

### **Early Rome**

- Founded in 753 BCE
- Agricultural society
  - Land = power
  - Social status depended on owning land
- Senate (Council of Elders)
  - Wealthy land-owners that "made the rules"
- Monarchy (753 BCE 507 BCE)
  - 7 kings
  - 1st = Romulus (founder)
  - Last = Tarquinius Superbus (tyrant)
    - Overthrown by Brutus the Liberator and the Senate



#### Roman Republic (507 BCE - 31 BCE)



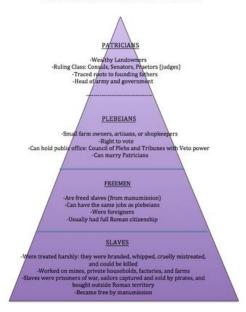
- NOT a modern democracy
- The Assembly
  - Males only
  - Wealthy males had more voting power than poor males
  - Consuls
    - · Elected for only one year
    - Presided over meetings
    - · Military leader
- The Senate
  - REAL power of Rome
  - Served for life

# Conflict of the Orders

- Order = social class
- Patricians
  - · elite, wealthy class
- Plebeians
  - poorer class, majority of population
- Plebeians refused to work, fight, etc in order to get more rights from the patricians



#### ROMAN SOCIAL ORDER AFTER 494 BC



#### The Conflict of the Orders



- Twelve Tables
  - 450 BCE
  - Laws published on 12 stone tablets
- Tribunes
  - New official position created
  - Taken from lower classes
  - Could help protect the affairs of lower classes
  - Eventually created a new elite class

### Roman Expansion

- · Roman army was key to expansion
  - Led by consuls seeking military victory
  - · Similar to Greek hoplites
- "Unified" (by conquering) the majority of the Italian peninsula by 290 BCE
- · Allowed conquered peoples full privileges of citizenship
  - · Allowed an "inexhaustible" pool of soldiers
- 264 BCE 202 BCE: Wars against Carthaginians
- 200 BCE 146 BCE: Wars against Hellenistic kingdoms
  - · Eventual takeover of Sicily, Sardinia, Spain
- 59 BCE 51 BCE: Julius Caesar conquers Gaul (France)



Map 6-1, p. 152

# Fall of the Republic

#### Latifundia

- Small farms taken over by wealthy estates/ranches
- Cash crops rather than grains for food
  - · Cattle, grapes for wine
- Created dependence on foreign grain
- Poor peasants couldn't find work due to cheap POW labor
  - Movement into cities/urban areas
  - Lived in poverty
- Decline in land owning men = decline in available soldiers



#### **Ambition**

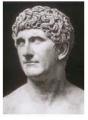




Pompey

Caesar





Octavian

Antony

- Gaius Marius
  - NOT from the traditional ruling class
  - Allowed men in army without owning land
  - Promised land upon retirement
  - Elected consul 6x (ILLEGAL!!!!)
- Armies became more loyal to their generals than to Rome
  - Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, Octavian
  - Generals used armies to further their personal power

# The Principate/ Roman Empire (31 BCE – 330 CE)

- Established by Octavian (aka Augustus)
  - · Kept the structure of the Republic
  - · Ruled under the title of dictator
  - Those that ruled after him took the title "emperor"
- Dead emperors viewed as gods
- Law
  - · Laws were studied and codified
  - Importance of individual rights



#### Pax Romana

- "Roman Peace"
- · Height of empire
- 27 BCE 180 CE
- Begun with Augustus
- 200 years of peace and prosperity
  - · Limited threat of invasion
- Supported trade
- Guaranteed safety along roads
- Romanization



#### Romanization

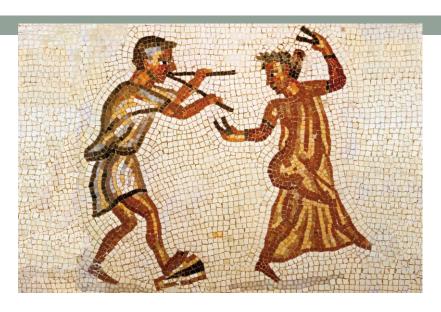
- The spread of Latin and the Roman way of life
  - Spanish, French, Italian, Romanian, Portuguese come from Latin
    - "Romance languages" comes from "Roman" not referring to love ©
- NOT forced in most places
  - Social and political advantages for conquered lands "converting" to Roman culture
  - Similar to the advantage of learning English today

ENGLISH	FRENCH	ITALIAN	ROMANIAN	SPANISH	PORTUGUESE
MONDAY	lundi	lunedì	luni	lunes	segunda
TUESDAY	mardi	martedì	marţi	martes	terça
WEDNESDAY	mercredi	mercoledì	miercuri	miércoles	quarta
THURSDAY	jeudi	giovedì	joi	jueves	quinta
FRIDAY	vendredi	venerdì	vineri	viernes	sexta
SATURDAY	samedi	sabato	sâmbătă	sábado	sábado
SUNDAY	dimanche	domenica	duminică	domingo	domingo

#### **Economics**

- Agricultural based economy
  - Latifundia
  - Grain imported
- · Some long distance trade
  - Luxury goods
  - · China-silk
  - · India-spices
  - Africa-animals
- Interior provinces (such as Gaul) supplied wealth to the central government
  - Taxes





Dancing Girl Wearing Silk Garment, Second–Third Century C.E. This Roman mosaic depicts a musician accompanying a dancer who is wearing a sheer garment of silk imported from China.



#### Roman Shop Selling Food and Drink.

The bustling town of Pompeii on the Bay of Naples was buried in ash by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 C.E. Archaeologists have unearthed the streets, stores, and houses of this typical Roman town. Shops such as this sold hot food and drink served from clay vessels set into the counter. Shelves and niches behind the counter contained other items. In the background can be seen a well-paved street and a public fountain where the inhabitants could fetch water.

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### Society

- Paterfamilias
  - Patriarchy
  - Several generations
  - Slaves
- Patron/Client Relationship
  - Patrons (wealthy members of society) provided protection, loans, legal advice to those in the lower classes (clients)
  - Clients were obligated to follow patron into battle, work land
- Women
  - · Rights of a child
  - Under authority of males
  - · Cannot own land

- · "Urban" empire
  - Administration centered in towns
  - Majority of population still living in rural/agricultural areas
- Large city problems
  - Strained food/water supply
  - Sewage problems
  - · Elite live lavishly
  - · Poor live in slums



### Statue of a Roman Carrying Busts of His Ancestors, First Century B.C.E.

Roman society was extremely conscious of status, and the status of an elite Roman family was determined in large part by the public achievements of ancestors and living members. A visitor to a Roman home found portraits of distinguished ancestors in the entry hall, along with labels listing the offices they held. Portrait heads were carried in funeral processions.

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# Religion

- Numina: invisible forces that controlled the world (usually connected to nature)
- · Many gods stolen from Greek religion and renamed
- · Pax deorum: Peace of the gods
  - · Agreement between the gods and the people
  - Sacrifices to honor/win favor of the gods
  - · Gods reciprocate by favoring the Republic

Greek	Roman	Role		
Hera	Juno	Chief Goddess - marriage		
Aphrodite	Venus	Goddess of beauty		
Artemis	Diana	Goddess of hunting		
Athena Minerva		Goddess of wisdom		
Demeter Ceres		Goddess of the harvest, nature		
Hestia	Vesta	Goddess of the hearth		
Zeus	Juptier	Chief God - sky and air		
Apollon Apollo		God of poetry, music, Sun		
Ares Mars		God of war		
Hephaistos Vulcan		God of blacksmiths		
Hermes Mercury		Messenger of the gods		
Poseidon Neptune		God of the sea		

### Christianity

- 6 CE: Judaea (Jewish homeland/modern Israel) comes under Roman rule
- Jews waited for the Messiah to drive out the oppressive Romans
- Jesus
  - Offended Jewish officials
  - Accused of blasphemy by claiming to be the Messiah
  - Pontius Pilate (Roman governor) sentenced him to death by crucifixion
- Paul
  - Jew from Tarsus (SE Anatolia)
  - Spoke Greek and Aramaic
    - Allowed him to travel easily between Greek, Roman, and Jewish traditions





## Christianity

- Monotheistic
  - Caused dissention between Romans and believers
  - Christians refused to worship the emperor
    - Seen as3 not being loyal to the emperor/empire
- First converts
  - "Disenfranchised groups" (women, children, poor)
  - These groups found acceptance in the new religion



### **Technology**

#### · The Roman Road

- Allowed merchants to safely travel and sell products
- Allowed Christianity to spread across the empire

#### Aqueducts

- Use of gravity to move water to cities
- Usually elevated above ground over long distances
- Used arches

#### Arches

 Allowed for the distribution of enormous weight without thick supports

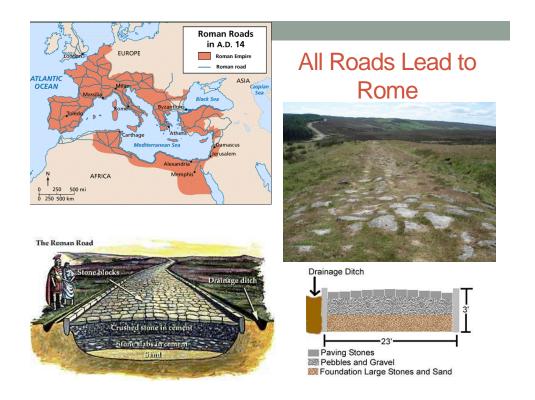
#### Concrete

- Allowed the creation of domes and vaulted ceilings
- Distinguished Roman architecture from the angular Greek architecture



#### Roman Aqueduct Near Tarragona, Spain.

The growth of towns and cities challenged Roman officials to provide an adequate supply of water. Aqueducts channeled water from a source, sometimes many miles away, to an urban complex, using only the force of gravity. To bring an aqueduct from high ground into the city, Roman engineers designed long, continuous rows of arches that maintained a steady downhill slope. Scholars sometimes can roughly estimate the population of an ancient city by calculating the amount of water that was available to it.



# Defending the Empire

- Defending the vast empire became very challenging and expensive
- Army became defensive rather than offensive
- Many borders protected by rivers, mountains, etc
- Walls, forts built in areas without natural barriers
- MOST surrounding neighbors were less technologically advanced



### Third Century Crisis (235-284 CE)

- Frequent change in rulers and administration
  - · Reign for only a few months/years until overthrow or death
- Outside threats
  - · Germanic tribes began to raid towns deep into the empire
  - · Cities began building their own walls for protection
  - · Some regions broke away from the empire

The changes in the institutions, society, economic life and eventually religion were so profound and fundamental, that the "Crisis of the Third Century" is increasingly seen as the watershed marking the difference between the classical world and the early medieval world, or world of late antiquity. With the Crisis of the Third Century Rome's vast trade network broke down. The widespread civil unrest made it no longer safe for merchants to travel as they once had, and the financial crisis that struck made exchange very difficult. This produced profound changes that, in many ways, would foreshadow the character of the coming Middle Ages.



## Third Century Crisis (235-284 CE)

- Constant protection = draining of the treasury
  - Interruption in trade = no \$ coming in
  - Emperors hoarded \$
  - Value of coins was reduced and barter system resumed
- Urban aristocracy disappeared
- People moved out of the cities
  - · Precursor to the Middle Ages



### Diocletian (284-305 CE)

- · Eastern Europe; born a commoner
- · Divided the empire in half
  - · Co-emperor was Marcus Aurelius
  - · Diocletian ruled the west, Aurelius ruled the east
- Radical reforms to help the flailing empire
  - Halted inflation
    - Issued edicts to set the maximum price for goods/services
  - Frozen professions
    - · Did not allow people to change important professions
    - Made them hereditary
  - Creation of a black market
    - · Death to those discovered
  - · Reforms created distrust of the government
    - · Too much government control

## Constantine (306-337 CE)

- Reunited the empire after end of Diocletian's rule
- Converted to Christianity after believing that the Christian God helped him win a battle
- 313: Edict of Milan
  - Ended persecution of Christians
  - · Religious freedom to all
- 324: capital moved to Byzantium
  - Renamed Constantinople
  - Closer to invasion prone areas of the empire
  - · Eastern half of empire in better shape than the western half
  - · More Christians in eastern half



### The Fall of Rome (476 CE)

- The move of the capital to Byzantium/Constantinople is seen as "end" of Roman Empire
  - Eastern half survived for another 1000 years as the Byzantine Empire
  - Move = transformation of empire into a new empire
- Other factors
  - · Empire too vast to control/administer easily
  - Rome sacked by various invaders in 410, 455, 476
  - · Dependence on slave labor
  - · Spread of Christianity/erosion of traditional Roman values/religion

#### **Multiple Causes: Fall of the Western Roman Empire Contributing Factors Political** Social Military Economic Political office seen as · Decline in interest in · Poor harvests Threat from northern burden, not reward European tribes public affairs · Disruption of trade Military interference · Low confidence in · Low funds for defense · No more war plunder in politics empire · Problems recruiting · Gold and silver drain · Civil war and unrest · Disloyalty, lack of Roman citizens; Inflation patriotism, corruption recruiting of non- Division of empire · Crushing tax burden Romans · Contrast between rich · Moving of capital to · Widening gap between rich and poor Decline of patriotism Byzantium and poor and increasingly and loyalty among Decline in population impoverished Western soldiers due to disease and **Empire** food shortage **Immediate Cause** Invasion by Germanic tribes and by Huns **FALL OF ROMAN EMPIRE**

