

Chapter 10

Rome from City-State to Empire

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Chapter Chronology

.....
c. 750–509 B.C.E.

Etruscans rule Rome
.....

c. 509–31 B.C.E.

Roman Republic
.....

300s–200s B.C.E.

Conquest of Italy
.....

264–202 B.C.E.

The First and Second Punic Wars
.....

50s–30s B.C.E.

The two triumvirates
.....

27 B.C.E.–14 C.E.

Reign of Augustus
.....

31 B.C.E.–180 C.E.

Pax Romana
.....

14–69 C.E.

Julio-Claudian emperors
.....

69–96 C.E.

Flavian emperors
.....

161–180 C.E.

Marcus Aurelius
.....



Roman Foundations

- Several civilizations influenced Roman culture
- **Etruscans**
 - Lived in small city-states in north/central Italy (Tuscany)
 - Etruscan federation ruled Romans, 750-509 BCE
 - After Roman rebellion, Etruscans gradually disappeared from history
- **Greeks**
 - Colonized southern Italy, 700s BCE
 - Prosperous commercial area
 - Romans viewed them as superior
- **Phoenicians**
 - Via Carthage – Naval power

Republican Government (Slide 1 of 2)

Founding Rome

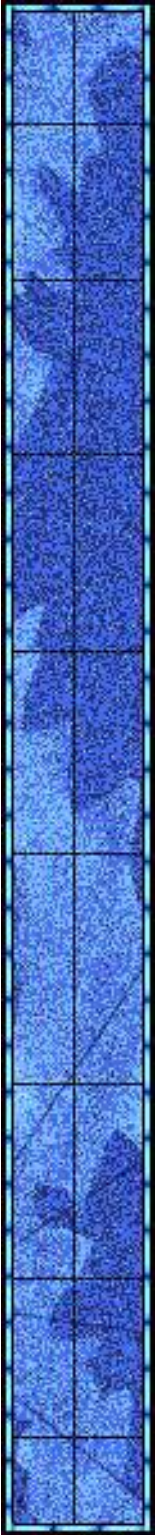
- Legend says Romulus and Remus, twin brothers, founded it
- 7 agrarian villages joined together, 753 BCE
- Romans rebelled against Etruscans and monarchy, 509 BCE
- Set up **Res Publica** (Latin for Republic) – state without a monarch

Republican Government (Slide 2 of 2)

- Senate
 - Made up of **patricians** (upper class, 5-10% of the population)
- General Assembly
 - Made up of **plebeians** (commoners, 90% of the population)
- Executive Power
 - Two **consuls** (elected from the senate – one year terms)
 - **Censors** (originally tax assessors, later reviewed morals/conduct of senators)
 - **Tribunes** (with power to speak/act in name of commoners)
- Equal voting rights (Hortensian Law, 287 BCE), gave patricians and plebeians equal voting rights)
- No REAL equal access to government for all

Rome's Conquest of Italy

- Rome led federation of tribes in Latium
- Rome won control of Italian Peninsula after defeating Etruscans, other Italians, Greeks
- Rome had generous policy toward defeated
 - Offered partial to full citizenship if subject people remained loyal and supplied troops when needed
 - Citizenship offered many protections
 - Subjects integrated, adopted Latin, intermarried with Romans, remained loyal



Punic Wars (264-146 BCE)

- Intermittent conflict between Rome and Carthage for control of western Mediterranean
- **First Punic War** (264-241 BCE)
 - Began as dispute in Sicily
 - Beginning of Roman imperial expansion
- **Second Punic War** (218-202 BCE)
 - Hannibal (Carthaginian) ravaged Italy; won every battle but lost war
 - Rome defeated Carthage at **Zama**, 202 BCE
 - Rome gained land in Spain and Africa

Conquest of the East

- Rome next moved east and defeated some Hellenistic kingdoms
- Controversy about Rome's future arose in senate
 - Conservatives wanted Rome to remain a homogeneous republic of small landowners
 - Imperialists wanted Rome to expand and gain wealth
- Rome's victorious citizen-soldier army changed
 - Unpaid landowning citizens could not afford to leave their farms to serve for long periods
 - Army began to rely on professional commander-governors (**proconsuls**) and volunteer soldiers

Crisis of the Late Republic

- Economic and Social Displacement
 - Plebeian citizen-soldiers lost land to wealthy who owned great estates run by slaves
 - Landless peasants now flocked to cities
 - Proletariat (people dependent solely on daily wages) -- Ready to follow any general/politician who would lead them
- Army Reform
 - Marius (former consul, re-elected for 6 terms)
 - Recognized need for reform
 - Abolished property qualifications to join army
 - Army became a base for opportunism and instability
 - Soldiers promised pensions and land upon retirement
 - Sulla (Harsh soldier/consul, became dictator in 83 BCE)

Triumvirates (Slide 1 of 2)

- Senate was corrupt and unable to solve Rome's problems, 1st c. BCE
- Leaders tried to wield power within Republican framework to
 - Quell disorder at home
 - Assert Roman authority abroad
- **Julius Caesar** and First Triumvirate (with Crassus, Pompey)
 - Caesar conquered Gaul, 50s BCE,
 - Ruled as dictator, 47-44 BCE
 - Assassinated, 44 BCE

Triumvirates (Slide 2 of 2)

- Octavian (adopted son of Caesar) and Second Triumvirate (with Mark Antony, Lepidus)
 - Crushed assassins and divided the empire
 - War with Antony (32 BCE)
 - Octavian's final victory at **Actium** (31 BCE), considered the beginning of the Roman Empire

The Augustan Age (Slide 1 of 3)

Reforms of Octavian/Augustus

- Retained the form of the Republic while wielding all power
- Offices and titles
 - **Pontifex Maximus**: high priest
 - Octavian accepted title of “Augustus” (“Revered One”)
 - Preferred to be called “Princeps” (“First Citizen”)
 - Government called **Principate**, 27 BCE – 14 CE
 - Head of the Senate
 - Consul for life

The Augustan Age (Slide 2 of 3)

Imperial government policies

- Provided “dole” of grain and oil to address urban poverty and unrest
- Expanded public works for jobs, infrastructure, beautification
- Advocated moral reform to combat self-indulgence, material excesses, influx of slaves
- Tried to revive faith in old gods and state cult
- Failed to suppress German tribes; Rhine-Danube became border
- Cut politically dangerous army in half
 - Legions sent to provinces; did public works
 - Navy patrolled rivers to wipe out piracy
 - **Praetorian Guard**, loyal to Augustus, only armed force in Italy

The Augustan Age (Slide 3 of 3)

Peace and Prosperity

Pax Romana – “Roman Peace” (31 BCE-180 BCE)

- Two centuries of peace, law and order in Empire
- Literature and art flourished
- Safety, trade networks, prosperity

Succession Problem

- Augustus made Tiberius, his son-in-law, successor
- Successors depended on military support more than heredity to get into office

Imperial Unification

- Roman culture spread
 - Latin and Greek used throughout empire
- Imperial government became more centralized
 - Officials sent from Rome or chosen from Romanized locals
 - **Municipia** – Roman towns in west run by Romans and locals
 - Provincial governor, supported by garrison, responsible of order
- Government open to non-Italians
 - Men of talent could rise swiftly



Rome's Presence in the World

- Roman empire dominated Mediterranean
- Rome grew rich from tribute and trade
- Empire imported goods from Asia
 - Silk, spices – China
 - Pepper, cardamom, ginger – India
 - Turmeric, saffron, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves – SE Asia
- Trade routes
 - Silk Road across central Asia
 - Indian Ocean – Red Sea

Roman Law

- Law, a great, lasting Roman achievement
 - Evolved over several centuries
 - Met diverse needs of multi-cultural empire
 - Balanced central authority and local autonomy
- Basic principles
 - Precedent, coequal to letter of law
 - Equity (fairness) is goal
 - Interpretation is crucial in individual cases
- **ius gentium** (“law of peoples”)
 - Dealt with relations between citizens and non-Romans
 - Led to international law
- Natural law – all humans have rights and duties

Arts and Literature

- Followed Greek models
- Writers of 1st c. BCE:
 - Cicero, Terence, Cato, Lucretius
 - Virgil – **Aeneid** – epic on founding of Rome
 - Historians: Caesar, Polybius, Tacitus
 - Poets: Ovid, Horace, Catullus
- Sculpture
 - Many Roman copies of Greek sculpture survived
 - Romans developed realistic style; busts popular
- Architecture
 - Forum, Coliseum

Roman Beliefs (Slide 1 of 2)

Roman Stoics

- Marcus Aurelius (rule, 161-180 CE)
 - Last of “Five Good Emperors”
 - Wrote **Meditations**
 - Pessimistic Stoic (Good man in a bad world)
 - Highest duty is service to state and mankind
- Seneca
 - All humanity shares a divine spark; each one should be valued

Roman Beliefs (Slide 2 of 2)

Religion

- Civic religion
- Stressed duty to state and family
- Involved mutual promises
 - Gods - protection for community and survival
 - People – ceremonial worship and respect
- Gods – Much borrowed from Greeks
 - Jupiter (Zeus), Apollo, Neptune (Poseidon), Venus (Aphrodite), Minerva (Athena), Ares (Mars)
- Popularity of mystery religions

Society and Economy (Slide 1 of 2)

- Farming – main occupation
 - Most land owned by government or wealthy absentee landlords
 - Small farmers could not compete; many moved to cities
 - Social stratification increased
- Slavery
 - Increase of slaves due to conquest
 - Slaves often better educated, more highly skilled than masters
 - Slaves used on plantations, in mines, and on ships
 - During hard economic times freemen sold themselves into slavery to avoid taxes

Society and Economy (Slide 2 of 2)

- Gender relations
 - **Patria potestas** – authority of father over family
 - Could execute family members
 - Women regarded as property
 - Father's power exceeded husband's
 - Marriages arranged, divorce common
 - Abortion legal until 1st century CE
 - Women worked in most trades
 - Women not as segregated as in Greece
- Children and education
 - Patrician male child received an excellent education