



The Roman Republic

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #22

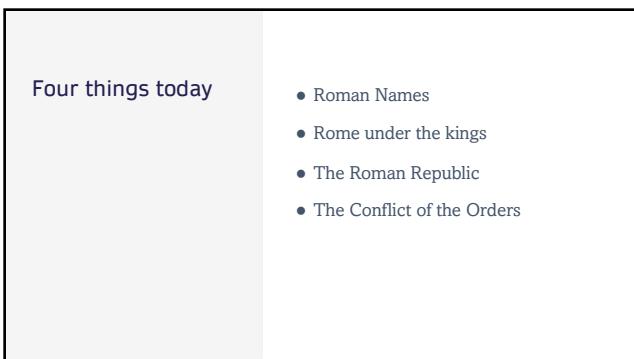
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Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, November 27
No class meeting
- Monday, December 8
Images Essay Due
- Tuesday, December 16
Final Exam
- Sunday, November 23
Responses for Week 13 Due

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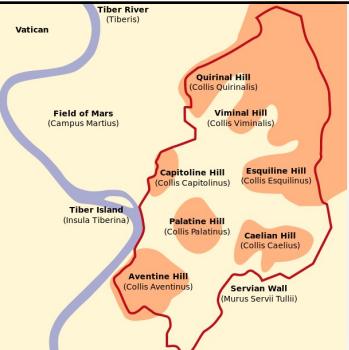
Responses

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Questions about whatever



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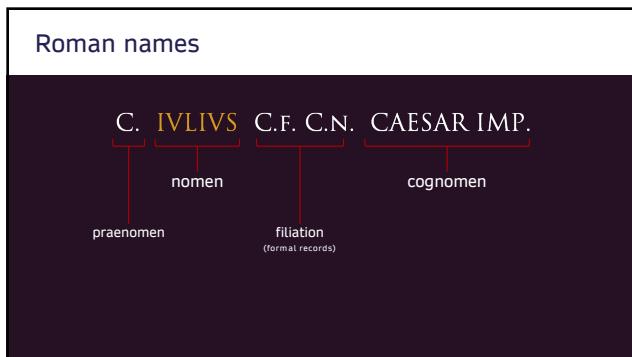
Rome

- Separate settlements on each of the 7 hills
- Marshes between the hills filled in ~650 BCE
- Coalescence into a single city state with a single king and identity
- Forum created between Capitoline and Palatine
 - Like a Greek agora
 - Marketplace, social, cultural, and political space
- Sacred boundary, the *pomerium*

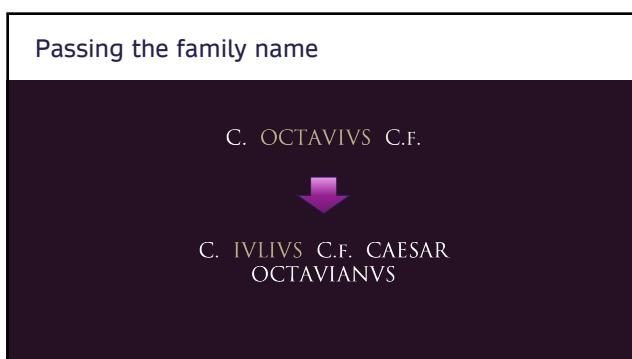
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Roman Names

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Female names

IVLIA

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Rome under the Kings

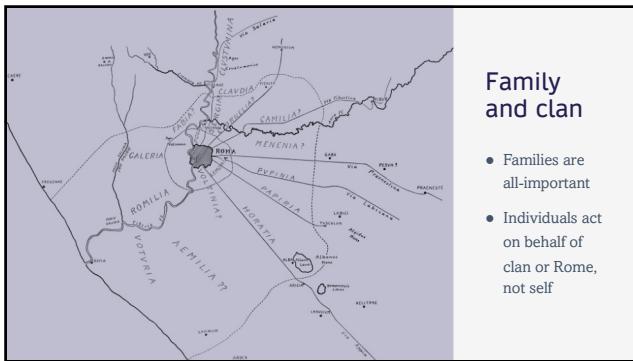
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The Roman king

- Both executive ruler and high priest
- Elected by the nobility

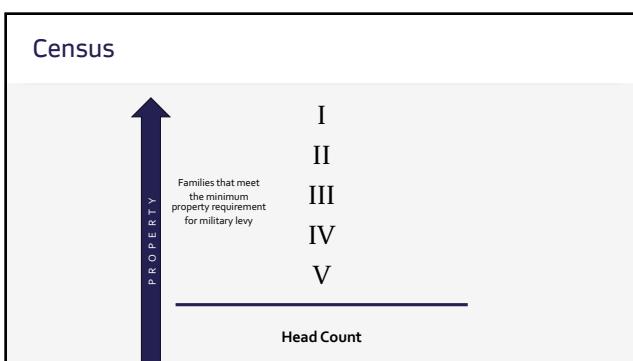
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Origins of later institutions

- Census and class
- Walls of Rome
- Assemblies
- Senate
- Pomerium

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Early Roman values

- Virtus
- Pietas
- Fides, Gravitas, Constantia
- Auctoritas
- Later described as the *mos maiorum*
("the ways of our ancestors")

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Kings of Rome

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(I) Romulus

- Legendary founder
 - Cast out as a baby and left to die by the banks of the Tiber
 - Suckled by a she-wolf
 - Returns to the same place as an adult to found a new city
 - Twin brother Remus
- Stories describe him as strong, effective, and ruthless

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(II) Numa Pompilius

- Election from the nobles described in the annals
- Credited with foundation of religious rules and institutions
- Relations with the gods second in importance to founding of Rome itself

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(VII) L. Tarquinius Superbus

- Tarquin "the Proud"
- Usurps throne
- Arrogant and expansionist
- Despotic repression of nobles and other Latins
- Sibylline books

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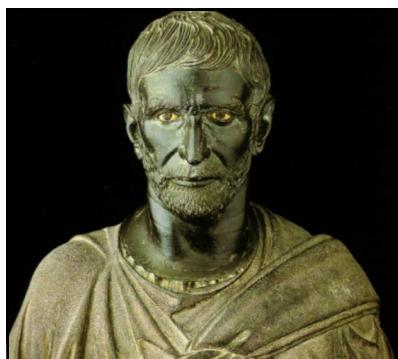
The Rape of Lucretia

- Tarquin's son wants to demonstrate his power
- Chooses most honorable of the noble wives and rapes her
- Romans respond in anger
 - Cast out the Tarquin clan
 - Abolish monarchy
 - Vow that Romans will never be enslaved by kings again
- Foundation of the Roman Republic

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Exile of the Tarquins

- Monarchy abolished
- Tarquin clan exiled
- Tarquins rally rebellion
 - Within Rome
 - Among Etruscans
 - Among the Latin city-states

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Battle of Lake Regillus (496 BCE)

- Romans defeat an alliance of 30 Latin city-states
- Twin gods Castor and Pollux seen fighting alongside the Romans
- Establishes Rome
 - King-free
 - Independent
 - Dominant in Latium

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The Republic

- Shared rule by the 200 or so propertied clans
- Designed to prevent any individual from gaining preeminence over other Romans
- Characterized by:
 - Collegiality
 - Annual office
 - Separate voting of imperium
 - Ladder of offices

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The Republic: (1) Collegiality

- All elected officials have a colleague
 - Two consuls
 - Six praetors, etc.
- Equal power
 - Shared responsibility
 - Collegial veto
- A magistrate who acts against the state can be stopped by his college

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The Republic: (2) Annual office

- Elected offices held for one year
- Prevented from building up a power base in office over time
- Side-effect: elected officials focus on the short term

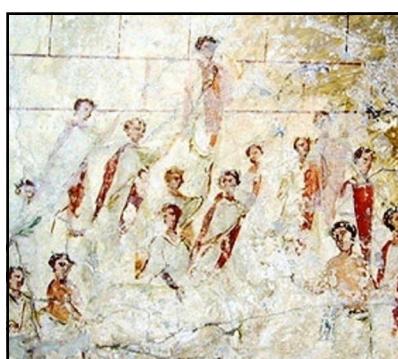
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The Republic: (3) Imperium

- Imperium is the power to command a Roman citizen
 - Domestically: summons to assembly, to stand trial, etc.
 - At war: order into battle
- Not embedded in the office
 - Must be granted to a person by the Roman people
 - Separate vote after the election
- Only the highest elected offices have imperium

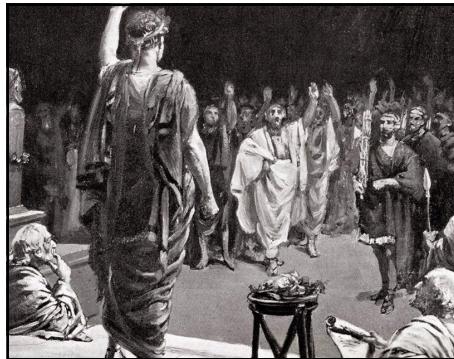
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The Republic: (4) Ladder of Offices

- All officials rise up through the same offices in order
- All candidates for a given office have similar experience
 - Shared governance
 - No one stands out

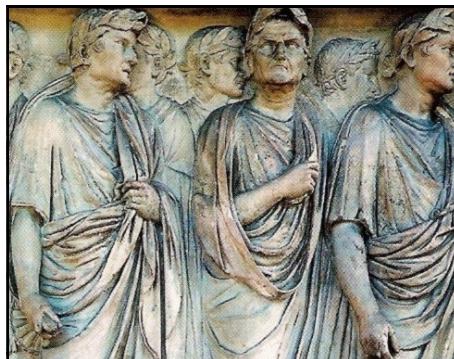
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Assemblies

- Roman citizens gather in assemblies to pass laws
- Different assemblies for different purposes

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Magistrates

- Elected officials
- Administer Rome, courts, temples, etc.
- Those offices with imperium command armies

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Senate

- Created as a body of experts to advise the king
 - Priests
 - Ex-officials
- Has no official power
 - Can only pass resolutions
- The *auctoritas* of its members gives it unofficial power

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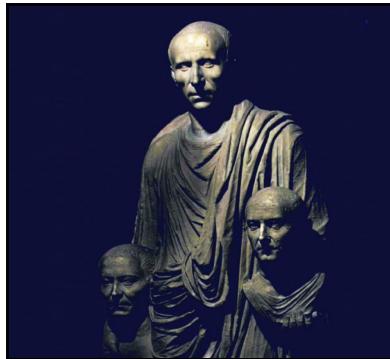
The Republic



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The Early Republic

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Patricians

- Romans must consult the gods before any act of the state
- Empowers those few families who control the priesthoods
- Patrician families control Rome
 - The state religion
 - All offices with imperium
- Plebeians (non-patrician families) deprived of voice and agency

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“Struggle of the Orders”

- Plebeians vastly outnumber the patricians
- Have nothing common
 - Plebeians are rich and poor, farmer and artisan, urban and rural, etc.
- Force reforms by refusing to levy
- Gain their own officials and council but not imperium

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Decemviri and the Twelve Tables

- Six decades in, patrician abuses were worsening
 - Excessive interest on loans
 - Corruption in deciding court cases
- Demands for reform
- 10 lawgivers create a public law code
 - Justice is shared and transparent
 - Reinforcement of shared identity

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