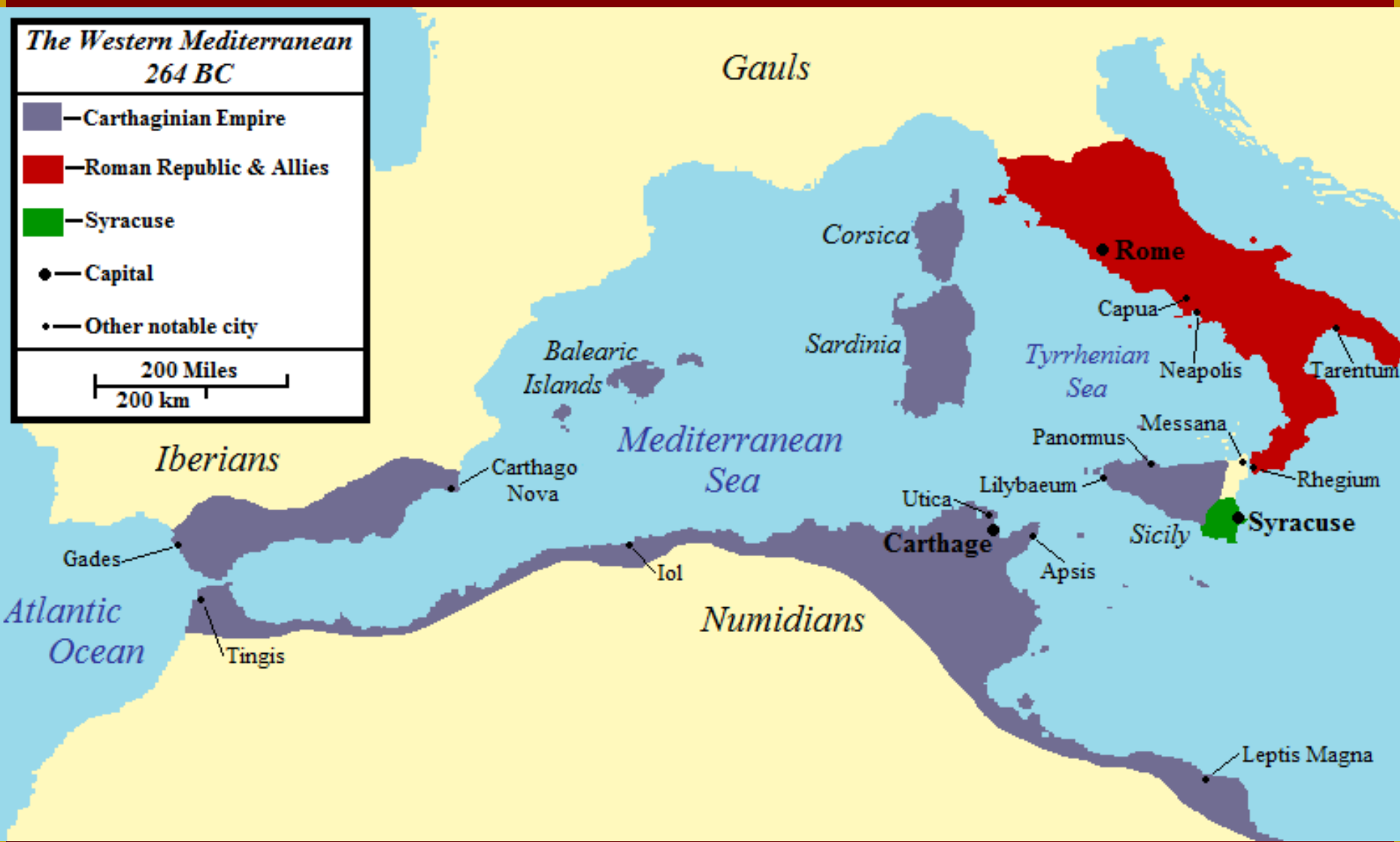
- Assembly of the tribes
- Plebeian assembly gains bigger importance
- Centuriate assembly



*The Western Mediterranean  
264 BC*

- Carthaginian Empire
- Roman Republic & Allies
- Syracuse
- Capital
- Other notable city

200 Miles  
200 km

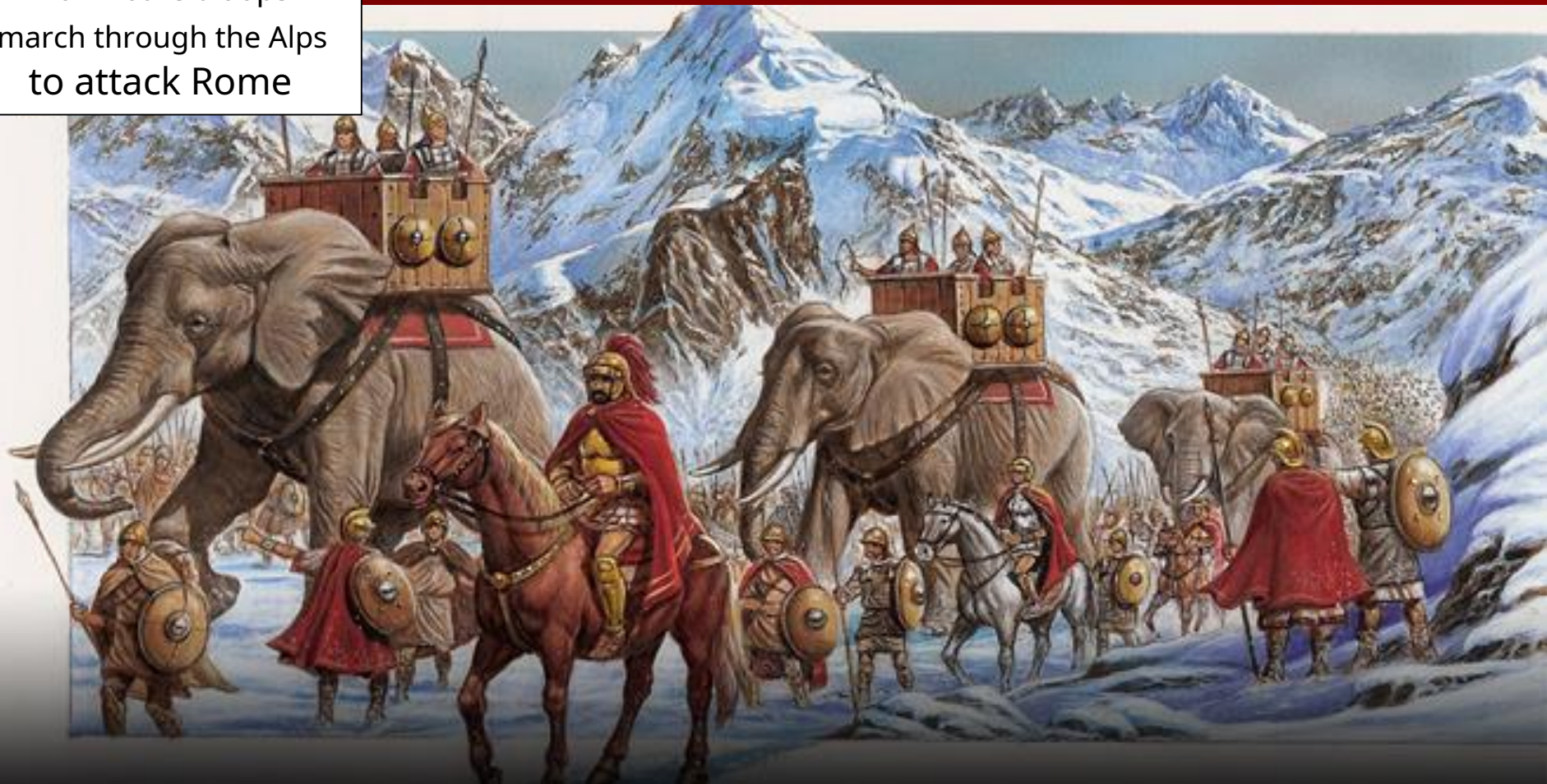


## THE PUNIC WARS (264 to 146 BC)

- Three wars between Rome, a rising power, and Carthage, which dominated trade in the Mediterranean.
  - **1st Punic War:** Roman victory. Rome annexed the islands of Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily.
  - **2nd Punic War:** The Carthaginian general Hannibal attempts to attack Rome from the north, crossing the Alps. Another Roman victory. Rome annexes Carthaginian territory in the Iberian Peninsula.
  - **3rd Punic War:** Rome destroys Carthage and sells its population into slavery.



Hannibal's troops  
march through the Alps  
to attack Rome





Representation of the city of **Carthage**. Note the walls that protect the city, and its huge fortified circular harbor.



## CONSEQUENCES OF THE PUNIC WARS

- Destruction of Carthage
- Rome becomes the leading power

of the Mediterranean

- Beginning of Roman military expansionism.

In a few centuries, Rome would conquer Greece, Egypt, Syria and almost the entire Mediterranean region.

- Roman economy ceases to be just agropastoral and begins to have a commercial focus.

# ROMAN EXPANSIONISM


- The entry of new wealth and the **professionalization of army** Roman led to the conquest of many territories.
- Rome dominated much of Europe and the surrounding area. Mediterranean, still during the Republic.



Map of Roman territorial evolution since the beginning of the Republic. The figures show the dates (negative values are before Christ)

- The conquest of new territories transformed Rome in several aspects.
  - The Roman economy, previously agricultural and pastoral, became essentially commercial.
  - The military commanders responsible for the Roman conquests acquired more and more power. They were responsible for distributing part of the land and wealth among their soldiers and, therefore, received great obedience.
  - Many plebeians became rich with expansionism, providing products (food, weapons) and services (building roads and bridges) to the Roman State. They became an increasingly important social group:**nobility**.



- The Romans called the Mediterranean *mare nostrum* ("our sea"), demonstrating its power.
- Rome experienced a rapid growth in the number of slaves captured in its wars of conquest.
- With slaves performing most of the economic activities, there was little room left for the majority of the plebeians. Many plebeians were forced to abandon the countryside and head to the city in search of survival.  **Rural exodus**

## INTERNAL STRUGGLES

- With social inequality increasing and unemployment, especially in the countryside, proposals have emerged for **agrarian reform**—that is, a redistribution of Rome's lands.
- The biggest supporters of this idea were the brothers **Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus**. Elected tribunes of the plebs, they proposed reform and the distribution of food to the poor Romans. They faced strong opposition from the patriciate, and ended up **dead**—Tiberius assassinated and Gaius forced to commit suicide.



Representation of the brothers Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus. Note that they are holding a paper, which symbolizes your proposals – interrupted for the violent death they suffered.

- There were also, several revolts of slaves in Rome. They fought for better living conditions or for their freedom.
- The biggest rebellion was led by the slave **Spartacus**, who managed to form an army of 60 thousand men, but ended up defeated and killed by Roman troops.



Representation of Spartacus, leader of the most famous slave rebellion suffered by

- The army was strengthened by external conquests and the fight against internal revolts. Three generals – Crassus, Pompey and Julius Caesar, the so-called **Triumvirate**–began to govern Rome together, becoming more powerful than the Senate.
- **Julius Caesar** defeated the other two and concentrated power in his hands, becoming dictator of Rome for life. Having lost power, the Senate conspired to have Caesar assassinated.

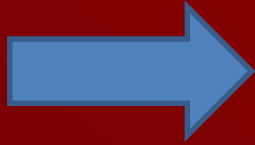




Representation of the assassination of Julius Caesar, who appears lying on the ground in colorful clothes, being attacked by the conspirators in the Roman Senate

- With Caesar's death, a new triumvirate was formed – including his adopted son, Mark Antony.
- After a bloody civil war, Mark Antony assumes full power and is proclaimed **Emperor of Rome**. Thus, the Senate loses importance, and the republican phase of the History of Rome ends. The **Empire**.

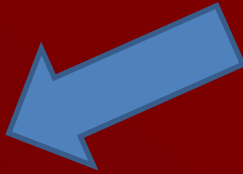
Punic Wars



Roman victory

Rome becomes the greatest power in the  
Mediterranean

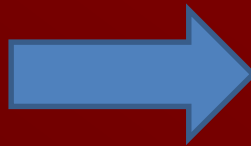
Beginning of Roman expansionism



Economy becomes commercial

Number of slaves increases  
dizzily

Social rise of certain commoners  
and military commanders



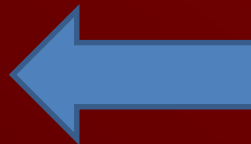
Political instability

Unemployment; Land concentration  
and riches

Slave Rebellions (Spartacus)

Arrival of military personnel to power

- Triumvirate
- Julius Caesar
- Mark Antony



EMPIRE

# THE EMPIRE (27 BC to 476 AD)

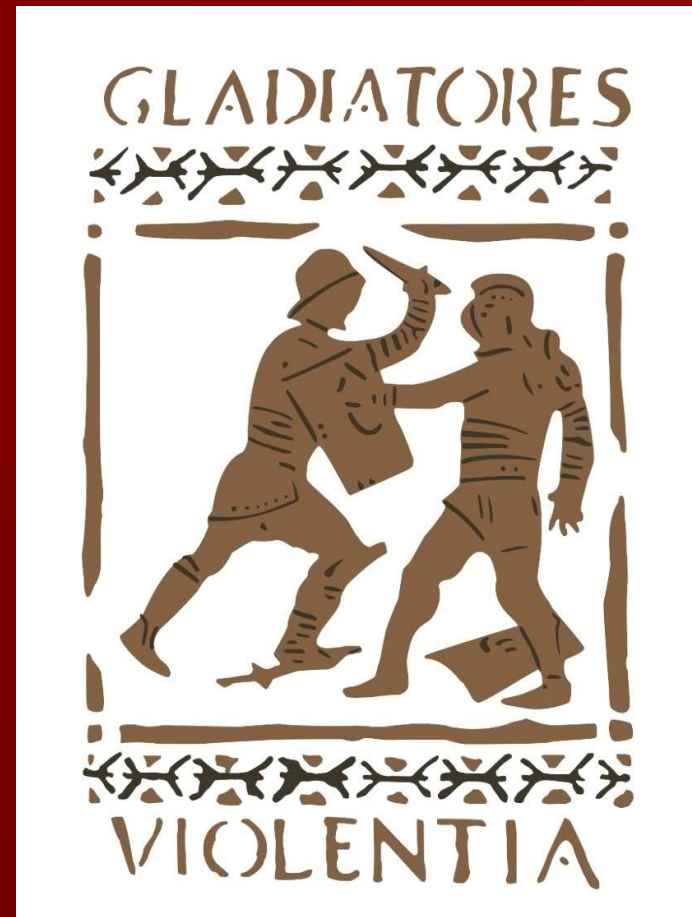
Late Empire (1st century BC to 3rd century AD)

High Empire (3rd to 5th centuries AD)

## THE HIGH EMPIRE (1ST CENTURIES BC to 3RD CENTURIES AD)

- Period of maximum territorial extension. Rome dominated almost all of Europe, North Africa and parts of the Middle East.
- Construction or growth of **cities** throughout the Empire (i.e. urbanization), with water supply systems, sewage systems, thermal baths and rich public buildings.

- Policy of “**bread and circuses**”: nobility held festivals, granted holidays and distributed food to maintain the calm and obedient population.
- ***Roman Peace***(“Roman Peace”): Period of tranquility, with the end of internal wars and the deceleration of external conflicts.



During the festivals held by the elite for the people, one of the main attractions was gladiator combats. Here we see a poster inviting the public to the violent spectacle.



## THE LOWER EMPIRE (3RD CENTURIES AD to 5TH CENTURIES AD)

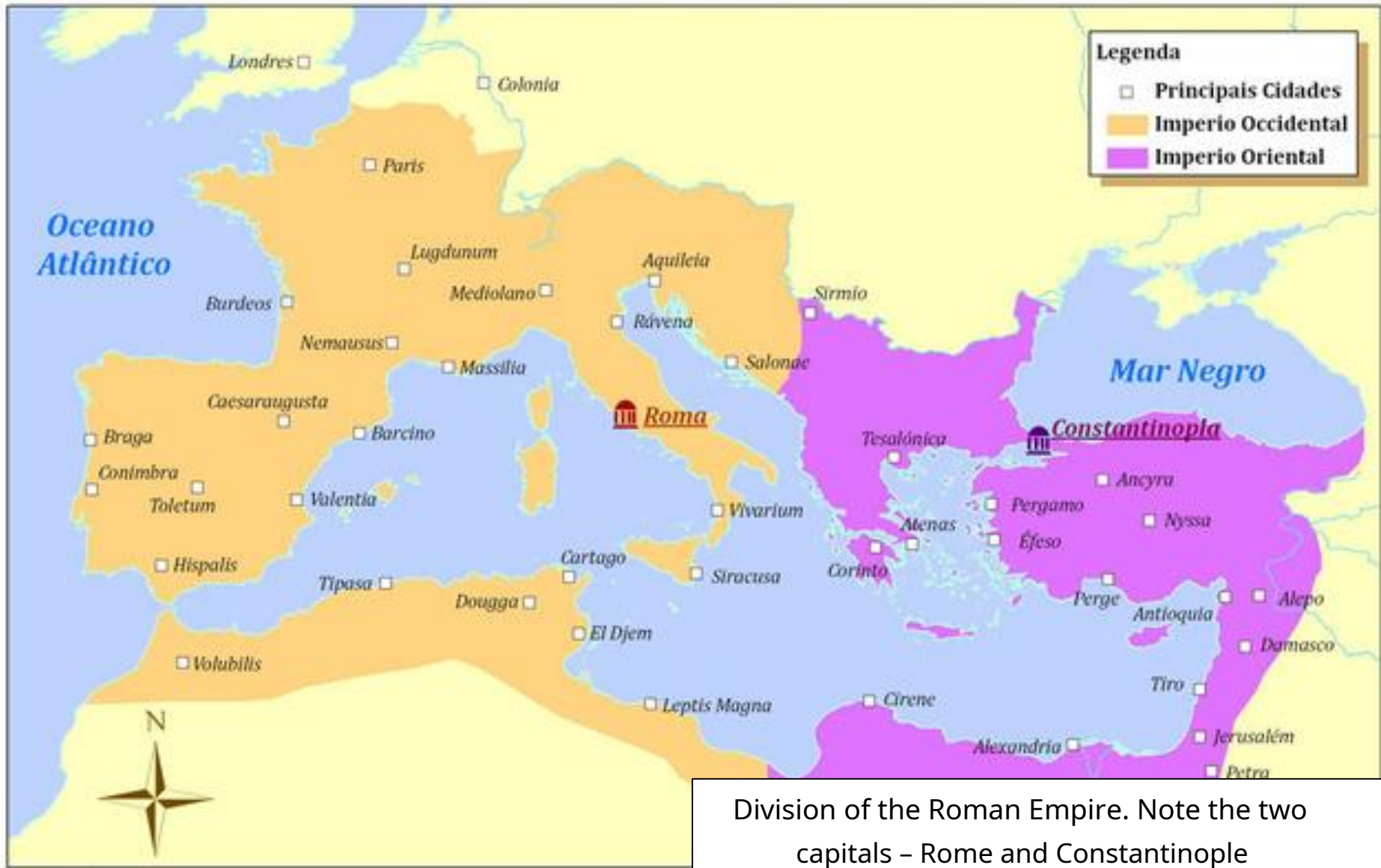
- Period of **crisis** in which the Roman Empire begins to face great difficulties
  - Economy: The end of expansion wars reduces the number of slaves (fewer prisoners = fewer slaves), causing a crisis in agricultural production.
  - Politics: Continuous power struggles began in Rome. Several Emperors were deposed or assassinated, and the disputes brought chaos to Roman politics.



- From an administrative point of view, the Empire had conquered such a large territory that it was difficult to govern and maintain order in the provinces. In places far from the capital, local rulers began to command more than the emperor himself.
- Furthermore, increasingly **barbarians** (the Romans considered barbarians all those people who did not speak Latin, nor followed Roman customs) began to enter the Empire, in two ways:
  - Some came peacefully, through agreements. They were able to live on Roman lands, and even serve in the Roman army.
  - Others entered the territory through violent attacks, which destroyed and looted Roman cities.

## THE FALL OF ROME

- As time passed, the problems became unsustainable. The Roman army could no longer contain the **barbarian invasions**, and the Empire became impoverished.
- In 284 AD, in an attempt to alleviate the problem, the Empire was **divided** in two parts – the **Western Roman Empire**, with capital in Rome, and the **Eastern Roman Empire**, headquartered in Constantinople.



Division of the Roman Empire. Note the two capitals – Rome and Constantinople

- The division, however, was not enough to contain the crisis of the Empire.
- The constant barbarian attacks, especially from the Germanic, Hunnic and Celtic peoples, weakened the Empire.
- In the year 476 AD the city of Rome itself was attacked and sacked, and the Emperor of the West was **deposed**. It was the end of the Western Roman Empire – and of the Ancient Age, beginning the long period of European history known as **Middle Ages**.