



The Roman Principate

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #28

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Upcoming Dates


- Monday, December 8
 - Images Essay Due
- Tuesday, December 16
 - 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
 - Final Exam
- Sunday, December 14
 - Responses for Week 16 Due
- Sunday, December 28
 - **Ultimate Deadline**
 - No late papers or resubmissions for reversible deductions after this date
 - No exceptions
 - Incompletes owing to personal emergencies must be mutually agreed before this date

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Four things today


- The Roman Peace
- The Third Century Crisis
- The Rise of Christianity
- The Fall of the West

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Responses

4



Final Exam

- Identification and Impact
 - Define and discuss the impact of 4-5 terms or names
 - All terms will come from the review sheet
- Short answer
 - 1-2 specific questions about key ideas
- Multiple Choice
- Essays
 - One essay having to do with overall themes of the course
 - Provide an argument and three solid examples

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Questions about whatever



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Augustus as princeps

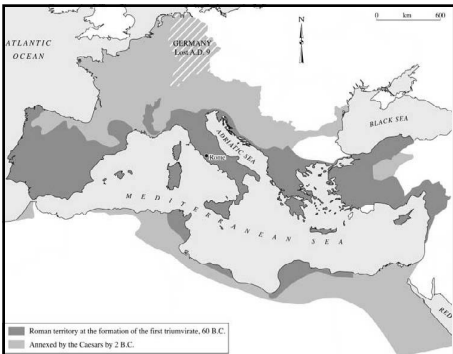
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The princeps

- The principate embodies the populist goal: the people's faith and trust in a proven champion
- The princeps is a private citizen granted the powers needed to protect Rome and its empire

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Imperialism under Augustus

- Ends constant expansion
 - Borders to stay where they are
- Consolidate Roman rule in provinces
 - Economic power
 - Social and cultural
 - Military and political

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Pax Romana

- Stability brings economic growth
- Reinforces the benefits of Roman dominion
- Everyone grateful to Rome and Augustus for the bounty of empire

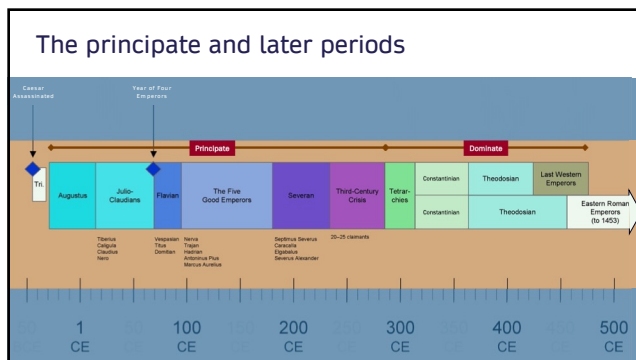
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Death and Deification

- Augustus remains popular over 40+ years as princeps
 - Outlives many potential successors
 - Outlives memories of the Republic (and those memories are of civil war)
- On his death he is named a god
 - Joins Romulus and Caesar as Roman leaders considered divine after death

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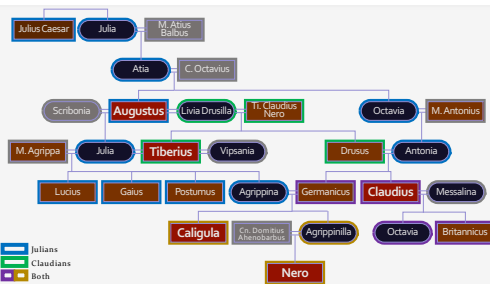


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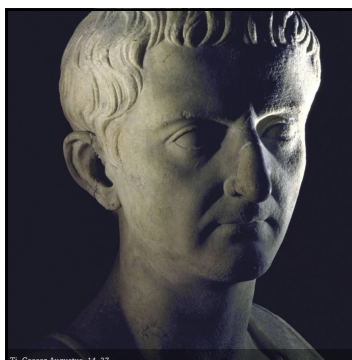
The Julio-Claudians

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The Julio-Claudians



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The Julio-Claudians: Tiberius

- Excellent general and administrator but gruff and insular
- Sharp contrast with genial, beloved Augustus
 - Nobles see him as falling short of Augustus
 - A stickler with imperial treasury
 - Thought to be calculating and possibly corrupt
 - "The first crime of the new regime..."
- Increasing paranoia leads to treason trials for slandering Tiberius or the state
 - Treason is always a capital crime
 - Accusers offered a share of the condemned man's estate
- Eventually retires to Capri and rules through intermediaries

T. Caesar Augustus, 14-37

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The Julio-Claudians: Caligula

- Popular and handsome
 - Son of a military hero
 - Resemblance to a young Augustus
 - Adoption by Tiberius hailed by the people
- After becoming princeps, falls ill and seems to go insane
 - Places own head in place of Jupiter's
 - Has intercourse with his sister
 - Names his horse as a senator and future consul
 - Too many public holidays
- Financially irresponsible
 - Wasteful spending drains the treasury
 - Expands treason trials, keeping the estates
- No mechanism for removing a princeps
- Stabbed by the leader of his guard

C. Caesar Augustus Germanicus: 37–41

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The Julio-Claudians: Claudius

- Survived by being ignored
 - Was considered a cripple and a half-wit
 - No threat to Tiberius, Livia, or Caligula
 - Bullied and hidden away but not assassinated
 - Was able to become a scholar and historian
- Found hiding by the praetorian guard after the assassination of Caligula
 - Praetorian guard loyal to Augustus's family, not the state or the senate
 - They force senate to accept Uncle Claudius as the new princeps
- Long and successful reign
 - Causes annoyance with micromanaging early on
 - Uses his personal freedmen as ministers
 - Unwise in love

Ti. Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus: 41–54

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The Julio-Claudians: Nero

- Claudius's step-son, not raised to rule
 - Lived a life of indolence and indulgence
 - Preferred singing and playing the lyre to studying
- Adopted and made heir by Claudius
 - Claudius's own son, Britannicus, sidelined
 - Claudius may have thought a bad princeps would push Romans to restore the Republic
- Self-indulgent and mean-spirited
 - Mother, pregnant wife beaten to death
 - Builds enormous golden palace after the Great Fire of Rome
- Increasing rebellion
 - Provincial governors march against Nero
 - Nero commits suicide without an heir

L. Domitius Ahenobarbus → Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus: 54–68

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The Year of Four Emperors (69 CE)

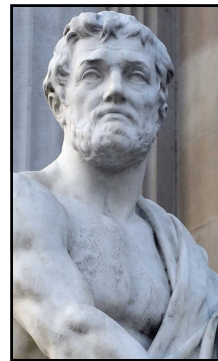


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The "Secret of the Empire"

- "Welcome as the death of Nero had been in the first burst of joy, yet it had not only roused various emotions in Rome, among the Senators, the people, or the soldiery of the capital, it had also excited all the legions and their generals; for now had been divulged that secret of the empire, that emperors could be made elsewhere than at Rome."

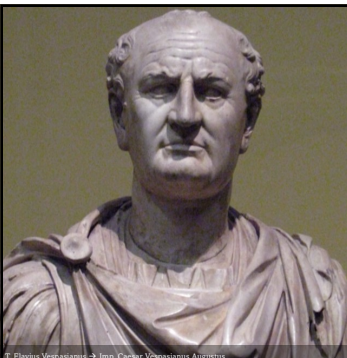
— TACITUS




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The Flavians: Vespasian

- Support of Danube and Syrian legions allows him to march on Rome and defeat Vitellius
- Law passed defining the principate as the actions of Augustus
- Tone: modesty, simplicity, strict adherence to old ways
 - Sees imperial office as counterweight to armies
 - Replaces role of weak senate
 - Reconnects with city of Rome – civil service, building program



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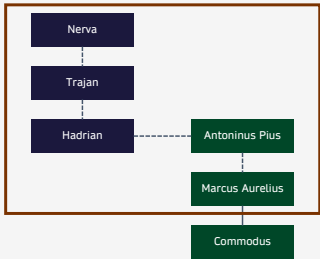
The Flavians: Titus, Domitian

- Sons of Vespasian
- Titus
 - Short reign
 - Remembered as a strong general
- Domitian
 - Hated by Roman elite
 - Able administrator
 - His paranoia leads to a reign of terror
 - Murdered in palace conspiracy
 - City of Rome humiliated
- Proof of the wisdom of Augustus regarding succession
 - Inheritance of the principate must be by merit, not blood

Imag. Titus Caesar Vespasiani Augustus Imag. Caesar Domitianus Augustus

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Nerva-Antonines



The "Five Good Emperors"

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Trajan and Hadrian

- Trajan
 - First province-born emperor
 - Campaigns to strengthen frontier
- Hadrian
 - Scales back from Trajan's aggressive militarism
 - Travels empire to personally connect with provinces
 - Reform, justice, city building, development of culture through Romanization
 - Favor given to make lover Antinoös creates jealousy

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Hadrian's Strategy for Empire

- Stability of succession
 - Ensures succession through adoption three emperors ahead
- Military reforms
 - Better tactics and training
 - Local recruitment from lands around legionary camps
- Provinces on a more equal footing with Italy
- Aggressive wars replaced with defense of the frontiers
 - Frontiers become less fluid and permeable
 - Roman lands enjoying Roman standard of living
 - Barbarian lands excluded from Roman prosperity
 - Increasing sense of "Rome" and "not-Rome"
 - Seeds of future wars of barbarians against Rome and the eventual fall of the Western Roman Empire

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Christianity and the Romans

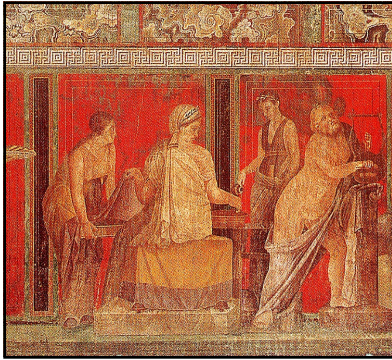
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Religious Diversity

- Rome did not export or impose its state religion on provinces
 - Jupiter as the patron god of Rome
 - Pagan gods represent local natural forces
- Roman empire religiously diverse

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Mystery Cults

- Secret rituals around local gods and traditions
- Begin to grow in the eastern provinces
- Means of creating a sense of identity apart from being Roman

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Sun-worship

- Sol Invictus, Mithraism
- Effort to create a unifying universal religion

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Emperor Worship

- Temples raised to the god Augustus in some distant provinces
 - Represents the emperors collectively
- Romans feel discomfort with the idea
- Too many stories about the emperors

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The Jewish War (66-73 CE)

- Jewish resistance to Romanization seen as a threat
 - Monotheism gives a stronger sense of identity than paganism
 - Independence movement becomes outright rebellion
- Vespasian and Titus pursue a brutal war against Jewish resistance
 - Sack of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple
 - Siege and massacre at Masada

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Growth of Christianity

- Broad appeal of Christianity
 - Monotheism creates personal bond with god
 - Open to gentiles
 - Promise of afterlife
 - Personal rebellion against Rome by creating an alternate identity
- Draws those who benefit less from Roman rule
 - Women, slaves, poor farmers, unpropertied artisans, etc.
- Steady spread through empire leads to persecution by emperors
 - Organize into councils and bishoprics to protect members and priests
 - Stories spread of martyrs to Roman tyranny

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Third Century Crisis

- Century of disaster for the Roman state
 - Perpetual political chaos
 - Increasing economic dislocation
 - Invasions across Euphrates and Danube
- Christian church provides aid and services where empire cannot
 - Connects with people at the grass-roots level throughout empire
- Becomes a rival force when the Roman government is at its weakest

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Christianity as a state religion

- Constantine
 - Orders tolerance for Christianity
 - Convenes and presides over Christian councils
 - Converts to Christianity on his deathbed
- Christian doctrine unified
 - What Christians believe ("creed") now spelled out and enforced
 - Anyone who does not follow the official creed is a heretic
- Christianity become the state religion
 - Unifying in the emperor's hands control over this life and the next

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