

Roman History

The Republic

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Pre-Republic

1800 BCE: Latins arrive in Italy

900 BCE: Villanovan culture starts

8th century: Greeks arrive: Cumae, Tarentum, Sicily, Thurii, Croton, Sybaris, Neopolis

510 BCE: Wealthy Sybaris is destroyed by Crotons.

Regions of Italy

- Latium (language Latin)
- Samnite area (Oscan)
- Etruria (Etruscan)
- Umbria (Umbrian)

Etruscans

- Etruscans gain economic, artistic, military prominence in 7th century.
- Their region has 12 city-states e.g. Tarquinii, Clusium, Caere, Veii.
- Rituals had to be performed very carefully.

Gods = Tinia, Uni, Menerva same as Jupiter, Juno, Minerva

Lucomon/Lucomio = king, preceded by Lictors w/ fascis.

Zilath/Ziliath = head of state, elected yearly

Haruspex = priest who divined the future

Triumph = parade for victory in war

Monarchy 753-509

- Etruscans control Capua, Po valley, & w/help of Carthage they force Greeks out of Sardinia & Corsica
- 6th century sees Etruscan dynasty in Latium

570 BCE: 5th king "Lucomon", named Tarquinius (priscus)

- 6th king: Servius Tullius AKA Mastarna, builds city wall
- 7th king: L Tarquinius (superbus) son of Tarquin & tyrant

525: Etruscans' fate begins to go downhill...

524: Etruscans try to take Cumae but Aristodemus defeats.

510: Etruscans try to take Campania but fail & then are defeated again at Aricia by Aristodemus

509: Lucretia raped by Collatinus, kills self = 1st revolt

506: Lars Porsenna of Clusium tries to put down revolt, repelled by Horatius Cocles (one-eyed) & Mucius Scaevola

Republic 509-27

Early 509-300

506: Lars Porsenna defeated by Aristodemus of Cumae

... **500:** Latin League formed with Rome dominating.

494: Plebs form the Concilium Plebis, threaten to leave the city, whereupon Senate says tribunes become sacrosanct & gain veto power.

→ *Struggle of Orders*

474: Etruscan seapower destroyed by fleet from Syracuse

451: pressure to write down laws, decemvirs appointed, led by Appius Claudius, office to last for 2 years but seized ctrl; dv's overthrown when AC' desire for Verginia gets out of hand.

449: 12 Tables

confirm pat. control of state & religion

445: Lex Canuleia

permits pat/pleb intermarriage.

421: Plebs win right to run for lower offices, &

405-396: Seige & taking of Veii by Romans.

387: Etruscans' Po valley lost to Gauls; region now = Cisalpine Gaul. Romans send army, Gauls offended, sack Rome, & destroy records.

367: Plebs gain right to be elected consul & 1 must be.

338: Latins revolt & Romans put it down, making them Roman citizens. Umbria, Capua, Campania are also taken.

321: Battle of Caudine Forks, Romans adopt *pilum*.

... **300:** Almost all priesthoods are open to plebeians.

Middle 300-133

291: Samnites, Umbrians, Etruscans, some Gauls unite against Rome, attack Roman army at Sentium, Rome wins. Rome now has all of Italy below Po except Tarentum.

Tarentum sinks some Roman ships & hires Pyrrhus to attack Rome.

287: Plebs threaten to leave city due to Debtor laws. Quintius Hortensius elected dictator, passes

Lex Hortensius which says acts passed by Concilium Plebis (plebiscitae) become law. Plebs use this to set up equality between pats & plebs. *Struggle of the Orders ends*. Plebs become nobiles.

280: Pyrrhus defeats Romans at Heraclea, but loses many men. He goes north near Rome, offers peace, Romans refuse.

279: Pyrrhus defeats Rome at Asculum, again with losses, goes to Sicily & defeats Carthaginians, returns to Italy, leaves it.

... **270:** Romans have taken Tarentum & rest of Italy.

264: BCE Romans import gladiatorial fighting from Etruria. Rome has 292,000 citizens.

Names = praenomen nomen cognomen
Clans of importance = Cornelius, Brutus, Julius, Nero

Structure of Republic

Magistrates = officials, people w/executive power

Consuls (2) = *monarchical*, imperium, 1yr, leads army, calls Senate, 12L, supervises elections of consuls & praetors.

Praetors (2) = after Consul, imperium, *civil administration of the city*, is surpeme judge, issues edicts, provincial governors. 6L.

→ Propraetors are eligible for governorships.

Pro- = former, previous.

Aediles = in charge of upkeep of city, of providing public entertainment

Quaestors (10, then 20) = keepers of Treasury & records

Censor (2) = no imperium, take the census every 5 years, term=18mo., issue *edicts*, preside over granting of *contracts*. One is a patrician, one is a plebeian.

Census = tells you: your taxes, voting, army class, tribe.

Dictator (1) = Magister Populi, 6mo.term, emergency leader for military & internal crises, 24 lictors, nominated by anyone w/imperium. Punishes w/out trial.

Magister Equitum = Master of Cavalry, appointed by Dictator

Senate (#300) = *oligarchical*, initially 100% patrician, advisory body, life membership. Anyone higher than quaestor is automatically a member. Offers its respected "consultum"=opinion. Controls foreign affairs: makes treaties, disbursement of funds, picks governors of provinciae.

Comitia Curiata = minor voting body: imperium, wills, adoption.

Comitia Centuriata = military voting body where wealth dominates *It elects all magistrates who have imperium including Consuls, praetors, censors, dictator*, declares war & peace, is a court of appeal. There are 193 centuries, power equal, size differs. Equestrian... 18, 1 class (heavy infantry) ... 70/80. Majority in century carries it, majority of centuries carries vote. In each class 1/2 of centuries are iuniores (17-46) & 1/2 are seniores.

Tribal Assembly = Concilium Plebis and Comititia Tributa.

Comitia Tributa = a patrician group which elects quaestors and two *curile aediles*, presided over by consul or praetor.

Concilium Plebis = plebeian assembly, led by 5 (10) Tribunes, is *democratic*, based on tribe therefore rural poor had more power (31 tribes) & freedmen & proles are in the urban (4). Meets quickly. Convened by 1 Tribune. *Elects aediles, tribunes*. Rural voters had to come to Rome to vote.

Tribunes (10) = Pleb representatives, NOT magistrates, veto power over ANY official, summons Senate & Conc Plebis, intro's legislation.

- Senate speaking order: Censors, Consuls, Praetors, then procensors, proconsuls, propraeors. Pedarii could not speak, had to stand on the side they prefer. Favors wealth & age.

Cursus Honorum = ladder one must climb in public service: 10yrs Army, military tribune, Quaestor, Aedile or Tribune, Praetor (age 39 min), then Consul (age 42 min). Must

wait 10yrs to serve again in same office.

Honos = honorary & unpaid office e.g. Quaestor, Praetor, Consul.

Mos Maiorum = attitudes & beliefs of past Romans

Nobiles (*sing. Nobilis*) = known people, new ruling class after 287 BCE

Novus homo = new man, a low-born person entering the Nobiles

Roman Virtues

Gravitas = studied seriousness

Fides = good faith (word-of-honor/promise/loyalty), putting your loyalty to another before your loyalty to yourself. Loyalties included:

- that of client to patron, & vice versa
- that of person to clan
- that of child to father/family & paterfamilias
- that of slave to master
- that of wife to husband

Pietas = piety, observing the gods & performing rituals according to precise rules & order.

Dignitas = merit/worth/prestige, putting honor above greed, as with L Junius Brutus who kills his sons for plotting against Rome.

Roman Army

- Conscripted, age 17-46, max 16 campaigns, basic unit is legion
- All property owners served, but proles used only as light infantry
- Centurions had side-to-side crest, others front-to-back.
- Wooden shields, chainmail, plate armor, cuirass=breastplate
- *Phalanx* = common formation
- *Centurion* = junior officer, backbone of the Army
- *Maniple* = two legions, commanded by a centurion
- Avg soldier is farmer from nr Rome, used to hard work.
- Allies made up 40% of the armed forces.

Socii = allies (majority of Italians) → Becoming an ally was a good deal: no one is sold into slavery, Rome takes only some land, no tribute is collected, BUT you provide troops.

Colonia = military colony, sometimes w/only Roman citizens, sometimes mixed, sometimes w/Latin Rights=¿can marry Romans, children become Romans, enforcement of contracts.

Punic Wars

Poeni = Phoenician, i.e. Carthage, by 264 controls W. Sicily

- Carthage: 4-5 million, high taxes, armies made of up subject peoples
- People: Phoenician rulers & Berbers, Sub-Saharan, Greeks
- Government: 2 suffetes, Senate, 104 "judges".
- Carthaginians known as skilled traders, plantation farmers.

Republic continued...

270: treaty says Carthage stays out of Italy

264: Hostility betwn Carthage & Rome due to Mamertines @ Massana who take city, give it to Romans, Syracuse angry but allies with Rome, sells fleet to Rome, Rome wins naval battles w/quinquereemes+corvus

255: 15,000 Romans land w/M.A. Regulus, Carthage asks for peace but Regulus' terms are outlandish, so they hire Xanthippus who uses elephants to plow thru Roman lines, Regulus killed.

249: Publius Claudius Pulcher ignores sacred chicks, is defeated at Drepana in Sicily to Hamilcar Barca who is based @ Lilybaeum

242: Rome attacks rotting fleet at Carthage (rowers of which died putting down revolt by .?)

241: 1 Punic War ends, Carthage must pay reparations so Carthage refuses to pay mercenaries, who then commit atrocities until Rome lets Carthage hire more mercenaries to put it down. Rome takes Sicily, Sardinia. Hamilcar Barca =¿ Spain.

229: Hamilcar Barca dies, son in law Hasdrubal takes over Spain.

226: Rome/Carthage sign Ebro River Treaty. Hasdrubal dies, Hannibal takes over.

219-218: Hannibal sacks Saguntum which has Roman Protection, S of Ebro.

- 218:** Rome declares war, demands Hannibal arrested, but Carthage refuses. Hannibal leaves Spain w/40,000 troops, bypasses Roman army, goes thru Alps losing 14,000.
- 217:** Trebia River: 40,000 Romans sent, 30,000 killed or captured.
- 217:** More Romans sent under C. Flaminius. Hannibal now has 1 elephant & eye infection had make him blind in 1 eye, traps them between hills & Lake Trasimene almost all killed or drowned. Hannibal releases prisoners.
- 217:** Fabius Maximus elected dictator, keeps army on high ground trying to wear down Hannibal's army. Minucius is his Master of Horse & nearly dies in a rash attack.
- 217:** Hannibal gets trapped in valley, uses cattle to scare Romans who have occupied passes, escapes.
- 216:** Consuls C. Terentius Varro & L. Aemilius Paullus attack with 85,000 men versus Hannibal's 40,000 at Cannae. Hannibal uses crescent & Numidian cavalry to surround them. Perhaps 50,000 killed, Senate reduced to 170 from 300, Paullus dies. Samnites, Greeks, Philip V ally w/Hannibal. Rome raises taxes on rich, elect Fabius Maximus & Marcellus.
- 215:** Hiero of Syracuse dies, coup d'etat results in pro-Carthaginian democracy. M. Claudius Marcellus goes to Sicily.
- 211:** Rome besieging Capua, takes it, seizes lands only.
- 212-211:** Marcellus has trouble at Syracuse, is at first repelled by Archimedes' machines, then gets in thru tower & thru gate.
- 209:** P. Cor. Scipio sacks New Carthage in Spain.
- 209:** Fabius Maximus sacks Tarentum, sells many occupants.
- 207:** Hannibal asks brother Hasdrubal to assist, but Has. is met by C. Claudius Nero & Livius at Metaurus River.
- 206:** Scipio completes destruction of Punic Spain.
- 204:** Pub. Cor. Scipio lands in N Africa. He & Masinissa kills Syphax of Numidia.
- 205:** Macedonia is pacified
- 202:** Battle of Zama. Romans defeat Hannibal using veteran troops & Numidian cavalry.
- 201:** Treaty w/Carthage: 10,000 talents, limit 10 ships, gives up Spain & N Africa, Rome controls foreign policy.
- 184:** Scipio almost arrested for corruption, then dies.
- 183:** Hannibal dies in Asia Minor.
- 151:** Carthage, increasingly democratic, declares war on Numidia due to Massilia's attacks. Massilia complains.
- 149:** Rome sends army under son of Paullus named P. Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus, asks for & arrests 300 prominent democrats. Besieges the city for 3 years, razes it.
- 149:** Andriscus claims to be son of Perseus, attempts to lead revolt but is put down.
- 146:** Senate makes an example of democratic & nationalist Corinth: Roman armies level the city, sell inhabitants into slavery, steal artwork. Elsewhere ex-rebels are executed, democracies abolished.

Greece

- 200:** Rome declares war on Philip V of Macedon. Aetolians & Achaeans join Rome.
- 197:** Flaminius defeats Philip at Cynoscephalae.
- 196:** Flaminius tells Greeks he wants a "free" Greece.
- 194:** Flaminius leaves Greece, against Scipio's desire, against Greeks' desire who felt they had gotten a raw deal already.
- 192-191:** Aetolians invite Antiochus to protect them; he arrives with small force, is driven out by Romans.
- 190-188:** Romans under Lucius Scipio plus Pergamese under Eumenes II defeat Antiochus at Apamea. He surrenders Asia Minor & pays 15,000 talents.
- 179:** Philip dies, Perseus takes over.
- 171:** Rome attacks Perseus Third Macedonia War.
- 168:** L. Aemilius Paullus destroys Macedonian phalanx at Pydna, enslaves sympathizers, loots the nation of Epirus, enslaves 150,000 Epirotes. Sinking further, Rome almost declares war on Rhodes, establishes Delos as a free port which reduces Rhodes' income by 85%.
- 168:** Antiochus IV invade Egypt, is met by 3-man envoy led by C. Popillius Laenas & told to leave; he does.