

## Ancient Rome Textbook Notes

### *Section 1*

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What is Rome's Geographic Setting?

- Peninsula- land surrounded by water on three sides
- Rivers, hills, and fertile soil
- Italy was in the center of the Mediterranean Sea
- Rome was in central Italy, near the Tiber River
- Rome was the main, central city of the Western World

How did Rome Begin?

- 900's B.C Rome grew slowly
- 600 B.C Etruscans took power
- They spoke a foreign language and were kings of Rome
- In 509 B.C the Romans revolted and came into power
- The Romans borrowed ideas from the Greeks and the Etruscans (alphabet/toga)

How did Rome become a Republic?

- Republic- citizens have the right to vote to select their leaders
- Senate was made up of 300 upper class men called patricians
- Plebeians were ordinary citizens who could not hold office or be senators
- Consuls were the two main men that led Rome
  - Veto is when one leader voted against the action
  - Dictator was able to take over in emergencies for only 6 months

Why did the Patricians versus the Plebeians?

- Plebeians thought that the Patricians were not fair
- Patricians thought that they were leaders above the plebeians
- Plebeians formed a group to protect their interests
- They wrote a code of laws known as The Laws of the Twelve Tables (Equality)
- The plebeians never gained the equality or the power of the patricians

Who was the Master of the Mediterranean?

- Roman expansion led to the conquering of Northern Africa
- They conquered Carthage, Spain, Greece, and Gaul (France)

How did the Republic End?

- The patricians took advantage of the Plebeians and murdered the leaders
- The individual leaders built their own armies and disregarded consuls decisions
- Civil unrest and war between private armies
- A strong leader named Julius Caesar came into power to unite Rome

How did Julius Caesar Rise to Power?

- Caesar was a well respected leader of the Armies which conquered Gaul
- He used his army to take over the senate and become the dictator of the Roman world in 48 B.C.

What was the Death of the Dictator?

- In 45 B.C. Caesar was the only consul and was dictator for life
- He reorganized the government, however the senate though the dictator was like a king
- Caesar was killed by senators in 44 B.C. and civil unrest lasted for 13 years
- Octavian, Caesar's adopted son took control
- In 27 B.C. the senate awarded the leader the title of "Augustus" which means highly respected
- Augustus Octavian was the first emperor of Rome

Section 2  
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How did they Rule an Empire?

- Roman empire stretched from Britain to Mesopotamia and all the land around the Mediterranean Sea
- They were proud and called the Mediterranean Sea “Our Sea”

Who were Augustus, the Senate, and the People?

- Augustus was an intelligent ruler, he first ignored the senate, but then embraced them in order to gain their trust and loyalty
- The senate and the people were so grateful that they gave Augustus as much power as he wanted (peace and prosperity)

How did Rome Govern Conquered Peoples?

- Rome divided conquered lands into provinces which allowed the people to be free
- Governors and armies were not involved unless there was unrest
- Rome did not force their way of life however Rome required natural resources and money(taxes) for the exchange of safety
- Eventually many people led Roman lives and followed Roman Religions and languages

Who were the Five Good Emperors and What did they accomplish?

- Augustus died in 14 A.D., there were good, bad, and terrible leaders afterward
- Two worst leaders were Nero and Caligula (both were insane)
  - Caligula thought he was a god who spoke to his horse for counsel
  - Nero was murderer
- The next five emperors were good, there was only one son, the rest of the leaders were chosen as the best young men and then adopted to be the next emperor
- Hadrian was maybe the greatest emperor
  - He built a good fair government where laws protected women, children, and slave
  - Code of laws were the same throughout the Roman Empire

- The military was refocused so that the soldiers defended their home provinces
- Hadrian encouraged learning
- Marcus Aurelius was the last of the good emperors

### What was the Greek Influence on Rome?

- Greek art, architecture, and ideas about government were topics of interest for Roman leaders and people
- The major difference between Greece and Rome was that Greeks were interested in ideas through learning
  - They developed studies like mathematics, philosophy, and astronomy
- Rome wanted to use the studies to build things therefore architecture and engineering were focuses of their education

### How did Rome focus on Architecture and Technology?

- Rome focused on building stronger and larger buildings and statues than the Greeks
- They used arches to create large open spaces
- The Romans created concrete which is a mix of stone, sand, cement, and water
- They developed elevators to carry animals and the arenas were so well built they could hold water
- The most important part of engineering was the building of roads throughout the empire
  - The travel was quicker
  - All roads led to Rome
- An Aqueduct was a structure that carried water over long distances
  - More water meant more farming, more resources
  - Some of the aqueducts still are used today

### What was Roman law?

- Roman law was not flexible
- It provided concrete basic rights similar to our “Bill of Rights”
- A person was considered innocent until proven guilty

## Section 3 Notes

Who were the Rich, the Poor, and the Slaves?

- There were few rich, many poor, and slaves
- Majority of Romans were poor and jobless, there were only a few wealthy
- The majority of people survived on handouts from the government

What was a Life of Luxury like in Ancient Rome?

- The rich lived in estates called villas
- Some had large estates where the food for the empire was grown
- Roman feasts were known for their exotic dishes and was a status symbol

What was Another way of life for the Poor in Ancient Rome?

- Most people lived in tall apartment houses with no running water, no kitchen or plumbing
- Everything from food and drink had to be carried up the stairs, while garbage and human waste was carried or thrown out the window into the streets
- Since the buildings were made of wood and were so close together, fires were fatal and frequent
- The worst fire in A.D 64 destroyed the city

What was bread and circuses used for?

- To avoid riots, the poor were given bread and free grain
- The entertainment was called circuses and were held at the Coliseum
- Some of the shows were violent, and the arena was packed with poor and rich
- Gladiators were fan favorites and fought men and animals for the crowds amusement
- At the close of the fight, the people watched as the emperor decided who would live and who would die
- Not everyone in Rome agreed with the violent sport that was used to appease the poor and help them forget their situations

What was the Family Life of Rome like?

- Romans valued family life
- Government rewarded parents with many children
- Father had absolute power over the household
- He was able to sell his sons or daughters into slavery
- Wealthy women had a great deal of independence
- Wealthy women had political power and were able to influence their families

What was slavery in Rome like?

- Slavery was common in Rome, they were owned by rich and poor families
- Slaves worked on farms, in homes, mines, and learned trades
- Few owners paid their slaves
- Slaves had almost no rights
- Gladiators were sometimes slaves
- Slaves were able to buy their freedom.