



The Roman Republic

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #22

1

Four things today

- Rome under the kings
- The Exile of the Tarquins
- The Roman Republic
- The Conflict of the Orders

2



3

Quiz #9 | The Roman Republic

- The Conflict of the Orders was a struggle for power involving
 - plebeians against patricians
 - Romans against Greeks
 - soldiers against sailors
 - Romulus against Remus
- Consuls were different from Roman kings in all of the following ways [\[1/4/17\]](#)
 - consuls served only for a year, kings for life
 - there were always 2 consuls, kings ruled alone
 - kings ran the state religion, consuls did not
 - consuls were elected, while Roman kings were chosen by right of combat
- In Rome, calling someone a "new man" meant that they
 - had just completed the rite of passage into adulthood at age 14
 - had no ancestors who were consuls, and so their family was new to the nobility
 - had recently joined the legion and become a soldier
 - had metaphorically been born yesterday (i.e., that they were an idiot)
- All of the following were assemblies of the Roman Republic [\[1/4/17\]](#)
 - the centuriate assembly, which met just outside the walls of Rome and was organized by centuries (military companies ranked by economic class)
 - the tribal assembly, which met in the Forum and was organized by tribes (geographic regions)
 - the social assembly, which met on the prnx and was organized by socii (clan of one's ancestor's side)
 - the curiate assembly, which conferred imperium and was organized by curiae (originally, ethnic divisions)
- According to patriotic legend, the Romans kicked out their kings and established a Republic, after
 - a queen slapped a peasant
 - a senator killed a priest
 - a prince raped a noblewoman
 - a general slew a god

Extra Credit

EC. What was the significance of the Twelve Tables?

4

Questions about whatever



5

Rome under the Kings

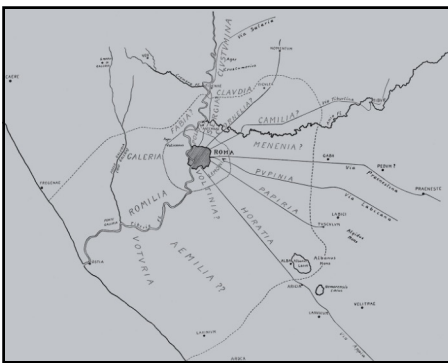
6



The Roman king

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

7



Family and clan

- Families are all-important
- Individuals act on behalf of clan or Rome, not self

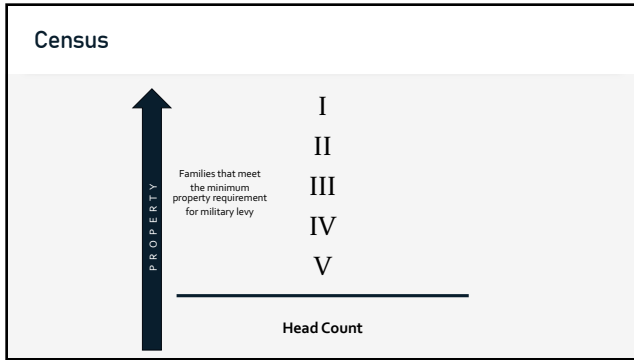
8



Census and class

- Census used to list those eligible for military service
- Organized according to levels of property ownership
- As Rome militarizes, census shapes the organization of Rome's citizen body

9



10

Origins of later institutions

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

11

Early Roman values

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

12

Kings of Rome


13



(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

14



(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

15



(VII) L. Tarquinius Superbus

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

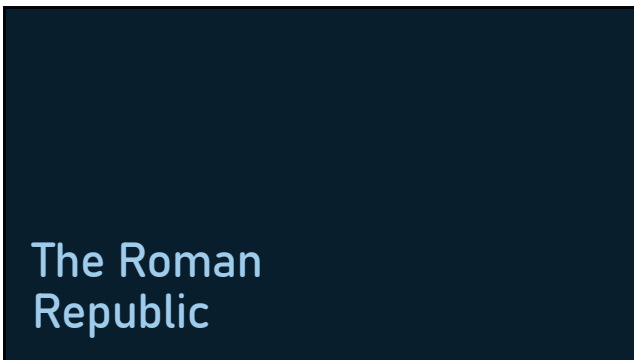
16



The Rape of Lucretia

- Tarquin's son wants to demonstrate his power
- Choses 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

17



18



Exile of the Tarquins

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

19



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

20



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

21



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

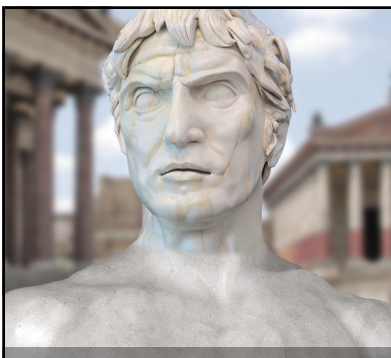
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The Republic: (2) Annual office

- 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

23



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

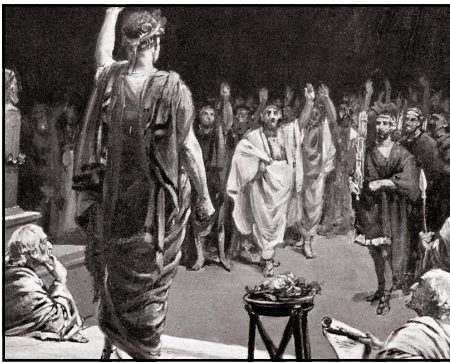
24



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

25



Assemblies

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

26



Magistrates

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

27



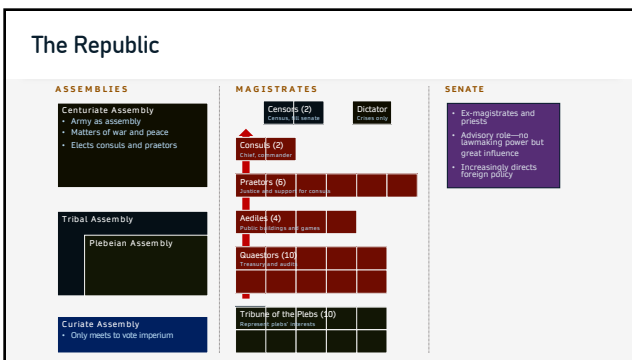
Senate

- 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

28



29



30

The Early Republic

31



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

32



"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

33



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

34



35
