

6.2

Roman Empire: Rise & Decline



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Identify the events leading to the decline of the Roman republic.
- Summarize the fundamental ideas and institutions of Western civilizations that originated in Rome.
- Explain how and why the Roman empire divided.
- Identify the factors that led to the decline and fall of Rome.

The Punic Wars

Rome & Carthage began to have conflict with each other leading to the first Punic War

The Second Punic War saw General Hannibal crossing the Alps with war elephants to Rome

The Third Punic War saw the destruction of Carthage. Survivors became slaves & Rome salted the earth

The destruction of Carthage grew the Roman Republic into Africa



The Mediterranean World

Imperialism- The establishment of control over foreign lands & people

Rome spread out over the Mediterranean to grow the Republic

Conquest grew trade & brought riches to the Republic. Families built large farming estates called **Latifundias**.

Increased wealth brought more violence. **Tiberius & Gaius Gracchus** tried to bring about reform. They failed.



The Republic Begins to Decline

Slave uprisings, turmoil, & revolts begin to create a power struggle in Rome & generals seized on this opportunity.

Julius Caesar, a military general, begins to dominate Roman politics.

Caesar eventually leads Rome into a civil war, crushing the general Pompey & his supporters.

Veni, Vidi, Vici! He announces his victory & has Rome declare him dictator & he takes control

Caesar's Reform & Death

Caesar begins to deal with Rome's flaws creating public works, giving land away, granted citizenship, & introduced the calendar.

People worried he was trying to make himself king, so in March of 44 B.C. his enemies stabbed him to death

Rome falls into civil wars between Mark Antony & Octavian.

Mark Antony & Cleopatra are defeated & Octavian takes control.

The Roman Empire

Octavian returns & receives the title of
Augustus- The Exalted One.

He takes absolute power ending the republic,
beginning the Roman Empire & becomes
the first Emperor.

He creates an efficient, well-trained civil service to
enforce the laws. Jobs based on talent, not
class

He created a **census**, population count, to determine
who should be taxed in the Empire

The role of Emperor could not pass down through
families, so violence often erupted.

Emperors After Augustus

Caligula- Thought to be “insane” would go on to appoint his favorite horse as consul.

Nero- Thought to be “evil” viciously persecuted Christians & set fire to Rome.

Hadrian- Codified Roman law & built a massive wall across Britain to defend against attackers

Marcus Aurelius- Became a philosopher Emperor who brought logic & thought to the Empire.

Pax Romana

This is the Period known as “Roman Peace”

**Trade flowed freely & Roman Legions maintained
& protected the roads, bringing a wealth to
the Empire**

**Circus were created to entertain the masses such as
the Circus Maximus & its spectacular chariot
races.**

**Gladiator Contests became very popular, leading to
arenas where men battled one another**

The Empire Splits

Rome begins a slow collapse due to economic & political problems

Rulers would only last a few months or years before they were assassinated by a rival.

Diocletian- sets out to restore order to Rome. Splits it in two with a co-emperor Maximian.

He also fixed prices & services to stop inflation- the rapid rise of prices

Constantine

A talented general from Rome, he granted tolerance to the Christians & continued reforms

He creates a new capital, **Constantinople, to create a “New Rome”**

His reforms keeps Rome on its feet, but soon invasions from outside of Rome begins to bring the Empire down.

INVASION

Rome has a series of allies with Germanic forces surrounding Rome.

Eventually wars with East Asia & the **Huns** start to force Germanic tribes into Roman Territory.

Rome starts to push back invaders, but begin facing stunning defeats.

Atilla the Hun begins a savage conquest across Europe sending more invaders to Rome

In 476 A.D. the Germanic leader Odacer invades & takes over Rome, leading to it's fall.

Why did Rome Fall?

1. Invasions & the need for **mercenaries**, foreign soldiers who fight for pay.
2. Political Turmoil when the government becomes more oppressive & the people take away support
3. Economic Issues such as heavy taxes turned the Empire towards poverty & wealth & population declined.
4. Patriotism & discipline faltered & people worried about themselves rather than the country.