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Global - Mr.Badgley

Homework #32

1. There are two main problems faced by Roman leadership as the republic grew and territory expanded. The two problems are growing discontent among the lower class due to the growing wealth gap and a breakdown of the military order where loyalty was originally to the Roman republic. The growing wealth gap was caused by owners of large farming estates buying the land originally owned by farmers who went to serve in the military. When the farmer-soldiers came back, their land was sold. Without their land, they had no source of income. They either had to become a farmhand for other landowners or move to the city and hope for a job. This left many people homeless.

2. The Gracchus brothers, Tiberius and Gaius, were reformers that tried to limit the size of estates and giving land to the poor, similar to modern day liberal ideals of equality. This would resolve the problem of farmers being outcompeted by rich landowners with huge estates and reduce the amount of people in poverty. These reforms failed because the reforms would make enemies of numerous senators. These senators would be wealthy landowners that felt threatened about losing their land, so to protect it, killing the brothers would be necessary.

3. The expression, "Cross the Rubicon," means to make and commit to a decision that cannot be reversed. Basically, crossing the point of no return. Julius Caesar gained power through his strong leadership skills and military strategy. Caesar led his legions to conquer Gaul from 58-50 B.C.E. His way of leading involved sharing all the hardships of war, which won the legion's loyalty and devotion. Caesar's success made him popular in Rome. However, in 50 B.C.E., the Roman senate opposed Caesar and ordered Caesar to disband and return home at Pompey's urgings. Caesar defied the senate's order and took his army across the Rubicon on January 10, 49 B.C.E. where he marched his army swiftly toward Rome. Pompey fled, but Caesar chased him and his army and destroyed them. By 46 B.C.E, Caesar returned to Rome with the support of the army and the public. He came to power when he was appointed dictator in the same year and finally appointed dictator for life by 44 B.C.E. As the dictator, he granted Roman citizenship to many people in the provinces, expanded the senate, helped the poor by creating jobs, constructed new public buildings, started colonies where people without land could own property, and increased pay for soldiers.

4. To distract and control the people of Rome, the government provided free games, races, mock battles, and gladiator contests. By doing this, the city's population that lived in poverty would be kept content so that they would not rebel.

5. A triumvirate is a group of three rulers. In the case of Rome, Crassus, a wealthy Roman, and Pompey were the three rules in 60 B.C.E  
Gravitas was the Roman virtue of weight, seriousness and dignity.  
Pax Romana was the period of Roman peace and prosperity that lasted 207 years from the beginning of Augustus's rule in 27 B.C.E, excluding fights with tribes along the borders.