

Notes on Quiz #2: SPQR

1. **What factors do you think led Rome to start expanding aggressively into central Italy in the 300s? (Consider both what made it possible and what made it necessary.)**

The Romans were spurred to expansion partly because of the Sack of Rome, which drove them to ensure that the city Rome never be vulnerable to invasion or sack again. This required control over central Italy as a protective zone (which created its own issues).

The expansion was made possible by a number of factors. First, the greatly increased wealth that came from the capture of Veii meant Rome had more economic resources. Second, increased territory meant more peoples subject to taxation and military service, which meant larger armies of Romans and allies could be put in the field. Third, political reforms stabilized the conflict between the patricians and the plebeians, allowing more unified action. Finally, military reforms, including the advent of the manipular army in place of the hoplite phalanx, meant more versatile armies and a greater wealth of tactics and strategies.

2. **According to Roman history, what precedents did the first three dictators lay down for future dictators?**

The first three dictators were appointed in response to a public perception that a crisis needed emergency resolution by the man most qualified to do so. The first dictators therefore saw their total power as bound to that specific need only, and each resigned immediately in the resolution of the crisis. All future dictators understood the office as bound to a specific mandate and resigned at the earliest moment, restoring normalcy to Rome.

The first dictators also appointed a *magister equitum* as their first act.

- EC1. **The Roman system of alliances and citizen communities in Italy included all of the following EXCEPT:**

- (a) *Municipia* (cities granted full or partial Roman citizenship)
- (b) *Socii* (Italian and Greek-Italian cities having mutual defensive pacts with Rome)
- ✓ (c) *Canes felesque* (cities treated affectionately by Rome and given regular food allowances)
- (d) *Latin allies* (cities sharing the Latin rights of intermarriage and binding contracts with Romans)

- EC2. **What were some of the ways expansion into central Italy impacted on Rome? Be specific and give examples.**

- *Trade and manufacturing:* Increased production of manufactured goods (pottery and bronzes) and expands its markets in Italy and the west; early coinage.
- *Public works:* Paved highways and aqueducts in Italy, plus major building boom in Rome including many new temples.
- *Agriculture:* Conquered land redistributed to poor but also amassed into large estates, producing lucrative crops for export and a demand for slaves.
- *Urban:* Increased urban population, free, slave, and ex-slave, from countryside and Italian cities; greater class tension as patricians defend prerogatives.
- *Art:* New temples and homes reflecting success in war; appropriation and Romanization of Greek art forms, especially literature and theater.

- EC3. **How did the Romans choose their dictators? What made Cincinnatus the right choice and Glycia the wrong choice?**

Dictators were appointed by the consuls in response to a public perception of need. The duty of the consul was to choose the needed man for any crisis, regardless of family or status.

Cincinnatus was chosen for his utter humility, representing core Roman values and rejecting any thought of glory, power, or wealth from office as un-Roman. Glycia was the wrong choice because the consul, Claudius Pulcher, deliberately chose him as the most unsuitable person he could think of to take command of the fleet out of sheer pique. Both cases illustrate the dictatorship depended on the honor of the consuls choosing them as much as that of the dictators themselves.