**Classical Civilization: Mediterranean--Rome**

1. Rome location—7 hills on the Tiber River

A. Origins:

1. Legend: Romulus & Remus (21 April 753 BCE) – Romulus kills Remus & found Rome

2. Etruscans dominated the area after 650 BCE--introduced Greek gods/goddesses—borrowed heavily rather than

independent invention; common language was Latin

3. 390 BCE—Celts or Gauls sacked Rome allowing the Romans to fill the vacuum

--height of power was ca. 300 BCE, communal existence w/ elected officials, women’s equality, excellent roads, & a

lunar calendar; polytheistic; priesthood called the Druids; used Greek for record keeping but left no writing

1. Technology:

--www—roads (53,000 mi), aqueducts, concrete (used pozzolana mortar from volcanic stone)

--sea routes from the Red Sea down the African Swahili Coast & India for pepper (19 ports along the Malabar

Coast of India)

--Pantheon (150’ wide concrete dome), coliseum (used the groin vault), Circus Maximus (held over 250,000, chariot racing)

--vast numbers of slaves possibly kept Rome from greater mechanization

--salt was an essential part of Roman success w/ over 60 salt works; soldiers were sometimes paid in salt

1. Law: 450 BCE—Law of the 12 Tables—confirmed privileges of the patricians; (innocent until proven guilty; united people)

--people equal under the law; accused could face accuser & defend self; guilt had to clearly established; applied to all

1. Social:

--509-30 BCE—Romans revolted against Etruscans & est. aristocratic republic—birth of Roman Republic or

SPQR (Senatus Populus Que Romanus=the Senate & the People of Rome)

1. Power in the patricians (land owning aristocrats) (Senate had 300 = continuous stability)

2. Assembly had plebians (common people)

3. Both patricians & plebians were hereditary

--Patriarchic families—husbands could legally kill wives for adultery; sell them or children; woman was head of home but

could not own property; family was the basic unit of society under the authority of the paterfamilias (oldest male in the family); women were still subordinate; practiced infanticide; husbands could kill wife for adultery; most upper class women had first child at age 15; upper class women had some education while lower class women worked; life expectancy for males b/t 20-30

--citizenship continued to expand as time went on but the privileges of citizenship became weaker

--Slavery was part of life; manumission was common; slaves used in mining, agriculture, household care, & tutoring

--slaves came from conquered areas; in Gaul, Caesar brought back 500,000 during 9 years of fighting

--emperors had up to 20,000 slaves while some wealthy families had as many a 4,000

--most famous slave revolt was Spartacus in 73 BCE; a gladiator who fled to Mt. Vesuvius & led over 100,000 slaves in

a two year revolt against Roman rule; Rome eventually defeated the slaves w/ 8-10 legions & then crucified thousands along the Appian Road

--language (Latin) was influenced by Greek

E. Military formed the foundation of the Roman govt

1. the Roman Legion—standardized, organized, & well-disciplined

2. originally the military was not a “standing army” but w/ the Marian Reforms in 107 BCE, Rome adopted a permanent

standing army

3. conscripts enlisted for a period of 20 years & were promised land after their service until 212 CE when many outside Italy

became citizens through the military

--Rome had gained control over the Italian Peninsula by providing citizenship to the people

F. History of the Republic after the Etruscans

--Roman Republic—kings overthrown in 507 BCE; power to male citizens; wealthy votes counted more—soon became hereditary;

elected officials as representatives (Senate, 300=continuous stability) (Assembly of plebians); social classes (patrician—wealthy landowning & plebeians—ordinary citizens ); expanded; 3 Punic Wars w/ Carthage & four Macedonian Wars w/ Greece; slave revolts (Spartacus, 70 BCE); slave not used in military; republic collapses w/ increase internal turmoil & was replaced by military dictatorships

--Expansion under the Republic—conquered Italy, Carthage, Greece—assimilated others into state by citizenship

--Gaul (area of France) added by Julius Caesar (58 – 51 BCE) & Britain in 43 CE

--3 Punic Wars—defeated Carthage, a Phoenician colony (Hannibal w/ 50,000 & 60 elephants @ Cannae, kills 40,000

Romans) (Punic is Latin for Phoenician) wars also naval; Rome developed the corvus (similar to a gangplank) to “invade” an enemy’s ship

--1st 264-241 BCE Rome wins & takes Sicily – mainly a naval war

--2nd 215-201 BCE Hannibal attacks Spain, then Italy

--at the Battle of Cannae Hannibal lost to the Romans & retreated to Africa where Scipio Africanus

defeated Hannibal at the Battle of Zama in 202 BCE

--eventually Hannibal would commit suicide rather than be captured by the Romans in 183 BCE

--3rd 149-146 BCE Carthage totally wiped out after being besieged for 3 years

H. Roman Empire (30 BCE-476 CE)—rise of powerful generals & prof. armies, urbanization, poverty

a. 1st Triumvirate—Julius Caesar, Pompey, Crassus (dies)

--in a civil war, Caesar kills Pompey & becomes dictator, he is then assassinated in 44 BCE (the same year he

declares himself perpetual dictator, Octavian (his grand nephew) is his heir

--Caesar reformed the calendar—was used until Pope Gregory XIII in 1582

b. Who would rule? the 2nd Triumvirate: Octavian=Rome, Antony=Egypt, Lepidus=N. Africa

c. 42 – 31 BCE-Lepidus lost his position, Oct. opposes Ant. & Cleo.—defeats them at Actium in 31 BCE—Octavian is now the

emperor & the Republic is dead

d. Octavian becomes Augustus (“most revered one”)—1st emperor (27 BCE – 14 CE)—while not taking the title of “dictator”,

Octavian ruled as one & gradually replaced opponents in the Senate w/ his followers

e. Augustus establishes the elite Praetorian Guard (would later cause problems); new system of coinage, public services, tax

collection, & building projects; enlarges & secure the Empire w/ colonies—Pax Romana Era (27 BCE to 180 CE) until death of Marcus Aurelius when his son Commodus took over marking the start of the decline

--Golden Era--civil service established, Rome’s population grew to 750,000, gave free grain to citizens, gladiators

& chariot racing, growth of agriculture, trade, bureaucracy; literature grew (Virgil & Horace);

--legal rights of women, slaves, & children were strengthened; Innovations in civil engineering & monumental

architecture; road network stretched 53,000 miles; bureaucracy grew; civil service established, Rome’s population grew to 750,000, gave free grain to citizens, gladiators & chariot racing, growth of agriculture & trade (Chinese silk made its way to Rome—causes currency problem w/ $$ going to China); literature grew: w/ Virgil & Horace, poets, & Livy, a historian

f. Julio-Claudian emperors:

Octavian (aka. Augustus)—tried to conquer “barbarians” but failed

Tiberius (14 -37 CE)—tended to be paranoid

Caligula (37-41 CE)—possibly insane; assassinated

Claudius (41-54 CE)—ordered the colonization of Britain; executed wife & married his niece

Nero (54-68 CE)—killed himself

followed by 3 inept emperors (68 – 69 CE)—period of civil war

then the Flavian Emperors (69-96 CE):

Vespasian (69-79 CE)—built the coliseum; put down first Jewish revolt & destroyed the temple

Titus (79-81 CE)—very popular leader

Domitian (81-96 CE)--murdered

followed by the Five Good Emperors (Antonines, 96-180 CE)—no heirs but hand-picked:

Nerva (96-98 CE)

Trajan (98-117)—advanced deep into Parthian territory

Hadrian (117-138 CE)—surrendered Meso. back to Parthians; crushed the Jewish revolt of 132-135 CE led

by Simon Bar Kokhba (led to the diaspora); built the wall in Britain (Hadrian’s Wall)

Antionius Pius (138-161 CE)—peaceful time

Marcus Aurelius (161 – 180 CE)-– Golden Age of Rome despite the Plague that would kill up to 5 million;

Roman defense of the East was weakened by soldiers dying; Marcus Aurelius would die from the Plague

I. Start of the decline—Commodus (180-192 CE-murdered) – start of Germanic invasions

a. enemies: Barbarian Germanic tribes – not organized

--internal revolts – more slave revolts (Spartacus), Jewish revolt; in general, the gov’t. tried to calm the people by

organizing food supplies & distribution

--invasion by the Parthians (Rome's most formidable enemy)—an invasion in 53 BCE had failed

--internal – many generals revolted

--In the 2nd century CE the latifundia arose—large estates/farms w/ slaves that would gradually push

non-slaves off the farmland; latifundia would be nucleus of the manor in the medieval time period

b. 3rd c. Crisis (b/t 235 – 284 CE)

—empire undergoes massive convulsions & nearly collapses; inflation & food prices up; gold/silver reserves depleted;

less Au/Ag in coins leading to lack of confidence in coinage & to barter; pop begins shift urban to rural

--Pra. Guard starts selecting rulers; many assassinations (20 emperors in 49 years)

--barbarians started raided into the northern empire (Rome paid off) & hyperinflation

--another Plague from 251 to 256 killed up to 5,000 people a day in Rome (lack of immunity)

c. Diocletian (284-305 CE)—strips the Senate of its power, makes Rome a totalitarian state; enlarged army w/ Germanic

troops; froze occupations (hereditary caste system—start of feudalism?); divided Europe into E (he ruled from Nicomedia—present day Ismit in Turkey) & W w/ Maximian in the Wes (ruled from Milan)t; had to pay off the wealthy while poor farmers became indebted & often sold into slavery; persecutes Christians

--by splitting the empire Diocletian would lay the foundation for the creation of the Byzantine Empire in the east

--one of the biggest persecutors of Christians

--military became a defensive one w/ the *limitanei* along strategic rivers serving as borders & the comitatus or

mobile army Diocletian visited Rome only after ruling for 20 years & then only stayed for 6 weeks; two years later he “retired” to the countryside

d. Constantine (288-337 CE)—Edict of Milan (313 CE) proclaimed the toleration of Christianity; moved capitol to Byzantium

(renamed Nova Roma or more popularly Constantinople, the capitol of the E. Roman Empire); wealthy moved there causing the city of Rome to fall further behind

--Council of Nicea (325 CE) 300 bishops convened—issued the Nicene Creed (affirmed the divinity of Jesus)

--on the way back to Rome Constantine killed three of his sons

When Constantine died he left the empire to relatives who immediately set into killing the others

(Delmatius & his sons were killed by their cousins; his other half brother Julius, was then killed; his three sons (Constantine, Constantius, & Constans) started killing one another until only Constantius was left)

e. Theodosius (392 -395) reunited the Empire & was the last emperor to rule over the whole empire; in 392 CE all pagan

ceremonies banned & temples destroyed in Constantinople; no toleration accepted

--when Theodosius took over the Germanic tribes had been given semi-autonomous status

Visigoths in 395 moved east led by Alaric into Italy; besieged Rome for 2 years until the doors opened in

410 CE & they rushed in sacking Rome

--Attila began a series of invasions defeating Roman armies until his death during a wedding night to one of his many

wives when he suffered a nasal hemorrhage & drowned in his own blood; w/ the death of Attila the threat of the Huns collapsed but this opened the area to a power vacuum that the other tribes started to fill

f. farther east the Parthians ruled (247 BCE – 224 CE) in Iran followed by the Sassanids from 224 – 651 CE

J. Religion in Rome, including Christianity

1. While the Romans had a number of “original” gods & goddesses, in the end it was an amalgamation of many cultures,

including the Greeks & Etruscans

--as the empire grew, Rome assimilated other religious practices, such as from Egypt

--as part of the cult practices, emperors were seen as divine

--polytheism would start to fade as Christianity became the official religion

--viewed the natural world as a place filled w/ numerous invisible shapeless forces called numina

2. While the Greek genius was in politics, Roman genius was in engineering

3. Jewish revolts—66 CE revolt was crushed in 70 CE along w/ the destruction of the temple

4. Christianity—Jesus

a. some Jews under Hellenism started believing in a messiah; growth of mystery religions (if believers followed

practices then afterlife would be groovy)

b. Jesus born b/t 4-6 BCE; after death missionary work spearheaded by Paul in Med. Sea; Christianity reached

out to the lower classes

c. characteristics

--mono—Trinity

--Paul (4 journeys b/t 45-58 CE)--missionary activity

--persecution; while Judaism was legal, Christianity was not=rivalry

--belief in eternal judgment, Messiah, original sin

--holy books: New Testament

5. Conflicts included--Arianism denied that Christ was divine; Constantine issued the Nicene Creed of 325 CE banishing Arius

--Gnostic Gospels: discovered in 1945 in upper Egypt; contains 52 texts; written by the Gnostics, those who

claimed secret divine knowledge; were an early challenge to the established church claiming a good god & an evil god

--late 200s rise of Manichaeism; denied an omnipotent being; dualism b/t good/evil

--431 Council of Ephesus condemned Nestorianism & affirmed Mary to be the Mother of God

--451 Council of Chalcedon affirmed Jesus had two natures (aka Hypostatic Union)

6. rise of the Catholic Church formed (pope, cardinal, priests, nuns)

--during the reign of Diocletian, the empire had been divided for admin. purposes into geog. units or dioceses;

Christian bishops made these their HQ or sees w/in the urban centers; the center of the bishops authority was his cathedral or “chair”; when Const. moved the Roman capitol to Constantinople, the Roman bishop filled the authoritarian void; tradition had Peter being killed in Rome; pope= Latin papa (Father); missionary activity targeted kings;

--Church takes on an Empire structure w/ dioceses, bishops in major urban areas (sees—Rome,

Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Constantinople)

--Constantine (288-337 CE) – 25% of the empire was Christian at the time; favored Church hierarchy

--335 Council of Jerusalem rejects the mandate to be circumcised

--St. Augustine (354 – 430) *The Confessions*  wrote about good vs. evil, his journey to Christianity; *City of God*—said

that the Church could not sin & the Church was the City of God; a Christian view of history

--St. Ambrose—called for Church authority over political authority; males should run the Church; priests celibate

--St. Jerome—translated the Greek Bible into Latin (called the Vulgate meaning “popular version”)

--Theodosius 380 CE proclaims Christianity as the official religion, banned paganism in 393, persecutions now switch

to the other side

7. Diffusion

--contagious:

--318 first monastery was established & 321 Sunday established as official state day of rest

--432 St. Patrick to Ireland

--496 Clovis I, King of the Franks converts to Christianity

--hierarchical:

--Syncretinization: Valentine’s Day built around 2 Christian martyrs of the 3rd c. named Valentine--Roman Lupercalia

fertility festival in Feb; later in the Middle Ages it became a lover’s holiday

--monasteries established---ie. Benedict 529

8. Status of women in Christianity:

--early: more equal status; both men/women can reach heaven; women into convents; still held down

J. Barbarian Invasions or the End is Near! (barbarians were only 5% of the population at the time of the fall!)

Although Bulgaria would attack in the 8th century, the greatest enemy to the Byzantine Empire was Persia

530 CE the Byz. General Belisarius w/ 25,000 troops fought 40,000 Persia (incl. 5,000 Immortals)—Persians lost +5,000

--Belisarius was married to Antonina who “got together” w/ her adopted son

--Belisarius forgave her, told her who tattled on her, she then had her chambermaid’s tongue out & then chopped her into

itsy-bitsy pieces, & threw her in the Med. Sea.

--in the 11th c. Emperor Basil II restored control to the Balkan area by defeating the Bulgarians

Byz. army had started to adopt chain mail & the gladius (both derived from Germanic tribes) & the use of cavalry w/ compound

bows; also recruited soldiers from the Middle East

**Justinian’s Plague:**

--542-46 Justinian Plague caused 300,000 deaths in Const.—weakened the empire; possibly killed 25 million; trade came to a

standstill at many places & times; 7 of 10 victims would die; Justinian himself survived

--the bacteria attached itself to the flea, who attached itself to rats; 50 bacteria stacked on top of one another would equal

the thickness of a dollar bill; the bacteria was able to shut off the entry into the stomach which made the flea bite even more to satisfy its hunger; every bite injected up to 20,000 bacterial cells; the plague would come in waves that would use up its human “fuel” before moving on; due to climate change the range of the rat & the bacteria moved northward

--attacked the lymph nodes after a high fever; swelling would occur in the armpit, groin, behind the ears growing to the size

of melons often bursting in a shower of pus

--so many people died in Constantinople the cemetery filled, so the tops of towers built every 180’ that was 60’ high were

taken off & the insides filled w/ bodies