THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Have out your notes over Rome from last night’s HW, as well as some more paper and something to write with.
Whap Announcements

- Period 1 test corrections start today after school.
- You will have all of next week to work on them.
- You can work on test corrections before or after school.
- You CANNOT take a copy of the test with you, or take pictures of test questions - EVER!!!!!!!
- You can earn ½ points back for each question that you correct if you follow the correct procedure.
- Do test corrections on a separate sheet of paper - staple to your original test paper (original on top, corrections on bottom) and turn in.
WHAP Announcements

- You will have Period 2 maps given to you and assigned on Monday
- You will be given a project over the Classical Era-instructions on Monday
- We have a vocabulary test each six weeks over all of the vocab from the six weeks. I will be putting the first vocabulary list on the website over the weekend.
- Extra credit will be offered and explained next week.
Let’s get rollin!
Recall from the presentation on early Rome/ the Roman Republic:

- How did Rome begin?
- What factors contributed to the early success of Rome? What enabled it to become powerful?
- Political structure of early Rome?
- Social structure of early Rome?
- Effect of the Punic Wars?
What the heck is SPQR?
SPQR = “Senatus Populusque Romanus” (The Roman Senate and People)
Expansion of Roman territory brought wealth but also problems, including:

- **Growing social inequality**: As Rome expanded, the gap between the wealthy and the poor increased. There were many *slaves* in Rome (as much as ⅓ of the population was enslaved). Small farmers couldn’t compete with these large *estates* and also cheaper imported goods - became homeless, went to cities looking for work (about ¼ of Rome’s population was classified as *urban poor*).
- **Civil war**: Tiberius and Gaius, two brothers and also tribunes, tried to help Rome’s poor by proposing things such as limiting the size of estates and giving land to the poor. The senators felt threatened by them, and both were killed. A period of *civil war* followed.
- **Military upheaval**: As the Republic grew more unstable, generals began seeking more power for themselves. They recruited soldiers from the landless poor by promising them land. These soldiers fought for pay and were loyal only to their commanders, replacing citizen-soldiers who were loyal to the Republic.

What are the effects of these changes in the military?
FIRST TRIUMVIRATE

- 60 BCE: Julius Caesar, a military leader, joined forces with Crassus, a patrician, and Pompey, a general.
- This group ruled Rome for 10 years as a triumvirate (group of 3).

- Caesar served as governor of Gaul (now France), where he led his legions in conquering all of Gaul. This made him very popular.

- Crassus died, ending the First Triumvirate. Pompey and Caesar entered into a power struggle, which Caesar won. The Senate appointed him dictator for life in 44 BCE.
Caesar governed Rome as an absolute ruler, but he made some reforms:

- Granted Roman citizenship to people in the provinces
- Helped the poor by creating jobs
- Increased pay for soldiers
- Started colonies where people without land could own property

**Question:** What effects do you think these reforms had?
JULIUS CAESAR

- Nobles and senators became concerned about Caesar’s growing power and popularity
- Caesar was assassinated in the Senate- stabbed 23 times
THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

- After Caesar’s assassination, civil war broke out again and destroyed the Republic.
- Three of Caesar’s supporters banded together: Octavian (Caesar’s grandnephew and adopted son), Mark Antony (a general) and Lepidus (a politician).
- This trio ruled Rome for 10 years as the Second Triumvirate.
THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE AND THE END OF THE REPUBLIC

- This alliance ended in jealousy and violence. Octavian forced Lepidus to retire, then became rivals with Mark Antony (who fell in love with Queen Cleopatra of Egypt).
- Octavian defeated Mark Antony’s and Cleopatra’s forces in Egypt; they later committed suicide.

- Octavian became the unchallenged ruler of Rome. Eventually, he accepted the title of Augustus (“exalted one”). He kept the title imperator (supreme military commander). Rome was now ruled by one man.
Fun fact: Though he had absolute power, he was known for living a simple, frugal lifestyle.
THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- Rome was at the peak of its power from the beginning of Augustus’ rule in 27 BCE to 180 CE.
- During this time, the empire was mostly at peace. This period of peace and prosperity is called Pax Romana (“Roman Peace”).
CONSOLIDATING THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- Rome’s expanding empire was held together by:
  - Sound government with able rulers (Augustus was the most able)
  - Stabilizing the **frontier** (where frequent clashes with nomadic tribes happened)
  - Setting up a **civil service**—paid workers to manage the government (such as tax collection and a postal system). Some plebeians and former slaves actually administered the empire. The civil service carried out the day-to-day work of the empire.
  - Common coinage
  - Vast trading network, including the Mediterranean but also long-distance trade with China and India
  - Road system—originally built for the military, linked the empire
ROMAN SOCIETY

- 90% of people farmed- most lived in the countryside
- Diverse empire- many ethnicities- cities were melting pots, especially Rome
- Used more slaves than any previous civilization- conquered peoples- periodic slave revolts- none were successful
- Wealth and social status were big factors- classes had little in common
  - Rich lived extravagantly in country **villas**
  - Poor needed help from the government (food rationing, housing)
Emphasized the values of discipline, strength, and loyalty - if you had these, you had **gravitas**

- Practical - honored strength more than beauty, power more than grace, and usefulness more than elegance

- The government provided *free* games, races, mock battles, and **gladiator contests** in the **Coliseum**. **Question: Why were these free?**
ROMAN CULTURE

- Religion:
  - Ancient Romans worshiped spirits or divine forces called **numina** (they thought these were all around them).
  - Closely related to these spirits were the **Lares** - the guardian spirits of each family. Rituals were performed to these spirits.
  - Government and religion were linked in Rome - deities were symbols of the state.
  - Romans were expected to honor the gods in private rituals at home and also in public worship ceremonies by priests in temples.
  - Important Roman gods and goddesses included **Jupiter** (father of the gods), **Juno** (Jupiter’s wife), **Minerva** (goddess of wisdom and of the arts).
  - Roman emperors were later worshiped as gods.
ROMAN CULTURE

- Religion:
  - The Romans eventually took over **Judea**, persecuted both the Jews and early Christians *(why?)*
  - Kicked the **Jews** out of their homeland- the **diaspora** (dispersal of Jews)
  - Pax Romana helped Christianity spread in the **Roman Empire**
ROMAN CULTURE

● Religion:
  ○ 313 CE: Roman emperor Constantine announced the end of the persecution of Christians
  ○ Edict of Milan- Christianity was declared to be an official religion of the Roman Empire
  ○ 380 CE: Roman emperor Theodosius made Christianity the empire’s official religion
PROBLEMS IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- *Pax Romana* ended in 180 CE with the end of the reign of Marcus Aurelius.
- A series of bad rulers during the next century began Rome’s decline.
- Hostile tribes on the boundaries (frontiers) of the empire and pirates on the Mediterranean Sea disrupted trade.
- Having reached their limits of expansion, Rome ran out of gold and silver-raised taxes to try to get more money. Minted more coins that contained less precious metal= inflation.
- Overworked soil had lost its fertility, and years of war had destroyed much farmland= food shortage, population decline.
- Militarily, the government began recruiting mercenaries (foreign soldiers who fought for money) to protect the huge empire, but they were only loyal to their commanders, not to Rome.
- Lost feelings of patriotism among citizens.
ATTEMPTS AT REFORM

- 284 CE: Emperor Diocletian restored order, doubled the size of the military, fixed prices of goods, sought to restore prestige to the office of emperor by claiming descent from the Roman gods.
- He believed the empire had grown too large, and divided it into 2 parts: Greek-speaking East and Latin-speaking West. He took the eastern part for himself, and gave the west to Maximian, a co-ruler.
- Eastern Rome was wealthier and included most great cities and trade centers.
ATTEMPTS AT REFORM

● In 324 CE Emperor Constantine reunited the two halves of the Roman empire, and moved the capital from Rome to Byzantium (in the eastern part) in 330 CE. Byzantium later became Constantinople (named after Constantine).

● *Recall: Constantine also ended persecution of the Christians.

● After Constantine’s death, the empire became divided again between East and West.
What is strategic about Constantinople’s location?
FALL OF THE WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

● Slow collapse over many years
● Around 370 CE, the Huns, a fierce group of nomads from the central Asian steppes, moved into the frontier region on Rome’s northern border with the Germanic tribes
● Germanic tribes (Romans called them barbarians) began pushing into Roman lands to flee the Huns
● The Huns, who were indirectly responsible for this Germanic assault on Rome, became a direct threat themselves- they united under Attila the Hun, who terrorized both halves of the empire
The Huns attacked and plundered Roman cities relentlessly.

After Attila’s death in 453 BCE, the Huns were no longer a real threat, but the Germanic invasions continued.

The last Roman emperor, a teenage boy named Romulus Augustus, was ousted by Germanic forces in 476 CE.

Roman power in the western half had disappeared.

The eastern half continued on for another millennium (until 1453 CE) as the Byzantine Empire.
## Multiple Causes: Fall of the Western Roman Empire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing Factors</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Political</strong></td>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Political office seen as burden, not reward</td>
<td>- Decline in interest in public affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Military interference in politics</td>
<td>- Low confidence in empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Civil war and unrest</td>
<td>- Disloyalty, lack of patriotism, corruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Division of empire</td>
<td>- Contrast between rich and poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Moving of capital to Byzantium</td>
<td>- Decline in population due to disease and food shortage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Military</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Poor harvests</td>
<td>- Threat from northern European tribes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Disruption of trade</td>
<td>- Low funds for defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No more war plunder</td>
<td>- Problems recruiting Roman citizens; recruiting of non-Romans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Gold and silver drain</td>
<td>- Decline of patriotism and loyalty among soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Inflation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Crushing tax burden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Widening gap between rich and poor and increasingly impoverished Western Empire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Immediate Cause

Invasion by Germanic tribes and by Huns

---

**FALL OF ROMAN EMPIRE**
WHAP HW OVER THE WEEKEND

- Read and take notes over Ch. 3 pp. 133-141 (China; comparing Rome and China)
- Finish viewing and taking notes over the presentation on Rome from today
- View and take notes over the short presentations (2) over the legacy of Rome, as well as the later Persian dynasties (Parthian and Sassanian)- on the website
- If you need to, go back over the presentations from this week. There’s a LOT of content- you need to make sure you’re keeping up!