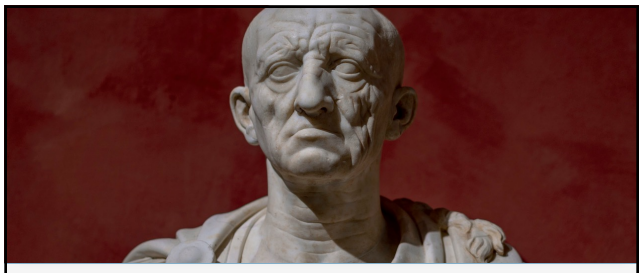
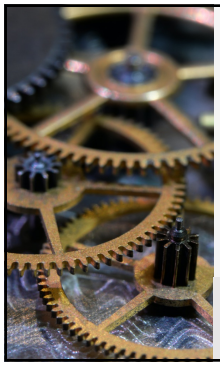


Patricians and Plebeians

History of Ancient Rome | Meeting #3

1



Upcoming Dates

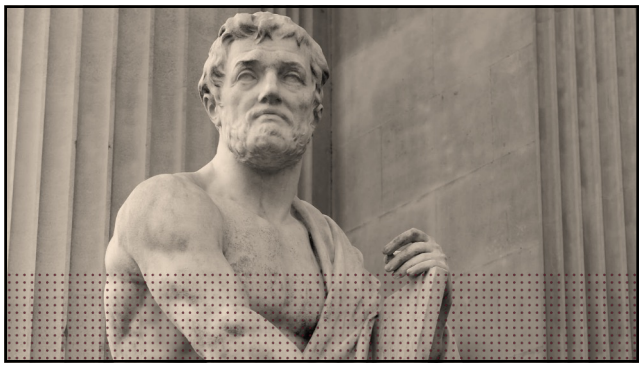
- Monday, March 9
  Images Essay Due
- Monday, March 23
  Proposal Due
- Sunday, February 22
  Responses for Week 3 Due

2

Five things today

- Kings after Romulus
- The abolition of the monarchy
- The early Republic
- The Senate and the People
- The Conflict of the Orders

3



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Quiz #1 | Patricians and Plebeians

1. The term *paterfamilias* refers to
   a. "the ways of our ancestors": traditional Roman behavior and customs
   b. the father of the family": the elder male with life and death authority over the household
   c. "the high priest": the priest in charge of the Vestal Virgins and other priests
   d. "the crunchy frog": the small honeyed amphibians wealthy Romans ate as a delicacy

2. Roman religious officials included all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. flamens (high priests dedicated to a particular god or goddess)
   b. Liceros (responsible for preserving speeches)
   c. fetials (involved in issues of peace and war)
   d. augurs (consulted the will of the gods)

3. The senate differed from the assemblies in that the senate
   a. consisted entirely of old men retired from politics
   b. could only be convened by a firstborn son
   c. operated independently of religion and the gods
   d. could not pass laws

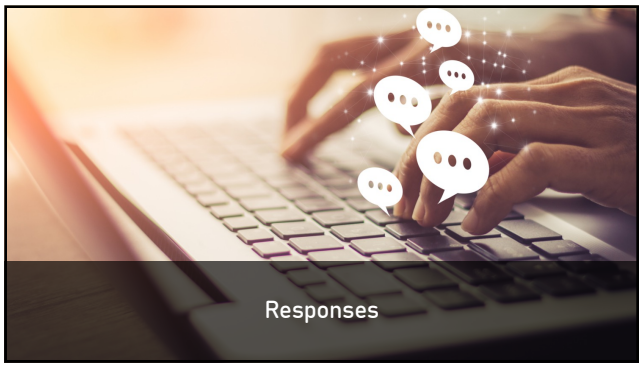
4. All of the following are true of the Struggle of the Orders EXCEPT:
   a. It arose through stress between landed patrician families and less empowered families and clans (farmers, shopkeepers, artisans, etc.)
   b. According to the text, the details of the Struggle of the Orders were deliberately exaggerated and oversimplified in later Roman accounts
   c. Despite constant pressure to create them, *no* plebeian-only offices existed in the Republic
   d. Class tension was alleviated through such gains as the Plebeian Council and the *lex Hortensia*

5. The Twelve Tables
   a. actually consisted of thirteen tables, accounting for the later notoriety of the number 13
   b. were compiled by a special panel of six white-bearded men called a *coven*
   c. publicly established in principle the equality of all free citizens before the law
   d. survives today entirely intact thanks to centuries of careful preservation of every word of the text

Extra Credit

EC. Name an official of the Roman Republic (i.e., the name of the office) and briefly describe what you can remember about what someone who held the office did and how they were elected.

5



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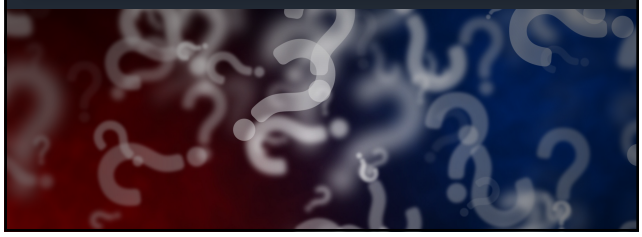
Questions about whatever



7

Numa

8

Regal-era Rome

- The Roman monarchy was elective
  - Kings were chosen by the propertied families
- Numa's election told in detail
  - Nomination by interrex
  - Consultation of the gods
  - Approval of the propertied families

9

II. Numa Pompilius

- Outsider
- Chosen for his even temper and rapport with the gods
- Identified with the establishment of all major Roman religious institutions
- Second king = religion second in importance only to Rome itself

10

Primary Source Reading

Livy

Numa's Religious Settlement

11

Roman ideas of the gods

- "Equating" of Roman and Greek gods is much later
  - Part of the Romanization/cultural merging of Greek lands
- Roman gods are not much like Greek gods

12

13

14

Roman religion

- Numen:
  Spirits investing key aspects of the Roman world
  - Janus doorways, past/future
  - Vesta hearth, persistence, protection of things as they should be
  - Terminus boundaries
  - Penates household guardians
  - Lares household guardians

15

Terminus

- God of land boundaries
- Witness to exchanges of land
- Landmark stones placed to mark property

16

Janus

- God of doorways and portals
- Other dichotomies
  - Past and future
  - War and peace

17

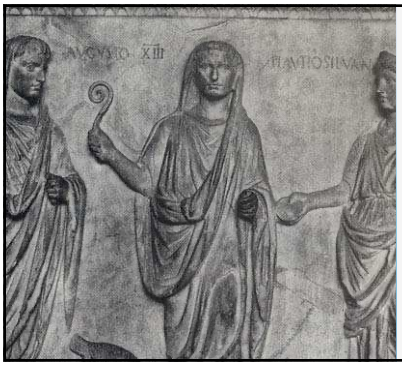
18

Vesta

- Goddess of the hearth
- Associated with related ideas
  - Family and shared identity
  - Survival
- Rome as a collective family
  - Survival – eternal flame

19

20



Consultation of the gods

- Augurs' divination is seeking the mood of numen gods
- Permeating spirits interwoven in land and homes
- Gods' wrath results in suffering of Romans

21

Roman religion

- Numen:
  Spirits investing key aspects of the Roman world
  - Janus — doorways, past/future
  - Vesta — hearth, persistence, protection of things as they should be
  - Terminus — boundaries
  - Penates — household guardians
  - Lares — household guardians

- Gods of the Roman state:
  Anthropomorphized powers interested in Rome's power and legacy
  - Juppiter — sky
  - Mars — war
  - Quirinus — Roman people

22

Iuppiter

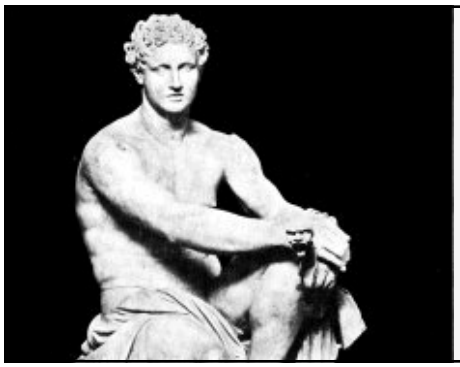
- God of sky and thunder
- King of the gods
- Patron god of Rome

23

Mars

- God of war and agriculture
- Training fields outside the pomerium known as the Campus Martius

24



Quirinus

- God of the Roman state and citizenry
- Roman citizens might be addressed as "Quirites"
  - As contrasted with "Milites" = soldiers

25

Rituals, sacrifices, and divination

- Numa associated with establishment of major aspects of religion
- Key priesthoods
  - Most of these are collegial = consisting of more than one priest (colleagues)
- Important rituals
- Sacred games

26

Priesthoods attributed to Numa

• Curiones	Sacrifices for the curiae (assemblies)
• Flamines	Priests dedicated to a specific god
• Celeres	Romulus's bodyguard
• Augurs	Divination
• Vestals	Tenders of the sacred fire
• Salii	Twelve youths carrying Juppiter's shields
• Fetiales	Sacred heralds
• Pontiffs	Religious advisors to the state; public rituals

27

Primary Source Reading

Livy, Dionysius

The Roman Way of Declaring War

28

The Roman king as a priest-king

- King's job was to protect Rome's people and property
- King was high priest = highest responsibility to protect Rome from the gods' wrath

29

The kings after Numa

30

III. Tullus Hostilius

- Legend says he did not honor the gods or rituals and Rome suffered
  - Pestilence, showers of stones
  - Mishandled a ritual to appease Iuppiter and was struck by lightning
- Annexation of Alba Longa
  - Duel of the Horatii and the Curiatii
  - Horatius's slaying of his sister

31

IV. Ancus Marcius

- Published Numa's text on ceremonies
- Fought the Latins
- Extended Roman territory to the sea
  - Acquired port at Ostia

32

V. Tarquinius Priscus

- Etruscan immigrant
  - May have brought the triumph to Rome
  - Led Roman armies against Etruscans
- Expanded the senate
- Built the Circus Maximus

33

VI. Servius Tullius

- Popular/populist(?)
- Expanded the Roman franchise
- Improved the lot and fortune of Rome's lowest classes
- Murdered by daughter Tullia and husband Tarquin Superbus

34

Servian reforms

- Replaced aristocratic comitia curiata with comitia centuriata
- First census
- Increased number of tribes
- Servian Wall
- Temple of Diana and Latin League

35

Aristocracy and people

- Growing sense of Roman identity and pride
  - With classes
  - Across classes
- Fostered under Servius

36

VII. Tarquinius Superbus

- Usurper
- Aggressive, expansionist
- Hostile to everyone
  - Wealthy families
  - Common people
  - Latin cities

37

The end of monarchy

38

Tarquin Superbus's reign

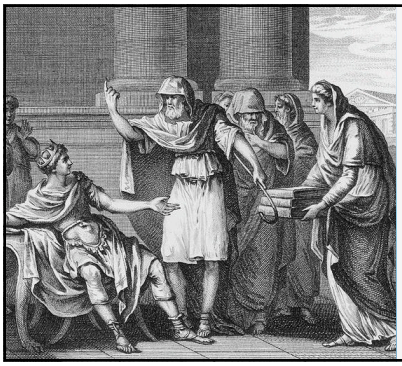
- Fascinating mix of pros and cons

39

Temple of Juppiter Optimus Maximus

- Commissioned building of a great temple to Iuppiter "Best and Greatest"

40



Sybilline Books

- Books of prophecy purchased by Tarquin
  - Means of appeasing the gods
  - Consulted during any serious crisis throughout Roman history
- Legend describes both Tarquin's hubris and his supplying Rome with a critical resource

41

Tarquin's arrogance

- Demeaning and persecuting noble families
- Forceful domination of Latin cities
- Use of sons to expand his power over Rome and Latium

42

Primary Source Reading

Livy

The Rape of Lucretia

43

L. Iunius Brutus

Brutus the Liberator

- Widely respected noble
  - Related to the king but hostile to him and his policies
- Leads effort to exile Tarquins and end the monarchy
- Romans declare a Republic with Brutus as one of the first consuls

44

Vow of liberty

- According to Livy, Brutus has all Romans take an oath that they would not suffer any man to reign in Rome

45

Tarquinian Wars

- Tarquin flees to Estruria and allies with Lars Porsena of Clusium
- Tarquin then rallies Latin city-states against Rome and the idea of a kingless "republic"

46

Latin League

- Dozens of Latin city-states said to band together against Rome
- Latin League remains important in later centuries

47

Internal divisions

- Monarchists within Rome
- Brutus's sons executed for treason

48

The first consuls

- Brutus and Valerius Poplicola
- Untried form of government
- Brutus killed in battle—will Valerius become a tyrant?
- Valerius associated with populist reforms establishing citizen rights

49

Battle of Lake Regillus (496 BCE)

- All-or-nothing war with Latin League
- Twin gods Castor and Pollux seen fighting with Romans
- Roman Republic and Rome's independence from Latins, Tarquins established

50

Early Rome

51

The Roman Family

- Paterfamilias
- Materfamilias
- Children
- Slaves and Freedmen/ women

52

53

Liberti (freedmen and freedwomen)

- Romans generous with manumission
- Freed slaves take the family name and become retainers
- Important median class between slave and free

54

Primary Source Reading

Dionysius

Early Rules for Clients and Patrons

55

The early Republic

56

57

Principles of shared governance

- Collegiality
- Annual office
- Imperium
- Ladder of offices (cursus honorum)

58

59

The assemblies

60

Roman assemblies

- Comitia curiata
  (Assembly of curiae)
  - **Original assembly** of elite handholders
  - Meets only to grant *imperium* to incoming consuls, praetors, and dictators
- Comitia centuriata
  (Assembly of centuries)
  - **Citizens meeting as an army** in the Fields of Mars
  - Convened by consul or praetor
  - Passes laws on matters of war and peace
  - Elects *imperium* magistrates (consuls, praetors, and censors)
  - Each century gets one vote
- Comitia tributa
  (Assembly of tribes)
  - **Citizens meeting as civilians** in the Roman Forum
  - Convened by consul or praetor
  - Passes laws on domestic matters of concern to citizens
  - Elects non-*imperium* magistrates
  - Each tribe gets one vote
- Concilium plebis
  (Council of the plebeians)
  - Tribal assembly meeting with **only the plebeian citizens present**
  - Convened by tribunes of the plebs
  - Passes plebiscites on matters of concern to plebeians
  - Elects tribunes of the plebs

61

62

Roman legislative process

- A consul or tribune frames a law
- He *customarily* presents the law to senate first for their advice
- Law is then presented to one of the assemblies with a senate resolution
  - Centuriate assembly for external matters
  - Tribal assembly for domestic matters
- If the law passes, it's recorded under the sponsor's name
  - lex Valeria
  - lex Hortensia
  - lex Licinia Sextia

63

The senate

64

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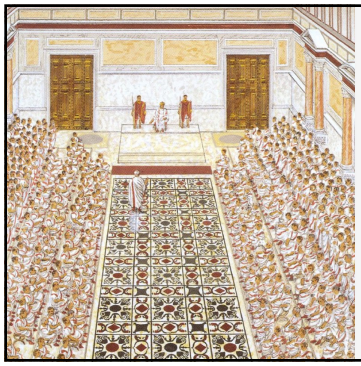


Why did the senate matter?

- Experienced membership
- Persistence vs. annual magistrates
- Increasing self-perceived role as protector of tradition and custom

66

Struggle of the Orders

67

68

69

Clans holding magistracies in the Republic

Patrician clans

AEBUTIA
AEMILIA
ANTONIA
AQUILLIA

ATILIA
CLAUDIA/CLODIA
CORNELIA
COSSUTIA
CORNELIA

CURIATIA
CURTIA
FABIA
FONTEIA

GEGANIA
GENUCIA
HERMINIA
HORATIA
HOSTILIA

JULIA
LICINIA
LARCIA/LARTIA
LUCRETIA

MANLIA
MARCIA
MENENIA
METILIA
MUCIA

MUCIA
NAUTIA
NUMICIA
PAPIRIA
PINARIA

POSTUMIA
QUINCTILIA
QUINCTIA
SEMPRONIA

SERGIA
SERVILIA
SICINIA
SICCIA/SECCIA
SULPICIA

TARQUITIA
TULLIA
VALERIA
VERGINIA

VETURIA
VOLUMNIA

Plebeian clans

ABURIA
ACILIA
AELIA
AFINIA

AFRANIA
ALBIA
ALBINIA
ALLIENA
ALLIA

AMPIA
ANCHARIA
ANICIA
ANNIA

ANTIA
APPUSTIA
APPULEIA
APRONIA
APUSTIA

ARRENIA
ARRIA
ARRUNTIA
ASELLIA

ASINIA
ATEIA
ATINIA
AUFIDIA
AUFIDIA

AULIA
AURELIA
AURUNCULEIA
AUTRONIA
AVIA

BAEBIA
CALPURNIA
CAECILIA
CAEDICIA

CAEPASIA
CAESETIA
CALIDIA
CALDIA
CALPURNIA

CANINIA
CANULEIA
CARISIA
CARVILIA

CASSIA
CATIA
CESTIA
CICERSIA

CINCIA
CISPIA
CLUCIA
COELIA
COELIA/CAELIA

CONSIDIA
COPONIA
CORNIFICIA
COCCEIANIA

COSCONIA
CREPEREIA
CRIPERIA
CRITONIA
CUPIENNIA

CURIA
DECIA
DECIDIA
DECIMIA

DIDIA
DIGITIA
DOMITIA
DUILIA
DURONIA

EGNATIA
EGNATULEIA
EPIDIA
ERUCIA
FABRICIA

FALCIDIA
FANNIA
FLAMINIA
FLAVIA

FOLIA
FONTEIA
FUFIA
FUFIDIA
FULVIA

FUNDANIA
FURNIA
GABINIA
GALLIA

GELLIA
GRATIDIA
HELVIA
HERENNIA

HIRTULEIA
HORTENSIA
IGILIA
ILICIA
JUVENTIA

LABERIA
LABIENA
LAELIA
LAMPONIA

LICINIA
LIVIA
LIVIA
LIVINEIA
LOLLIA

LUCCEIA
LUCILIA
LUTATIA
MACCILIA

MAELIA
MAENIA
MAGNIA
MAGNIA
MAGONIA

MALLIA
MAMILIA
MANIA
MANILIA
MARIA

MATIENA
MEMMIA
MINDIA
MUMMIA

MUNATIA
NAEVIA
NAUCELLIA
NIGIDIA
NONIA

NORBANA
NOVIA
NUMISIA
NUMITORIA

OCCIA
OCTAVIA
OGULNIA
OPIMIA

OPPIA
OTACILIA
PEDIA
PEDIA
PEDUCAEA

PERPERNA
PETILLIA
PETRONIA
PLAETORIA

PLAUTIA/PLOTIA
POMPEIA
POMPILIA
POMPONIA
POPILLIA

POPPAEA
PORCIA
PROCILIA
PUBLICIA

PUBLILIA
PULLIA
PUPIA
RABONIA
RAECIA

RABULEIA
RACCIA
REMMIA
ROSCIA
RUBRIA

RUPILIA
SABINIA
SAENIA
SALLUSTIA

SALONIA
SALVIA
SCANTIA
SCANTIA
SCANTINIA

SCATTIA
SCRIBONIA
SENTIA
SEPTIMIA

SERRIA
SEXTIA
SEXTILIA
SICINIA

SILIA
SOSIA
STATILIA
STERTINIA
TERENTIA

THORIA
TILLIA
TITIA
TITINIA

TITURIA
TREBELLIA
TREBONIA
TREMELLIA
TUCCIA

TURIA
ULPIA
ULPIA
VALGIA

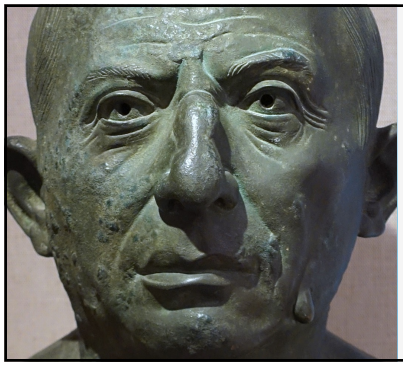
VARGUNTEIA
VARIA
VELLEIA
VENTIDIA
VENTILIA

VERGILIA
VETTIA
VIBIA
VIBULLIA
VILLIA

VINICIA
VIPSANIA
VITELLIA
VOCONIA

VOLCATIA
VOLTEIA
VOLUSENA
VOLUSIA

70



Depictions of early patricians

- Roman histories are written centuries later
- Plebeian access to power normal in the middle and late Republic
- Early patricians depicted as violent, inflexible conservative extremists

71

Primary Source Reading

Dionysius

Coriolanus Opposes the Plebs

72

Struggle of the orders

- In early Rome, patrician clans controlled political and religious institutions
  - Priesthoods
  - Imperium
- Patrician clans also used their power to exert economic oppression, further separating the classes
  - Usury (excessive interest)
  - Nexum (debt slavery)
- Plebeian clans demanded access to power but otherwise had nothing in common

73

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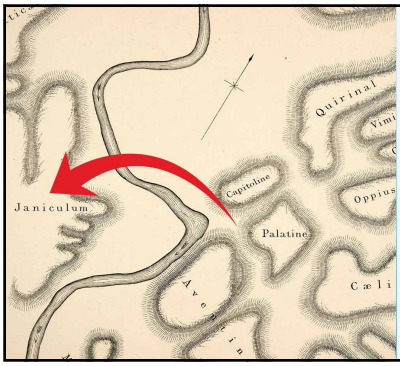
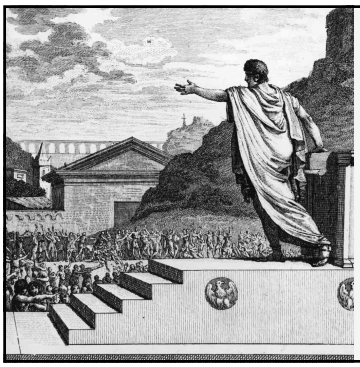


Secession

- Rome went to war almost every year
- Clans called upon to levy (supply soldiers)
- In extreme cases, plebs withdrew outside Rome
- Some secessions yielded important concessions

75



Early accommodations

- Plebeian council
  - Assembly of plebeians
  - Limited self-governance
  - Patricians could not attend or address it
- Tribunes of the plebs
  - Ten magistrates only for plebeians
  - Possessed tribunician veto (ability to bar repressive measures of the state)
  - Sacrosanct
- Plebeian aediles
  - Two of the four aediles were plebeian

76

Primary Source Reading

Fragments

The Twelve Tables

77

"Military tribunes with consular power"

- Compromise office
- Instead of consuls, the Republic would have "consular tribunes" that year
  - Military tribunes with the powers of a consul
  - Consulship thus kept only for patricians
  - Could have up to 6 consular tribunes for a given year
- Used intermittently 444-367 BCE

78

End of the Conflict of the Orders

- Licinian-Sextian Laws (367)
  - Passed during a time of turmoil and transition
  - Four laws:
    - Limit on the interest rate of loans
    - Restriction on private ownership of land
    - At least one consul must be a plebeian
    - New priestly college for Sibylline Books
- Hortensian Law (287)
  - Last great secession of the plebs, over debt
  - Q. Hortensius appointed dictator to resolve the crisis
  - Horatius passes a law making all plebiscita (resolutions passed by the Plebeian Council) binding on all citizens

79

The Roman oligarchy vs. shared governance

- Rivalry and ranking of families within the ruling class
- Influence of the senate
  - Consular nobility
  - Priests
- Short-term elected magistrates
- Cooption of the plebeian tribunes
- Undemocratic assemblies
- Increasing power and influence of Rome

80

Primary Source Reading

Livy

The Defeat of the Latins

81

82