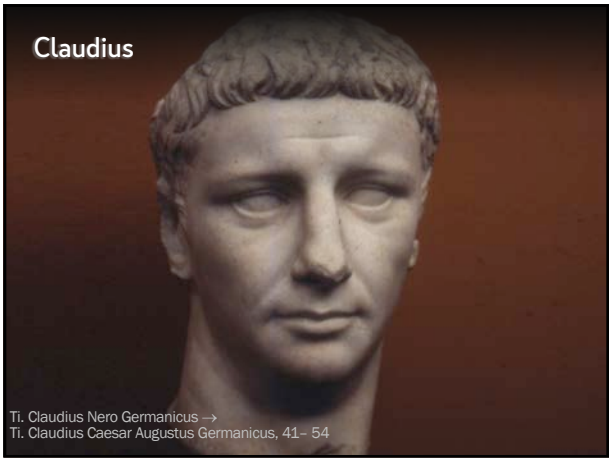
HISTORY OF ANCIENT
ROME

Meeting 11 **The Roman Peace**

- The Year of Four Emperors
- Vespasian and the Flavian Recovery
- The Five "Good" Emperors

1

Claudius



Ti. Claudius Nero Germanicus →
Ti. Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, 41– 54

2

CLAUDIUS

A Speech on Incorporating the Gauls

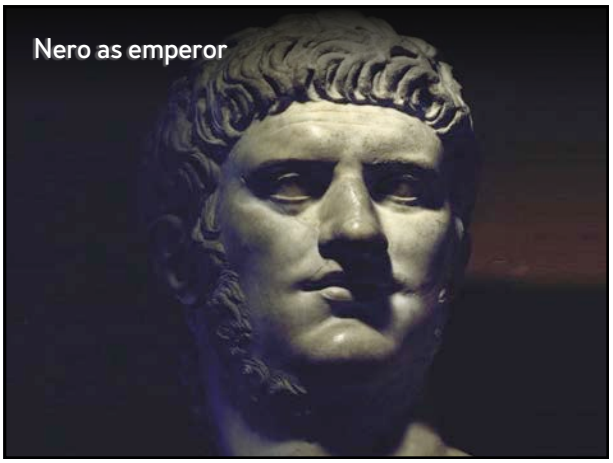
3

SENECA
The Pumpkinification ("Apocolocyntosis") of Claudius
Colocynth

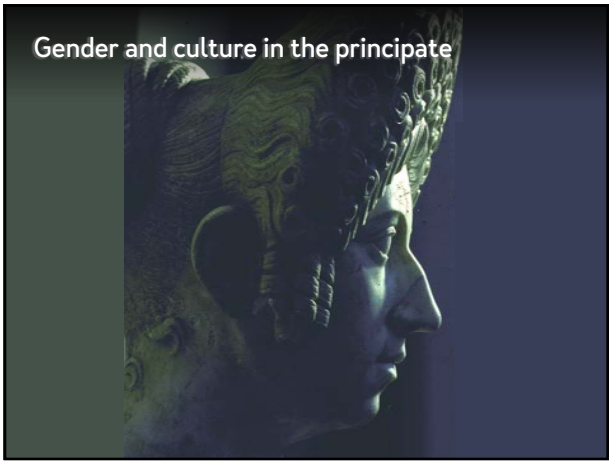
4

Nero
L. Domitius Ahenobarbus ↦
Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, 54–68

5


Nero as emperor

6


Gender and culture in the principate

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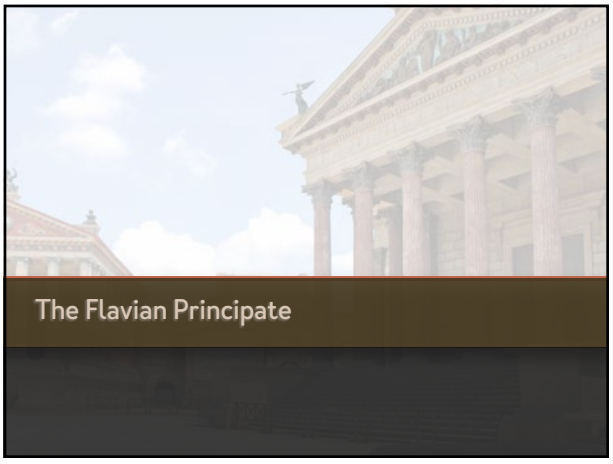
Commerce in the principate

8


The Flavian Principate

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The end of Nero

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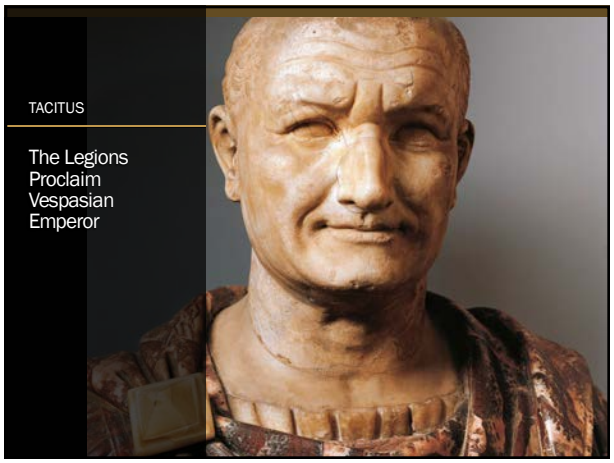
The Year of Four Emperors (69 CE)
Galba
Otho
Vitellius
Vespasian

11


TACITUS
The Legions Proclaim Vespasian Emperor

12

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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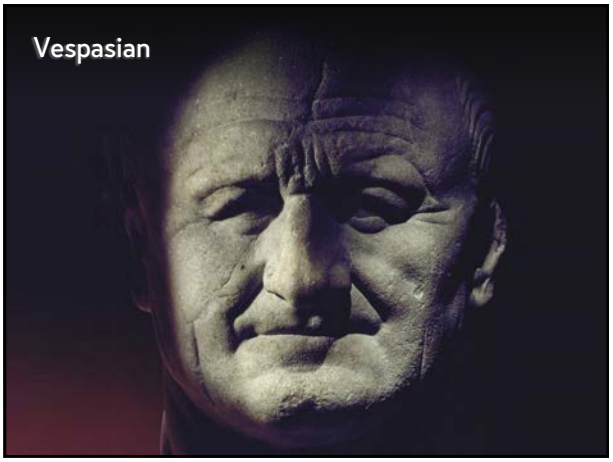

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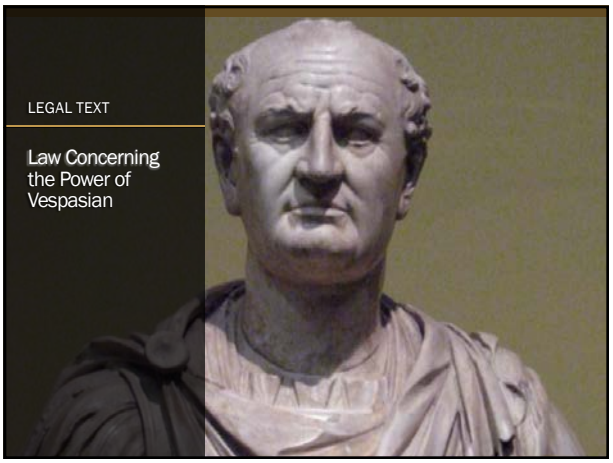

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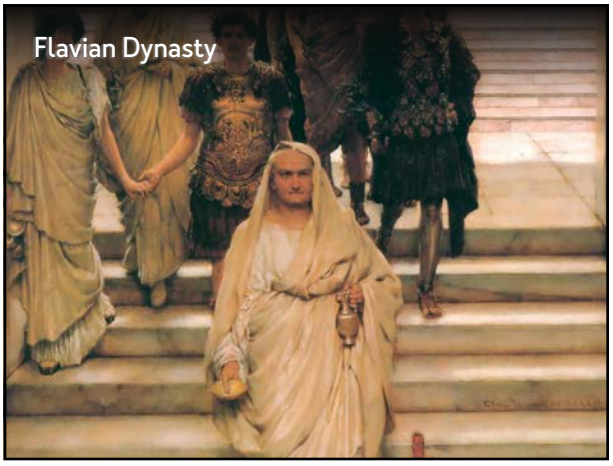

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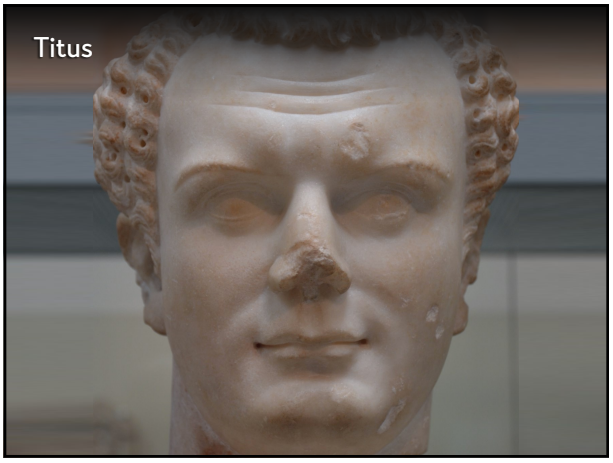

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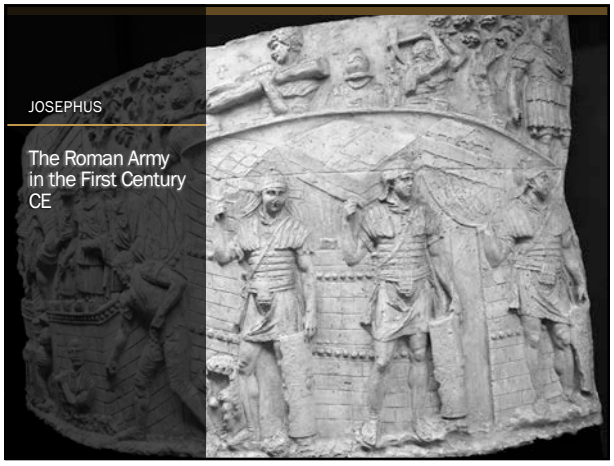
JOSEPHUS
The Roman Army in the First Century CE

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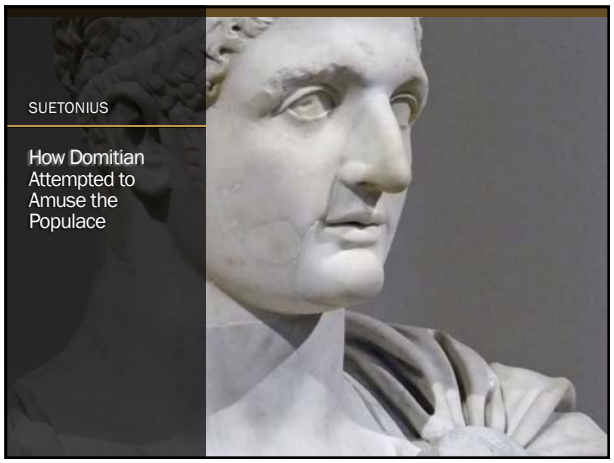
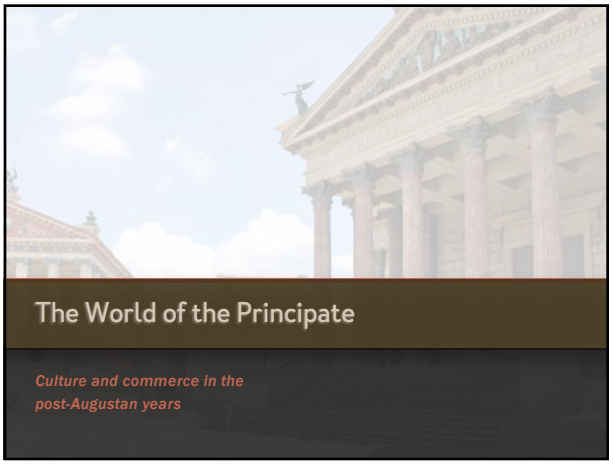
Domitian

20


SUETONIUS
How Domitian Attempted to Amuse the Populace

21


The World of the Principate
Culture and commerce in the post-Augustan years

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The Silver Age and the Second Sophistic

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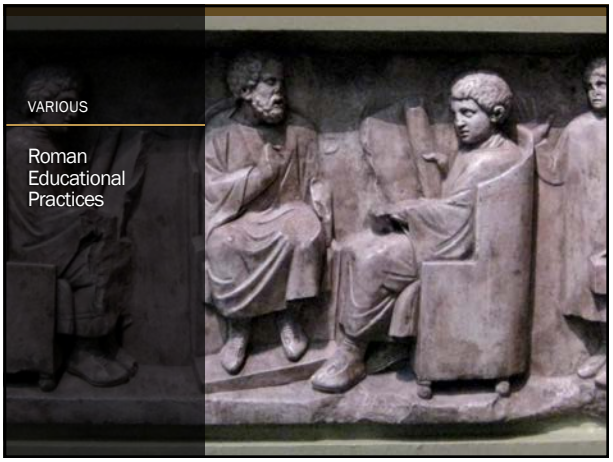
VARIOUS
Roman Educational Practices

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Commerce in the principate

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

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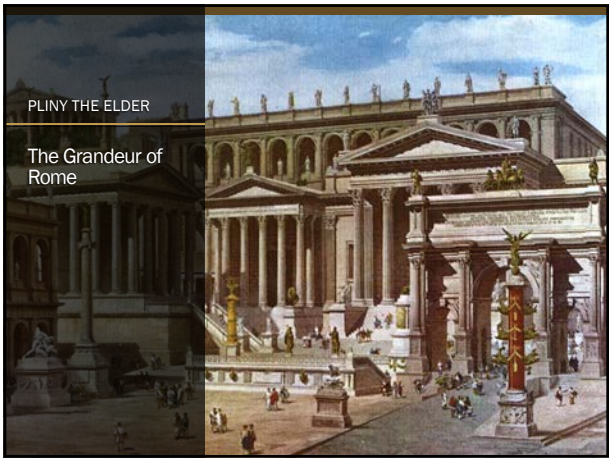

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Provinces

- 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
- 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

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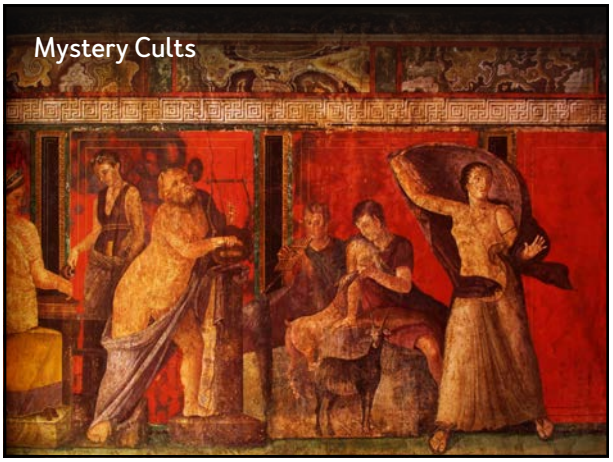
STRABO, OXYRHYNCHOS PAPYRI
Egypt under the Roman Empire

28


Mystery Cults

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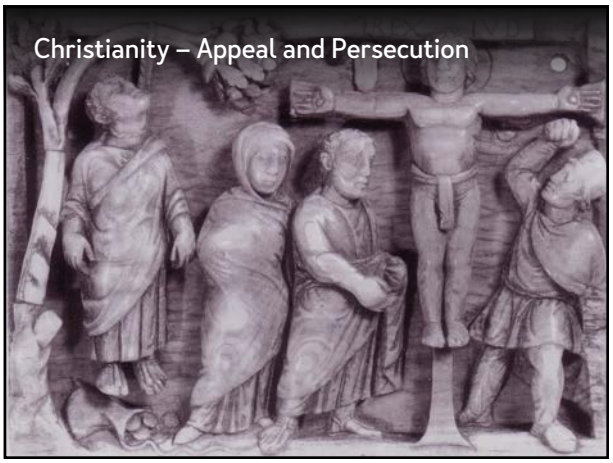
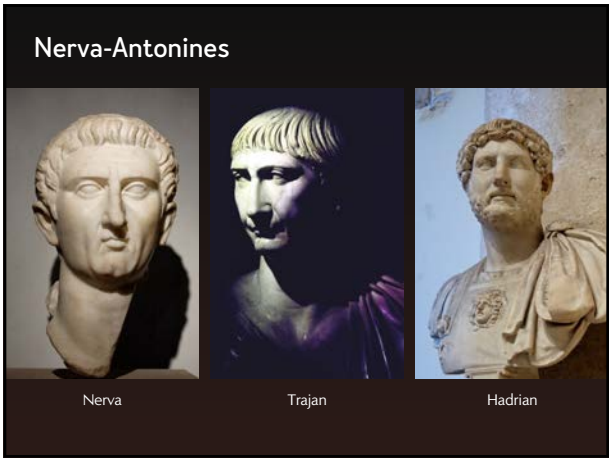

Christianity – Appeal and Persecution

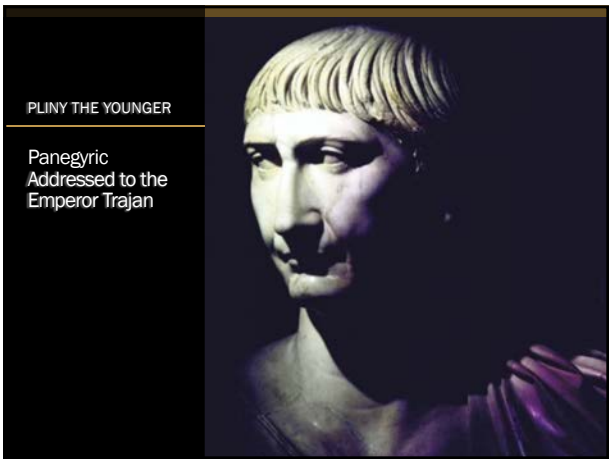
30

The Five Good Emperors
Steady leadership in Rome as the
empire focuses to defending what it has

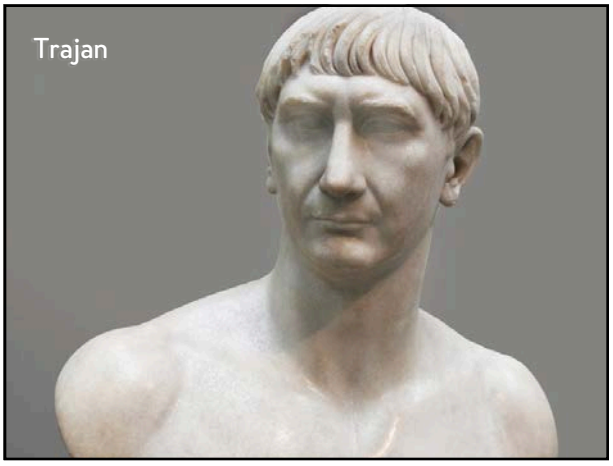
31


Nerva-Antonines
Nerva
Trajan
Hadrian

32


PLINY THE YOUNGER
Panegyric
Addressed to the
Emperor Trajan

33


Trajan

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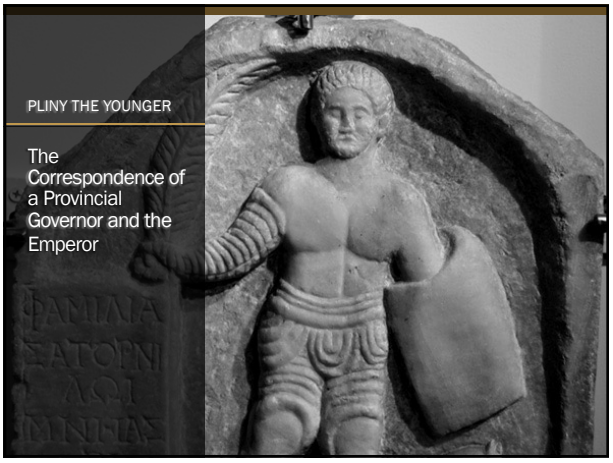
PLINY THE YOUNGER
The Correspondence of a Provincial Governor and the Emperor

35

Hadrian's Strategy for Empire
Stability of succession
Frontier defense instead of Trajan's aggressive wars
Reforms of army:
recruitment (less emphasis on citizens, more on locals in regions where they serve)
tactics
Administration of provinces
Professional bureaucracy
Emperor's friends become imperial council
Legal reforms

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Hadrian – Controversies

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Nerva-Antonines (cont'd)
Antoninus Pius
Marcus Aurelius

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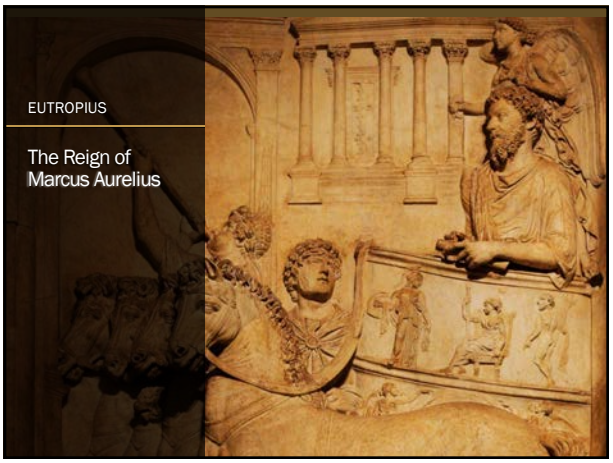
EUTROPIUS
The Reign of Marcus Aurelius

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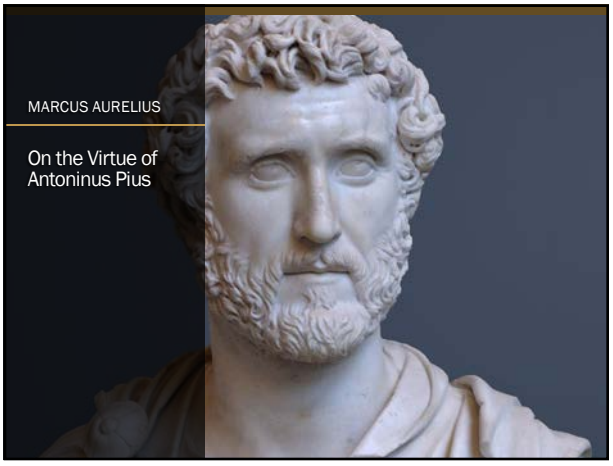
MARCUS AURELIUS
On the Virtue of Antoninus Pius

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"Five Good Emperors"
Nerva
Trajan
Hadrian
Antoninus Pius
Marcus Aurelius
Commodus

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