

Day 3 of Roman History, December 8, 2008

Previously Ended with the end of the second Punic War

- 200-50 BC
 - Through treaty, alliance, warfare, and luck, Rome was able to add Greece, Macedonia and all the way to the near East and Egypt
 - Furthest Extent of Eastern Expansion
 - These areas were richer than western territories and more urban.
 - As a result, much of Roman society begins to change
 - Luxury from the East
 - Homes and goods grander
 - Attempts were made to limit the amount of gold plate a Roman could own
 - Not effective
 - Agriculture Changes
 - Rome was always an agricultural society, but basis for this begins to change
 - Traditional family farm and small farmer begins to be pushed out
 - Farmers are away from home and land is bought up by land speculators
 - Latifundia
 - Corporate farms manned by hundreds to thousands of slaves
 - People who used to live on farms moved to the big city
 - City grows rapidly
 - The “Mob” is eventually the term used for this strange rootless class of formerly country people
 - Proletarii
 - No land: Only possession was the ability to sell labor
 - Lowest census classification
 - The ‘head count’

- Cultural Changes
 - As Rome conquers the Mediterranean, Greek becomes “all the rage”
 - ‘Graecus Vir’ comes to simply mean ‘educated man’
 - Upper classes wrote and spoke in Greek amongst themselves to distinguish themselves from the lower classes
 - Ruling Class Changes
 - Importance of Triumph grows quite a bit
 - In pre-media age, the equivalent of advertising
 - People looked hard to achieve triumph to turn into political power and prestige
 - As ruling class is more competitive, the State begins to lose control of them
 - Ex. In 180, law was passed to definitively set cursus and stop powerful men from holding office early
 - Many members of ruling class used foreign conquest to build political power in Rome
 - “New Man” (Novus Homo)
 - Someone who had no ancestral honors
 - Ambitious people like Cicero were coming to capital and for the first time ever were competing for power
- By 100, Rome was in a vastly different state than at the start of the century
 - Urbanization
 - Rapid Change
 - Politically Unstable
 - Ready for the fall of the Republic
- Rome did not have a written constitution
 - Mos Maiorum
 - Customs of our ancestors
 - Weight of precedent

- Increasingly difficult to maintain
- Continuation of loss of base of citizenship (agriculture)
- Amount of grain decreases and city population continues to rise rapidly
 - (This is why Caesar became so involved with Egyptian politics, Rome needed grain from Egypt)
- Rome's Italian allies made up the bulk of Rome's military machine, but did not think they were getting what they deserved for their labor
- End of the republic witnessed a series of rivalries between military leaders
 - Marius vs. Sulla
 - Pompey vs. Caesar
 - Antony vs. Octavian
- Marius and Sulla
 - Marius was a hardworking "new man"
 - 116, Rome became involved in an internal dispute in Numidia: turns into a ten year war
 - Rome has trouble defeating Jugurtha
 - He used guerilla style warfare
 - Disgusted with the incompetence of the generals, the people elect Marius consul
 - Marius defeats Jugurtha
 - He returns to Rome to stop sudden rise in Germanic invasion
 - Germanic invasion had never happened before on such a large scale
 - Two tribes had decided to migrate south
 - They defeat Roman armies
 - 105-A huge Roman army is wiped out
 - Rome prepares for barbarian invasion and re-elect Marius against precedent
 - Marius sets about Roman army to meet invaders
 - Landless men are for the first time ever enlisten in the roman army and paid for service
 - Enabled Marius to defeat the two tribes

- The Cimbri in 102
 - The Tutoni in 101
- This created new enemies
- New army comes at a high price
 - Soldiers are no longer loyal to the state; loyalty lies with the generals
 - Army became a way to solve political disputes by generals forcing their power upon the state
- Sulla was a faded aristocrat
 - Someone from an old family which hadn't been heard much of recently
 - Light skinned, almost albino (wore a cap on campaigns to protect his easily burned skin)
 - Rumored to have murdered his first wife to speed up inheritance
 - Openly homosexual
 - Attached to Marius as a junior officer in Marius' first command
 - Sulla convinced a relative of Jugurtha to betray him and believes 'he' caused the end of the Jugurthan war, not Marius.
 - He holds a series of minor offices
- 91-89
 - Social War
 - Rebellion by Rome's Italian allies
 - They complained because they had a lot of risk when they served in Roman military, but lacked reward for their effort
 - Italian allies force the Romans to give them equal status
 - In the same year, king Mithridates begins war in the East
 - Rome had come into control of Asia Minor, but not Anatolia
 - Rich area
 - Beyond, independent kingdoms, including Pontis
 - People of Asia Minor not happy with the Romans
 - They are upset because of Publiani
 - Tax-farming

- State unable to collect taxes, so they farmed it out to companies who bid on the right to collect taxes
- Anything they collected above the due amount turned into personal profit
- Often, they went around with soldiers to make people 'pay up'
- Using hatred of tax collectors, king Mithridates sends a letter exclaiming that on a certain day, they would rise up and drive Romans into the sea.
- 80,000 Roman citizens die
- Roman senate wants revenge
- Initially, command is voted to Sulla
 - It is his chance to gain notoriety
 - BUT, the popular assemblies say they want the command to go to Marius
 - When the senate calls Sulla back, he marches his army against the capital and lays siege to the city, forcing Marius and many supporters to flee the city
 - Eventually, Romans bribe king Mithridates to stop fighting
- 81-80 – Sulla returns to Rome in charge and institutes reign of terror (proscriptions)
 - Listing of public enemies in the forum
 - They could be killed on sight and property taken away
 - 200 senators and 1600 equestrians die
 - Sulla begins reform
 - Doubles the size of the senate and lowers the size of tribune, so no one with talent could go into it
 - Sulla saw himself as a conservative restorer, not a revolutionary
- 79 – Sulla steps down from office and dies a year later
 - Once one person had done what Sulla did, others could do it as well
 - Fashions Caesar
 - A dangerous precedent for the republic

- Populares – Men like Marius who support organs of government responsive to poor
- Optimates- Self-styled good men: Conservative, protect the senate and offices
 - Factions/alliances not parties
- Pompey vs Caesar
 - Foreign wars continued to offer opportunities for generals
 - Pompey was a junior officer under Sulla and was given special commands to put down revolts
 - 67 – Piracy was such a problem in the Mediterranean that the senate gave Pompey special power
 - The senate gives Imperium, which gives someone a hand in justice while on campaigns
 - (Emperors were given grants of Imperium that lasted a lifetime)
 - Pompey's was issued for "as long as it took to deal with the piracy problem"
 - Pompey manages to defeat the pirates large controlling army and route them in relatively short order
 - 65 – Mithridates renews his hostilities, but now, Rome has one of the best generals fighting
 - Pompey not only defeats Mithridates, but conquers the territory up to Egypt
 - Most of this was unplanned
- Crassus
 - Rome's richest man
 - Gained fame putting down Spartacus slave revolt, which was the largest and most dangerous
 - Gladiator escaped and raised a slave army, ravaging the country side
 - Crassus was never given a triumph because it was undignified to fight slaves, even when they had defeated the romans on several occasions
 - It was like rat extermination rather than a military battle
 - So, Crassus never gained a triumph

End of Day 3