

Ancient Rome

Kings – Republic – Empire

The Italian Peninsula

- Peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea
- Modern-Day Italy
- Center of trade among 3 continents = Asia, Africa, Europe
- Mild, moist climate & rich soil
- Swamps at the mouths of rivers
 - ♦ Infested with disease-carrying mosquitoes
- Mountains caused early people to only trade among themselves
- Greek traders sailed up to Italy to set up farming colonies – found early farmers with cattle
 - ♦ *Italos* is the Greek word for bull-calf
- Seven farming communities around the Tiber River eventually became Rome



The Rise of Rome



- According to myth, Rome was founded by the twin brothers Romulus & Remus
- They were supposed to drown in the Tiber River but were saved and raised by a she-wolf



The Rise of Rome - Kings

- At first, Rome consisted of 7 villages on 7 hills
- By 620 BCE, Roman villages were unified
- The Tarquins (wealthy family) were the first kings of united Rome
 - ♦ Taught the people to build houses out of brick & laid out city streets
 - ♦ Created a Forum at the center of the city = became the seat of Roman government
 - ♦ Tarquins were driven out in 509 BCE --> people were upset with Tarquin the Proud's cruelty and harshness

The Roman Forum Republic

- originally referred to as a marketplace
- center of Roman public life & commercial affairs
- site of ceremonial processions & elections
- venue for public speeches & criminal trials
- Statues/monuments commemorated leaders



Roman Laws

- Roman laws were written down on 12 bronze tablets
 - ♦ Called the Twelve Tables & displayed in the Forum



Rome's Government – Republic

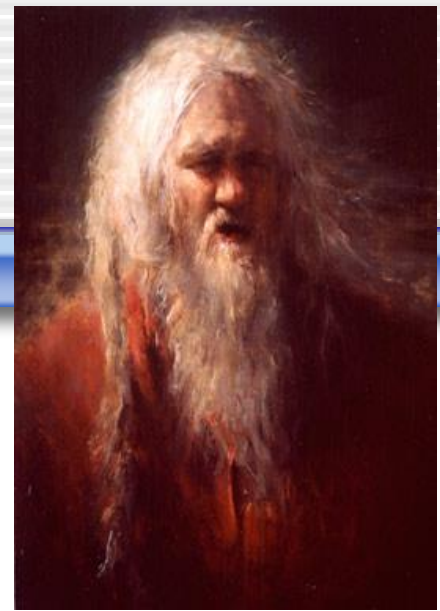
- Rome's government had 2 branches = legislative & executive
- Legislative Branch:
 - ♦ Elected people to the Executive Branch
 - ♦ Senate proposed laws, advised consuls, debated foreign policy & approved building contracts
- Executive Branch:
 - ♦ Headed by 2 **consuls** = patrician officials elected to 1-year terms
 - ♦ Either consul could veto the actions of the other
 - ♦ Occasionally, the Romans appointed a **dictator** = a leader whose word was law --> only during times of crisis
 - ♦ Dictator could overrule the consuls

Plebeians vs. Patricians

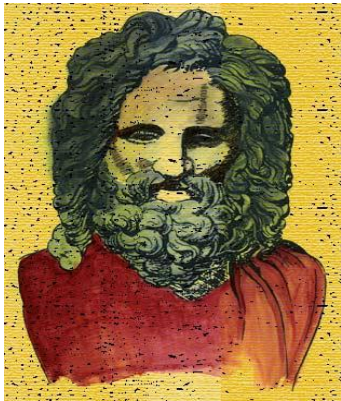
- **Patricians** = wealthy Roman nobles
 - ♦ **Declared Rome a republic** = people elect their leaders
- Most Romans were **Plebeians**
 - ♦ Landowners, merchants, farmers, etc.
 - ♦ Had some rights, but couldn't hold public office
- Plebeians resented the fact that they didn't have any power
- Refused to fight in the army unless their demands were met
- Plebeians were given representatives in government = called **tribunes**
- Plebeians Assembly of Tribes elected the tribunes
- Plebeians improved their social standing
 - ♦ Enslavement for debt ended
 - ♦ Marriage between plebeians & patricians now allowed



Roman Religion



- At first, Romans worshipped nature spirits
- **Soothsayers** = priests who thought they could foretell the future by observing patterns in nature like the flight of birds or the intestines of an animal



Jupiter - Head of the Gods



Minerva - Goddess of Wisdom



Mars - God of War

- Were influenced by the Greeks
 - ♦ Borrowed Greek deities & gave them Roman names

Roman Families - Republic

- Roman households were large & close-knit
 - ♦ Included all unmarried children, married sons & their families, dependent relatives & slaves
- Father was the absolute head of the household
 - ♦ Controlled property, supervised sons' education, could even sell family members into slavery
- Women had few legal rights, but had more freedoms than the Greeks
 - ♦ Ran the household
 - ♦ Occasionally got to own property & businesses
- Values: thrift, discipline, self-sacrifice, devotion to family & the republic



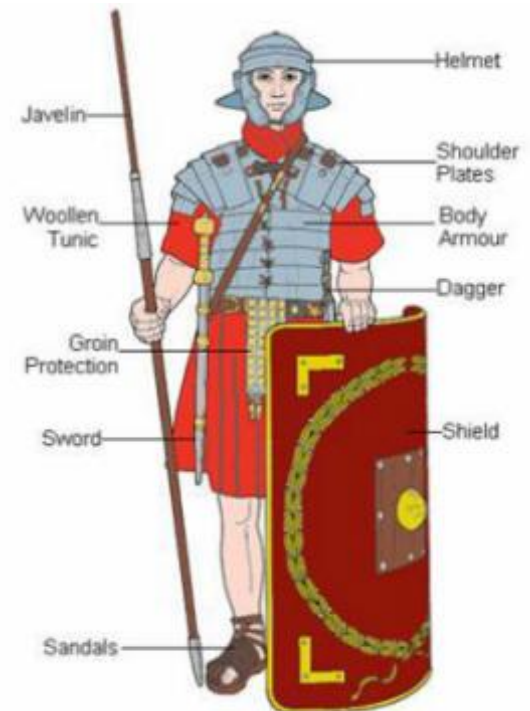
The Roman Republic

- Rome constantly faced threats from its neighbors
- To protect the Republic, Rome either conquered its opponents or forced them to be allies with Rome
- 264 BCE = Rome ruled the entire Italian Peninsula

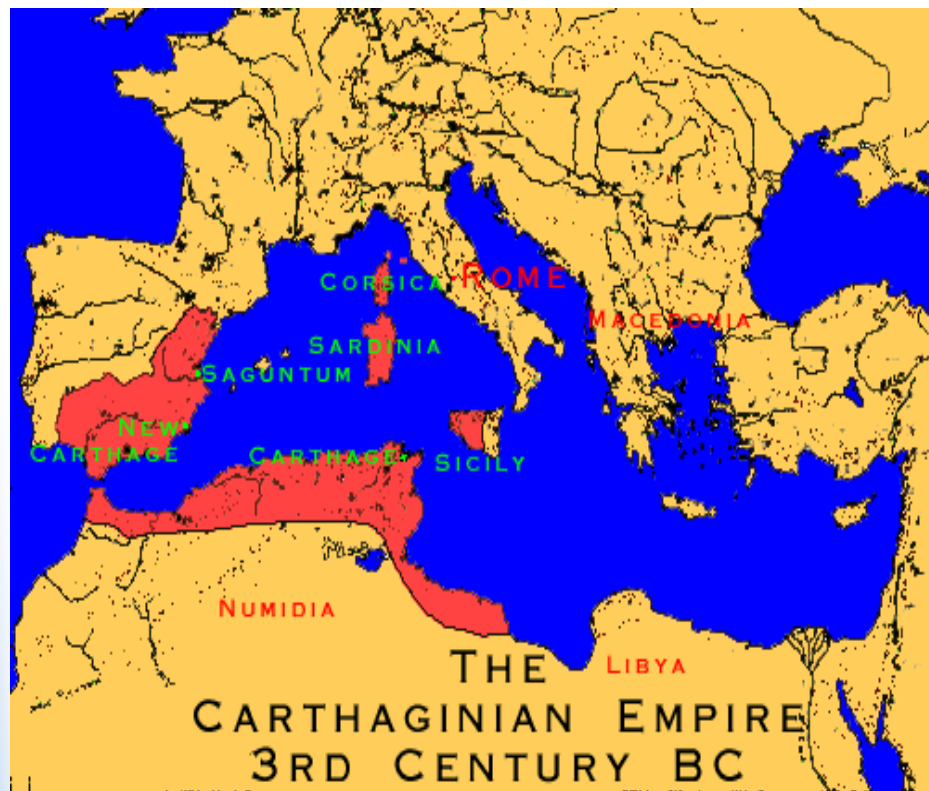


Roman Legions

- Rome had a very strong army
- Every male citizen had to serve when needed
- Troops were organized into **legions** of 6,000 men = smaller, quicker phalanxes
- Soldiers were called **legionaries**
 - ♦ Well-trained; desertion was punishable by death
- Romans treated conquered people well *at this time*
- Rome & its colonies were linked by a series of roads



Rome Against Carthage



- Carthage = wealthiest city in Mediterranean area --> in northern Africa
- Romans wanted to put the expansion of Carthage in check

Rome vs. Carthage

1st Punic War



- Started when Carthage wanted to seize the Strait of Messina & the Romans wanted to stop them
- Rome defeated Carthage & took over Sicily
- Carthage forced to pay huge **indemnity** = payment for damages



Rome vs. Carthage

2nd Punic War

- Hannibal = became the general of the Carthaginian army in Spain
 - Took one of Rome's allied cities
 - Invaded Italy with 40,000 soldiers and 40 elephants
 - On their way (and in crossing the Alps) --> 1/2 of Hannibal's army was killed by snow, cold, hunger, sickness, & attacks by mountain people
 - Despite this, Hannibal's army was on the verge of destroying the entire Roman army



Scipio

- Scipio = Roman general that attacked Carthage - forcing Hannibal to retreat back to Africa
 - ◆ He helped the Romans defeat the Carthaginians --> Carthage had to give up their lands in Spain, their warships, & pay an indemnity



Rome vs. Carthage

3rd Punic War



- 50 years later = Rome forced war on Carthage
- Romans burned Carthage to the ground & sold its people into slavery



Republic in Crisis: Slave Revolts

- Rome controlled all of the Mediterranean
- Growing social discontent
 - ♦ Corrupt Roman officials created large estates by stealing land from poor farmers & using a profitable agriculture business to get rich
 - ♦ Roman officials used captives & prisoners of war as slaves on the estates
 - ♦ Conquered people lost their land and couldn't find jobs
- One major revolt led by slave named Spartacus --> Romans finally crushed the uprising, killing about 6,000 slaves/peasants who revolted



The Republic in Crisis: Possible Solution?



- Gracchus Brothers (both consuls) proposed distributing land to the poor -- but they were both murdered

The Republic in Crisis: Solution that Worked

- Army leaders came to rule Rome
 - ◆ Formed separate armies that fought each other for power
 - ◆ Julius Caesar used this practice of using the army to get political power



Julius Caesar



- One of Rome's greatest generals & leaders
- Caesar, Pompey, & Crassus ruled Rome as a **triumvirate** = 3 people with equal power

Julius Caesar

- Caesar conquered the Celts, fought Germanic tribes & invaded Britain
 - ♦ Seen as a military hero
 - ♦ This helped him advance his political career
- Was feared by senators



Julius Caesar



- Took over complete control of Rome & became dictator for life
 - ◆ Granted Roman citizenship to people in areas outside of Italy
 - ◆ Provided jobs for the unemployed
 - ◆ Created a new calendar (Julian calendar)

Death of Julius Caesar



- Stabbed to death by a group of Senators - led by Brutus & Cassius
 - ♦ Accused of being a tyrant trying to be king
 - ♦ Plotting to be king was punishable by death without trial

End of the Republic



- Caesar's successors (Octavian, Marc Antony, Marcus Lepidus) divided the Roman world among themselves
- Octavian forced the other 2 out -- would become the 1st ruler of the Roman Empire

The First Emperors



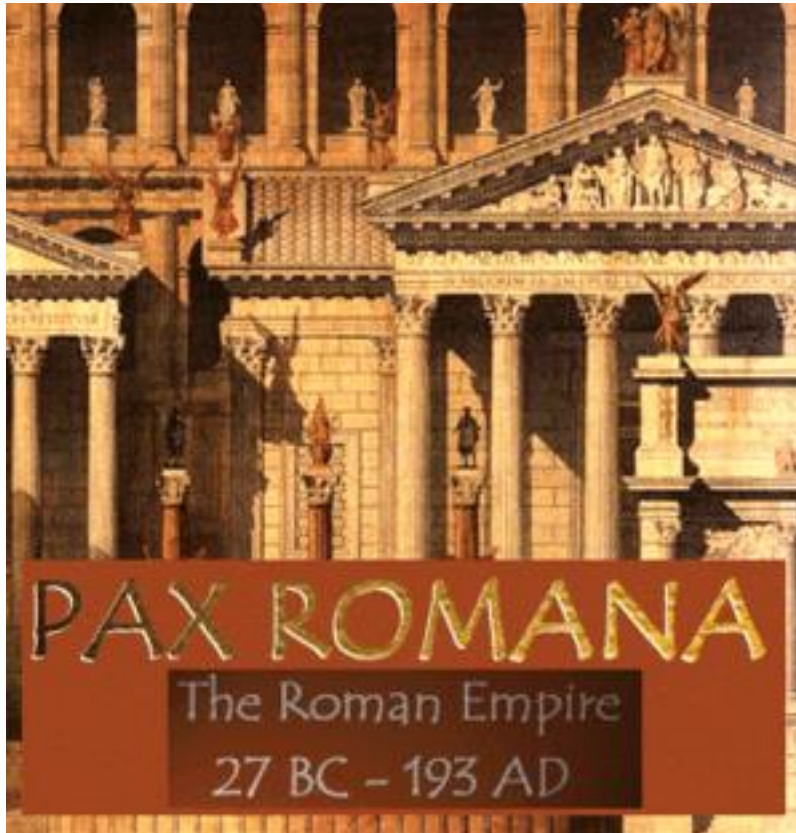
- Roman Republic = too weak to maintain control
- **Octavian** = believed Rome needed ONE strong ruler

Octavian

- Octavian = gave himself title *Augustus* = "majestic one"
 - ♦ Became Rome's first emperor = absolute ruler
 - ♦ Rebuilt Rome
 - ♦ Imported grain so all of Rome could be fed
 - ♦ New roads build & old ones rebuilt
 - ♦ Had magnificent buildings built
 - ♦ Ruled for 40 years



The Pax Romana



- Pax Romana = Roman Peace
 - ♦ Period of Peace that lasted about 200 years (27 BCE – CE 180)
 - ♦ Only minor disturbances = selection of later emperors

The First Emperors

- Augustus was followed by the Julio-Claudian Emperors (4 of them)
 - ♦ All members of Augustus's family
 - ♦ Poor leaders

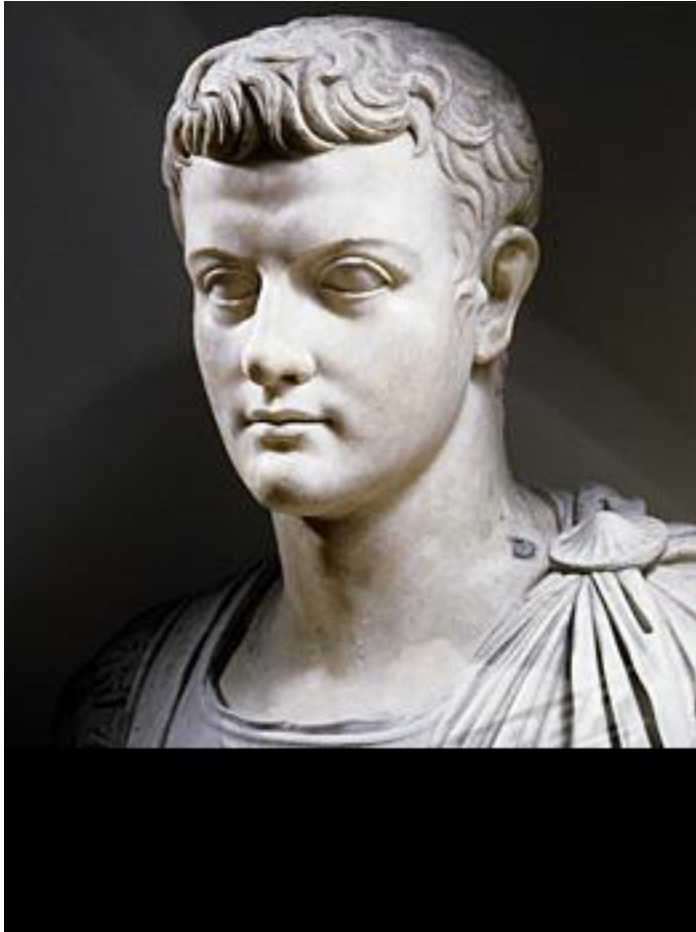
The First Emperors

- Tiberius Caesar = accused innocent people of treason



Bible History Online

The First Emperors



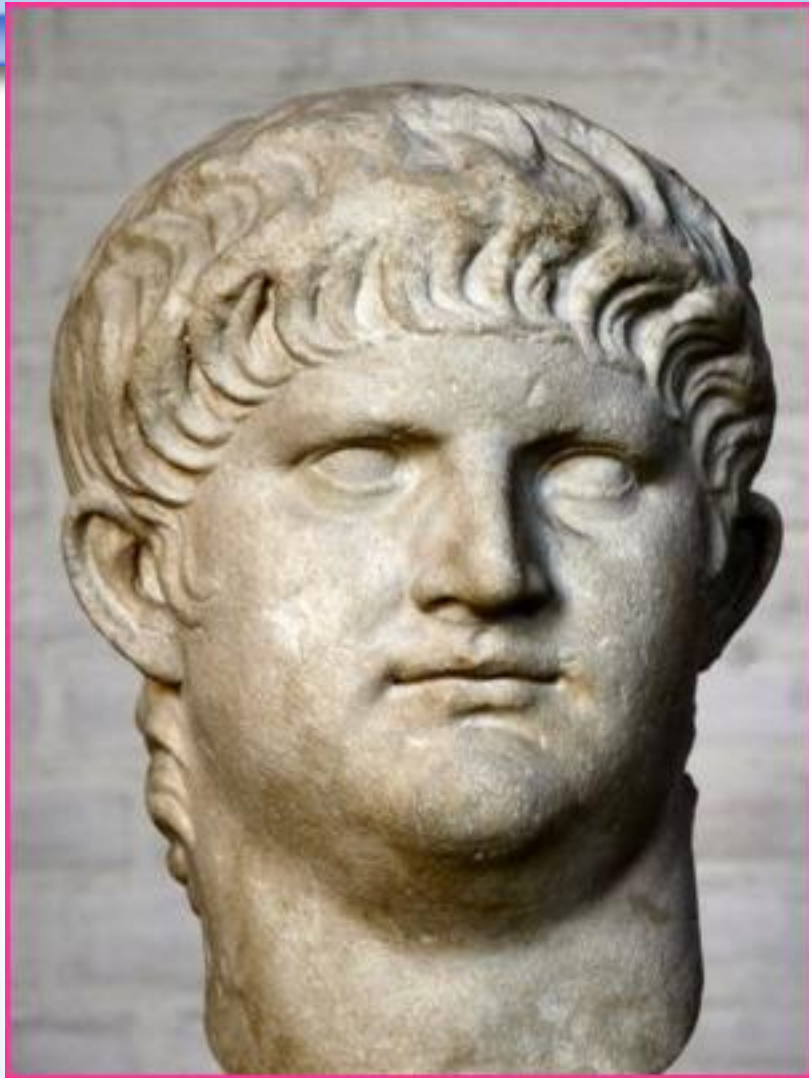
- Caligula Caesar
= mentally
disturbed &
killed by a
palace guard

The First Emperors

- Claudius Caesar = very smart, but had trouble focusing on affairs of the state



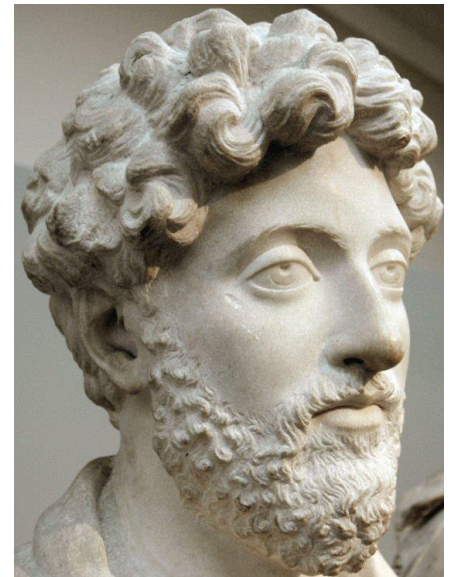
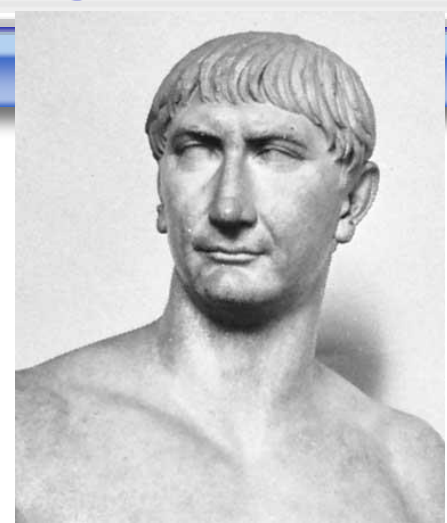
The First Emperors



- Nero Caesar = cruel & insane
 - ♦ Willing to bankrupt Rome to pay for his horse racing & music
 - ♦ Paranoid of traitors --> killed own wife, mother, & many senators
 - ♦ Sentenced to death for treason, but killed himself first

Good Emperors

- Trajan = increased the empire to its greatest size
- Marcus Aurelius = brought the empire to the height of its economic prosperity
- Hadrian = N. Europe & Britain – Hadrian's Wall



Roman Rule

- Emperors were also chief priests of the Roman religion
- 2 separate sets of laws --> 1 for citizens & 1 for non-citizens
 - ♦ All laws stressed the state over the individual
 - ♦ Gave more legal rights (like you are innocent until proven guilty)
- Emperors reduced the size of the army

Roman Civilization



- Pax Romana boosted trade & generated many achievements in arts (pottery, woven cloth, blown glass, jewelry)

Roman Civilization

- Family became less significant
 - ◆ Had fewer children
 - ◆ Likely to divorce & remarry several times
 - ◆ Wives gained some legal rights

Roman Civilization



- Wealthy class = owned large farms, ran factories, held public office
 - ♦ Lived in luxurious homes with marble & mosaic floors, running water, and baths

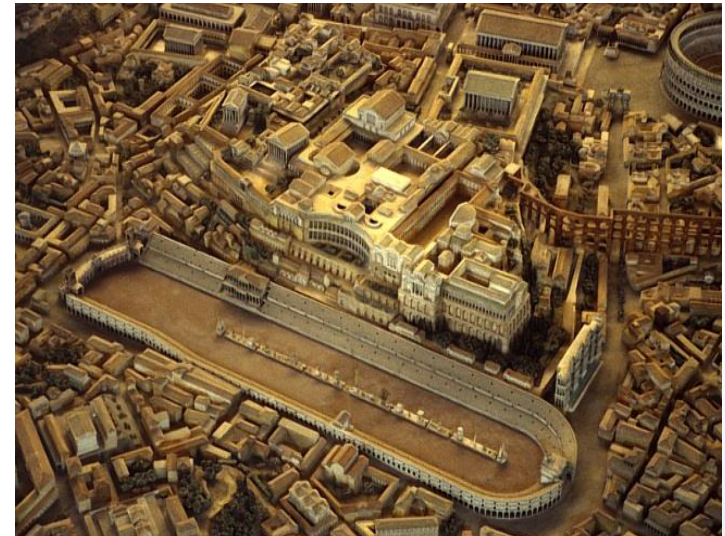
Roman Civilization

- Most of Rome was still poor
 - ◆ Bathed in public baths, lived in apartment buildings that could easily collapse or catch fire
 - ◆ Didn't rebel because they got free food & entertainment --> like chariot races and gladiator fights

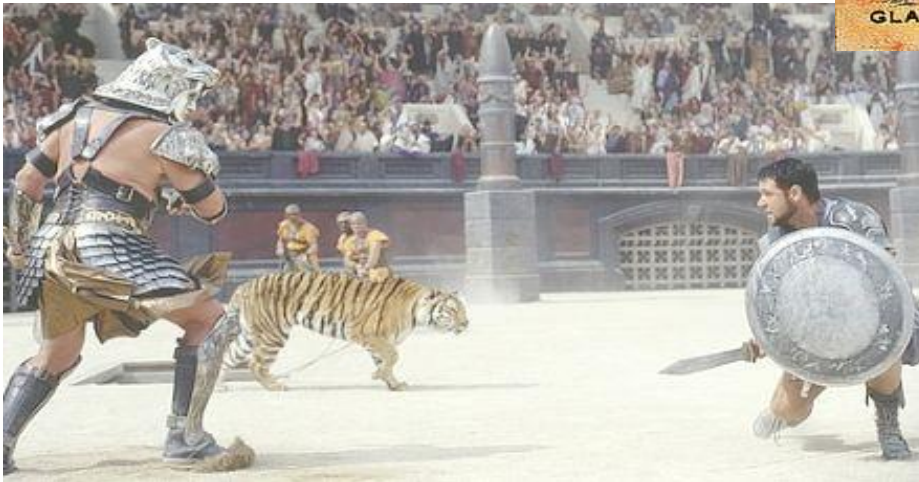
Roman Public Baths



Chariot Races



Gladiator Fights



Roman Civilization

- Pantheon & Colosseum were built, as well as new roads



Roman Civilization



- Built **aqueducts** = artificial channels for carrying water
 - ♦ Brought water to Rome from far away

Roman Education

- Wealthy boys & girls received tutoring at home
- Wealthy boys went on to academies
- Wealthy girls continued studying at home & often learned as much as the men
- Lower classes usually had at least a knowledge of reading, writing, & arithmetic

Roman Education

- Latin = official language of Rome
 - ♦ Basis of Romance languages
 - ♦ Supplies the roots for over half of all English words



Roman Writers

- Cicero = wrote beautiful speeches



- Virgil = wrote epic poems like Homer

- Livy = historian of Rome



The Empire's Problems

- Around 180 CE = Emperor Commodus bankrupted the treasury
 - ♦ Killed by his own troops
- The next 28 emperors were installed by the army, only to be killed off



The Empire's Problems



- Armies fighting each other didn't have time to defend the Empire's borders against attack
- Warfare disrupted production & trade, as well as farmland

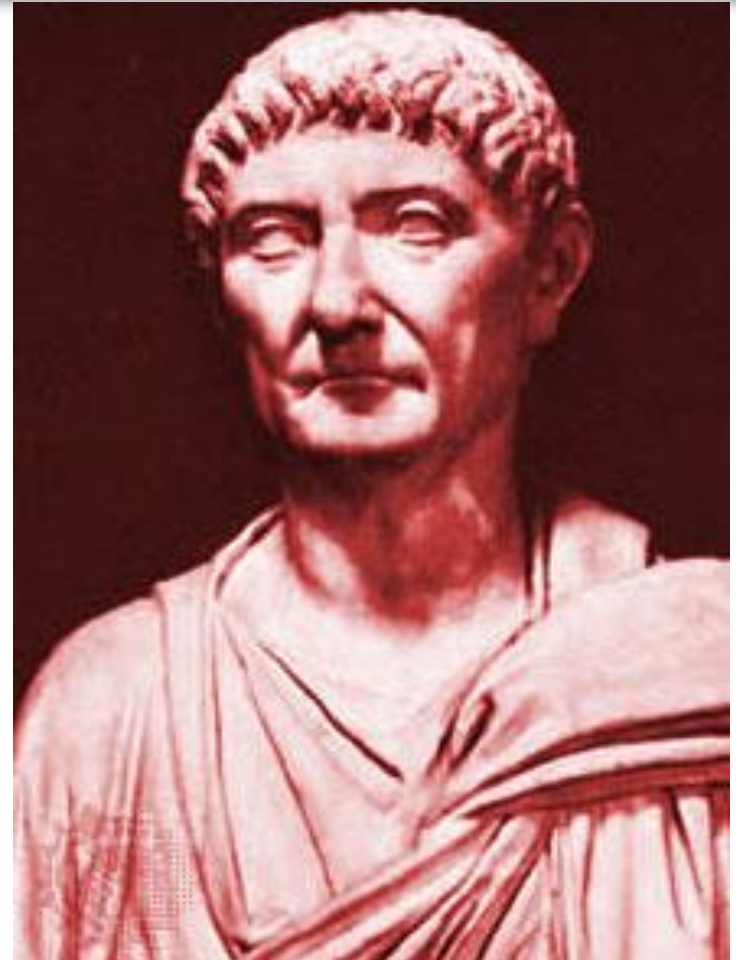
The Empire's Problems



- Government minted more coins to cope with economic problems
 - ♦ Caused **inflation** = a rise in prices & a decrease in the value of money
 - ♦ Higher taxes = only way to pay for soldiers needed in war
 - ♦ Taxing landowners caused them to abandon land --> this meant less crops & food shortage

Unsuccessful Reforms

- Diocletian = increased the number of men in the army
 - ♦ Divided the Empire into 2 units
 - He ruled the east, another ruled the west
 - ♦ His economic reforms failed



Unsuccessful Reforms



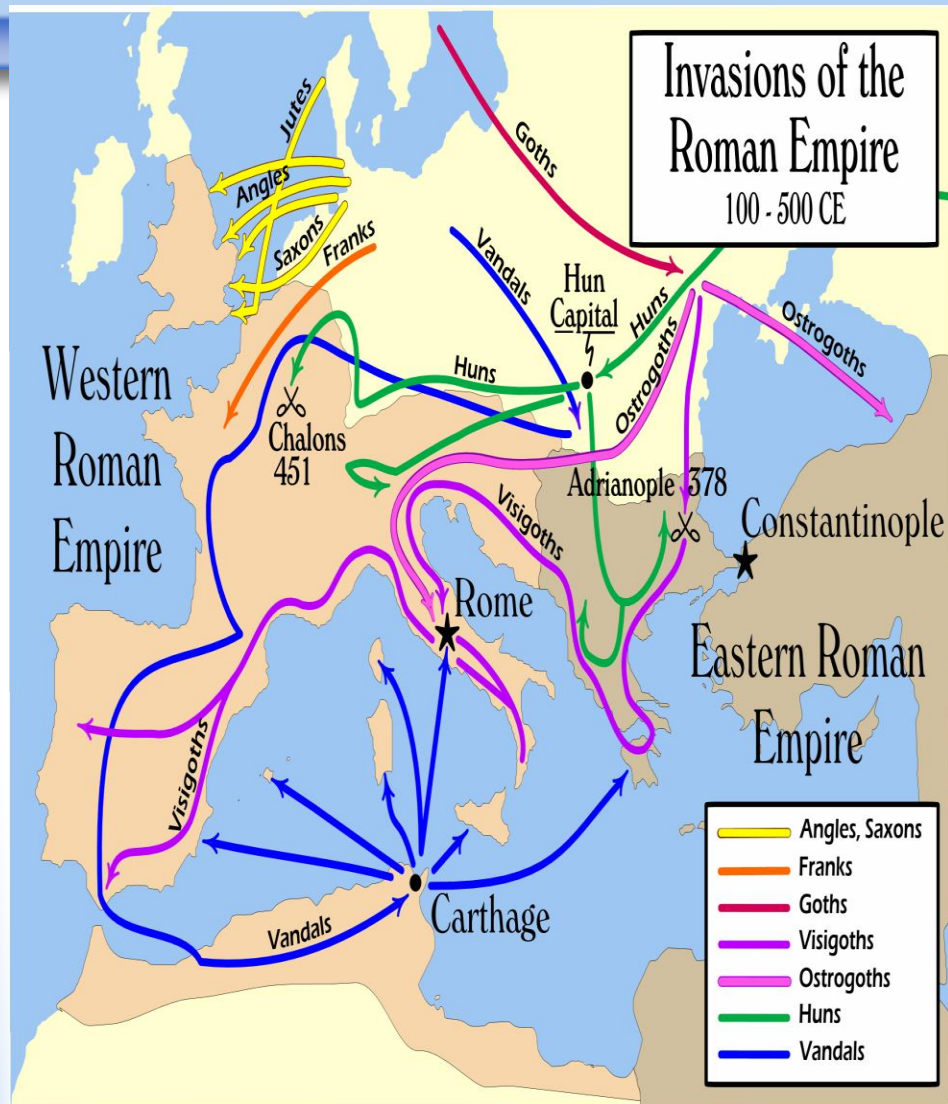
- Constantine
 - ♦ Tried to stabilize the Empire after civil wars
 - ♦ Made it legal for landowners to chain workers so they didn't leave
 - ♦ Made most jobs hereditary
 - ♦ Moved the capital in the east & called in Constantinople

Unsuccessful Reforms

- Theodosius
 - ◆ Made the east & west separate Empires
 - East = Byzantine Empire
 - West = Roman Empire



Barbarian Invasions



- Germanic tribes entered the Empire for many reasons:
 - ♦ Looked for warmer climate
 - ♦ Wanted better grazing land
 - ♦ Wanted Rome's wealth
 - ♦ Most were fleeing from the Huns = fierce nomadic invaders & warriors

Warrior Groups

- Warrior group = warriors, their families, and a chief
- Poor compared to Romans
- Many different warrior groups --> only thing they had in common was Germanic language
- Romans considered these tribes barbarians & thought of their language as weird babbling & sounds
- The Visigoths = captured & sacked Rome
- The Huns (led by Attila the Hun) = plundered cities in Italy



Attila the Hun

Vandals Sacking Rome



The Huns celebrating



End of the Western Empire



- Germanic tribes (Vandals, Franks, Goths, etc.) took over the Empire
- Overthrew the emperor
- Western Roman Empire ended in the late 400s (c. 476)
 - ◆ Some Roman culture remained
 - ◆ Germanic rulers accepted: Latin language, Roman laws, and Christian Church