

Day 4 of Roman History, March 17, 2009

- 753 – 509 ~ Monarchy
- 509 – 27 ~ Republic
- 27 – 476 ~ Empire
- Battle of Actium in 31, civil wars which marked last years of Republic
- Tacitus said after Actium government by one man became the condition for peace
- Principate created
 - From “Princeps”
- Tacitus called principate
 - Quaedam imago reipublicae
 - A certain image of republic or image of republic... sort of
- Emperors claimed republic was still there for a long time
- Late Republic
 - Some attempts by 1 or more individuals to gain control
 - Extension of office
 - Dictatorship
 - Caesar had tried
 - Augustus had to work slowly to consolidate his power
 - Empire had to develop ways to rule world empire better than republic
- Empire more popular in provinces than the capital
 - Tacitus: “He seduced the army with bonuses, and his cheap food policy was successful bait for civilians. Indeed, he attracted everybody’s goodwill by the enjoyable gift of peace. Then he gradually pushed ahead and absorbed the

functions of the senate, the officials, and even the law. Opposition did not exist. War or judicial murder had disposed of all men of spirit. Upper-class survivors found that slavish obedience was the way to succeed, both politically and financially. They had profited from the revolution, and so now they liked the security of the existing arrangement better than the dangerous uncertainties of the old regime. Besides, the new order was popular in the provinces. There, government by Senate and People was looked upon sceptically as a matter of sparring dignitaries and extortionate officials. The legal system had provided no remedy against these, since it was wholly incapacitated by violence, favoritism, and – most of all – bribery.”

- People were tired of confiscation and poverty and war
- If anyone could bring peace and end this, they would have to be popular
- Augustus returns to Italy 29, reduces senators back to the original 600, and he begins to beautify the city with spoils of war... without confiscating
- Offered general amnesty to followers of Antony and others and pardoned those who opposed him
- Said he restored republic and would step aside
 - Most people see as political ploy
 - Senators (many appointed by Augustus) said Augustus couldn't step aside and granted him power to continue his work and gave him the name “Augustus” or “Growing into divine”
 - Some call “Settlement of 27” – Between elite and emperor
- 2 Powers granted to the emperor

- Imperium proconsulare
 - Imperium is a grant of authority given to a general or governor
 - Emperors are given the same power
 - Gave emperors control over military resources of empire
 - At first, emperor controlled less settled provinces, and senate controlled more settled
 - Thus, emperor controlled the army
 - Emperor could appoint legati who were given longer tenure if more honest
 - New officials proved to be better because they did not bribe so much as the previous officials
- Tribunica Potestas
 - Gave emperor veto power over senatorial legislation
 - Emperor could claim they are protectors of everyday man
 - Claim basis of popularity with mobs
 - To harm tribune was a religious crime
 - Cut down assassinations
- From Augustus to end, emperors power rested on Tribunica Potestas and Imperium Proconsulare
 - Was a ceremony for receiving these till the end
- Year 23 – Augustus gave up holding consulship and allowed others to hold it
- Year 12 – Augustus became pontifex maximus
 - Lepidus, former companion in triumvirate had been pontifex maximus
 - Augustus let him remain chief priest until he died as was tradition

- Shows how Augustus was different from Caesar
 - Worked quietly behind the scenes
 - Held up traditions
- Slowly and surely, Augustus consolidated control over state less by force than by bringing peace
- If this system would maintain itself, something would have to be worked out that would pass system on to chosen successor
 - Issue that would hurt emperors till the end
- What happens if emperor dies
 - Theoretical difficulties
 - Augustus' power had been built up in stages
 - Legal fiction that senate and people had bestowed power on emperor, what if wouldn't do this
 - Succession was the weak spot in imperial rule
- Initially worried about health, emperor gave 5-year grant of one of the powers to Agrippa
 - Pattern from then roughly set
 - Associate someone before emperor dies
 - Used to rule
 - Well-known that emperor selected them
 - Early pattern that emperors set out
 - Chosen successor controlled military

- Plan for succession centered on Agrippa then went to 2 step-sons of Augustus when Agrippa died because no one was left, then to Tiberius, who was living in exile
- Tiberius and Augustus didn't like each other
- Tiberius
 - In 4 AD adopted by Augustus as his son
 - Tiberius is slowly associated with 2 powers
- 13 – Tiberius given formal control of provinces
- Less than a year later, Augustus dies, managing at least for a time to make a peaceful succession

(Augustus may have purposefully selected Tiberius to make the contrast between the two even greater, so Augustus would seem that much better in history because Tiberius was so awful)

