

Classics 17B: Roman Identity in Early Rome and The Conquest of Italy During the Republic

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1 How do we discuss Roman identity during Rome's early beginnings?

- *Very carefully.*
- A mixture of peoples, cultures, traditions, and ideologies already circulated during the Monarchy.
- **Architecture:** temples, shrines, civic, and other religious buildings.

The Campus Martius was a marshy area where the Roman militia congregated during the Monarchy. It was drained during the Republic and transformed.

1.1 Archaic buildings in the early Forum and “identity”

- Regia
- Area of the Vestal Virgins
- Lapis Niger

Temples:

Capitoline Triad	509 BCE
Temple of Saturn	497 BCE
Temple of Castor	4th BCE

The LAPIS NIGER (black stone) was an underground chamber in the Forum dating to the archaic period. There are cisterns from the archaic period on the Palatine. The CLOACA MAXIMA, built during the Monarchy, was originally an open-air canal that drained the Forum, flowing out to the Tiber River. It was later covered and still functions today. The REGIA was an early building believed to be the residence of the Kings of Rome and later the Pontifex Maximus (head priest of Rome). Rome's first bridge (that we know of) was the PONS SUBLICIUS, spanning the Tiber River and the Forum Boarium. The PONS AEMILIUS (Ponte Rotte) is the oldest surviving stone bridge in Rome, ca. 2nd BCE. The Sant' Ombono Temples, Forum Boarium, Rome were on the banks of the Tiber River.

1.2 Early Roman Roads

- Via Sacra
- Vicus Tuscus

2 The Conquest of Italy and Beyond

The **Carthaginian Wars** (or Punic Wars) 264-146 BCE were wars between the Roman Republic and Carthage (founded ca. 800 BCE in Carthage).

- The First Punic War—264–241 BCE - Rome gained Sicily, Corsica, and Sardinia.
- The Second Punic War—218–201 BCE - Hannibal crosses the Alps with elephants and enters Italy! Many Roman losses, but at the end of this war, Rome gained part of southern Spain.
- The Third Punic War—149–146 BCE - Carthage burned to the ground, Rome gained Carthage along with Corinth in Greece.

3 In Conclusion

How do we talk about Roman identity through a combination of literary references and material culture during the Republic?

- Rome sacked by Gauls ca. 390 BCE = Severian Wall.
- Recovery of Rome—treaties and wars with Italic tribes, Etruscans, and Greeks.
- Emergence of a leading nobility (landowners, i.e. senators and magistrates).
- Expansion allowed for cultural differences to disappear as the Italian Peninsula became Romanized.
- The Republican Period saw the creation of the *Patricians* and *Plebeians*.
- The Republican period saw the construction of cities, roads, a centralized army with land and naval power.
- Romans came into contact with the “arts” from the Etruscans, Magna Graecia, and Greece.
- Rome built up a military force during the Carthaginian wars—this made Rome into the leading power of the Mediterranean by 146 BCE.