Notes on Quiz #8: Early Rome

1. All of the following are true about Carthage EXCEPT:
   a. In accordance with tradition its rulers were always female
   b. It was founded as a colony of the Phoenician city of Tyre
   c. It developed a great sea-trading empire
   d. It was located on the North African coast in what is now Tunisia

Carthage was founded by the Phoenicians, and inherited their trading model based on converting natural resources into high-value luxury goods and entrepreneurial trade routes in which master traders took a handful of ships great distances to trade with many markets. — Geographically, Carthage was positioned at the choking point between the western and eastern Mediterranean, putting it in a position to control east-west trade and dominate the western Med. In addition, Carthage was possessed of two excellent natural harbors, making it an ideal trading port and shipbuilding facility. Carthage became a powering trading power and maritime force at a time when few other important cities had developed along the coasts of the western Mediterranean; with those cities that were there, including the Greek colonies in Sicily, the Etruscan city-states, and early Rome, Carthage made trading partnerships or treaties of mutual benefit.

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2. According to Roman tradition, the city's first king, Romulus, was believed to have
   a. been suckled by a wolf
   b. killed his brother
   c. established the senate
   d. all of the above

There were two separate traditions regarding the founding. One was that Aeneas founded Rome, giving Rome a heroic founder who, as a Trojan, was on a level with the Greeks (whom the Romans saw as culturally advanced). — The more common story is that Rome was founded by Romulus, who was abandoned as a baby with his brother Remus and nursed by a she-wolf. Romulus killed Remus and became the first king. His actions and association with the wolf suggest that Romans saw themselves as ruthless men who do what is necessary.

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3. 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

The paterfamilias was the senior male figure in an extended family (all those connected by a vertical male bloodline). According to custom and law, the paterfamilias was the owner of all the family's property, and the sole representative of its interests to the public. All that happened within the family—private matters, as contrasted with public matters (res publica)—were entirely in the hands of the paterfamilias, who had complete power (patria potestas) of justice and disposition over all the men, women, children, freedmen, slaves, and possessions of his bloodline, up to and including the right to execute or sell into slavery. — In practice, this absolute power was mitigated by the need to consider the reputation of the family within the community, and by the advice of the family council and of the senior matron of the family.

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4. Early Italy was inhabited by all of the following EXCEPT:
    a. Etruscans
    b. Egyptians
    c. Samnites
    d. Greeks

Italy was inhabited by many civilizations, including Etruscans in the north, the hill-peoples (including the Samnites), and the Greek colonies in the heel and Sicily.

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5. According to patriotic legend, the Romans kicked out their kings and established a Republic after
    a. a queen slapped a peasant
    b. a senator killed a priest
    c. a prince raped a noblewoman
    d. a general slew a god

According to legend, the son of the tyrannical seventh king, Tarquin Superbus, raped the most virtuous woman in Rome, Lucretia. This sparked an uprising among the nobility, who ended the monarchy and declared a Republic.

Optional Extra Credit

EC. What's one way that early Rome was connected to the Etruscan civilization to the north?

The Etruscans appeared in northern Italy (around what is now Tuscany) early in the Iron Age. It's not certain where they came from. They developed a wealthy and sophisticated urban society made up of 12 independent cities. Their economy was focused on trade and manufacturing, especially metalwork; they traded with each other, other nearby communities, and Mediterranean trading powers like the Phoenicians and the Greeks. Influences on the Romans included several aspects of the idea of monarchy, including the fasces, the bundled rods that were a symbol of authority. Other influences were the triumph, or the ceremonial procession honoring a victorious king or general, and haruspicia, an Etruscan means of divination.