AP World

Please take out your COMP books to start class today and attach the papers on your desk.
Mediterranean Society: The Roman Phase

Chapter 11
Geographically, Rome was relatively well-situated. The Alps to the north provided protection from an invasion by land (although, ultimately, not enough). The sea surrounding the Italian peninsula limited the possibility of a naval attack unless a large armada floated across the sea.
Yet, although somewhat isolated, Rome was also at a crossroad. It had easy access to northern Africa, Palestine, Greece, and the Iberian Peninsula (modern-day Spain and Portugal), which meant easy access to the rest of the world.
From Kingdom to Republic

- Though Rome began as a small, agricultural city-state, it soon developed into a monarchy, then a republic, and empire, and eventually, the dominant Mediterranean power.
The Etruscans and Rome: The Founding of Rome

- According to ancient legend: Romulus and Remus, twins rescued by a she-wolf; founded Rome in 753 B.C.E.
- Stories relate that they are the descendants of Aeneas, a surviving Trojan prince.
- The tales say they competed for the right to found the city; Romulus wins and builds his city on seven hills overlooking the Tiber River.
The Etruscans and Rome: The Founding of Rome

- Modern thought: Indo-European migrants crossed the Alps (c. 2000 BCE) because they were attracted by the warm weather, pasturelands, and agricultural valleys.
- These invaders intermarried and blended with the indigenous Neolithic farmers on the Italian peninsula.

ETRUSCAN INFLUENCE ON ROMAN CULTURE

- artistic styles
- religious practices and gods
- clothing
- Blood sports
The Etruscans and Rome: The Founding of Rome

- The Etruscans dominated Italy from the eighth to fifth centuries B.C.E. (probably migrated to Italy from Anatolia)
- Settled first in Tuscany and built thriving cities throughout the territory they controlled
- They produced fine bronze, iron, gold, and silver products to trade throughout the western Mediterranean.
- The kingdom of Rome was on the Tiber River – Etruscan rule brought paved streets, public buildings, defensive walls, and large temples; trade routes all converged on Rome
Establishment of the Republic

- Rome’s nobility overthrew the last Etruscan king in 509 B.C.E. and replaced him with an aristocratic republic.
- Avoided destructive class struggles by establishing a republican form of government.
- Wealthy aristocrats: Patricians
- Common Roman Citizens: Plebeians
- Built the Roman forum in the center of the city – political and civic center for government business.

3D Rendering of the Roman Forum
Establishment of the Republic

Government Structure:
- Two executives known as Consuls (elected by the assembly)
- A Senate (dominated by the aristocrats) advised the consuls and ratified major decisions
- Two assemblies – one for patricians and one for plebeians
- Office of the Tribune – made up of ten men whose job it was to speak for the plebeians
- Office of Dictator – established to make executive decisions in times of crisis (limited to only six months in office)
- Provided a stable government for almost 500 years
ROMAN REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT
= ALL CITIZENS HAVE RIGHT TO VOTE

2 EXECUTIVE CONSULS
APPOINTED BY

SENATE
MADE UP OF

PATRICIANS/PATRONS

VETO LAWS MADE BY SENATE

PEOPLES ASSEMBLY

12 STONE TABLETS IN FORUM
WRITTEN ON

CAN

PLEBEIANS

STRUGGLE FOR POWER WITH

TRIBUNE OF THE PEOPLE

A.K.A.

LAND-OWNING ARISTOCRACY

ALWAYS MAINTAIN

PROTECT & CONTROL

ARE

CLIENTS

MADE UP OF

POOR/SLAVES/NEWMCOMERS

ALLOW

PATRONS STATUS AND INFLUENCE

CITIZEN FARMERS/TRADERS

STRIKES & REFUSALS TO DO DUTY

GETS POWER BY

ARE

COULD NOT

HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE OR MARRY PATRICIANS
Expansion of the Republic

- External threats from the Etruscans to the north and the Gauls from the other side of the Alps
- Rome consolidated its position in Italy, fifth and fourth centuries BCE – overtook the Etruscans and gained access to their iron industry
Expansion of the Republic

- Were able to seize the rest of the Italian peninsula because of a military presence in the conquered colonies and a generous policy towards those they conquered
  - Allowed them to trade freely throughout the republic
  - Could govern their own affairs as long as they remained militarily loyal to Rome
  - Could intermarry with Romans
  - Could sometimes gain Roman citizenship

- Conquered peoples provided political, military and diplomatic support for Rome
Conflict soon arose with Carthage (dominant political power in north Africa) and the Hellenistic realms.

The Punic Wars – three devastating conflicts with Carthage resulted in Roman victory (burned the city, enslaved 50,000 survivors, gained control of rich grain, oil, wine, silver and gold regions).
The Punic Wars

- **First Punic War (263-241 B.C.E.)** - fought to gain control of the island of Sicily (Rome won)
- **Second Punic War (218 B.C.E.)** - Carthaginian general, Hannibal (considered one of the greatest military geniuses of all time), attacked from the north in a surprise move; was on the verge of destroying Rome when a Roman army landed in Carthage and he was forced to return home to defend his city
- **Third Punic War (149 B.C.E.)** - Rome invaded Carthage and burned the city to the ground
Expansion of the Republic

In addition to Carthage, Rome also defeated the Macedonians in Greece, the Gauls to the north and the Spaniards to the west. Rome became preeminent power in eastern and western Mediterranean by the second century B.C.E.
Imperial Expansion and Domestic Problems

- Imperial expansion brought wealth and power but also class tensions (unequal distribution of wealth and strained governmental capacity)
- Lands conquered by Rome often fell into the hands of wealthy families who established *latifundia*, enormous plantations which used the large land size and slave labor to produce products at a much cheaper cost than could the traditional, smaller Roman landowners.
Imperial Expansion and Domestic Problems

- Wealthy families used this economic edge to push smaller landowners out of business and gobble up their lands as well.
- This displaced many small farmers, who moved to the cities, causing overcrowding among the plebeians and not enough jobs to support them.
Imperial Expansion and Domestic Problems

- The Roman currency was devalued causing a high rate of inflation. This meant that the plebeians did not have enough money to buy the things they could previously afford.
- Political leaders began fighting amongst themselves.

DID YOU KNOW...

Ancient Roman coins dating to the 3rd century have been found in Iceland at different locations, but it is unknown whether they were brought during the Roman period or came later with Viking settlers or missionaries, having circulated as currency already for centuries.
Imperial Expansion and Domestic Problems

- During the next two hundred years, the republican constitution was dismantled and a centralized imperial form of government was imposed.
- The Gracchi brothers supported land redistribution to help solve the problems; both were assassinated.

The Gracchus Brothers

- Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus were patricians who were elected tribunes.
  - The brothers worked to get the state to distribute the land to the poor farmers.
  - They also worked to get the state to buy grain to feed the poor.
  - Senate felt they were a threat to its power, and hired thugs to kill the brothers and their followers.
Imperial Expansion and Domestic Problems

- For the next 100 years, dissatisfied Roman citizens sought leadership from politicians and generals who promised protection and justice.
- Policies often reflected the interests of the ruling elite and their class rather than concerns for the empire as a whole.
- With tension rising, politicians and generals jockeyed for power and position.
  - Years of terror and civil war resulted as poor Romans joined the personal armies of ambitious generals.
The Foundation of Empire

- Julius Caesar: very popular social reformer and conqueror (brought Gaul under Roman control)
- Seized Rome in 49 B.C.E.
- Claimed the title "dictator for life," 46 B.C.E.
- Social reforms and centralized control
The Foundation of Empire

- Large-scale building projects and entertainment to employ the urban poor and keep them happy; Roman citizenship to imperial provinces
- Confiscated land from his opponents and redistributed it among his army’s veterans
- Ruling elite was threatened by him so they organized his assassination in 44 B.C.E. (stabbed him to death)
  - His death only brought more chaos for 13 years
The Foundation of Empire

- Octavion brought civil conflict to an end (nephew and protégé of Julius Caesar)
- Defeated his rival Mark Antony (and Cleopatra) and used the victory to consolidate his rule
- Senate bestowed the title "Augustus Caesar", 27 B.C.E. (title suggested divine or semidivine status)
The Foundation of Empire

- “Monarchy disguised as a republic” – preserved republican offices and included members of the elite in his government while still giving most power to himself (the republic was essentially over and Rome was now an empire led by a single emperor)
- Created a new standing army under his control
- Ruled for 45 years unopposed and allowed the institutions of empire to take root
Continuing Expansion and Integration

- Roman expansion into Mediterranean basin, western Europe, down Nile to Kush
- *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace), for two and a half centuries, which facilitated trade and communication throughout the empire
- Well-engineered Roman roads; postal system
- Roman law--tradition: Twelve Tablets (450 B.C.E.) – basic law code for citizens
  - Defendants were innocent until proven guilty
  - Defendants had a right to challenge their accusers before a judge (trials)