

Ancient Rome: Notes

How did geography influence Roman history?

Italian Peninsula- midpoint of Mediterranean Sea

Alps- isolated the peninsula from Europe

Rome: built 15 miles inland from the sea on the Tiber River- excellent location to send out trade and military ships

Romulus and Remus- twin brothers, raised by a she-wolf. Parents had died.

- Romulus kills his brother Remus.
- The city of Rome is named after Romulus.
- The story is symbolic of Roman toughness.

The Roman Republic

Culture: 3 groups of people important to Rome's development

1) Latins- provided language

2) Greeks- religious ideas and architecture

3) Etruscans- early kings and alphabet (cruel)

Politics: ruled by Etruscan kings until 509B.C.

- People wanted a change/appointed two men called consuls to rule
- New government established called a Republic
 - People who governed were elected by the citizens

Roman Senate:

- 300 Patricians served for life
- Advised government officials
- Used force of law

Roman Citizens: divided into two classes

Patricians- wealthy, could hold office, upper-class families owned land, men could vote

Plebeians- majority, common people, couldn't hold office, men could vote

Women and slaves were not citizens

Roman Confederation:

- Formed to rule Italy
- Allowed some people full citizenship
- Remaining communities allies
 - Allowed to run local affairs, had to provide soldiers to Rome, loyal allies could become citizens in Rome

Military: both classes joined together to fight as one

- Formed massive units called legions
- Proved superior to Greeks

Roman Republic Expands its Territory

Punic Wars: lasted 100 years (Carthage vs. Rome)

- Take on Carthage for control of Mediterranean

1st War: Rome defeats the powerful Carthaginian navy

- The victory gives them Sicily

2nd War: Hannibal (Carthage's greatest general) wanted revenge on Rome

- Led his 60,000 man army and 38 elephants across the Alps and fought for 15 yrs.
- Couldn't get through the large walls that surrounded Rome
- Roman General, Scipio, attacks Carthage and defeats Hannibal's army

3rd War: Rome destroys Carthage

- Carthage attacked Rome's ally—Rome attacks Carthage
- Cut off food to the city and burned it to the ground
- Romans gain control of N. Africa in 146 B.C.
- Become "super power" of the Med. Region

Roman Republic Faces Problems

Patricians and Plebians battle after the Punic Wars

- Plebians wanted political and social equality
- Plebian soldiers return to find their land had been sold to the Patricians (due to unpaid taxes)
- They move to the city to find jobs, there are no jobs, find slaves doing the work
- Battles break out between the two groups

Military Leaders Take Power

- Marius (Plebian) and Sulla (Patrician) battle for control, Sulla wins and becomes dictator
- He is replaced by the First Triumvirate in 60 B.C. (Crassus, Pompey, & Julius Caesar share power)

Julius Caesar:

- “Crosses the Rubicon” and takes control of Rome
- Caesar puts an end to the Republic and becomes dictator in 44 B.C.
- Well liked by the Plebians and famous throughout Rome for his conquests
- Hated by the Senate (because he put an end to the Republic)