

# Roman History

## The Empire

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### Epicureanism

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- *Who* = Epicurus
- *When* = 306
- *Where* = Athens, his garden..
- *Motto* = happy is he who can understand the causes of things.
- *Perfection* = attaining ataraxia, i.e. mind-body separation, peace of mind, tranquility.
- *Metaphysics* = atomism, notion of atoms versus void borrowed from.
- *Gods* = consist of very fine atoms & have no effect on or interest in the world; they don't punish or reward.
- *Afterlife* = None, so no need to fear death.
- *Activity* = seeking pleasure, i.e.

#### Specifically:

1. lack of fear
2. lack of disturbance (moderate lifestyle, no violence or politics)
3. knowledge & understanding.

### Stoicism

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- *When* = 336-265 BCE
- *Who* = Zeno of Citium.
- *Where* = Under stoas at Athens.
- *Motto* = You are an actor in a play; play your part well.
- *Perfection* = Apatheia same as ataraxia.
- *Gods* = underlying *fire being* who is omnipresent; other gods are merely manifestations of that being.

#### Concepts:

1. worship of existing gods.
2. World is a cosmopolis, all people are fellow citizens, brotherhood of man.
3. Justice: the being is just & the laws he follows are Natural Law. He is reasonable & moral.
4. All is controlled, fated by the divine being, astrology is 'proof', & all things & people in your life are "borrowed" from the being. Epictitus provided maxims.

**188:** Antiochus III gives up Asia Minor, a rich area with good mercenaries.

**172-167:** Third Macedonian War: Rome vs. Perseus, decisive battle at

Pyna, Macedonia is separated into four parts, Rome does not annex but gains hegemony. 1000 pro-Perseus Greeks sent to Rome including Polybius.

**149:** Extortion court established to prosecute oppressive acts of publicani & governors. Jury is made up of senators.

**146:** Rome puts down Greek revolt, levels Corinth & sells its 50000 inhabitants.

**146:** Third Punic War starts due to Carthage/Numidia hostility. 300 leading Carthaginians executed, Rome seiges & razes the city.

**137:** Hostilius Mancinus gets trapped at Numantia in Spain with 20,000 men. Tiberius Gracchus negotiates a treaty. His father had been a popular governor.

**133-28:** Troubled times for the Republic

**133:** Tiberius Gracchus is tribune. He is an elite, mother is a Cornelius. He gets together with Appius Claudius Pulcher who is Princeps Senatus & Publius Mucius Scaevola to try to give land to landless Romans who lost farms due to latifunda.

Problems with this action:

- Tiberius did not consult Senate because the worst offenders were senators.
- Octavius tries to veto land reform but Tiberius argues he is not doing his job to protect the People, has him thrown out.
- The Senate provided no money for the commission, but the Gracchi had money coming in from their client city Pergamon whose king had just died. The Senate normally handles all state funds but Tiberius bypassed them.
- Tiberius decides to re-run for tribune, which had not happened in 200 years. When it was clear he was going to win, his followers ran out potential vetoers.

**124:** Gaius Gracchus is elected tribune.

**123:** Gaius' second year as tribune: he enacts some laws:

- He proposes colonies overseas e.g. Carthage to give land to

commoners.

- He passes a law fixes the price of grain by having the state buy all grain & sell it at a subsidized rate. Very popular idea, lasts until 58 BCE.

- Continues land reform.
- Pursues support of Equites by offering contracts to *publicani* who are greedy & have no loyalties. Gaius offers them Pergamum.

- Puts Equites in control of extortion court, bad idea.

**122:** Gaius becomes tribune again.

Drusus is picked by Senate to steal Gaius' popularity with laws favorable to the masses. Examples:

- Drusus proposes making land reform's giveaways rent-free.
- Drusus proposes new colonies.

**?:** Gaius proposes giving citizenship to Italian allies, but this has no support among the masses.

**121:** Gaius loses bid to become tribune again. Lucius Opimus encourages slave to get in fight with Gaius' supporters, slave is killed. Opimus & Senate declare martial law & Gaius is hunted down & killed.

**119:** Tiberius' land commission is finally shut down after giving public land to 75,000 people.

**119:** Gaius Marius, a novus homo, becomes tribune, proposes *populare* legislation. His sponsors the Metelli drop him like a hot potato.

**?:** Lucius Opimus is convicted of being bribed, is exiled, dies in poverty.

**109:** Metellus & Marius go to Numidia to battle Jugurtha, have moderate success by attacking Jugurtha's supply centers.

**?:** Marius returns to Rome, becomes consul.

**?:** Marius raises army of proletarian volunteers, puts them through rigorous training. This is dangerous because the army was raised for one general, one war. From Marius onward, soldiers will threaten the Republic.

- They swore allegiance to Marius, not to the Roman State.
- Their reason for joining up was that they were promised land.

- ?: Jugurtha runs out of supplies, is turned over to L. Cornelius Sulla.
- ?: Teutones & Cimbri are attacking Gaul.
- 102:** Teutones & Cimbri go off to Spain but return in two divided groups. They are defeated with 60,000 Cimbri taken prisoner.
- 94:** Sulla loses election to become praetor; he does not have popular support.
- 93:** Sulla flatters & bribes his way into praetorship. Caesar jokes that Sulla bought it.
- 90-89:** Italian allies fed up with waiting for citizenship, rise up in war of Socii (allies) or *Social War*.
- o Sulla is sent against the Samnites, lays siege to Pompeii.
  - o Marius protects Rome.
  - o Pompeius Strabo fights the Marsi, Cataline assists.
- 88:** Senate offers citizenship to allies who don't revolt. Marsi & Samnites are overrun but still become citizens. Sulla is consul.
- 88-87:** M is given command against Mithradates, S marches on Rome, M escapes to Africa. S demands death sentence for M.
- 88?-86:** S heads East to fight Mithradates, finishes after siege of Athens.
- 87:** L. Cornelius Cinna elected consul to oppose S, demands repeal of S's laws. S is declared public enemy, his house is burnt down. S's allies flee to him.
- 87:** Octavius expels Cinna, who goes to M in Africa, forms army, marches on Rome. M wants revenge, forms a squad of freedmen who go around executing people, such as Cn. Octavius, Lutatius Catalus.
- 86:** Cinna destroys M's squad.
- 86:** M is elected consul for the 7<sup>th</sup> time, then dies of old age a few days later.
- 86:** Flaccus takes M's place as consul, goes to battle Mith. & is killed by Fulvia.
- 86?:** Roman general Fulvia commits suicide.
- 86?:** Mithradates becomes loyal vassal of Rome again.
- ?: Cinna is consul with the younger Marius, opposed by Metelli, Crassus. Sulla is considered to be an outlaw who killed a consul. Pompey & Gaius Julius Caesar are allies of Cinna.
- ?: Cinna tries to raise another army but is killed by his own soldiers.
- 84:** Q. Sertorius who was a M supporter had fled to Spain with pro-M refugees. Pompey (son of Pompeius Strabo) "adolescent butcher" is sent against them.
- 82:** S returns and takes Rome. Lex Valeria makes S undisputed leader of Roman Republic. Opposition of young Marius, Carbo, Samnites is easily overcome: S puts 6,000 Samnites to death w/senators forced to watch. S starts the practice of *proscription*, rewarding 2 talents per head. Half of Senate killed. C escapes.
- ?: S passes laws:
- o Cursus honorum is put into law, with 10 year break before reelection.
  - o The office of tribune is limited so you cannot run for any other office, & the Senate must approve of all legislation before it goes to the vote.
  - o No more pro-magistrates, senate decides who leads military campaigns, & it is treason for a magistrate to leave his assigned territory.
    - These laws were designed to shut up agitators, not to solve problems.
- 79:** S resigns and soon dies of a fever.
- 71:** Servile War led by Spartacus & 70,000 slaves is put down by Pompey, Crassus.
- 70:** Pompey & Crassus are consuls.
- 67:** Pompey is voted an unprecedented amount of power via Lex Gabinia: military command of whole Mediterranean plus Maius Imperium 50 miles inland plus command over 100,000 soldiers. He destroys pirates in 3 months.
- 66:** Lex Manilia makes Pompey governor of all the East to deal with Mithradates who was then a popular leader, & who is finally forced to commit suicide. Pompey rearranges the East, installing new dynasties & redrawing borders.
- ?: Crassus is given extraordinary powers but is not made dictator, then destroys most of the slave army after trapping them in the heel of the peninsula.
- 64:** L. Segius Catalina, fails to win consulship, plots coup d'etat. Cicero does.
- 63:** Cicero becomes consul, denounces conspirator Cataline, who is defeated in 62.
- 62:** Pompey returns to Rome, asks for land for soldiers; Senate drives him away.
- 61-60:** Crassus is made to look bad; his publicani clients in the East bid too high & need break. The Senate refuses.
- 59:** C wants to run for consul, & he wants a triumph for conquest of Gaul which requires he stay out of the city; Senate refuses to make exception, so he forgoes a triumph & becomes consul along with Bibulus, son in law of Cato. Caesar proceeds to pass laws through tribal assembly.
- 59:** Caesar, Pompey, & Crassus form the *First Triumvirate*, whose total of clients have more votes than do the Optimates.
- 59:** P marries C's daughter Julia, makes a good husband.
- 55:** P & Cr are consuls. P controls Spain from Rome, Crassus goes to Parthia.
- 54:** Julia dies. P marries a Metellus Scipio, joins the Optimates.
- 53:** Crassus is beheaded in Parthia. His head used as prop in Euripides' *the Bacchae*.
- 52:** P is sole consul w/task of bringing order to Rome, which is plagued by gangs. Assemblies are being disrupted. He sends gang leaders into exile.
- 50:** Caesar wants to stay in Gaul & run for consul in absentia in 49, rather than return & lay down his command which could prove fatal. Motion is passed to remove Caesar from his command after he & Pompey refused to lay down their commands. Ultimate Decree declares him public enemy, which

many fear will lead to civil war because it gives Caesar no other choice except death.

- 49:** C crosses Rubicon river to “defend the rights of tribunes.” He moves *rapidly* south. P flees to Greece, builds force of inexperienced soldiers. C lands in northern Greece, marches toward P. In 48, battle at Pharsalus. C’s veterans destroy P’s forces. P flees to Egypt, is killed there by Ptolemy XIII to remove a pretext for invasion by C, & the head is kept for C.  
→ This was lucky for C because killing P would have alienated many Romans & keeping him alive would have led to struggle.
- 46:** P’s supporters are in Africa. C goes there & eliminates them. Cato is there dies with them; he commits suicide, becomes hero to Romans.
- 45:** Caesar finishes off supporters in Spain. *The civil war is over.*
- 43 (April):** Octavian & two consuls defeat Antony at Mutina (Modena), consuls die.
- 43 (November):** On river island at Bononia (Bologna), A, O, & Marcus Lepidus meet to form *Second Triumvirate*. Senators proscribed. Empire divided, A gets Egypt.
- 42:** Antony & O battle M. Brutus & Cassius in Greece at Phillippi. B&C commit suicide.
- 41-40 (Winter):** Antony is Cleopatra’s lover in Egypt.
- 40 (Late):** Antony marries Octavia.
- 32:** Second Triumvirate ends, A divorces Octavia.
- 31:** A & his general Agrippa attack A & C in a naval battle near Actium in Greece. A suffers losses but is saved by C. They flee to Egypt & commit suicide in 30.

## Caesar’s Reforms

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- Julian Calendar, names a month July
- Cancels one third of debts, pays two thirds of value to lenders
- Land reform
- Gives Roman citizenship to southern Gauls
- Clemency policy instead of proscription

- Increases # of senators to 900, including some Gauls, who support him
- Adds image of living person (himself) to a Roman coin for the first time

## Emperors

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- Augustus 38BCE-14CE
  - Tiberius until 37
  - Caligula till 41
  - Claudius till 54
  - Nero till 68
  - Galba till 69
  - Otho (Jan-Apr) 69
  - Vitellius (Jan-Dec) 69
  - Vespasian Dec 69-79
  - Titus till 81?
  - Domitian till 96
  - Nerva till 97
  - Trajan until 116
  - Hadrian until ?
- 70:** Titus puts down Jewish revolt in Judea.
- 73:** Spain gets Latin rights ⇒ Spanish magistrates become citizens.
- 80?:** Titus opens Flavian Amphitheatre w/100 days of games.
- 97?:** Nerva institutes alimenta system to help poor children.