

The Rise of Rome



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- I. The Land and the Sea
 - A. Crossroads of the Mediterranean
 - 1. Italy has an almost subtropical climate.
 - 2. The Appenine Mountains helped protect the Italians from invasion at the same time as they encouraged them to look west for expansion and trade.
 - 3. Latium and Campania are two of Italy's most fertile areas.
 - 4. The Romans built their city on seven hills along the Tiber River.
 - II. The Etruscans and Rome (750–509 B.C.)
 - A. The Etruscans
 - 1. The Etruscans played a major role in Italian life.
 - 2. The engaged in active trading relationships with the wider Mediterranean world.
 - 3. Their society developed cities much like Greek city-states.
 - B. The Romans
 - 1. According to legend, Romulus and Remus founded Rome in 753 B.C. and from then until 509 B.C. the Romans lived under Etruscan rule.
 - 2. The Romans embraced many Etruscan customs.
 - III. The Roman Conquest of Italy (509–290 B.C.)
 - 1. Over the following two centuries the Romans carried out the conquest of Italy.
 - 2. Between 390 and 290 B.C. the Romans consolidated their gains and reorganized their army.
 - 3. The Romans gave their Latin allies considerable local autonomy and, for some, the possibility of full Roman citizenship.

IV. The Roman State

. Social Conflict in Rome

1. The Roman constitution was an ever-changing mix of traditional beliefs, customs, and laws.
2. In the early republic, social divisions determined the shape of politics.
 - a. Political power was in the hands of wealthy landowners called patricians.
 - b. The common people were called the plebeians.
3. The most important political institution of the republic was the senate.
4. The republic also had several assemblies that elected magistrates and passed legislation.
5. In 471 B.C. the plebeians won the right to their own assembly, the concilium plebis.
6. Contact with foreigners led to the development of a theory of “natural law,” law that applied to all societies.
7. The Struggle of the Orders was the attempt by the plebeians to win political representation and to protect their rights from patrician domination.
8. Rome’s need for plebeian soldiers led to early reforms.
9. The lex Canuleia made it legal for patricians and plebeians to marry.
10. The Law of the Twelve Tables was codified as a result of plebeian agitation.
11. The struggle ended in 287 B.C. with the passage of the lex Hortensia.

V. Roman Expansion

0. The Roman conquest of the Mediterranean world was not the result of a long-term plan for world domination, but the result of Roman efforts to eliminate all perceived threats to their society.
1. The struggle with Carthage for Sicily resulted in the First Punic War.
2. During the Second Punic War Carthage expanded its power into Spain.
 - a. Carthage’s greatest general, Hannibal, led an army all the way to the gates of Rome.
 - b. He was ultimately defeated by the Roman general Scipio Africanus.
3. The Third Punic War ended with the destruction of Carthage itself.
4. At the same time as the Punic wars, Roman armies conquered much of the eastern Mediterranean.

VI. Old Values and Greek Culture

0. Political disturbances in the last centuries of the Republic stemmed from the acquisition of empire.
1. Many people responded to the events of the second century B.C. by reasserting traditional Roman values.
2. The paterfamilias was the most powerful force in the Roman family in the traditional scheme of things.
3. Religion played a significant role in Roman life.
4. On the other hand, many people embraced Greek urban culture.
5. Roman military victories brought the bounty of the East back to Rome.
6. Hellenism had a great impact on Roman art, literature, and leisure activities.

VII. The Late Republic (133–31 B.C.)

0. Factional politics and civil wars resulted from Rome's acquisition of empire.
1. Rome's Italian allies sought full citizenship.
2. A growing number of urban poor led to further problems for the Roman state.
3. The Gracchi Brothers sought land reform for the Roman poor and full citizenship for Rome's Italian allies.
4. The Social War resulted from the agitation of the Italian allies for full Roman citizenship.
5. The reforms of powerful leaders such as Marius and Sulla had dangerous implications for the republican constitution.
6. Political leaders such as Marius, Sulla, Pompey, and Julius Caesar acquired enormous power.
7. Powerful generals jeopardized republican government.
8. Two political alliances, called the First and Second Triumvirates, undermined the power of the republican constitution.
9. Rome was plagued by civil war in the last century of the republic.
10. Order restored by Caesar's grandnephew Octavian (later Augustus) in 31 B.C.
11. Octavian defeated his last rival, Marc Antony, at the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C.