

# World History: Greek and Roman Era

## 1. Ancient Greece (800-323 BCE)

The ancient Greek civilization flourished in the Mediterranean region, particularly in the Greek peninsula, Asia Minor, and southern Italy.

Key Characteristics:

- City-states (polis) as the basic political unit
- Athens: Democracy, philosophy, and arts
- Sparta: Military society and discipline
- Olympic Games originated in 776 BCE

Cultural Achievements:

- Philosophy: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
- Literature: Homer's Iliad and Odyssey
- Architecture: Parthenon temple
- Science: Pythagoras, Archimedes

## 2. Roman Republic (509-27 BCE)

Rome transitioned from monarchy to republic in 509 BCE.

Political Structure:

- Senate: Advisory body of aristocrats
- Consuls: Two annually elected leaders
- Tribunes: Representatives of common people

Expansion:

- Punic Wars against Carthage (264-146 BCE)
- Conquered the entire Mediterranean region
- Julius Caesar's conquests in Gaul

## 3. Roman Empire (27 BCE - 476 CE)

Augustus Caesar established the Roman Empire in 27 BCE.

Key Features:

- Pax Romana (Roman Peace): 200 years of stability
- Extensive road network and infrastructure
- Roman law as foundation of modern legal systems
- Latin language spread across Europe

Cultural Legacy:

- Architecture: Colosseum, aqueducts, Pantheon
- Engineering: Roads, bridges, concrete
- Christianity emerged and spread

Decline:

- Division into East and West (395 CE)
- Western Empire fell to Germanic tribes (476 CE)
- Eastern Empire (Byzantine) continued until 1453 CE

## **Summary:**

The Greek and Roman civilizations laid the foundation for Western culture. Their contributions in government, law, philosophy, and engineering continue to influence modern society.