

CLAS100

LECTURE 9-10

October 2, 2015

Augustus and the Birth of the Roman Empire

- Remember the dual meaning of the word empire
- Under Augustus Rome became an empire in both senses of the word
- birth name Caius Octavius Thurinus on 23 of Sept 63 BC
- Born in a good family, with not meaningful status
- Was very handsome and graceful even as an old man
- Didn't really care about his own looks
- Usually rushed when fixing his personal appearance(haircuts and shave)
- Joined Caesar on Spanish campaign
- On the way back to Rome Caesar makes a new will, leaving all of his fortune and his name to Octavius
- Octavius Became Caesar Divi Filius(Son of God)
- Wanted to avenge Caesar's death
- Brutus was defeated in 42 BC in Battle of Philippi

Octavian, Antony and Cleopatra

- Antony and Octavian Rivals from the start
- Exacerbated by relationship between Cleopatra and Antony
- Declares war on Cleopatra in 32 BC
- 30 BC both Antony and Cleopatra commit Suicide
- Octavian becomes Augustus (a legitimate monarch)

- complete transformation of Rome(social, military, religious, physical)
- The Romans hated kings(rex) but Augustus was allowed to stay in power
- He pacified all provinces torn by civil war
- Stabilized provincial taxation
- Altar of Augustan Peace 9 BC
- Deathbed Words "I found a city of brick I left it a city of marble"
- Creates a regular standing army or 28 legions(170000 soldiers)
- Popularized marriage, made being single less enjoyable, Adultery was criminalized
- His only child Julia was a criminal of this kind
- After his death The Month of Sextilis was renamed August

Collapse of the Roman Empire

- Rome's population began to plummet from 1,000,000 to 15,000 in about 450 years
- Complex society with vast distribution of wealth and resources
- 117: Trajan dies and Rome stops expanding
- Peaked at around 100-175 AD
- Plague occurred
- Followed by many poor leaders
- 67 people claimed to the throne and broke the empire up
- Financial collapse followed by the collapse of the army
- People began to lose pride in their Empire
- Everything began getting reorganized
- Military needed more pay for less soldiers
- FULL meltdown of Education, commerce and general way of life