

Day 1 of Roman History, October 15, 2008

Roman History is divided into 3 periods

1. Regal (758-509 BCE)

- 7 Kings

2. Republic (509-27 BCE)

-Senate

-Elected Officials

3. Empire (27 BCE – 476)

-Emperors

-27 BCE: Octavian is given the honorary cognomen “Augustus,” starting the Empire.

-476: traditional date given to the fall of the Roman Empire

- Earliest settlements in Rome come from around 900 BCE
- People speculate that people came from elsewhere to these salt marshes because salt was valuable
- Earliest known settlement was on the Palatine hill
- Economy was primarily agricultural
 - Pecunia comes from “pecus” (cow)
- Even when Rome was an urban metropolis, it was still fundamentally agricultural

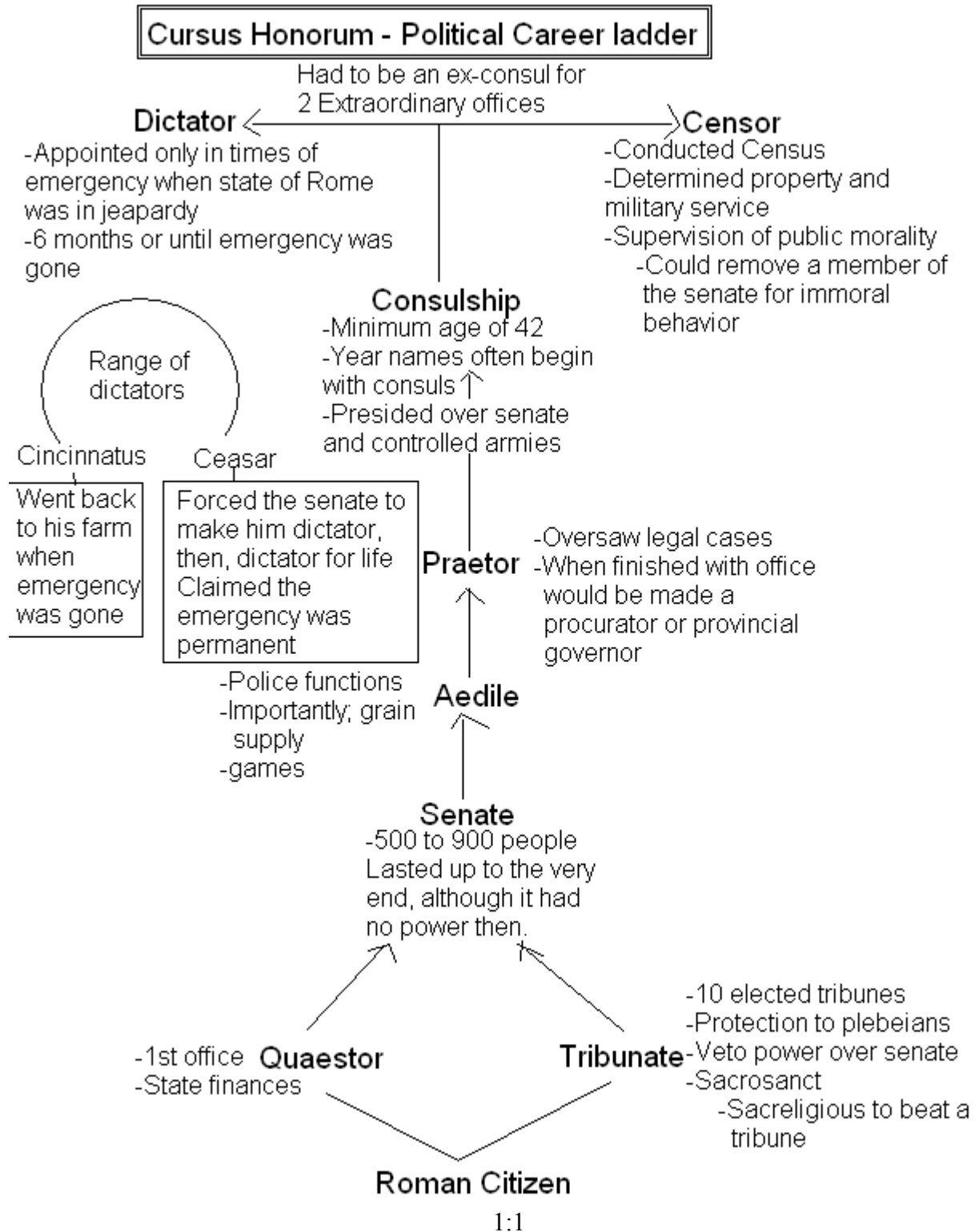
- Earliest Kings-
 - Romulus killed his brother, Remus, founding Rome
 - Final 3 were Etruscan kings
- Romans borrowed a great deal from people who lived around them
 - Particularly religious from Etruscans
 - In the lower half of Italy, Rome was heavily influenced by the Greeks
 - Settled in Sicily and on the Adriatic coast
 - Romans borrowed manner of dress, Olympian gods, etc...

- Archeological evidence shows that society was becoming more stratified and a gap was growing between rich and poor nearing 600 BCE
 - Tomulus, tombs shaped like beehives for the rich, show clues to wealthy life
 - The poorer burials are evidence of the gap between classes

- In this time, basic outlines of Roman society came to be
 - Family
 - All Roman families were under the father; potestas pater
 - In legal theory, the father had authority over life or death of family
 - Patron/Client
 - Mutual bonds of obligation
 - Glue that held together Roman society
 - Always owed something to someone else
 - Patricians (mostly the rich) – members of the Roman senate who dominated political office
 - Plebeians (largely, the poor) – could not hold office for a long while
 - Senate – a deliberative body
 - Army
 - From the earliest time, a census was taken to determine wealth (land)
 - Solders were proportioned for military service based upon their land
 - Rich; cavalry, middle-class; infantry, lower class; worse infantry
 - Landless men were not able to serve in the roman army until about 100
 - Proletarii
 - Head count
 - Lowest census class

- Roman society in 509 BCE:
 - Lucius Junius Brutus led the revolution and was attributed with the founding of the republic and the founding of cursus honorum
 - What finally brought Tarquin down was his rape of a noble woman

- Roman citizenship was narrow and thus valued
 - Got certain rights



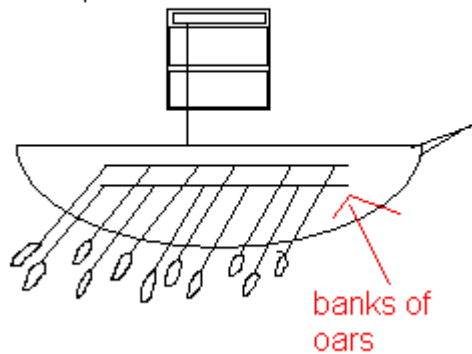
- Consuls, senate, lesser magistracies, and assemblies
 - Came to represent a mixed form of government
 - Checks and balances
- Between 500 and 300, system was tested by a continuous string of wars
 - Wars with neighbors
 - Attempts to restore kings
 - Gaul invasion (managed to take hold of Rome for several years)
- Internal
 - Conflict of orders
 - Plebeians vs. Patricians
 - Eventually plebeians refused to take part in army and “took over” the Aventine Hill
 - Tribune
 - Law of twelve tables
 - Twelve bronze plaques that spelled out the law code
- One thing the Roman state excelled at was bending but not breaking in dealing with internal difficulty
 - Change enough to avoid disaster, but not enough to alter the status quo
- By 300
 - Most difficulties of this nature were solved
 - Rome begins to expand, first to Northern Italy
 - Absorb, conquer and gain control of most of Northern Italy
 - Broke into classes
 - Municipia
 - Set rights
 - Roman allies
 - Didn’t have to pay taxes
 - Didn’t matter because Romans didn’t really need taxes, but soldiers
 - A few places held only garrisons from the Romans

- Aiding in their conquering was the growing and impressive system of Roman roads
 - Via Apia
 - Southward
 - Link up all of new territory with the capital
 - 2 things
 - helped to unify diverse areas
 - Roads provided a message
 - “Don’t rebel because we can get to you”
 - Mile markers were set on the road from the calculator and leaders could calculate how long it would take to get to certain areas
- Once Northern Italy was added to the Roman power, Rome turned to bringing in all of Southern Italy
 - Problem was the large number of Greek city-states
 - Begin to involve themselves in the political affairs with city-states
- Big issue is when most powerful city-state Tarentum began to dispute with a smaller city-state
 - Smaller state appealed to Rome
 - Tarentenes appealed to Eporus
 - Pyrrhus, king of Eporus, successor king to Alexander the great
 - Sends massive army to fight Romans
 - 280-279, Romans defeated, but the victory was costly for Pyrrhus, too costly
 - Eventually, Romans defeat Pyrrhus because of his limited forces
 - 275 – Romans are master of all Italian Peninsula
 - Brings discussion to Sicily

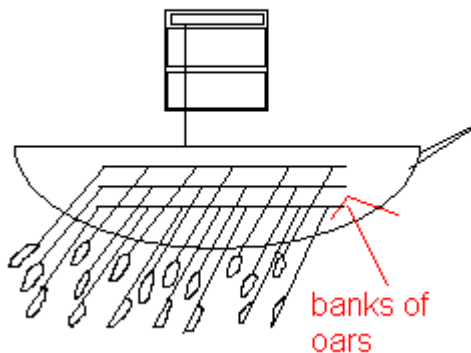
Day 2 of Roman History, October 16, 2008

- With the defeat of Pyrrhus, Rome was now master of the Italian Peninsula
- Brought them up to the areas owned by Carthage
- Opens up the Punic Wars
 - There were 3 Punic Wars
 - 1st -264-241
 - 2nd - 218-201
 - 3rd - 149-146
- Punic wars got their name from the Phoenicians, who settled in Carthage
 - Romans could not pronounce Phoenicians, so they called them poeni, hence punic
- Being that Rome, by 265, controlled down to Sicily, Rome was brought into conflict with Carthage
- Factions within a city in Sicily fight
 - One side would call on Carthage, the other Rome
- Carthage had the military advantage at sea; whereas, the Romans had the advantage in land battles
 - Rome hastily constructed a large navy to compete with that of Carthage.
 - Two types of ships

Bireme -
A ship with two banks of oars



Trireme -
A ship with three banks of oars



- Beak-like device (see figure 2:1) was attached to the front of a warship to ram enemies
- Romans came up with a grappling hook type instrument, which would enable them to put a gangplank down to the other ship
 - Thus, fighting land battles at sea
- Carthage finally sued for peace
 - Sicily became the first province of the eventual 44 “foreign” provinces Rome would seize during its time of glory
- In intervening years between the two wars, Rome became involved in affairs, particularly Spain in order to drive the occupying Carthaginians out

- On the cutting edge of Roman military organization

- Phalanx – top form of military organization



2:4

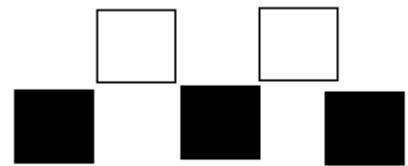
- Troops formed into a wedge (2:2) with pikes or long protruding spears
- Played a role in the formation of democracy
 - Fought as equals → Deserved equal rights



2:2

- Romans modify to the maniple system (2:3)

- Consisted in 200 men
- 30 Maniples in a legion
- Like a checkerboard (see figure 2:4)
- Centurion was in charge of 100 men
- Weapons consisted in
 - A rectangular shield
 - Shoes, kilt, fringed skirt, leather breastplate (sometimes metal overlay), cloak, and helmet with rim, which would glance off blows
 - Pilum, or short javelin
 - One half metal, the other wood to prevent the enemy from throwing it back
 - Gladius, a short sword, which the soldier would thrust, not swing



2:3

- Genius of the system was that the unit could not be broken up because parts of it could maneuver in the empty space between the squares of troops
- Communicated with flags, whistles, and musical instruments
- Roman legions also had numerous specialized attachments
 - Architects and builders
 - Archers
 - Sappers, who dug under enemy walls to make them collapse
 - Scouts and skirmishes

All in addition to main body and cavalry (Cavalry did not have stirrups)

- Discipline in the army was rigorous and harsh
- Training took 3 years
 - Taught to march at a certain time and distance, fight, and most importantly, obey commanders without hesitation
 - Often when training camps were opened up, they would kill a person as a warning
 - Highest penalty of decimation (from decem) was reserved for mutineers
 - Lined soldiers up and killed every ten people
 - They were beaten to death in front of the others
- Discipline was also shown in how the Romans set up camp
 - Spent 3-4 hours every night
 - Fortified, portable cities
 - Romans set them up the same way every time
 - Distances between tents were specified for reasons such as fires not being able to spread from tent to tent
 - Depths of latrines also specified and height of stockade
 - Romans were rarely taken by surprise at night
- Back to war with Carthage
 - Principle source for knowledge of war is Polybius
 - Sent to Rome as a hostage

- Hostages were a feature of diplomacy
 - Not mistreated
 - In fact, could associate freely with high society
 - Polybius actually became close friends with Scipio, who was his source for a lot of information
- In 218 – A new general, Hannibal, sets out to break the treaty
 - His father had been a general in the first Punic war
 - Carthage tended to produce good generals
 - Carthage also relied on mercenaries more than “citizen soldiers”
- Hannibal crossed the Alps with war elephants, etc...
 - Tried to get Gaulic tribes to join their forces
 - Some did
- At lake Trasimene, the Romans suffered a major defeat
- Two consuls at the time
 - Vero and Amelius Paulus
 - Regarded as petty characters in history
 - Came up with the idea that one would rule one day, the other the next because they could not get along
- At Cannae in 216, Romans came with double the amount of soldiers than the Carthaginians, but were beaten soundly
 - Largely owing to the consuls’ incompetence
 - 70,000 died at Cannae
 - Many committed suicide afterwards rather than return to the capital
 - Superstitious Romans shut everything down on the anniversary every year of Cannae for fear of bad luck on that day
- After Cannae, many of Rome’s Italian allies move to Hannibal’s side
- Starting in 216, a dictator is elected
 - Fabius Maximus
 - Given the honorary title “cunctator” or delayor
 - Did not meet Hannibal openly

- Slowly dried up Hannibal's sources of manpower
- Starting in 203, the Romans enter into an alliance with the king of Numidia and the Numidians attack Carthage
- Hannibal is called back to his home
- Scipio defeats Hannibal in 20 at Zama
- Scipio and Hannibal met in chairs before the battle
 - Scipio had always wanted to see Hannibal and was surprised to find him a small old man with an eyepatch
- Rome gains territory in Spain, France and Africa
- Ending the second Punic War

