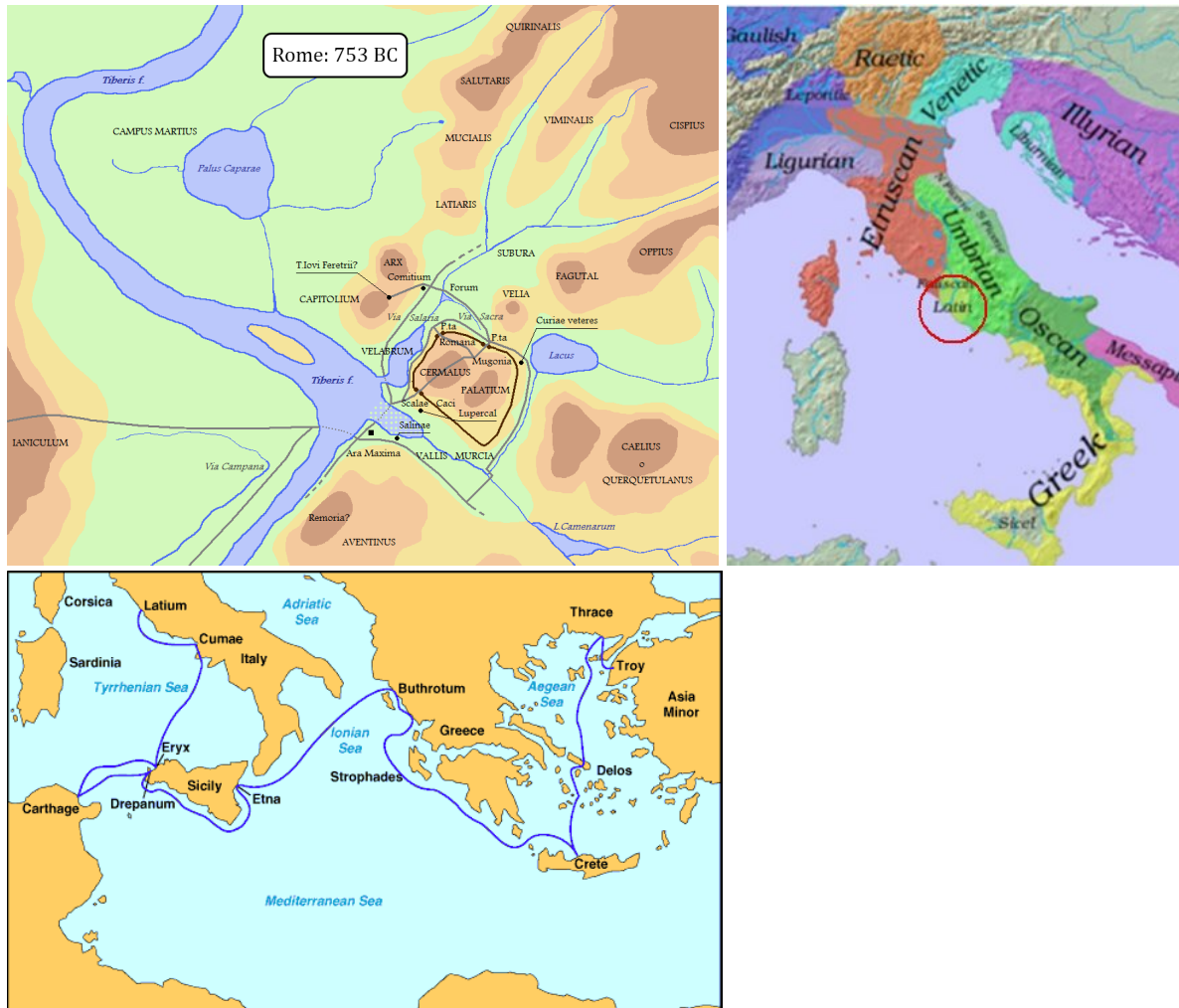


## 5. Ancient Rome

### 753 BCE — 476 BCE

#### 5.1 Geography

- Right in the middle of Italy's boot, on the Western Shore.
- Region of Latium (people were called Latins and spoke... you guessed it: Latin)
- One of the 7 hills = birthplace of Rome



#### 5.2 Origins of Rome

- The founding myths of Rome say a lot abt the Roman mentality
  - Remus and Romulus (Romulus = 1<sup>st</sup> king of Rome)
    - survival of the fittest, badassery
  - Aeneas (by the poet Ovet, he fled from the burning city of Troy)
    - Roman fascination with Greece (story that links Romans to Greeks and Homer's Troy)

- Proto-Greeks went West... Rome is just one of their cities.
- The Etruscans
  - 1<sup>st</sup> permanent settlers of the Italian Peninsula. They had city-states (similar to Greece + similar political structure).
  - Very advanced culturally. → *enormous legacy in Roman culture*
    - Their alphabet inspired the Latin alphabet
    - Their sidewalks still exist today
    - Toga = way to dress for official events
    - Gladiatorial combat, the ancestor of MMA (entertainment in watching fights)
  - Forgotten for a long time due to Roman conquest, but recently rediscovered
- The conquest of Italy
  - Romans had great military
  - 1<sup>st</sup> complex battlefield tactics
  - Citizen-soldiers (≠ standing army bc citizens have smthng to fight for) → **legions**
  - Strategic, imposed “alliances” with surrounding towns of the Latium
- → They conquered Italy (265 BCE) but many regions were still independent, they just had to pay taxes

### 5.3 Political and Military History

- 3 parts:
  - 1) The Monarchy Period (753 BCE – 509 BCE)
  - 2) The Roman Republic (509 BCE – 27 BCE)
  - 3) The Roman Empire (27 BCE – 476 CE)

#### 1) The Monarchy Period

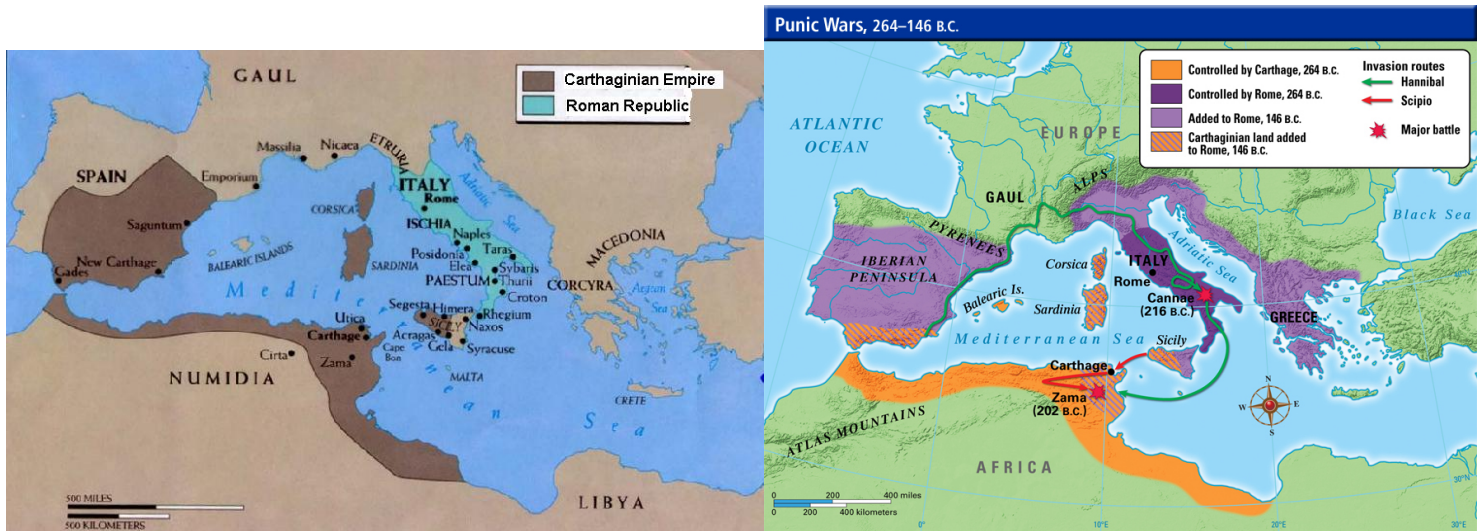
*\*Note : Not much is known bc ppl only started to write a few hundred years later (and those stories mix truth and myth)*

- In the early days, Rome = monarchy
  - Total of 7 kings
- Dark Age of Roman History
  - Sanguinary kings
  - Rule of terror, bad legacy (calling someone a king is an insult)
    - dirty word in Roman politics
  - Some later kings were Etruscan (foreign)
- Roman starts expanding, conquering nearby villages in the Latium

## 2) The Roman Republic

- Creation of the Republic
  - Circumstances of political change unclear
  - Oligarchy
    - No more kings
    - Senate (European legacy; the Elite/paterfamilias would meet up and discuss politics)
  - Struggle of the Orders (494—287 BCE) → plebeians won, so power was then shared (see tribunes)
    - Leader families = patricians (lead by paterfamilias, the oldest male who controls everything in the household)
    - Non-aristocratic families = plebeians (they could be wealthy but would be excluded from politics)
  - Client-patron system (patron gives money to clients, who return the favour with political support/votes) → legacy of mafia culture
- Structure of the Roman Republic
  - **Senate (300+ members)**
    - Senate (n.): actual meeting place where ppl would argue for hours
    - Most important political establishment
    - Only senators get to vote
  - **Executive magistrates**
    - Chosen by the Senate
    - Consuls (2)
      - Kinda like the American Pres.
      - Elected for 1 year
      - No one individual would be too powerful
      - War generals
    - Praetors (2)
      - Second in command
      - Takes the Consuls' position when they are in war
    - Quaestors
      - Ppl who collect taxation
      - In charge of taxation and treasury
    - If you were chosen for one of the magistrate positions, you become a senator afterwards
  - **Plebeian Assembly**
    - Refused to fight during Struggle of the Orders so they got an Assembly of their own
      - Kinda like Senate but less powerful → they only handle basic stuff (trash collecting, aqueduct)

- Tribunes
  - Consul for the plebeians
- **Dictators**
  - If there's a catastrophe, the Senate will name a dictator
  - For 6 months or until the problem is solved the dictator had absolute power
- The Punic Wars (264—146 BCE)
  - As stated before, most of Italy was under Roman rule by 265 BCE
  - Only 1 regional empire standing in the way of the Romans: The Carthaginian Empire



- “Punicus” is Latin for “Phoenician”
- Carthage vs Rome
  - Carthage is in Tunisia
  - Descendants of Phoenicians
  - Carthaginians were more powerful than Rome in the beginning
- Romans had to create a navy to defeat them
  - Crashed a Carthaginian ship by wrecking one and dragging it out of the sea and studying the structure
- 1<sup>st</sup> Punic War (264—241 BCE)
  - Rome takes Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War
  - General Hannibal, Punic military commander
    - Carthaginians had elephants in their army (~70)
    - March through southern Spain and Alps → Arrival in Northern Italy

- Carthage invades Italy, but loses battle (Battle of Cannae)
  - Bloodiest war until WWI
- Romans were unprepared
- Carthaginians capture the Italian Peninsula but never Rome
  - Rome takes Hispania (i.e. take back their land)
  - Roman victory
  - The Carthaginians were forced to pay taxes to the Romans
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Punic War (149—146 BCE)
  - War of vengeance
  - Romans decide to massacre Carthaginians bc they still were a threat although they lost the war



- Conquest of the Hellenistic Kingdoms (146—30 BCE)
  - Philip V, beloved Antigonid King of Macedonia
    - Big mistake: allied with Carthage
    - Saw Macedonian as enemies since the Macedonians were supporting the Carthaginians
  - Romans conquered Macedonia and pushed forward
    - Also defeat Seleucid (near east) and Ptolemaic (Egypt) kingdoms
  - Rome kept making new enemies so kept fighting
    - Pre-emptive wars
  - **Hellenization** of Roman society starts in this period!
    - Educated Romans learn Greek
    - Romans emulated Greek religion, drama, sculpture, cuisine, philosophy
    - Romans considered an empire of borrowers, yet remain different...
      - Much more militaristic, overall very conservative

- Value order much more
- Civil War: the End of the Republic (133—27 BCE)
  - The Roman Empire is now enormous! This causes several problems:
    - Sending orders was very hard
    - The Roman Constitution was designed to govern a single city, but is not unfit to rule this enormous land...
      - Senators were disconnected from the decisions they were making, i.e. they never travelled to the places they ruled
    - Great generals of the army have become extremely influential: political career based on military exploit → the army controlled politics
    - Growing social inequality: large landowner (latifundial) and landless soldiers
      - The treasure won in Rome went to the rich
      - Landless soldiers → their farms get destroyed during their years of fighting
        - Rich ppl end up buying their land
        - Tons of soldiers came back from war and had nothing
    - 133-27 BCE is a period of almost constant instability and civil strife
  - The Gracchi brothers (169-121 BCE)
    - Two brothers, Tiberius (169—133) and Gaius (154—121)
      - Men of the ppl
      - A Tribune (representor of the plebeians)
      - Had a program of redistribution
        - Took away land from the rich to give back to the poor
      - Land reforms to favour landless soldiers
      - Senate was angry bc they were rich landowners
      - However, Tiberius had so much power and influence
      - Food distributed to Roman civilians
        - It is said that Rome was wealthy enough to never let the population go hungry
      - Popular with the masses, but not with the Rich
      - Both brothers brutally murdered by conservative senators (Gaius continues the work of his deceased bro before his murder) + many of their followers also murdered
  - Marius (157—86 BCE)
    - General of the Roman empire who introduced the Marian reforms (military; men who had no land were now recruited via census, the state supplied these men with arms, he offered pay for soldiers and the opportunity to gain spoils of war → see following points)

- Completely transformed the Roman Empire
- He would give land to his soldiers if they won
  - Motivation! Extremely dedicated soldiers
    - Profound and decisive transform. of the Roman army
  - Soldiers now serve their general rather than the Senate (army controlled by one and not by the Republic = huge threat)
- Other Roman generals followed Marius' footsteps
- Sulla (138—78 BCE)
  - Another great general; political rival of Marius
  - Marches on Rome with army to dispose of Marius' supporters
  - When he was off to fight an army, he heard news that Marius took control of Rome so he turned around and attacked Rome/Marius' army → victory for Sulla
  - Dictator for 2 years, completely transforms the Republic
  - Also admired by his soldiers
  - Controlled a big army
- Julius Caesar (100—44 BCE)
  - Sulla's political heir; Julius admires his predecessor's strength and power
  - Fantastic military leader, revered by his army (= devotion → portrayed with god-like appearance)
  - Greatest military commander in Western history
  - Invented tons of strategies
  - Conquers Gaul
  - Julius managed to be dictator for life
  - Consul for life
  - Absolute ruler of Rome
  - Completely strips Senate of its power. Senate murders him.
  - Death of Julius Caesar causes yet another civil war
    - Political heirs of Caesar (Octavian, Lepidus, Mark Anthony) chase out and defeat Julius' murderers in a series of battles, then they turn on each other → bloody war
    - Octavian (63—14 BCE) = victor
      - End of civil war in Rome
      - 27 BCE: the Senate proclaims him as "Augustus" a name he will carry until his death
        - Augustus = venerated, the admired one
  - Once Augustus became the absolute leader of Rome, end of the Roman Republic

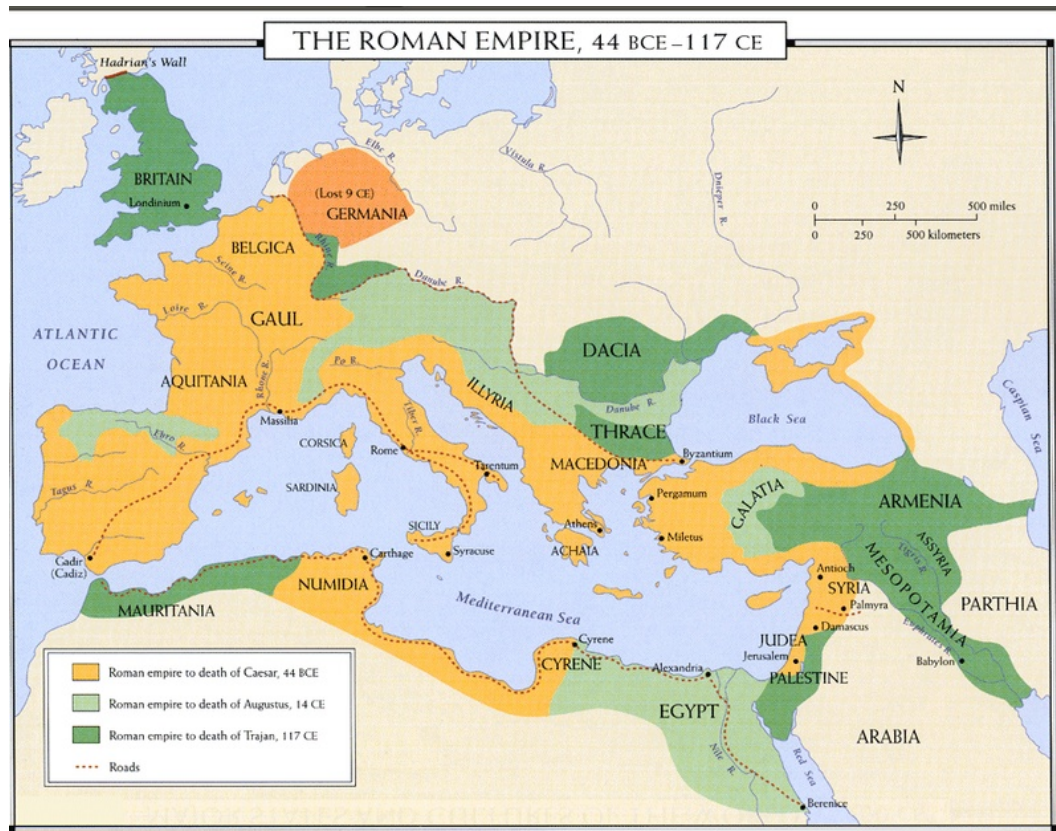
### 3) The Roman Empire (27 BCE—476 CE)

- Augustus and the “principate”
  - After years of constant civil war, Augustus promises to restore the Republic. In practice, he abolishes it and assumes all roles himself:
    - Consul for life
    - Tribune for life
    - Imperator
    - Pontifex Maximus
    - Princeps Civitatis
  - Principate is the name given to this specific collection of powers, which are normally in separate hands
  - Augustus > politician/leader... most powerful man that ever lived!
    - He is very cunning and knows that using inflammatory language will get him killed.
    - His political genius lies in the fact that, by using non-inflammatory language and positions that previously had no real meaning, he became the absolute ruler of Rome w/o anyone noticing!
    - The word “emperor” comes from here
      - Legacy: all future European emperors are named “Augustus
    - At his death, gives his power to his son-in-law Tiberius
      - Emperorship has officially become the norm!
- The “Pax Romana” (27 BCE—180 CE)
  - 200 yrs of relative peace, no internal strife although wars were still fought against other civilizations
  - Romanization
    - Latin = lingua franca
  - Rome reaches its greatest grandeur
    - Great wealth
    - Building projects
    - 1 million inhabitants (biggest city in history!)
  - Boundaries of Roman Empire at their largest
  - Most Emperors provided Rome with strong leadership, unity, and unmatched military power

Julio-Claudians	Flavians	The “Five Good Emperors”
Augustus, 27 BCE – 14 CE	Vespasian, 69 – 79	Nerva, 96 – 98
Tiberius, 14 – 37	Titus, 79 – 81	Trajan, 98 – 117
Caligula, 37 – 41	Domitian, 81 – 96	Hadrian, 117 – 138
Claudius, 41 – 54		Antonius Pius, 138 – 161
Nero, 54 – 68		Marcus Aurelius, 161 – 180



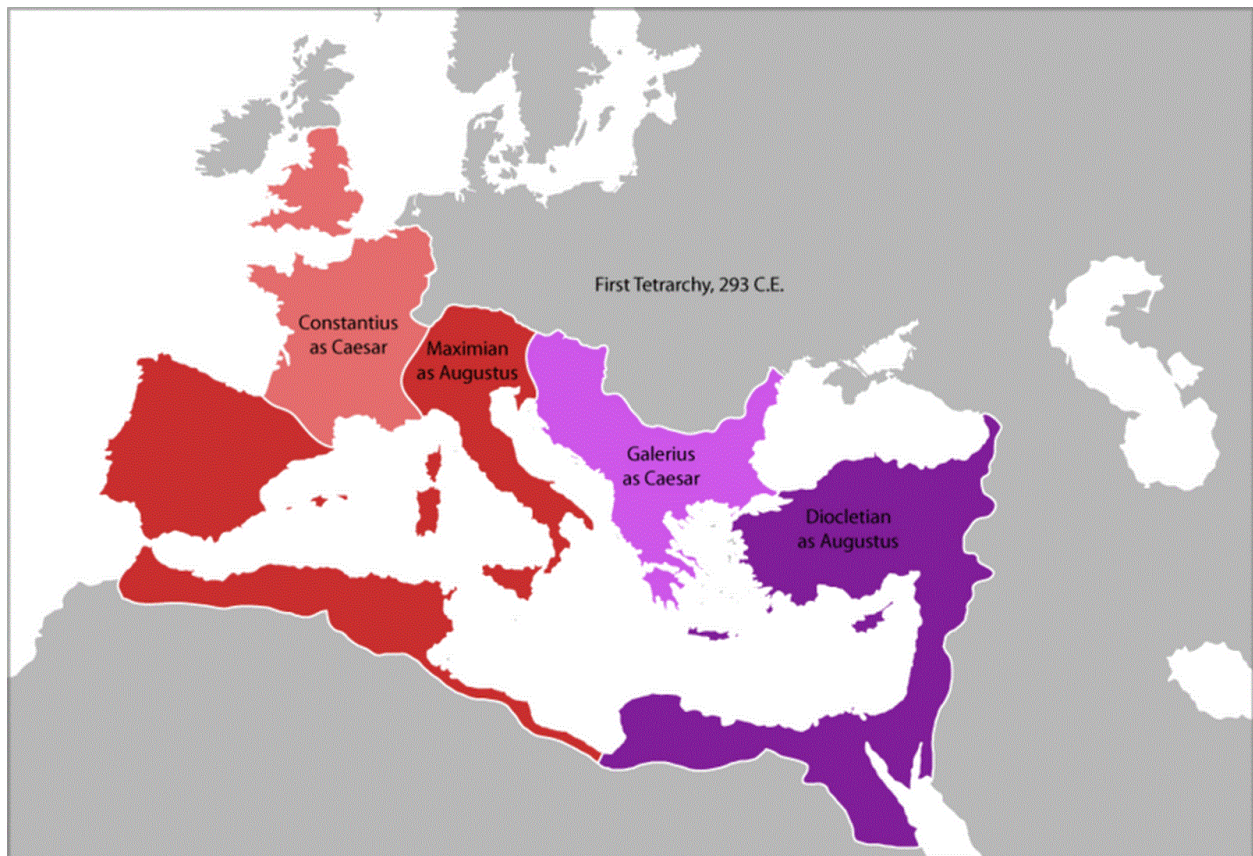
- Praetorian Guard (protects leader) → enormous power bc they have the power of life and death over the Emperor
  - After Caligula, they put Claudius in his shoes



The Roman Empire at its height

- The “Turmoil” of the Third Century (180—284)
  - Problems arise under Marcus Aurelius (philosopher Emperor)
    - Antonine Plague
    - Floods of the Tiber → bad harvests → inflation and famine
    - Growing instability in the frontier regions (Germanic tribes)
  - Marcus Aurelius’ son Commodus (180—192) = one of Rome’s worst emperors (megalomaniac; renamed everything after himself; no interest in politics; saw himself as a descendent of Hercules and as the best at battle in the Roman Emp. bc everyone would purposefully lose against him in gladiatorial combat)
    - killed by Praetorian Guard (strangled while taking his own bath)
      - Civil war in wake of Commodus’ murder
      - Emperors Severus and Caracalla reform the army
  - The “Barrack Emperors” (20+ emperors over 50 yrs)
    - These “Barrack Emp.” gain leadership by ↑ army ranks

- They ruled from the frontier of the Empire bc that's where they would battle (the armies were trying to conquer more land)
  - They've never been to Rome! So they didn't understand the problems
- Not only political turmoil...
  - Transformation of the Roman army after Emp. Severus and Caracalla's reforms
    - soldiers were asking for more and more money, which led to next point...
  - Terrible inflation problems
  - Declining agricultural production in all regions of the Empire
    - ever-increasing taxation
  - Continuing problem of plague (Antonine)
- The Emperor Diocletian (285—305)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> of the Barrack Emperors to understand how to be an Emperor
  - Realized that Rome needs reform (Diocletian reforms):
    - Separated the Empire in half (W vs E)
    - Further administrative division into dioceses
    - Division of emperorship → Tetrarchy (4 emperors, 2 West 2 East)



- The Emperor Constantine (306—337)
  - Replaces Diocletian as Augustus of the East
    - By far the most popular tetrarch
    - The foundation of “New Rome,” Constantinople (ancient Greek city of Byzantium; Istanbul today)
      - The territory of Aug. of the East didn’t have Rome...
      - 1. Controls the sea route (between Mediterranean and Black Sea)
      - 2. Controls the land route (between Europe and Asia)
  - = CENTER OF TRADE
  - Temporary return of Roman glory
    - Creation of the “solidus” currency (prevents smelting of metals)
    - Resettlement of abandoned regions during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century
    - Significant military victories against Germanic tribes
  - However, deep problems are worsening... (i.e. bad harvests → small farmers have to sell their land; slow transition to Medieval society)
- The “Barbarian Invasions”
  - Germanic tribes have been migrating into Roman territory on and off since at least 100 BCE
    - phenomenon affecting mostly only West Emp. (significant increase in 3<sup>rd</sup>—4<sup>th</sup> centuries)
  - More and more “Barbarians” within the army (they were good soldiers but the Roman army often had to fight German tribes, and the Roman army was partially composed of Germans... conflict of interests)
  - During the 5<sup>th</sup> cent., establishment of small Germanic Kingdoms within Roman territory
  - 445: Rome sacked by Vandals
  - 476: Odoacer deposes Romulus Augustulus, becomes king of Italy (official end of Western Roman Empire)
    - What we call the “Collapse of the Roman Empire” (476 CE) is actually only the fall of the Western part!
  - Eastern half = Byzantine Empire (preserves Roman legacy, protects Europe from Muslim invasion) until 1453

#### 5.4 Religion

- Traditional Roman religion
  - Piety (Latin “pietas”): respect of religious traditions and maintenance of good relations w/ gods
    - understood as the Roman source of success
  - Early religion = veneration of Roman ancestors (hence why the fam. Line is so important) who have god-like qualities + adoption of foreign gods

- Aeneas was believed to be the son of Venus
- Enormous Greek influence
  - In the centuries following the invasion of Greece, Romans adopt Greek religion's gods and gave them new names
  - Roman religion → individualistic
    - Religious rites celebrated at home
    - During harder times (civil war, political turmoil, economic hardships, etc.), a spiritual void was felt by Romans
      - They would pray alone... no sense of unity; this could explain the rise of Christianity (religion that provides common cause, charity, support, mutual help).
- The Rise of Christianity
  - Minor events in the Roman province of Judea
    - Climate of intense instability in Judea (zealots), modern day Israel, where zealots zealously fought for their indep.
    - Hebrews believe in approach of a final struggle and the imminent arrival of a savior (messiah)
    - Jesus Christ! [Christos (greek): Savior]
      - born circa year 0 (maybe -4?), at the time Augustus was ruling; deeply religious family in the region of Galilee, he was a carpenter and became a preacher at the age of 30
      - The Message of Christianity: love thy neighbor, love God and God will let you reach paradise, you just need to ask for forgiveness for your sins
    - Jesus executed by Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect (governor who needs to maintain peace) of Judaea → Jesus' crucifixion was not a way to make a religious statement, plenty of ppl were crucified back then
      - Why did Pontius order the execution of Christ? Trouble at Passover in Jerusalem bc Jewish ppl believed Jesus to be a heretic
      - The story goes that Jesus was resurrected and walked out of his tomb lol
- The Spread of Christianity
  - In the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, Christianity becomes super successful. Why?
    - Mysterious new religion promising love and immortality to all!
    - Idea/Notion of forgiveness
    - Provides a common cause, a sense of community in an age of individualism, poverty and chaos

- It becomes a Roman religion!
- The legal evolution of Christianity
  - All the way until Diocletian (284—305), Christianity is illegal in the Empire and Christians are actively persecuted (seen as enemies of Roman tradition)
  - Constantine (306—337) introduces the Edict of Milan (313) officially legalizing all religions (especially for Christians!)
    - Constantine was involved in Church matters (first council of Nicaea where ppl debated whether Jesus' story was entirely true or not)
    - Was baptized as Christian before his death
    - Remembered as a great Saint by Orthodox Christian Church
  - Emperor Theodosius (379—395) establishes Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire and makes the practice of all other religions (such as the traditional Roman religion) a treasonable offense.
    - Allows church to have its own tribunals (foundation of later Church power)

## 5.5 Philosophy, Science, Art and Architecture

- Philosophy
  - V. influenced by Greeks
    - A few noteworthy Roman philosophers, not many
    - Erudite Romans studied Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Sophists, etc.
    - Stoicism and epicureanism were also very influential among Roman thinkers
  - Marcus Aurelius (161—180): emperor and highly regarded philosopher
    - Meditations (written during emperorship) is a collection of personal reflections and notes on Stoic philosophy and the nature of ruling
    - Never meant to be published, but today, widely regarded as a masterpiece of philosophical literature
- Science
  - V. influenced by Greeks
  - Long discussions on theoretical research abt the universe or the nature of things is seen as pointless and vain (unlike Greeks, not knowledge for the sake of knowledge)
    - Physics to improve war machines
    - Biology to improve crop yields
    - Math and geometry to improve building structures
  - Great aqueducts, concrete!
- Art and Architecture
  - Beauty → male body (example of patriarchy)

- Sculptures were v. realistic, used to be painted over! This is why their eyes look so weird nowadays
  - Also, later emperors wanted to look less human and more god-like, which also explains why they look so strange
- Idealism, realism, and humanism in art