

Notes on Quiz #8

Civilizations of the Ancient World • Fall 2022

1. How does Rome become a city? What kinds of innovations are introduced to Rome during this time?

Rome was founded around the fording-place on the Tiber River, through which a good deal of trade traffic flowed, and a cattle market was created near the fording that became a hub of economic activity.

The origins of Rome are somewhat unclear, because the Romans did not record their own history until much later. Stories about the first king, Romulus, are probably only legends. But archaeology tells us that sometime before 600 the marshy lowlands between Capitoline and Palatine hills were filled in and a forum was built, indicating the merger of separate communities on Rome's hills into a single city.

At this time the Romans instituted an elective monarchy modeled on the Etruscan city-states to the north, as well as a senate representing the priests and the elders of the landholding families to advise the king.

2. Who was the *paterfamilias*? What kind of authority did he have?

The *paterfamilias* was the senior male figure in an extended family (all those connected by a vertical male bloodline). According to custom and law, the *paterfamilias* was the owner of all the family's property, and the sole representative of its interests to the public. All that happened within the family—private matters, as contrasted with public matters (*res publica*)—were entirely in the hands of the *paterfamilias*, who had complete power (*patria potestas*) of justice and disposition over all the men, women, children, freedmen, slaves, and possessions of his bloodline, up to and including the right to execute or sell into slavery.

In practice this absolute power was mitigated by the need to consider the reputation of the family within the community, and by the advice of the family council and of the senior matron of the family.

3. What factors helped make Carthage the strongest power in the western Mediterranean?

Carthage was founded by the Phoenicians and inherited their trading model based on converting natural resources into high-value luxury goods and entrepreneurial trade routes in which master traders took a handful of ships great distances to trade with many markets.

Geographically, Carthage was positioned at the choking point between the western and eastern Mediterranean, putting it in position to control east-west trade and dominate the western Med. In addition, Carthage was possessed of two excellent natural harbors, making it an ideal trading port and shipbuilding facility. Carthage became a powering trading power and maritime force at a time when few other important cities had developed along the coasts of the western Mediterranean; with those cities that were there, including the Greek colonies in Sicily, the Etruscan city-states, and early Rome, Carthage made trading partnerships or treaties of mutual benefit.

EC1. Early Italy was inhabited by all of the following EXCEPT:

(b) Egyptians

EC2. What messages do you think Aristophanes intended his audiences to get from *Clouds*? Give examples.

There are a lot of possible answers to this question. *Clouds* calls attention to the danger posed by abandonment of traditional beliefs and religion, which until recently had been Athens's moral foundation.

The sophists teaching relative morality, and people like Socrates challenging traditional beliefs, leads directly to the dissipation of Pheidippides, who spends heedlessly, selfishly puts his father in debt, and ultimately attacks his father because he has been taught morality is whatever you want it to be.

The peril is urgent, as already Pheidippides (whose father starts and ends embracing tradition) and the audience itself (during the debate) is compromised and corrupted.