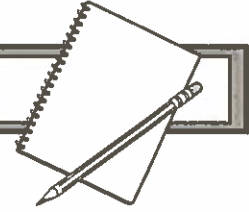


Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

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II. The Roman Republic (pages 150–151)

- A. Early Rome was ruled by kings, some of whom were Etruscan. In 509 B.C. the Romans overthrew the last Etruscan king and established a **republic**. In a republic the leader is not a king and certain citizens have the right to vote.
- B. Enemies surrounded Rome, and so the young republic began a long period of continuous warfare. By 264 B.C. Rome had defeated the other states of Latium, the people of the central Apennines, the Greeks in the south, and the last Etruscan settlements in the north. Rome now controlled almost all of Italy.
- C. To rule, the Romans devised the Roman Confederation. Some people—especially the Latins—had full Roman citizenship. Other groups were allies who controlled their local affairs but gave soldiers to Rome. Such people could become Roman citizens.
- D. Romans believed that their success was due to three virtues: duty, courage, and discipline. Examples like that of Cincinnatus (see page 155), found in the writings of the Roman historian Livy, provided models of these virtues for the Romans.
- E. The Romans were successful as well because they were good diplomats who were shrewd in extending Roman citizenship and allowing states to run their internal affairs. They also were skilled, persistent soldiers and brilliant strategists. For example, they built towns throughout conquered Italy and connected them with roads, allowing soldiers to be deployed quickly. Finally, in law and politics the Romans were practical and created institutions that responded effectively to problems.

Discussion Question

Why did extending Roman citizenship to conquered peoples help Rome expand its empire? (*Granting conquered people citizenship gave them a stake in Rome's growth and success. They were much less likely to revolt, therefore, and more likely to contribute to the empire.*)

III. The Roman State (pages 152–153)

- A. The Romans distrusted kingship because of their experience of Etruscan kings. They built a different form of government.
- B. Early Rome was divided into two groups, the **patricians** and the **plebeians**. The former were the large landowners who formed Rome's ruling class. The latter were smaller landowning farmers, craftspeople, and merchants. Members of both groups were citizens and could vote. Only patricians could be elected to political office.



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- C. The chief executive officers of the Roman Republic were the **consuls** and **praetors**. Two consuls ran the government and led the army into battle. The praetor directed the civil law, law applied to citizens. Later another praetor was added to handle the law as it applied to noncitizens.
- D. The Roman **Senate** was especially important. About three hundred patricians who served for life made up the original Senate. At first only an advisory body, by the third century B.C. it had the force of law.
- E. The most important people's assembly was the **centuriate assembly**. It elected the consuls and praetors, and passed laws. It was organized by classes based on wealth, so the wealthiest citizens always were the majority.
- F. Often there was conflict between the plebeians and patricians. The plebeians wanted political and social equality, especially because they fought in the army to protect Rome. Finally, in 471 B.C. a popular assembly called the **council of the plebs** was created. Officials called the **tribunes of the plebs** were empowered to protect the plebeians. By the fourth century B.C. plebeians could be consuls and in 287 B.C. the council of the plebs received the right to pass laws for all Rome. Despite these gains, a wealthy ruling class dominated political life.
- G. One of Rome's most important contributions was its system of law. Rome's first code of law, the **Twelve Tables**, was adopted in 450 B.C. Later Romans adopted a more sophisticated system of civil law, which applied to Roman citizens only.
- H. As Rome expanded, legal questions arose that involved Romans and non-Romans. A body of law known as the **Law of Nations** arose to handle some of these cases. Romans identified the Law of Nations with natural, or universal, law. Its standards of justice applied to all people equally and used principles recognized today: a person is innocent until proven otherwise, the accused has a right to a defense before a judge, and judges should decide cases based on evidence.

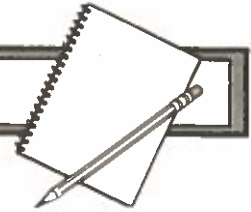
Discussion Question

At one point the plebeians fought to protect Rome even though they were not the political or social equals of the patricians. History shows that often groups are put in this position. African-Americans were in this position for many of America's wars. Some people argue they still are. Assume for the moment that such a group wants to have political and social equality. Should people in the group serve their country or refuse to fight? (*Answers will vary. Accept answers that understand the unfairness of asking such a group to fight and the issue of the best way to go about changing the situation of inequality. History shows that fighting for a country can advance a group's status in that country.*)



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IV. Rome Conquers the Mediterranean (pages 153–154)

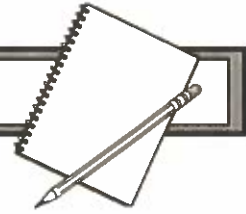
- A. Rome faced a strong power in the Mediterranean—**Carthage**. Founded by the Phoenicians around 800 B.C. on the coast of North Africa, Carthage had a large trading empire in the western Mediterranean. The presence of Carthaginians in Sicily worried the Romans. The two groups began a long struggle in 264 B.C. for control of the Mediterranean area.
- B. The First Punic War, between Rome and Carthage, began when Rome sent troops to Sicily. Romans realized that to win the war they needed a large navy, which they built. Rome defeated Carthage's navy, and in 241 B.C. Carthage gave up its rights to Sicily and paid money to Rome. Sicily became Rome's first province.
- C. Carthage wanted revenge. **Hannibal**, the greatest Carthaginian general, began the Second Punic War, which lasted from 218 to 201 B.C. To take the war to Rome, Hannibal entered Spain, moved east, and then crossed the **Alps** with a large army, including six thousand horses and elephants. Many soldiers and animals died during the crossing, but Rome was still under a real threat.
- D. At the Battle of Cannae, Rome lost almost forty thousand men. In response, Rome raised another army. Meanwhile, Hannibal roamed throughout Italy but could not successfully attack the major cities. In a brilliant move, Rome attacked Carthage, forcing the recall of Hannibal. At the Battle of Zama, Rome crushed Hannibal's forces. Spain became a Roman province, and Rome controlled the western Mediterranean.
- E. Fifty years later the Romans fought the Third Punic War. In 146 B.C. Roman soldiers sacked Carthage. Fifty thousand men, women, and children were sold into slavery. The territory of Carthage became a Roman province called Africa.
- F. In the second century B.C. Rome also conquered Macedonia and Greece. Each was put under Roman control. Rome now was master of the Mediterranean Sea.

Discussion Question

Hannibal famously crossed the Alps with elephants to be used in battle. Few of them survived the trip, but some did. What do you think the reaction was of the Roman soldiers to elephants in battle? (*The few elephants that survived terrified the Romans, as one could imagine on being faced with a charging elephant. Who knows how history would have been different if all of Hannibal's elephants had survived.*)

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Did You Know? In the Roman calendar, the thirteenth or fifteenth day of the month was known as the “ides.” According to legend, Julius Caesar was warned by a soothsayer to “beware the ides of March.” Ignoring the warning, Caesar entered the Senate on the ides (March 15, 44 B.C.) and was assassinated.

I. Growing Inequality and Unrest and A New Role for the Army (pages 156–157)

- A. By the second century B.C. the Senate, made up mostly of the landed aristocracy, governed Rome. The Senate and political offices were increasingly controlled by a small group of wealthy, powerful families.
- B. The backbone of Rome’s army and state had always been the small farmers, but now many lost their lands to large, wealthy landowners. They formed a new urban class of landless poor, and Rome suffered growing economic and social unrest.
- C. The brothers Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus, reform-minded aristocrats, believed that the problem was the decline of the small farmer. They called for laws giving the public land of the aristocrats back to the landless poor. In 133 B.C. a group of senators killed Tiberius. Later, his brother Gaius was killed. Discontent and unrest grew.
- D. A change in the army worsened matters. In the first century B.C. a general named Marius recruited soldiers from among the landless poor and promised them land if they swore allegiance to him. Traditionally, the small landowning farmers had made up the army, and their loyalty was to the state. After Marius, generals became political, and individual generals gained great power.
- E. Sulla was the next general to wield great political power. He was given command of a war in Asia Minor. The council of the plebs tried to give the command to Marius. Civil war broke out, and Sulla won by seizing Rome in 82 B.C. In an effort to restore a traditional Roman republic, Sulla restored power to the Senate and took away most of the powers of the popular assemblies. His example of seizing power militarily would be repeated, to Rome’s detriment.



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Discussion Question

History often shows a conflict between rural and urban parts of society. Many people have argued that society is better or worse as rural or urban. In early American history, for example, and in line with the Gracchus brothers, Thomas Jefferson argued that society and the economy in the United States should be based on small farming. He believed that farming led to certain healthy character traits and that urban life led to vice. Are there virtues and vices that tend to apply to rural life and others to urban life? What are they? (*Answers will vary. Accept answers that understand the different demands of rural and urban life.*)

II. The Collapse of the Republic (pages 157–158)

- A. From 82 to 31 B.C. civil wars beset Rome. Three men—**Crassus, Pompey, and Julius Caesar**—emerged victorious. Crassus was wealthy and the other two were military commanders and heroes. They combined their power to form the First Triumvirate in 60 B.C. A **triumvirate** is a government by three people with equal power.
- B. Each man had a military command. When Crassus was killed, the Senate decided that rule by Pompey alone would be best, and it ordered Julius Caesar to give up his command. He refused. He kept his loyal army and moved into Italy illegally by crossing the **Rubicon River**. (Our expression “to cross the Rubicon” means unable to return.)
- C. Caesar defeated Pompey and became dictator in 47 B.C. A **dictator** is an absolute ruler. Yet he knew Rome needed reforms. He gave land to the poor and expanded the Senate to 900. He filled the Senate with his supporters, thereby weakening its power. A group of leading senators assassinated Caesar in 44 B.C.
- D. **Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus** formed the Second Triumvirate after Caesar’s death. Soon, however, Octavian and Antony divided the Roman world between themselves: Octavian took the west and Antony took the east. Inevitably, they came into conflict. Antony allied with Egypt’s queen Cleopatra VII. They also were lovers. Octavian defeated them at the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C. Both fled to Egypt and committed suicide a year later. The civil wars and the Roman Republic ended. A new period of Roman history known as the Age of Augustus began in 31 B.C.



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Discussion Question

Commenting on Rome's civil strife, the first century B.C. Roman historian Sallust says that the lust for money (greed) and the lust for power (extreme ambition) are the roots of all evils. He gives his reasons on page 156 of your textbook. Is Sallust correct about the effects of greed and extreme ambition? (*Answers will vary. Accept answers that understand Sallust's views concerning the effects of these two on people's characters and answers that argue for other effects of greed and extreme ambition on character.*)

III. The Age of Augustus (page 159)

- A. Octavian proclaimed "the restoration of the Republic" in 27 B.C. He gave only some power to the Senate and became Rome's first emperor. The same year the Senate awarded him the title of **Augustus**, or "the revered one."
- B. Augustus was popular even though the army was his chief source of power. The Senate gave him the title of **imperator**, or commander in chief. We get our word *emperor* from this word.
- C. Augustus had an army of 28 legions of 5,000 troops each. Only citizens could be in the legions. Others could serve in auxiliary forces, which numbered around 130,000 under Augustus. He also established the praetorian guard of 9,000 men to protect the emperor.
- D. Augustus stabilized Rome's frontiers and conquered new areas. German warriors wiped out three Roman legions, however; the defeat taught Augustus that Rome's power was limited, knowledge that devastated him. For months he beat his head against the door and shouted, "Varus, [the defeated commander] give me back my legions!"

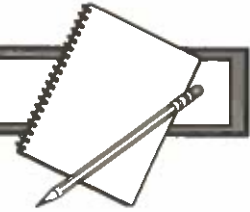
Discussion Question

Why did Augustus feel the need to establish a special, very large guard to protect the emperor? What does this say about the Roman form of government? (*Augustus felt this need because of the long history of civil war between and assassination of Roman leaders. Needing such a large, protective guard probably says that too much power was concentrated in the hands of the emperor. Naturally, others coveted such power, which led to systematic distrust and could lead to instability.*)



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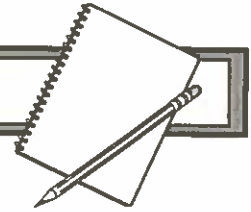
IV. The Early Empire (pages 159–162)

- A. The period called the Early Empire lasted from A.D. 14 to 180. After Augustus, the emperor was allowed to pick his successor from his family, adopted or natural. The first four emperors after Augustus were from his family: Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero. Under them the emperor gained more power and became more corrupt.
- B. Nero, for example, had anyone he wanted out of his way simply killed, including his own mother. Lacking an army, the Senate could not oppose Nero. His legions finally revolted against him, and he committed suicide.
- C. At the beginning of the second century, a series of five so-called good emperors led Rome: Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius. They created a time of peace and prosperity called the *Pax Romana* ("Roman Peace"). It lasted for almost a hundred years. The good emperors stopped arbitrary executions, respected the ruling class, and maintained peace. They took more power from the Senate; officials appointed and directed by the emperor ran the government. They adopted capable men into their families as successors. Some instituted programs to help the people, such as helping the poor to educate their children, and some oversaw widespread building projects of aqueducts, bridges, roads, and harbors.
- D. During the Early Empire, Rome at first expanded further. Under Trajan, Roman rule went into **Dacia** (Romania), **Mesopotamia**, and the **Sinai Peninsula**. Hadrian realized that the empire was getting too large to rule, however, and withdrew troops from Mesopotamia and became defensive along Rome's frontiers. He strengthened fortifications between the **Rhine** and **Danube Rivers**. He also built a wall (Hadrian's Wall) in northern Britain to keep out the Scots. Even so, defending the empire became increasingly difficult.
- E. By the second century, the Roman Empire covered about three and a half million square miles. Its population probably was over fifty million. The imperial government helped unify the empire by acknowledging local customs and granting Roman citizenship. In A.D. 212 the emperor Caracalla gave Roman citizenship to all free people in the empire.
- F. Cities were important in the spread of Roman culture, Roman law, and the Latin language in the western part of the empire. Greek was used in the east. The mixture of Roman and Greek culture that resulted from the Roman Empire's spread is called the Greco-Roman civilization.
- G. The Early Empire was prosperous. Internal peace helped trade grow. Trade went beyond the empire's frontiers, even including silk goods from China. Large amounts of grain were imported to feed the poor and luxury items came in for the rich.



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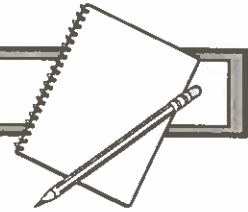
H. Farming remained the basis of Rome's prosperity and the work of most of the people. Landed estates called *latifundia* dominated farming. Largely slave labor raised sheep and cattle on these estates. There were many small peasant farms as well. There also was a huge gap between rich and poor in Roman society. Small farmers often depended on the huge estates of the wealthy, who lived extravagant lives. Many poor lived in the cities. Thousands of unemployed people depended on the emperor's handouts of grain to survive.

Discussion Question

Lord Acton of Britain (1834–1902) wrote, "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely." The first emperors of the Early Empire confirm this view of absolute power. Is the view true? If so, why? If not, why not? (*Answers will vary. Accept any answer that is relevant and thoughtful. One good answer would argue that we need the advice, restraint, shame and other influences of others to guide us in our actions and decisions. Those who have absolute power usually isolate themselves from such influences because they think they have no equals. Therefore, they are more vulnerable to corruption.*)

Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 5, Section 3



Did You Know? Nero thought himself a skilled poet and lyre player. About five years into his reign he began to give theater performances. To the Romans these antics violated decorum, particularly since Nero played not only heroes on stage but also pregnant women and enslaved persons.

I. Roman Art and Architecture and Roman Literature (pages 163–165)

- A. In the third and second centuries B.C., the Romans developed a taste for Greek art. Greek statues adorned their cities and homes. Reproductions became popular. Roman sculptors added realistic, even unpleasant features to the idealized Greek forms.
- B. In line with their practical bent, the Romans excelled at architecture. The Romans created forms based on curved lines: the dome, arch, and vault. They were also first-class engineers who built enduring roads, bridges, and aqueducts. They built 50,000 miles worth of roads throughout the empire. The city of Rome's many aqueducts supplied one million people with water.
- C. Latin literature's high point was during the Age of Augustus. Its most distinguished poet was **Virgil** from **Mantua**, who wrote his epic poem the *Aeneid* in honor of Augustus. The character Aeneas displays the virtues of the ideal Roman—duty, piety, and loyalty. In founding Rome, Aeneas starts it on its divine mission to rule the world.
- D. **Horace** was another important Augustan poet. In his *Satires* he pokes fun at the weaknesses, follies, and vices of the human race. The most important prose work of this time was **Livy's History of Rome**. He traced the history of Rome from its inception to 9 B.C. He celebrated Rome's greatness and understood history in terms of moral lessons. Thus he used stories to show the virtues that made Rome great. He did not always get his facts straight, however.

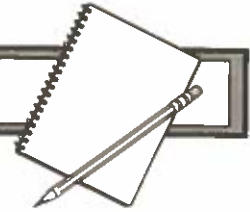
Discussion Question

Livy believed studying history was profitable because we could learn from the past's good and bad examples, making the present and future better. Does history show that people learn from history? (*Answers will vary. Probably the best answer is that in some areas of life—such as in science and technology—we have improved upon the past, but in others, such as in relations among societies, we still make the same blunders. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. They should show an understanding of the problems of applying the past to the present and future, such as not knowing the full consequences of our decisions and actions.*)



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II. The Roman Family (pages 165–166)

- A. The Roman family was headed by the **paterfamilias**, the dominant male. The household also included his wife, sons with their wives and children, unmarried daughters, and slaves.
- B. Unlike the Greeks, the Romans raised their children at home. All upper-class Roman children learned to read. Teachers often were Greek slaves because prospering in the empire required knowing both Greek and **Latin**.
- C. Roman boys learned reading and writing, moral principles, family values, law, and physical training. Roman males ended their childhood at 16 with a special ceremony. They exchanged their purple-edge togas for the white toga of manhood. Some upper-class girls were educated privately or in primary schools. At the time the boys entered secondary schools, however, Roman girls were getting married.
- D. Like the Greeks, Roman males believed the weakness of women made it necessary for them to have male guardians. The **paterfamilias** usually was the guardian. He also arranged the marriages of his daughters.
- E. The legal minimum age for girls to marry was 12, though 14 was more common. The age for boys was 14. Divorce was introduced in the third century B.C. and was easy to obtain. Both men and women could sue for divorce.
- F. By the second century A.D. the **paterfamilias** no longer had complete authority in the family. For example, he could not sell his children into slavery or have them put to death. Women increasingly were not required to have a male guardian. Upper-class women could own, sell, and inherit property. Unlike Greek wives, Roman wives were not segregated from men in the home.
- G. Outside the home women could attend the races, the theater, and events in the amphitheater. In the latter two places they had their own seating section, however, and women could not participate directly in politics.

Discussion Question

Greek and Roman men believed women needed male guardians because of their physical weakness. Greek and Roman women were excluded from politics. What beliefs about women have historically supported this practice? (*Two good answers are the beliefs that women have a natural place in the home and that women are too emotional to deliberate rationally about matters of policy and justice. Accept other relevant, thoughtful answers.*)

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III. Slavery (pages 166–167)

- A. No people relied on slavery as much as the Romans. Before the third century B.C., even a small Roman farmer would have one or two slaves. The wealthy had more.
- B. As Rome conquered the Mediterranean area, large numbers of war captives were brought to Italy as slaves. Greeks were prized as tutors, musicians, doctors and artists. Slaves worked in shops, kept house, waited tables, were personal servants, and made crafts. They built roads and public buildings. Conditions often were pitiful. One Roman writer argued that it was cheaper to work slaves to death and replace them than to care for them.
- C. Masters feared slave revolts. Punishments were harsh: the murder of a master by a slave might mean all the remaining household's slaves would be killed. The most famous slave revolt in Italy was led by the gladiator Spartacus in 73 B.C. Seventy thousand slaves joined up with Spartacus, and they defeated several Roman armies before being defeated themselves in 71 B.C. Spartacus was killed and thousands of his followers were crucified.

Discussion Question

Crucifixion is a painful way to die and was a common form of execution in the ancient world. The modern world often tries to execute by more humane methods, such as lethal injection. Does a violent criminal, such as a murderer, deserve this consideration? (Answers will vary. Answers should show an understanding of the relevant issues, such as a) the rights a person gives up by acting illegally and b) those executing not wanting to act in the same manner as the murderer.)

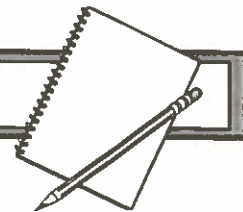
IV. Daily Life in The City of Rome (pages 167–168)

- A. Rome had the largest population of any city in the empire, close to one million by the time of Augustus. Rome was overcrowded and noisy. Wagons and carts were banned during the day, but their noise at night made sleeping difficult. Even though Augustus organized a police force, Rome could be dangerous. One also might be soaked by the filth thrown from the windows of one of Rome's huge apartment buildings.
- B. The poor lived in apartment blocks called *insulae*. As tall as six stories, these badly constructed buildings often collapsed. Fires were a constant threat and hard to put out.
- C. High rents forced entire families to live in one room. The apartments did not have plumbing or central heating. These uncomfortable conditions made many Romans spend most of their time in the street.



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- D. Rome was adorned with unequalled public buildings, such as baths, temples, theaters, and markets. Beginning with Augustus, the city's two hundred thousand poor received free grain from the emperor.
- E. The people were entertained by grand public spectacles and entertainments. The most popular were the gladiatorial contests, in which animals, slaves, and condemned criminals would fight to the death. Horse and chariot races at the Circus Maximus were also popular, as were dramatic performances.

Discussion Question

What two months of the year are named after Roman emperors? (*July is named after Julius Caesar, and August is named after Augustus.*)

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Chapter 5, Section 4



Did You Know? Trained as a rabbi and believing Christianity threatened Judaism, Paul (known as Saul in the Jewish community) persecuted the early Christians. Only after Jesus' death did Paul convert to Christianity and become one of its leading apostles.

I. Background: Roman Religion (pages 169–170)

- A. Augustus revived traditional Roman religious festivals and ceremonies to bring back the Roman state religion. It focused on the worship of a number of gods and goddesses—including Jupiter, Juno, Minerva, and Mars—based on the Greek Olympian deities. Beginning with Augustus, emperors often were declared gods.
- B. The Romans believed that observing the proper rituals brought them into a right relationship with the gods, which guaranteed peace and prosperity. They also believed that their success at empire building meant the gods favored them.
- C. The Romans were tolerant of local religions and worship. Many Romans were drawn to the religions of the eastern areas they had conquered. These religions gave a more spiritual experience to them, promised entry into a higher reality, and taught of a life after death superior to the present one.

Discussion Question

What are the Greek originals of the Roman deities Jupiter, Juno, Minerva, and Mars? (*Jupiter is Zeus, leader and father of the gods, Juno is his wife Hera, queen of the gods, Minerva is Athena, goddess of wisdom, and Mars is Ares, the god of war.*)

II. The Jewish Background and The Rise of Christianity (pages 170–172)

- A. By A.D. 6, **Judaea**, which covered the lands of the ancient kingdom of Judah, was a Roman province under the direction of a **procurator**. Unrest was common in Judaea, even among factions of Jews.
- B. Among the Jews, the Sadducees counseled cooperating with the Romans, the Essenes awaited a Messiah who would save Israel from oppression and establish a paradise on Earth, and the Zealots advocated overthrowing Roman rule. A revolt begun in 66 was crushed by the Romans, who destroyed the temple in **Jerusalem**.



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- C.** Jesus, a Jew, began to preach in the midst of this conflict. Jesus taught that inner transformation was most important, not adhering to laws or rituals. He claimed that the Golden Rule summed up the Jewish teachings. He commanded that we love God and love each other, treating all as our neighbors. Jesus taught the virtues that would be the basis of medieval Western civilization: humility, charity, and love of others.
- D.** The Judaeans turned Jesus over to the Romans as a subversive because they thought he might cause people to revolt against Rome. The procurator, Pontius Pilate, ordered his crucifixion. Followers of Jesus believed he overcame death, however. Many Jewish followers believed he was the Messiah who had come to save Israel.
- E.** **Simon Peter** was a prominent figure in early Christianity. Peter and the other disciples taught that Jesus was the Savior and Son of God who had come to Earth to save all people. Jesus' death could make up for people's sins and offer them salvation. Another prominent leader was **Paul of Tarsus**. Paul followed Jesus' command to preach the gospel to both Jews and non-Jews, or Gentiles. He founded many Christian communities in Asia Minor and along the **Aegean Sea**.
- F.** After word spread that Jesus had overcome death, people converted in droves. Only 60 days after his crucifixion, Jerusalem alone had ten thousand converts. Paul wrote letters (epistles) to Christian communities and other disciples may have written down Jesus' sayings. Between A.D. 40 and 100, these became the basis of the written Gospels ("the good news"). The Gospels tell of Jesus' life and teachings, and form the basis of the **New Testament**, the second part of the Christian Bible.
- G.** Christianity's basic values differed from Greco-Roman values. Even so, at first the Romans paid little attention to the spread of Christianity. That attitude changed. Romans came to see Christianity as harmful to public order and morals because Christians would not worship the Roman gods. This was an act of treason, a capital crime. Christians believed, however, in one God only and that worshipping false gods would endanger their salvation.
- H.** Roman persecution of Christians began under Nero (A.D. 54–68), who blamed them for the fire that burned much of Rome. He subjected them to cruel deaths. Until the end of the next century, persecution lessened, though it continued to a degree. By the end of the rule of five good emperors, Christians made up a small but strong minority.

Discussion Question

Some people argue that to live fully one must be willing to die for something one believes in, as some early Christians did. Would you die for a belief, and if so, what? Why? If not, why not? (*Answers will vary. Accept any relevant, thoughtful answers.*)



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III. The Triumph of Christianity (pages 172–174)

- A. Roman persecution strengthened Christianity by forcing it to become more organized. The emerging control over Christian communities by bishops was important to this change. The Christian Church was creating a distinction between the **clergy** (church leaders) and the **laity** (everyday church members).
- B. For a number of reasons, Christianity grew steadily. First, it was more personal than the Roman religion and offered eternal life and salvation. Second, it was familiar because it was like other religions that offered immortality through the sacrificial death of a savior-god. Third, it fulfilled the human need to belong. Christians formed communities based on love and care. Christianity was especially attractive to the poor and powerless. Everyone, regardless of status, could gain salvation and all were equal in the eyes of God.
- C. Emperors in the third century began new waves of persecution, ending with the great persecution by Diocletian at the beginning of the fourth century. Christianity was too strong for force to destroy it, however. Christianity prospered in the fourth century. **Constantine** became the first Christian emperor. In 313 his **Edict of Milan** officially sanctioned tolerating Christianity. Under **Theodosius the Great**, the Romans adopted Christianity as their official religion.

Discussion Question

Why do you think the Romans eventually decreed Christianity their official religion? (Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. One good answer is that they were tired of their culture and lives of conquest and war. Another is that the Christian promise of salvation persuaded them.)

Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 5, Section 5



Did You Know? Commodus, emperor from A.D. 180 to 192, renamed Rome the Colony of Commodus. He imagined he was the god Hercules and entered the arena to fight as a gladiator or to kill lions with bow and arrow. He was known as a cruel ruler. When he announced that he would assume the consulship dressed as a gladiator, his advisors had a champion wrestler strangle him.

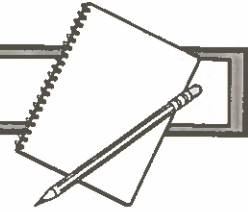
I. The Decline (pages 175–177)

- A. A long period of unrest followed the death of the last good emperor, Marcus Aurelius, in A.D. 180. For a period Rome was ruled by the Severans, whose motto was “pay the soldiers and ignore everyone else.” After their rule ended, between 235 and 284, Rome was ruled by whoever had the army to seize it. There were 22 emperors over these years; twenty died violently.
- B. Simultaneously, the Roman Empire suffered invasions by Persians and Germanic peoples. Invasions, civil wars, and plague almost caused the Roman economy to collapse in the third century. Trade and small industry declined, and there was a labor shortage due to plague. Farm production declined on fields ravaged by invaders.
- C. Money was short, but Rome needed soldiers more than ever. By the mid-third century, the state was depending on hired Germanic soldiers. They had no loyalty to Rome, nor did they understand Roman tradition.
- D. At the end of the third and the beginning of the fourth centuries, the emperors **Diocletian** and **Constantine** revived Rome, founding a state called the Late Roman Empire. It had a new governmental structure, a rigid economic and social system, and a new religion—Christianity.
- E. Diocletian ruled from 284 to 305. Believing the empire was too large to have only one ruler, he divided the empire into four sections, each with its own ruler, including himself. His military power, however, made him the ultimate authority. Constantine, who ruled from 306 to 337, extended many of Diocletian’s policies.
- F. Both expanded the bureaucracy and enlarged the army to five hundred thousand troops. Expanding the civil service and the military drained the treasury. To fight inflation, Diocletian issued strict wage and price controls for the entire empire. They did not work. Both emperors issued edicts forcing people to stay in their jobs, which made basic jobs like being a baker hereditary. Small, free farmers increasingly were in debt to large landowners.



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- G.** In 324 Constantine became the sole ruler of Rome. His biggest project was constructing a new capital city in the east on the site of **Byzantium** on the shores of the **Bosporus**. Founded for defensive purposes, the city eventually was named Constantinople (present-day Istanbul). Calling it his "New Rome," Constantine filled the city with a forum, palaces, an amphitheater, and other signs of Roman and civic glory. It became a center of the Eastern Roman Empire and one of the world's greatest cities.
- H.** The policies of Diocletian and Constantine were based on coercion and control. In the long run, therefore, they stifled the vitality Rome needed to revive.

Discussion Question

Look on a world map and explain why Istanbul (Byzantium, Constantinople) is in such an important strategic military position. (*It can control the waterway through the Black Sea from Russia and Asia to the Mediterranean Sea.*)

II. The Fall (pages 177–178)

- A.** The empire restored by Diocletian and Constantinople continued for another hundred-plus years. It had two capitals, Rome in the west and Constantinople in the east.
- B.** In the second half of the fourth century, **Huns** from Asia moved into eastern Europe and put pressure on the Germanic **Visigoths**. The Visigoths moved south, crossing the **Danube** into Roman territory. Initially Roman allies, the Visigoths revolted and defeated a Roman army in 378. More Germans crossed into Roman territory. In 410 the Visigoths sacked the city of Rome. In 455, another group, called the **Vandals**, also sacked the city. Our modern word *vandal* comes from the name of this ruthless tribe. In 476, the western emperor, Romulus Augustulus, was deposed by the Germanic head of the army. This event is usually taken as the fall of the Western Roman Empire. The Eastern Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, continued on.
- C.** Many theories have been proposed to explain the fall of the Roman Empire: Christianity weakened Rome's military virtues; Roman values declined as non-Italians gained prominent positions; lead poisoning from water pipes and vessels caused a mental decline; slavery held Rome back from advancing technologically; Rome's political system proved unworkable. Probably there is some truth in all or most of these explanations.



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Discussion Question

Which of the explanations of Rome's fall seems most plausible? (*Answers will vary. Accept answers that are able to weigh the effects of various influences and give reasons for ranking the influences.*)
