

# Notes on Quiz #9

*Civilizations of the Ancient World • Spring 2023*

1. **Caesar's successors as leaders of the populists were Antony (older, experienced) and Octavian (young, inexperienced). What factors do you think were most important in Octavian overcoming Antony to win the loyalty of the Romans and become Augustus?**

By 36 BCE the empire was divided between Antony in the east and Octavian in the west, but both knew the power-sharing was temporary. While Octavian trained his armies and waged a propaganda war against Antony and Cleopatra, Antony concentrated on securing his borders in the east and snubbed his wife, Octavian's sister Octavia, celebrating instead his relationship with Cleopatra, staging a false triumph in Alexandria as if it were Rome, and waging war with her in the Aegean. After Antony's divorce from Octavia, Octavian implied he felt he was in danger from Antony's friends in the senate, who decamped to Antony's court, breached and publicized Antony's will, and required a loyalty oath to himself among civilians in the west in a war against Cleopatra.

Octavian was able to use Antony's marriage to Cleopatra and betrayal of his Roman wife, Octavian's respected sister Octavia, as propaganda against Antony, telling the appalled Romans it reflected Antony's betrayal of Rome. This gave Octavian the edge in Rome, and the support gained helped Octavian win at the Battle of Actium. Seeing the future of Rome belonged to Octavian, both Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide.

2. **What happened at the Battle of Teutoburg Forest? How did this relate to Augustus's policy on the empire's size and frontier?**

The Battle was a huge disaster for the Romans: an incompetent general underestimated the Germans and allowed a double agent to lead him into an ambush in which the terrain heavily favored the Germans, who were trained in Roman tactics. Three legions were wiped out and their sacred eagles taken by the Germans.

Augustus decided not to risk battles taking place in German territory beyond the Rhine. This goes with Augustus's overall policy of ending aggressive expansionism and keeping the borders of the empire as they are in order to ensure stability.

3. **How did Augustus solve the problem of who should succeed him?**

The princeps was not a formal office of the state; it consisted of authority and loyalty attached to Augustus personally. Augustus had literally inherited Caesar's place in the people's and soldiers' hearts through adoption, and this became the way of conveying the personal prestige of the princeps to his personal heir as if it were part of his estate, through the choice of an adopted son who was also a proven leader (in the end, his step-son Tiberius).

**EC1. The Second Settlement granted Augustus all of the following EXCEPT:**

- (d) The agility of a panther

**EC2. We've talked in class about how Rome survived through adaptation. What are some ways Rome adapted in order to survive?**

Any number of possible answers might be given, including:

- Adding the plebeian council and the tribunes of the plebs to the government in order to prevent civil war at the start of the Republic;
- Creating the dictatorship to create a process for crisis management;
- The development of the manipular army to defeat the Samnites;
- Becoming a naval power in order to be able to fight Carthage;
- Shifting from defending Rome to taking the offensive against threats to their empire, in order to defeat Carthage and Macedon;
- Closing off the civil wars by adopting a new form of government the people, legions, and nobles can trust in;
- Deliberately educating themselves in Greek language and culture in order to culturally legitimize their rule in the east; and so on.

**EC3. The Romans abolished the monarchy at the start of their history, and the word "king" was taboo even in Caesar's time. How was Augustus different from a Roman king?**

The principate involves the people and senate entrusting the protection of Rome and its empire to a single man who has proven himself Rome's champion and earned the loyalty of the people, the army, and the nobility.

Crucially, the principate is not an office or a magistracy. Instead, Augustus is considered the first citizen, speaking first in debates and bearing the responsibility of protecting Rome as a private citizen.

This role was conferred on Augustus in two senatorial resolutions called the First and Second Settlements. In the First Settlement, he received the name "Augustus" and other honors reflecting his having ended the wars and restored peace. The Second Settlement is what actually shaped the principate: in the Second Settlement, Augustus received the powers of the consul, the censor, and the tribune of the plebs, without having to hold those offices and be subjected to the traditional restrictions limiting the actions of actual consuls, censors, and tribunes.