

## EARLY ROMAN HISTORY

753 BCE Founding of Rome (traditional date)

### Regal Period

Monarchy:

Romulus (a.k.a. Quirinus)

Numa Pompilius

Tullus Hostilius

Ancus Martius

L. Tarquinius Priscus

Servius Tullius

L. Tarquinius Superbus

— Proto-Senate: aristocratic advisory body (*patres*)

509 Monarchy overthrown; Republic (*Res Publica*) established

### Early Republic

Magistrates:

consuls, praetors

aediles, quaestors

tribunes

censors

dictator

pontiffs

Assemblies:

curial

centuriate

tribal (*concilium plebis*)

### Social orders

patricians

← *fides* →

plebeians

*dignitas*

*auctoritas*

*libertas*

493 Treaty between Rome and the Latin League

451-49 Decemvirate and codification of XII Tables

396 Conquest of Veii

387 Gallic sack of Rome; "Servian" Wall (378)

338 Latin League defeated and dissolved

298-90 Third Samnite War

287 Lex Hortensia: Tribal Assembly gains legislative power

280-75 War with Pyrrhus

## MIDDLE REPUBLIC (3rd cent. BCE)

### 264-41 First Punic War:

#### Results:

Carthage loses Sicily (then Corsica and Sardinia)  
Carthage pays 3,200-talents over 10 years

#### Reasons for Roman victory:

tenacity / leadership / manpower / naval tactics

- 226 The "Ebro Treaty"
- 221 Hannibal given Carthaginian command in Spain
- 219 Fall of Saguntum

### 218-01 Second Punic War:

- 218 Hannibal crosses Alps; Battle at Trebia River
- 217 Battle of Lake Trasimene
  - Q. Fabius Maximus Cunctator appointed dictator
- 216 Battle of Cannae; defection of allies
- 215 Philip V allies with Hannibal
- 213-11 Syracuse and Capua reduced
  - M. Claudius Marcellus; Archimedes
- 210 P. Cornelius Scipio appointed proconsul in Spain
- 209 New Carthage falls; Tarentum falls
- 207 Hasdrubal defeated at the Metaurus River
- 205 Roman treaty with Philip V
- 204 Scipio invades Africa
- 203 Hannibal crosses to Africa
- 202 Battle of Zama
- 201 Carthage capitulates

#### Results:

Carthage surrenders all but African holdings  
Carthaginian fleet reduced to ten triremes  
Carthage pays 10,000-talents over 50 years  
Rome acquires Spain

#### Reasons for Roman victory:

senatorial leadership and firmness  
loyalty of allies in central Italy  
P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus

## MIDDLE REPUBLIC (2nd cent. BCE)

- 200-196** Second Macedonian War  
197 Battle of Cynoscephalae  
T. Quinctius Flaminius announces Greek freedom  
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- 192-189** War with Antiochus III  
189 Roman victory at Magnesia  
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- 172-167** Third Macedonian War  
168 L. Aemilius Paullus defeats Perseus at Pydna  
167 Tributum discontinued for Roman citizens  
Macedon and Illyria divided into protectorates  
1,000 Achaeans deported to Rome  
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- 149-146** Third Punic War ("Delenda est Karthago")  
Scipio Aemilianus  
148 Macedon becomes a Roman province  
146 Destruction of Carthage; Sack of Corinth  
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- 143-133** Numantine war in Spain  
133 Fall of Numantia

## LATE REPUBLIC (133-31 BCE)

### Optimates vs. Populares

- 133 Tribune of Tiberius Gracchus
  - Pergamum willed to Rome by Attalus III
- 123-122 Tribunes of Gaius Gracchus
- 111-105 War with Jugurtha
- 107 Marius consul (i)
- 104-100 Marius consul (ii-vi)
- 102-101 Teutones and Cimbri defeated
- 90-88 Social War
- 89-85 First Mithridatic War; Marius consul (vii, d. 86)
- 82-79 Sulla dictator (82-81) reign of terror; Sulla consul (80), retires (79); Pompey in Sicily and Africa
- 77-71 Pompey in Spain
- 74-63 Third Mithridatic War
- 73-71 Spartacus Revolt
- 70 Pompey and Crassus consuls; trial of Verres
- 66-62 Pompey's commands against pirates and in the East
- 63 Cicero consul; conspiracy of Catiline
- 60 First Triumvirate: Julius Caesar, Pompey, Crassus
- 59 Julius Caesar consul; Pompey marries Julia
- 58-49 Julius Caesar in Gaul
- 55 Pompey and Crassus consuls
- 54 Death of Julia
- 53 Battle of Carrhae

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|-------|---|
| 49-44 | <b>Civil War, Phase I</b>                     |
| 49    | Crossing the Rubicon                          |
| 48    | Battle of Pharsalus                           |
| 44    | Julius Caesar assassinated                    |
| 44-31 | <b>Civil War, Phase II</b>                    |
| 43    | Second Triumvirate: Octavian, Antony, Lepidus |
| 42    | Battle of Philippi                            |
| 31    | Battle of Actium                              |

- 30 Suicide of Antony and Cleopatra
- 27 Emperor Caesar Augustus

## IMPERATOR CAESAR AVGVSTVS

*tribunicia potestas / imperium proconsulare / pontifex maximus*

### Art and Architecture

Forum Augustum (Mars Ultor, 37-2 BCE)  
Ara Pacis (13-9 BCE)  
Primaporta statue  
Mausoleum (*Res Gestae Divi Augusti*)  
Clipeus Virtutis

### Religion and Ethics

Temple repair  
Priesthoods (Augustales)  
Ruler Cult (Divus Julius)  
Moral edicts  
Secular Games

### Public Works and Games [Agrippa]

Aqueducts, baths, Cloaca Maxima  
XIV Regiones  
Ludi  
Theater of Marcellus (13 BCE)

### Coins

"Divi Filius"  
"Pax"  
"Aegypto Capta"  
"Signis Receptis"  
"Pater Patriae"  
"Cl(ipeus) V(irtutis)"

### Literature [Maecenas]

Vergil, *Aeneid*  
Horace, *Odes*  
Livy, *History*

### Dole

Grain  
Money

### "TARGET GROUPS"

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Senatorial Class: 600 families  
Equestrian Class: ca. 5000 families  
Lower Classes: urban poor; peasantry  
Provincials  
Future Ages??

## THE FIRST CENTURY CE

### Major Trends:

- increasing autocracy
- waning of authority of senate and magistrates
- growth of professional civil service (freedmen)
- prominence of Equites in government
- increased influence of the Praetorian Guard
- frontiers established
- provinces and client-states organized
- emergence of armies as emperor-makers

**Julio-Claudians** — Augustus, 27 BCE-14 CE;  
Tiberius, 14-37; Gaius (Caligula), 37-41;  
Claudius, 41-54; Nero, 54-68

- 9 Teutoburg Forest disaster
- c. 30 Crucifixion of Jesus
- 43 Invasion/annexation of southern Britain
- 64 Great Fire at Rome
- 66-70 Jewish rebellion
- 68-69 "Year of the Four Emperors"

**Flavians** — Vespasian, 69-79; Titus, 79-81;  
Domitian, 81-96

- 70 Destruction of Jerusalem; Fall of Masada (73)
- 79 Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius
- 80 Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheater) dedicated

## LATIN LITERATURE

### Pre-"Golden Age": 2nd-cent. BCE

Plautus — Comedies (e.g., *Menaechmi*, *The Pot of Gold*)  
Terence — Comedies (e.g., *Phormio*, *The Brothers*)  
[Polybius — *Histories*]  
Lucilius — Satires

### "Golden Age" Phase I: Late Republic, 1st-cent. BCE

Cicero — a) Speeches (e.g., *Against Verres*, *Against Catiline*, *For Caelius*)  
b) Essays on oratory  
c) Philosophical essays (e.g., *On Friendship*, *On Old Age*)  
d) Letters  
Lucretius — *De Rerum Natura* ("On the Nature of Things")  
Caesar — War commentaries  
Catullus — Lyric poetry (esp. "Lesbia" cycle)

### "Golden Age" Phase II: Augustan Era

Horace — Satires and lyric poems (esp. *Odes*)  
Vergil — *Eclogues*, *Georgics*, *Aeneid*  
Livy — *History*  
Ovid — *Metamorphoses*, love poetry/erotic manuals

### "Silver Age": 1st/2nd-cent. CE

Petronius — *Satyricon*  
Seneca — (Stoic) philosophical essays and letters;  
tragedies  
Pliny — *Letters*  
Tacitus — *Annals*, *Histories*  
Suetonius — *Lives of Caesars*, et al.  
Juvenal — *Satires*

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### Further reading:

Frank O. Copley, *Latin Literature* (Ann Arbor 1969).  
Moses Hadas, *Ancilla to Classical Reading* (New York 1954).  
Gilbert Highet, *Poets in a Landscape* (New York 1957).  
R.M. Ogilvie, *Roman Literature and Society* (Harmondsworth 1980).

## THE 2ND AND 3RD CENTURIES CE

**96 Era of the "Five Good Emperors":** Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius

- succession by adoption
- consolidation of borders and border-defenses
- barbarian incursions
- atrophy of senate and magistracies
- disease and manpower shortage
- decline in civic service (liturgies)
- financial strains

**180**

**180 Transition:** Commodus / the Severan Dynasty: Septimius Severus

- succession problems
- rise of the soldier-emperor
- citizenship granted empire-wide (212)
- *honestiores* v. *humiliores*
- debasement of currency

**235**

**235 Chaos and Near Disintegration:** Anarchy at the Center: The "Barracks Emperors"

- armies out of control; rival claimants
- barbarian incursions (Alemanni, Franks, Goths)
- central districts under pressure
- reassertion of Persian power (Sassanid dynasty)
- Shapur I captures Emperor Valerian (260)
- Aurelian (270-275) restores some stability
- over-taxation to meet defense expenses
- increased settlement and recruitment of barbarians
- religious disputes (Decius, 249-51)

**284**

**284 Order through Quasi-Totalitarianism:** Diocletian

- the Tetrarchy (Augusti & Caesares)
- distribution of power/burdens; succession problem solved
- outright autocracy ("Oriental" pomp)
- overgrowth of bureaucracy: provincial subdivision
- Edict on Maximum Prices
- the "Great Persecution" (303-311)

**305**



## CHRISTIANITY AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- c.30 — Crucifixion of Jesus [cf. **ARD 406-408**]
- 64 — The Great Fire at Rome [**ARD 408-409**]
  - grounds: a) public order?
  - b) collegia?
  - c) atheism?
  - d) treason?
  - e) criminality/immorality? [**ARD 412-13**]
  - f) name alone?
- c.95 — Persecution of Christians by Domitian
- c.110 — Pliny in Bithynia [**ARD 409-411**]
- 177 — Persecution at Lyons [**ARD 415-416**]
- 249-51 — Persecution of Christians by Decius
- 303 — Diocletian and Galerius begin "Great Persecution"
- 311 — Edict of Toleration [**ARD 416**]
- 312-37 — Career of Constantine:
  - a) Battle of the Mulvian Bridge (312)
  - b) Edict of Milan (313)
  - c) Constantine sole emperor (324-37)
  - d) Constantinople founded (324), inaugurated (330)
  - e) Council of Nicaea (325)
- 360-63 — Julian the Apostate
- 379-95 — Career of Theodosius I
  - a) influence of St. Ambrose
  - b) Symmachus/Altar of Victory (382-4) [**ARD 389-91**]
  - c) paganism outlawed (391)

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### Reasons for the success of Christianity:

- a) it had support of the emperor (starting with Constantine)
- b) it was exclusive
- c) it was egalitarian\*
- d) it offered rewards
- e) it satisfied the need to belong

\* *Colossians* 3:11, "There is no question here of Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman; but Christ is all, and is in all."

## DECLINE AND FALL

- 324-337 Constantine
- 379-395 Theodosius I: split between East and West
- 410 Alaric and Visigoths sack Rome
- 476 Last western emperor deposed

### Reasons for decline and fall

- 1) moral fiber
  - a) religion
  - b) civic irresponsibility
  - c) the military
  - d) race
  - e) "barbarization"
- 2) demography
  - a) disease
  - b) agriculture
  - c) celibacy
  - d) toxin
- 3) bureaucracy
- 4) economics: inflation, over-taxation, etc.
- 5) technology
- 6) chance

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### Symptoms of decline (Edward Gibbon via Alistair Cooke):

- 1) a mounting love of show and luxury
- 2) an obsession with sex
- 3) a widening gap between the very rich and the very poor
- 4) a general desire to live off the state
- 5) a developing numbness to vulgarity, violence, and the assault on the simplest human decencies
- 6) the folly of exercising military might in places remote from the centers of power
- 7) freakishness in the arts masquerading as originality
- 8) enthusiasm pretending to be creativity