

History of Ancient Rome  
Spring 2024

MEETING 13

### The Third Century Crisis

- Five Good Emperors
- The waning of stability
- The Third Century Crisis
- Religion in the Roman empire
- Rebuilding the empire

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Five things today

- 1 Five Good Emperors
- 2 The waning of stability
- 3 The Third Century Crisis
- 4 Religion in the Roman empire
- 5 Rebuilding the empire

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Upcoming dates

- Monday, May 13 Position Paper
- Thursday, May 16 Final Exam (6:15 to 8:15 p.m.)
- Monday, May 27 **Ultimate Deadline**
  - No late papers or resubmissions for reversible deductions after this date
  - No exceptions
  - Any incompletes owing to personal emergencies must be mutually agreed before this date

3

---

---

---

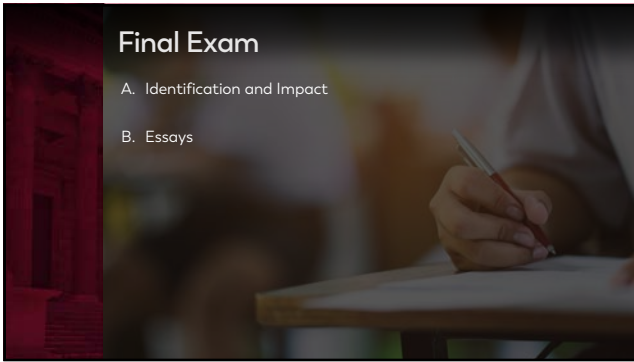
---

---

---

---

---



4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Nerva-Antonines (cont'd)



Antoninus Pius

Marcus Aurelius

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Primary Source Reading

### Eutropius The Reign of Marcus Aurelius



14

---

---

---

---

---

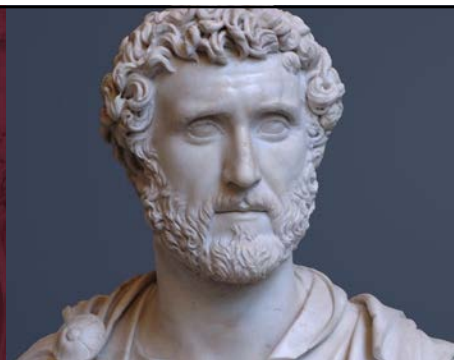
---

---

---

Primary Source Reading

### Marcus Aurelius On the Virtue of Antoninus Pius



15

---

---

---

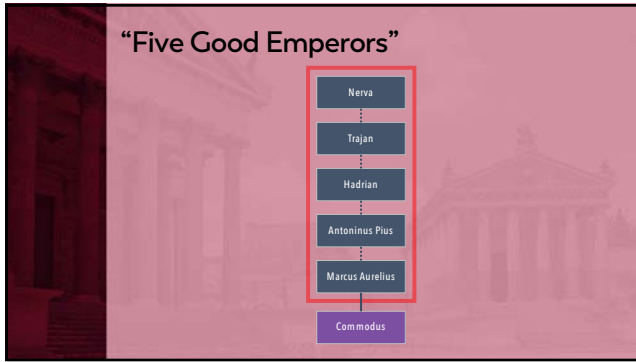
---

---

---

---

---



16

---

---

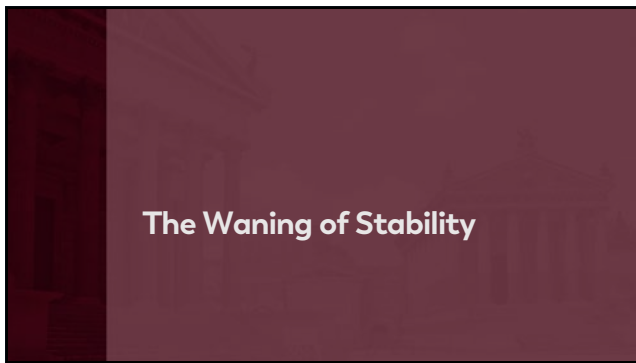
---

---

---

---

---



17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Commodus: What went wrong?

- Divided advisors carved the royal family, important senators, and military leaders into antagonistic factions
- Commodus's favorite, the Greek freedman Saoterus, aroused jealousy
- His inexperience and willfulness reminded the Roman elite of Caligula, Nero, and Diocletian
- Ending his father's wars deprived generals of opportunities for glory
- Commodus failed to produce an heir
- His gladiatorial shows were expensive and undignified

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Civil War of 193-197

- 193: Year of the Five Emperors
- Pertinax (193)
- Didius Julianus (193)
- Pescennius Niger (193)
- Clodius Albinus (193, 196-197)
- Septimius Severus (193-211)

20

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

Primary Source Reading

Herodian

### How Didius Julianus Bought the Empire at Auction



21

---

---

---

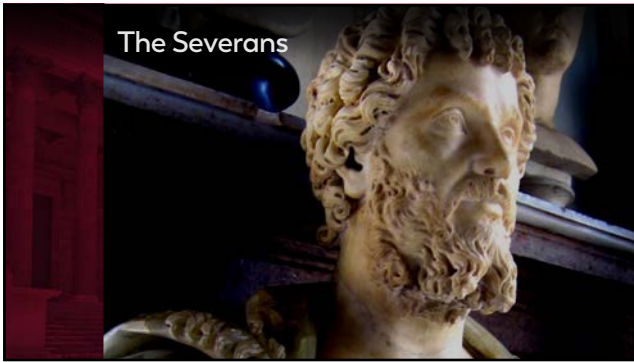
---

---

---

---

---



22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### “Antonine Constitution”

- Citizenship extended to nearly all free men throughout the Empire
- Reduced privileged position of Italy
- Emphasizes divides
  - Conquerors and conquered
  - Urban and rural
  - Graeco-Roman and other
- Uniform tax liability
- Recruiting for army

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Later Severans



26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



28

---

---

---

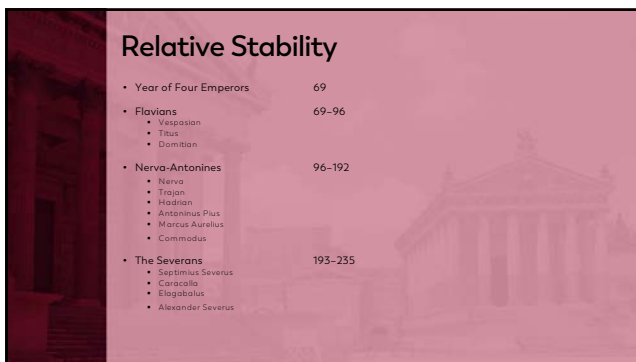
---

---

---

---

---



29

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



30

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



31

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



32

---

---

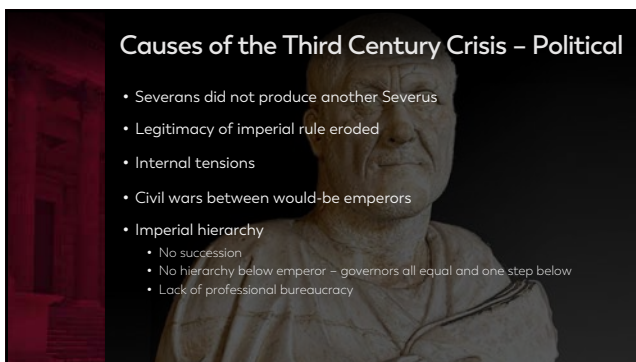
---

---

---

---

---



33

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Causes of the Third Century Crisis – Military

- Pressure on frontiers
  - Closing of the frontiers
  - Barbarian confederacies
  - New peoples arriving from east
  - Sasanians in Persia supplant Parthians and challenge Rome
- Not enough manpower or money
- Civil wars between would-be emperors

34

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Causes of the Third Century Crisis – Economic

- Rising cost of military
- Debasement
- Taxation
- Depopulation
  - Plague in Italy, other important cities
  - Resulting famine
- Strain on system leads to greater oppression of locals
- Christian persecutions

35

---

---

---

---

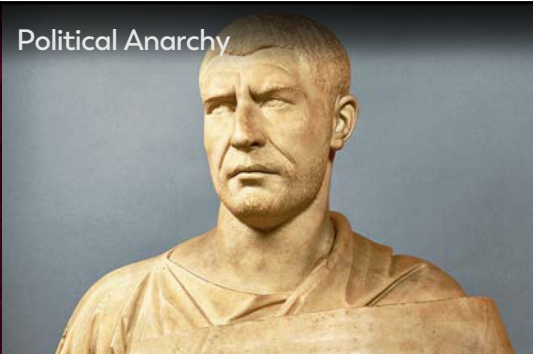
---

---

---

---

### Political Anarchy



36

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



37

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



38

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



39

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



40

---

---

---

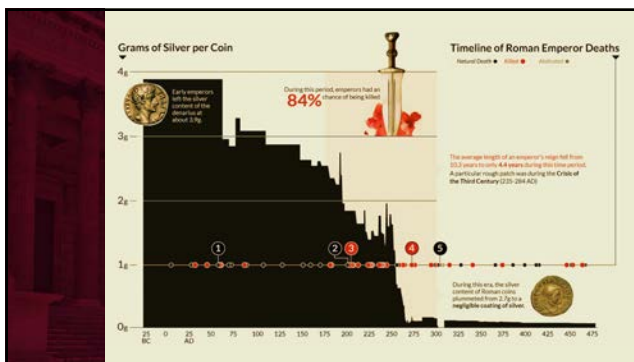
---

---

---

---

---



41

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



42

---

---

---

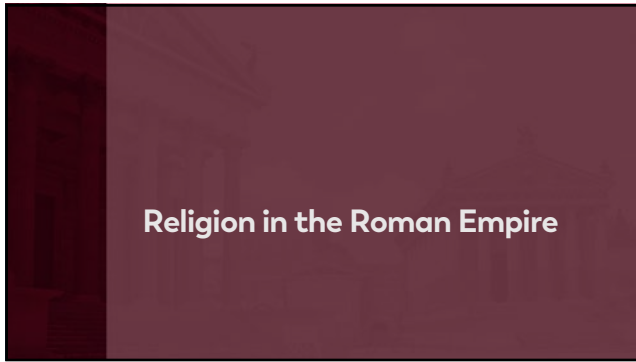
---

---

---

---

---



43

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



44

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



45

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



46

---

---

---

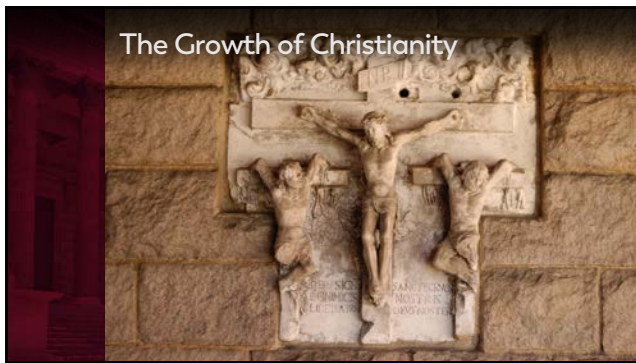
---

---

---

---

---



47

---

---

---

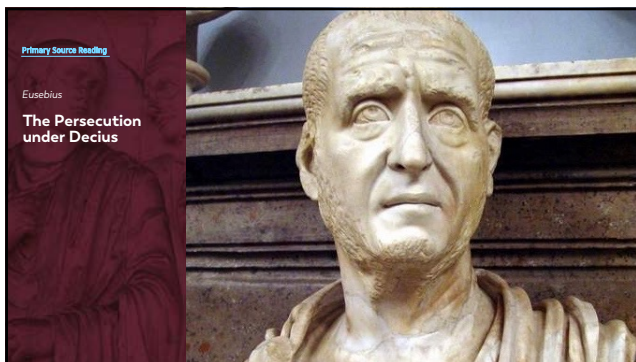
---

---

---

---

---



48

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





49

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



50

---

---

---

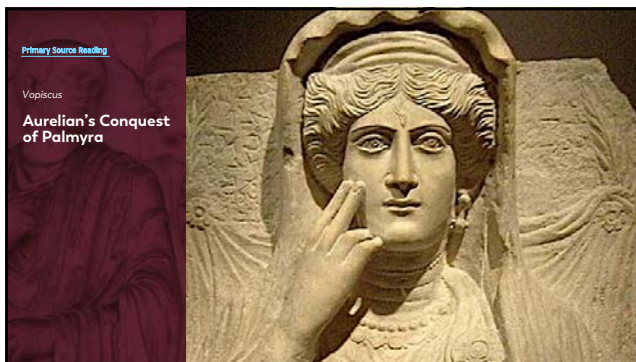
---

---

---

---

---



51

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



52

---

---

---

---

---

---

---