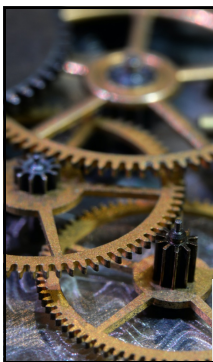


The Roman Peace
History of Ancient Rome | Meeting #12


1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, May 11
 - Position Paper Due
- Thursday, May 21
 - Final Exam
- Sunday, May 10
 - Responses for Week 12 Due
- Thursday, May 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

2



Final Exam

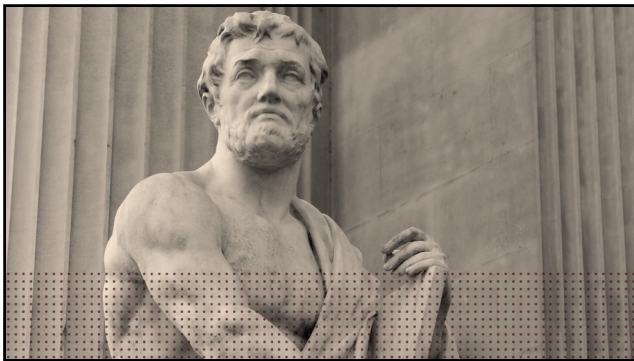
- Identification and Impact
 - Given maybe 12 possible terms/names
 - Choose 4
 - Brief definition plus longer discussion of why it's important
 - All terms/names are from the review sheet
- Essays
 - Given maybe 6-7 possible prompts on major themes of the course
 - Choose 2
 - State an opinion and support it with three examples
- Extra credit
- Must be present for final
 - Absence means course was not completed and student receives a WU
 - Make-ups only in cases of documented medical emergency

3

Five things today

- The Flavians
- The World of the Principate
- Cults and Christianity
- Trajan and Hadrian
- Antoninus and Aurelius

4



5


Quiz #9 | The Roman Peace

- The "Five Good Emperors" were
 - Augustus, Vespasian, Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, and Constantine
 - Nero, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius
 - Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, and Commodus
 - Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Pertinax, and Didius Julianus
- Trajan was known as the *optimus princeps* or "ideal prince" in part because of his
 - physical resemblance to Augustus
 - program of public assistance to children
 - welcoming of history
 - fondness for fine food and rare wines
- Significant elements of Hadrian's reign included all of the following **EXCEPT**:
 - A systematic shift from aggressive warfare to defense of the frontiers
 - Never visiting the provinces, instead staying in Rome to curry favor with the senate
 - His extreme favoritism of the handsome Antinous
 - Ensuring the stability of succession, choosing the next two emperors
- The "silver age" of literature under Claudius and Nero included all of the following **EXCEPT**:
 - The orator and Stoic philosopher Seneca the Younger (L. Annaeus Seneca)
 - The epic poet Lucan (M. Annaeus Lucanus)
 - The Spanish epigrammatist Martial (M. Valerius Martialis)
 - The sea-going Agrippa (M. Vipsanius Agrippa)
- Though wary of local cults that might anchor resistance to Roman rule, one cult formally grafted onto the Roman pantheon during this period was that of
 - Isis
 - Mithras
 - Christianity
 - Xenu

Extra Credit

EC. What actions by the emperors stand out to you as having strengthened or weakened Roman literature and creative expression in the first two centuries of the principate?

6



Questions from the Responses

- Was there a loud opposition to one person [i.e., Vespasian] having this much power? Did the emperor silence his opposition?
- Is it possible to find similar first-hand accounts from the viewpoint of non-combatants experiencing occupation by an army?
- How many times were Rome considered to be at peace? What was considered a safe time in Rome, Peace or at War?
- I know the Romans would spread propaganda through statues and coins outside, but what else were they doing? Did this differ by region?
- If adoption worked so well, why did later emperors move away from it?
- Did people genuinely support Domitian more because of his entertainments, or was it more of a surface-level strategy that didn't really change how people felt about his rule?
- What was the REAL purpose of leadership in Rome? Why did these prominent men in Roman history choose to become leaders themselves?

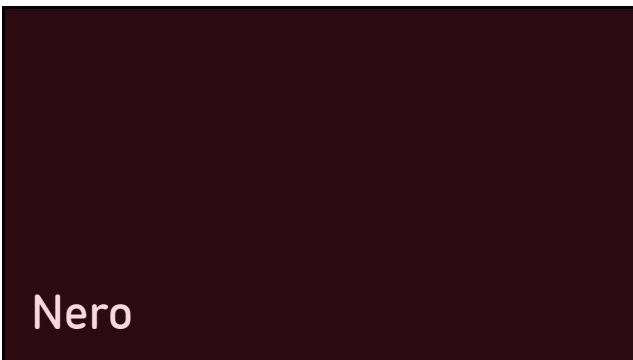
7

Questions about whatever



8

Nero



9



Nero

- Claudius's great-nephew and stepson
- Indulged, not trained in statesmanship
- Made heir instead of Claudius's more capable son Britannicus

10

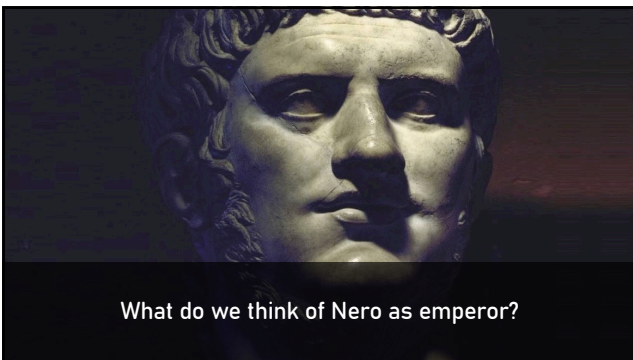
Primary Source Reading

Seneca
The Pumpkinification of Claudius
 (Divi Claudii Apocolocyntosis)




Citrullus colocynthis (colocynth or wild gourd)

11



What do we think of Nero as emperor?

12



The end of Nero

- Great fire of Rome turns many against him
- Provinces rebel
- Nero commits suicide as armies march on Rome

13

The Flavian Principate

14

The Year of Four Emperors (69 CE)



Galba Otho Vitellius Vespasian

15

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

16

Primary Source Reading

Tacitus
The Legions Proclaim Vespasian Emperor



17



Vespasian

- Commander of Egyptian and Judaeae legions
- First princeps from a family of equestrian rank
- Restoration of the principate
- Dynamic and active
 - Financial reform
 - Jewish War
 - Expansion in Britain
 - Flavian Amphitheater (Colosseum)

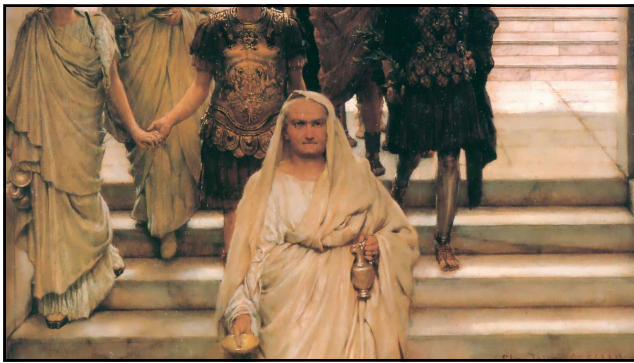
Tiberius Plavivus Vespasianus → Imperator Caesar Vespasianus Augustus 69-79 CE

18

Primary Source Reading

Legal Text
Law Concerning
the Power of
Vespasian

19



20

Titus

- Elder son of Vespasian
- Warrior
- Expansionist
- Eruption of Vesuvius
- Dies of fever after brief barely two years in office

Titus Caesar Vespasianus → Imperator Titus Caesar Vespasianus Augustus, 79–81 CE

21



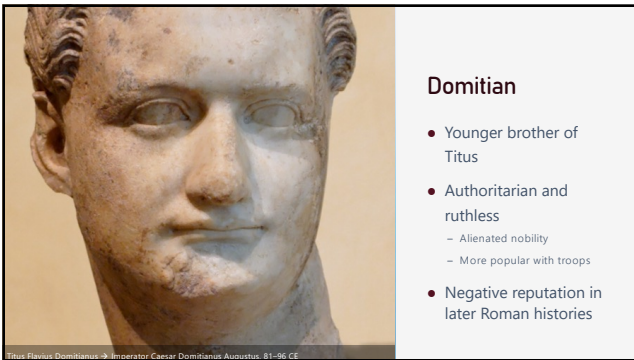
22



Primary Source Reading

Josephus
The Roman
Army in the First
Century CE

23



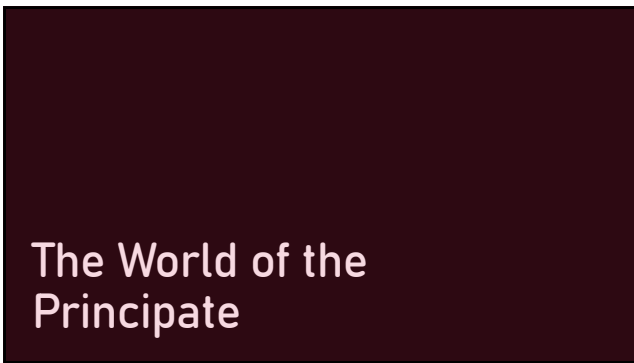
Domitian

- Younger brother of Titus
- Authoritarian and ruthless
 - Alienated nobility
 - More popular with troops
- Negative reputation in later Roman histories

24



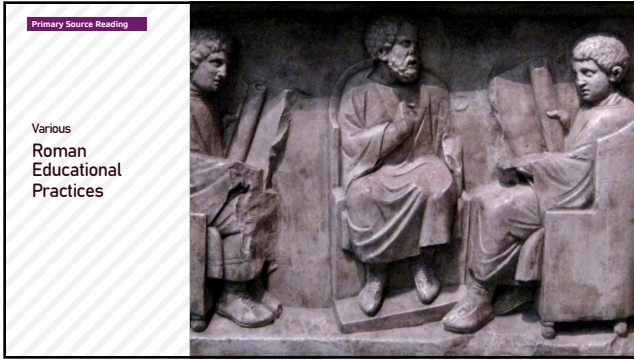
25



26



27



Primary Source Reading

Various Roman Educational Practices

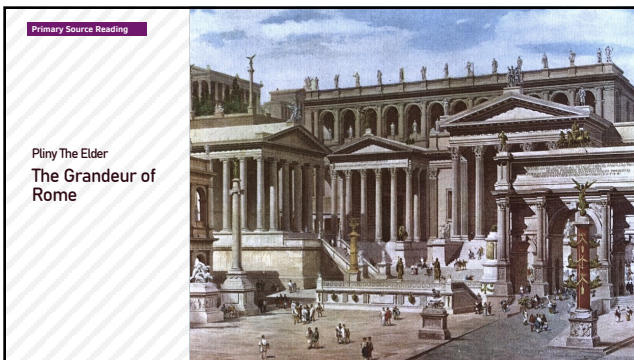
28



Commerce in the principate

- Halt to expansion affects commerce and industry
 - Borders fixed – fewer new sources of income
 - Monetization of economy
 - Thriving trade in imported goods, especially slaves
 - Broader market, higher standard of living
- Imperial expense
 - Standing army (need to fund)
 - Privy purse entirely controlled by personality of emperor
 - administered by freedman of his household
- Drain of money to east in exchange for luxury items

29



Primary Source Reading

Pliny The Elder The Grandeur of Rome

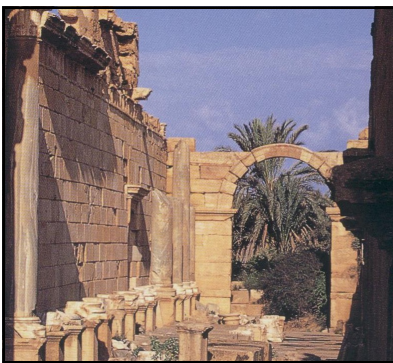
30



Provinces – urban development

- 50-70 million people throughout the empire
 - 20% in ~2000 cities
 - 1 million in Rome
- Rome encouraged the growth of cities
 - Status of colony or municipium
 - Remission of taxes
 - Funding for construction

31



Provinces – economic development

- Generators of economic and cultural power
 - Markets, manufacturing, resources
 - Infrastructure (roads, harbors, aqueducts)
 - Social venues (theaters, circuses, gladiators/blood sports)
- Appeal of Roman life and status + distance from Rome

32

Primary Source Reading

Strabo, Oxyrhynchos Papyri
Egypt under the Roman Empire

33



Mystery Cults

- Membership and rituals secret
- Local pagan gods serving local community
- Means of creating / preserving an alternative identity

34



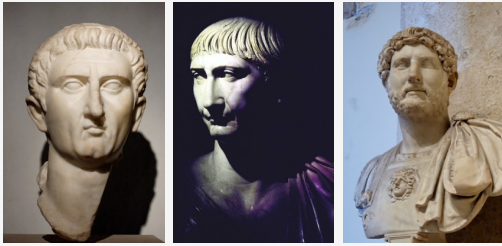
What factors helped drive the rise of Christianity?

35



36

Nerva-Antonines (first batch)



Nerva

Trajan

Hadrian

37



Marcus Cocceius Nerva → Imperator Nerva Caesar Augustus

Nerva

- Princeps 96-98
- Declared successor to Domitian by senate
- Vowed reforms
- Couldn't win over army

38



Marcus Ulpius Nerva Traianus → Imperator Caesar Nerva Traianus Augustus

Trajan

- Princeps 98-117
- Adopted by Nerva due to his successes as a general
- Called optimus princeps by the senate
- Military-focused and expansionist

39

Primary Source Reading

Pliny The Younger
Panegyric
Addressed to
the Emperor
Trajan



40

Primary Source Reading

Pliny The Younger
Correspondence
of a Provincial
Governor and
the Emperor



41



Hadrian

- Princeps 117-138
- Trajan's cousin's husband
 - Adoption by Trajan clouded by suspicions
- Divisive ruler with a lasting legacy

Publius Aelius Hadrianus • Imperator Caesar Traianus Hadrianus Augustus


42



Hadrian's strategy for empire


- Stability of succession
- Military reforms
 - Frontier defense instead of Trajan's aggressive wars
 - Recruitment: less emphasis on citizens, more on locals in regions where they serve
 - Reform of tactics
- Imperial administration
 - Administration of provinces formalized
 - Professional bureaucracy
 - Emperor's friends become an imperial council
- Legal reforms

43



How might Hadrian's stabilization of the frontiers have changed things?

44



Controversies associated with Hadrian

- Curtailed the wars begun under Trajan
 - Expansionist policies and territorial gains
 - Mesopotamia, Assyria, Armenia, and parts of Dacia
- Executed enemies
 - Four in the senate at the start of his reign
 - Two more again later on
- Ardent admirer of Greece
 - Wanted Athens to be the imperial capital
- Favoritism of Antinoüs

45

Nerva-Antonines (cont'd)



Antoninus Pius

Marcus Aurelius

46



Antoninus Pius

- Princeps 138-161
- Senator and trusted official under Hadrian
- Peace and prosperity
 - Consistency through empire regarding law, resources, infrastructure
 - Reforms concerning public lands, imperial property, slavery

47

Primary Source Reading

Marcus Aurelius
On the Virtue of
Antoninus Pius



48



Marcus Aurelius

- Princeps 161-180
- Named by Hadrian, adopted by Antoninus Pius
 - Co-emperor with Lucius Verus, 161-169
- Major wars defending the frontiers
 - Marcomanni to the north
 - Parthians to the East
- Also famous as a stoic philosopher

Marcus Annius Catilius Severus → Anperator Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

49


Primary Source Reading

Eutropius
The Reign of Marcus Aurelius



50

"Five Good Emperors"



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graph TD; Nerva --- Trajan; Trajan --- Hadrian; Hadrian --- Antoninus_Pius[Antoninus Pius]; Antoninus_Pius --- Marcus_Aurelius[Marcus Aurelius]; Marcus_Aurelius --- Commodus;
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51



52
