

5. Caesar's Victory

- a) Because Pompey's forces were in the eastern parts of the empire, he was not able to resist Caesar's advance on Rome. He fled Italy to join his army in Greece, and Caesar entered Rome unopposed.
- b) Many Romans feared that proscriptions would follow, like in the time of Sulla, but Caesar decided to try to win allies by not ruling harshly.
- c) When he felt his position in Rome was secure, he crossed over to Greece in 48 BC and defeated Pompey in the Battle of Pharsalus.

6. Caesar in the East

- a) Pompey fled to Egypt, but Pharaoh Ptolemy XIII ordered Pompey killed and had his head sent to Caesar as a gift.
- b) Unexpectedly, this gesture actually angered Caesar, and he decided to punish Ptolemy by giving the throne to his sister, Cleopatra, with whom Caesar had fallen in love.
- c) They had a child, named Caesarion, and then Caesar returned to Rome after a short detour to deal with a rebel king in Turkey, whom he quickly defeated.
- d) As he prepared to return home, he wrote the Roman senate the brief report: "Veni, vidi, vici." ("I came, I saw, I conquered.")

7. Perpetual Dictator

- a) Upon returning to Rome, Caesar was in a position of absolute power. No one dared oppose him because he had the support of the Roman army. Still, the people would not accept him as a king.
- b) On occasion, Caesar's friend Marc Antony would offer Caesar a crown in public, but the reaction of the people was always negative, still did Roman tradition hold monarchy in such poor regard, so Caesar refused.
- c) Instead, Caesar was appointed "perpetual dictator" in 46 BC.

8. Death of Caesar

- a) On March 15th (a day known as the "Ides of March") 44 BC, Caesar was killed by a group of assassins, including his own friend, Marcus Brutus (directly descended from Lucius Junius Brutus). They believed they had to kill him to save the republic.

D. The Second Triumvirate

1. Marcus Brutus and his co-conspirators believed that their actions would be well received by the people, but Marc Antony funeral speech aroused the people, who chased Brutus and his supporters from Rome.

2. Two of Caesar's closest supporters, Marc Antony and Marcus Lepidus, formed a new alliance with Caesar's nephew Gaius Octavius (a.k.a. "Octavian") to create a new triarchy, known in history as the "Second Triumvirate."
3. As a sign of their commitment to the alliance the three men agreed to proscribe anyone the others wished eliminated. This new round of proscriptions resulted in the assassination of Cicero, as well as some 2300 others.
4. After defeating Marcus Brutus and ejecting Lepidus from their temporary alliance, Octavius and Antony, Octavius took control of the west, and Antony the east.
5. Like Caesar before him, Antony went to Egypt and was seduced by Cleopatra, and rumors circulated in Rome that he planned to make Alexandria the new capital of the empire. These rumors served Octavius well, who was able to pose as the champion of Italy in the coming struggle between the two men for ultimate supremacy.
6. The Battle of Actium of 31 BC decided the fate of Rome and Egypt. Antony and Cleopatra's were defeated, allowing Octavius to become sole ruler of Rome.
7. Dejected, Antony and Cleopatra both killed themselves.
8. Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Egypt. In 30 BC, Egypt officially became a province of the Roman Empire, and its distinctive culture gradually disappeared.

VI. The Roman Empire

A. The Importance of the Roman Empire

1. The Roman Empire (27 BC – AD 476) occupies a uniquely important place in the history of the world.
2. It covered a huge geographical extent and it lasted 500 years, and thus affected the lives of many people over time.
3. Its ultimate importance, however, lies in the fact that it passed on two sets of ideas and beliefs that have been at the core of Western civilization (including America).
 - a) The first of these groups of ideas historians refer to as "Greco-Roman Civilization."
 - i) The Romans, as we know, conquered the Greeks in 146 BC.
 - ii) The Romans greatly admired the Greeks and copied Greek science, art, literature, history and philosophy.
 - iii) Along the way, the Romans also created their own contributions in these fields. They passed on the sum to those that followed.
 - b) The Roman Empire is the setting for the rise of Christianity.
 - i) Jesus Christ, the key figure in Christianity, was born, and died, in the Roman Empire (in the province of Judea).
 - ii) Jesus's followers promoted his teachings in the far corners of the empire, despite early Roman resistance and persecutions.
 - iii) Eventually, Christianity even became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

- iv) When the empire fell, Christianity survived and was adopted by the Empire's successors, who themselves planted the seeds of European culture through the founding of new barbarian kingdoms.

B. What do historians mean by “The Roman Empire”?

1. Historians say that the period of the Roman Empire begins in 27 BC.
2. Of course, this does not mean that Rome all of a sudden became an empire in 27 BC. Rome already had conquered Carthage, Greece, and Egypt, among other areas.
3. Nor does it mean that there was an individual referred to as the “emperor” or “king.”
4. What changed in 27 BC was that a single ruler established himself in control of all the government's main functions, was able to maintain himself in that role for the remainder of his life, and then he passed on this power to others. (*Evidently, this was the reversal of all the developments we have seen from 509 to 367 BC.*)

C. Rome's First Princeps

1. In 27 BC, Octavian, who had served as consul for many years continuously, officially gave up all his powers to the Senate.
2. This was a pre-arranged performance, meant to create the illusion that the Roman Republic still existed.
3. In return for giving up power Octavian was granted back all of his powers – and many more – by the patrician Senate.
4. From this point onward Octavian exercised the powers of a consul, a tribune, a censor, and a proconsul all at once – effectively making him a monarch.
5. In addition, Octavian was granted the honorary name of “Augustus,” i.e. “illustrious one.” He was honored with the title “Imperator,” meaning “great conqueror.” And, finally, he was titled “Princeps” (“first citizen”).

D. The Age of Augustus (27 BC – AD 14)

1. Augustus's firm control over the Roman government ended a long period of anarchy.
2. In its place, Augustus brought stability and peace.
3. During this period of peace, there was a cultural flourishing not unlike the Athenian Golden Age (and in some ways based on it).
 - a) Roman poets Virgil, Horace, and Ovid created works of literature modeled after those of Homer and other Greek writers.
 - b) Some time later, a generation of Roman historians, including Pliny, Tacitus, and Plutarch, made their contributions to the continuation of the the science of history adopted from the Greeks.
 - c) Augustus boasted, “I found Rome a city of brick; I left it a city of marble.”
4. So popular did Augustus become that when he died, the Romans deified him and created a “cult of the emperor” as a part of the Roman religion.