The Archaeology of Rome and the Roman provinces

Lecture 3. The history of the Roman empire
Cato the Elder
234 BC – 149 BC

• Cato the Elder, born Marcus Porcius Cato and also known as Cato the Censor (Cato Censorius), Cato the Wise (Cato Sapiens), and Cato the Ancient (Cato Priscus), was a Roman senator and historian known for his conservatism and opposition to Hellenization.

• He came from an ancient Plebeian family who were noted for their military service. Like his forefathers, Cato was devoted to agriculture when not serving in the army.

• His epithet "Elder" distinguishes him from his equally famous great-grandson Cato the Younger, who opposed Julius Caesar.

• The less wealthy politicians, jealous of this exclusive oligarchy, and openly watchful of the decadence and disorder associated with luxury, placed themselves at the head of a party which showed its determination to rely on purer models and to attach much importance to the ancient ways. In their eyes, rusticity, austerity, and asceticism were the marks of the old Roman inflexible integrity and love of order.

• In his last years, he was known for energetically urging his countrymen to prosecute the Third Punic War and to destroy Carthage.
"Ceterum censeo Carthaginem esse delendam" or "Ceterum autem censeo Carthaginem esse delendam" (English: "Furthermore, (moreover) I consider that Carthage must be destroyed") often abbreviated to "Ceterum censeo", "Carthago delenda est", or "Delenda est Carthago" (English: "Carthage must be destroyed") is a Latin oratorical phrase which was in popular use in the Roman Republic in the 2nd Century BC during the latter years of the Punic Wars against Carthage, by the party urging a foreign policy which sought to eliminate any further threat to the Roman Republic from its ancient rival Carthage, which had been defeated twice before and had a tendency after each defeat to rapidly rebuild its strength and engage in further warfare. It represented a policy of the extirpation of the enemies of Rome who engaged in aggression, and the rejection of the peace treaty as a means of ending conflict. The phrase was most famously uttered frequently by the Roman senator Cato the Elder (234–149 BC), as a part of his speeches.

Although no ancient source gives the phrase exactly as it is usually quoted in modern times (either Carthago delenda est or the fuller Ceterum censeo Carthaginem esse delendam), according to several ancient sources the Roman statesman Cato the Elder frequently if not invariably ended his speeches in the Senate with a variant of this expression even when his speech had been totally unrelated to Roman foreign policy towards Carthage. The main ancient sources, are:

- Plutarch, biography of Cato in his "Parallel Lives", written in Greek, who quoted Cato's expression as "δοκεῖ δὲ μοι καὶ Καρχηδόνα μη εἶναι."[6]
- Pliny the Elder, in his "Natural History", 15.23: "[Cato] clamaret omni senatu Carthaginem delendam."
- Aurelius Victor in his De Viris Illustribus, 47.8.: "Carthaginem delendam censuit."
- Livy, Ab Urbe Condita, XLIX.
- Florus, Epitoma de Tito Livio bellorum omnium annorum DCC, Liber primus, XXXI.[7] "Cato inexpiabili odio delendam esse Carthaginem... pronunciabat."


Octavian Augustus: Rome’s First Emperor
Octavian Becomes Augustus

- **Octavian** was sole ruler of Rome after his forces defeated Antony and Cleopatra at the Battle of Actium
- The Senate gave him the name “Augustus,” meaning “most high”
- 23 BCE – Octavian, now referred to as Augustus, was made **consul for life** by the Senate
  - Also made “**Princeps**,” meaning “first citizen”
    - Origin of the word “prince”
  - Also made “**Imperator**,” meaning “successful general”
    - Origin of the word “emperor”
  - Also made “**Pontifex Maximus**,” or “chief religious leader”
    - Origin of the word “pontiff” (used to describe the pope today)
  - He had the power to call the Senate, veto the Senate’s laws, and make laws himself
Primus inter pares

- “First among equals”
- Augustus and later emperors tried to maintain – to some extent - the façade that they were elected officials rather than dictators
- Being “first among equals” gave the illusion that an emperor was the most prestigious and important member of the Roman Senate, but that each senator was simultaneously equally important
- In reality, the Roman emperors ruled with little input from anyone else
Academic dispute (nerd war)

- The Roman Revolution (1939) is an influential scholarly study of the final years of the ancient Roman Republic and the creation of the Roman Empire by Caesar Augustus.
- The book was the work of Sir Ronald Syme (1903–1989).
- It was immediately controversial. Its main conclusion was that the structure of the Republic and its Senate were inadequate to the needs of Roman rule, and that Augustus was merely doing what was necessary to restore order in public life.
- This was a situation and reasoning uncomfortably reminiscent of contemporary events in Nazi Germany and the other fascist regimes of the time.

vs.

- The Last Generation of the Roman Republic (1974) is a scholarly work by Erich S. Gruen on the end of the Roman Republic in the 1st century BC.
- The central argument of the work is that the Late Roman Republic can be characterised by the strength and continuity of its institutions, rather than by their gradual disintegration.
- The latter view was popularly accepted prior to the release of this work, that understanding initially begun by Ronald Syme’s great work The Roman Revolution (1939).
Rome Expands

Map showing the expansion of Rome to 2nd century B.C.
Rome Expands

Map showing the expansion of Rome to 201 B.C.
Rome Expands
Rome Expands
Rome Expands
How was the Republic replaced by imperial rule?

- General prosperity masked the potential conflicts
- Civil war
- By the end of the first century B.C., Rome was the capital of an empire that stretched from the Straits of Gibraltar to the frontiers of Palestine
- It gave peace and orderly government to the Mediterranean area for the next two centuries
Imperial Roman Road System

Roman Roads in A.D. 14

- Roman Empire
- Roman road
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rome under Augustus: A Golden Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attempted to reform public morals by promoting family life (largely unsuccessful).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Began the practice of declaring emperors gods, and of picking their own successors. (He called Haley’s Comet the spirit of Caesar.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built and maintained the empire’s infrastructure (e.g., roads).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encouraged the growth of business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established fire and police departments for Rome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established a strong money system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended citizenship to more and more provincials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Said he “found Rome a city of bricks and left it a city of marble.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoted a return to religiousness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pax Romana: 27 BCE - 180 CE
Pax Romana – Roman Peace

• Rome controlled the entire Mediterranean region and beyond

• This “peace” (mostly internal) lasted nearly 200 years

• More and more provincials were granted official Roman citizenship
Strategy: Divide and Control

• Rome’s fear:
  – That allies and colonies would unite against Roman Rule

• Rome’s solution:
  – Keep groups under Roman control disunited

• How it was done:
  – Forbade alliances between them
  – Separate privileges and treaties
Treatment of Conquered Peoples

• Conquered peoples were treated well
  – Some received full Roman citizenship, including suffrage
  – Some controlled their own affairs but paid tribute and gave soldiers to the Roman army

• Colonies
  – Rome established colonies in conquered areas, each protected by a garrison of Roman soldiers
  – Republic encouraged intermarriage
    • Led to the spread of Roman culture and language (Latin)
    • “Romanization”
Why didn’t conquered peoples rebel?

- Effective governance
  - Protection/Peace
  - Citizenship
- Romanization
  - Roman culture
  - Latin language
  - Roman laws
- Trade benefits
  - Standardized money
  - Safe trade
- Cities
  - Roads
  - Aqueducts
Empire of Maintenance and Consolidation

Augustus’ Imperial Policy (?): Grand Strategy or Ad Hoc Reaction?
“For these [the Romans] I place neither time nor limits; I have given power without end.”

Vergil, *Aeneid*, 1.278-9 (Jupiter)
“The princeps recognized that prudent diplomacy and discreet display of force were preferable to expensive and hazardous ventures.”

E.S. Gruen
“Power born of potential force is not expended when it is used, nor is it a finite quality. Force, on the other hand, is just that; if directed to one purpose, it cannot simultaneously be directed at another, and if used, it is ipso facto consumed.”

E.N. Luttwak
“What, with hindsight, historians analyze as Roman ‘policy’ was often, simply, the Roman government’s pragmatic reaction to situations.”

J.A. Crook
Raw Numbers and Territorial Extent of the Roman Empire

- Twenty-eight legions (25 after 9 CE): 300,000 troops (150,000 legionaries; 150,000 auxiliaries)
  - Terms of Service: 16 years for Praetorian Guard; 20 years for regular legionaries (after 5 CE)
- Four-thousand mile long frontier of varied nature (mountain, forest, desert)
- Economics of Defense
  - Land grants to Discharged Veterans before 6 CE
  - Cash payments thereafter from aerarium militare (financed by personal contributions, a 1% sales tax, and a 5% inheritance tax)
Augustus addressed many management-related issues in his will, read to Senate by his successor, Tiberius

“This contained a description of the resources of the state, of the number of citizens and allies under arms, of the fleets, subject kingdoms, provinces, taxes, direct and indirect, necessary expenses and customary bounties. All these details Augustus had written with his own hand, and had added a counsel, that the empire should be confined to its present limits, either from fear or out of jealousy.”

Tacitus, *Annals*, 1.11
Res Gestae

- Res Gestae Divi Augusti (The Deeds of the Divine Augustus) is the funerary inscription of the first Roman emperor, Augustus, giving a first-person record of his life and accomplishments.
- The Res Gestae is especially significant because it gives an insight into the image Augustus portrayed to the Roman people.
- Various inscriptions of the Res Gestae have been found scattered across the former Roman Empire. The inscription itself is a monument to the establishment of the Julio-Claudian dynasty that was to follow Augustus.
- The text consists of a short introduction, 35 body paragraphs, and a posthumous addendum. These paragraphs are conventionally grouped in four sections, political career, public benefactions, military accomplishments and a political statement.
Res Gestae

- The Res Gestae was a unique public relations move for the first emperor of the Roman Empire, whose political career was in many ways experimental.
- If their frequent use as "history" by later historians (both ancient and modern) who characterized Augustus' rule according to categories he himself constructed in the Res Gestae is any indication, it is a rather successful piece of propaganda.
- On the other hand, it would be absurd to overlook the usefulness to historians of what is essentially a first-person account of his rule.
Monumentum Ancyranum

- The Monumentum Ancyranum (Latin for "Monument of Ankara") refers to the inscription of the Res Gestae Divi Augusti ("Deeds of the Divine Augustus") located on the Augusteum (the Temple of Augustus and Rome) in Ankara, Turkey. It is the most intact copy of the Res Gestae in the world.

- The temple was built after the conquest of central Anatolia by the Roman Empire and the formation of the Galatia province, with Ancyra as its administrative capital.

- After the death of Augustus in AD 14, a copy of the text of the Res Gestae Divi Augusti was inscribed on both walls inside the pronaos in Latin, with a Greek translation on an exterior wall of the cella.

- The inscriptions are the primary surviving source of the text, since the original inscription on bronze pillars in front of the Mausoleum of Augustus in Rome has long been lost, and two other surviving inscriptions of the text are incomplete.

- The Monumentum Ancyranum was first made known to the western world by Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, ambassador of Ferdinand of Austria, to the Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent (1555–1562) at Amasia in Asia Minor. Busbecq first read the inscription and identified its origin from his reading of Suetonius; he published a copy of parts of it in his Turkish Letters.
FIG. 10.2 Section of the Latin version of the *Res Gestae*, from the interior wall of the Temple of Roma and Augustus, Ancyra (Ankara), showing chapter 1 and part of chapter 2.
Res Gestae

• The first section (paragraphs 2–14) is concerned with Augustus' political career; it records the offices and political honours that he held. Augustus also lists numerous offices he refused to take and privileges he refused to be awarded.

• The second section (paragraphs 15–24) lists Augustus' donations of money, land and grain to the citizens of Italy and his soldiers, as well as the public works and gladiatorial spectacles that he commissioned. The text is careful to point out that all this was paid for out of Augustus' own funds.

• The third section (paragraphs 25–33) describes his military deeds and how he established alliances with other nations during his reign.

• Finally the fourth section (paragraphs 34–35) consists of a statement of the Romans' approval for the reign and deeds of Augustus.
Res Gestae

- By its very nature the Res Gestae is propaganda for the principate that Augustus instituted. It tends to gloss over the events between the assassination of Augustus' adoptive father Julius Caesar and the victory at Actium when his foothold on power was finally undisputed. Augustus' enemies are never mentioned by name.
- Caesar's murderers Brutus and Cassius are called simply "those who killed my father". Mark Antony and Sextus Pompey, Augustus' opponents in the East, remain equally anonymous; the former is "he with whom I fought the war," while the latter is merely a "pirate."
- Often quoted is Augustus' official position on his government: "From that time (27 BC, the end of the civil war) I surpassed all others in influence, yet my official powers were no greater than those of my colleague in office." This is in keeping with a reign that promoted itself from the beginning as a "restoration" of the old republic, with a leader who was nothing more than "first among equals", but was akin to absolute monarchy by divine right, backed by the swords of the legions
“I extended the boundaries of all the provinces of the Roman people which were bordered by nations that were not subject to our empire. I pacified the provinces of the Gauls, the Spains, as well as Germany...I pacified the Alps...My fleet sailed through the Ocean from the mouth of the Rhine eastwards to the territory of the Cimbri, a place to which no Roman had gone before either by land or sea...”

Augustus, *Res Gestae*, 26
“By conquering enemies, I recovered many military standards—from Spain, Gaul, and the Dalmatians—which had been lost by other generals. I forced the Parthians to return to me the spoils and standards of three Roman armies, and, as suppliants, to seek the friendship of the Roman people. And I deposited those standards in the innermost shrine which is in the Temple of Mars the Avenger.”

Augustus, *Res Gestae*, 29
Disaster of 9 CE:
Varus’ Three Lost Legions

- Attempt to push Roman frontier to Elbe River
- Massacre of Three Legions in Teutoburg Forest by German Chieftain Arminius (September, 9 CE)
- Romans fall back to Rhine-Danube frontier
- Changes in Roman Imperial Policy from Offensive to Defensive Imperialism?
Res Gestae Divi Augusti (Eng. The Deeds of the Divine Augustus) is the funerary inscription of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Among other things, it states that the Empire should have its frontier \textit{ad ripam fluminis Danuvii}.
Roman Emperors after Augustus

- Great variety in the quality of those emperors who succeeded Augustus
- The office of emperor was initially designed to be hereditary
  - But from the start, there was confusion as to which family member would inherit the throne
  - Some emperors proved to be cutthroats, or insane, or both
  - The military came to play an enormous role in selecting who would become emperor
Tiberius (14-37 CE)

- Stepson of Augustus
- Abolished the Assembly
- Capable general who extended the frontier in the north
- Strengthened the empire
- Appeared to dislike ruling, and gradually retired to the island of Capri
10 - General Tiberius assumes command of Roman forces in Germania and begins a two-year counterattack against Germanic tribes.

13 - Tiberius returns to Rome, where his powers are made equal to those of Augustus, effectively making him "Co-Emperor" in all but title.

14 - Augustus dies of natural causes at age 75 after a 40-year reign. His step-son and adoptive son Tiberius becomes Emperor. Following Augustus' death, soldiers in Germania and Pannonia protested their terms of military service. The new Emperor Tiberius sends Germanicus, the son of Tiberius' brother Nero Claudius Drusus and Tiberius' adoptive son, to Germania and sends his biological son Drusus Julius Caesar to Pannonia to put down the respective revolts.

16 - General Germanicus defeats Germanic tribes at the Battle of Weser River, reasserting Roman domination in Germania lost after the Battle of Teutoburg Forest.

17 - Following the death of Archelaus of Cappadocia, a Roman client king, Tiberius annexes Cappadocia into the Empire. Following the death of Antiochus III of Commagene, a Roman client king, Tiberius annexes Commagene into the Empire, incorporating its territory into the province of Syria.

22 - Drusus Julius Caesar, Tiberius' son, is granted powers second only to Tiberius, becoming his clear successor.

23 - Drusus dies under mysterious circumstances at the age of 36. Tiberius is left with no clear successor.

26 - Tiberius withdraws to the island of Capri, where he would remain until his death in 37. With Tiberius absent, Sejanus, Prefect of the Praetorian Guard, is left as de facto ruler of Rome.
Caligula (37 CE-41 CE)

- Son of famed military leader Germanicus, the nephew and adopted son of Tiberius
- Earned his name “Caligula,” meaning “little boots,” by the Roman army as a child (he was dressed like a soldier)
- Two years of good, effective rule, interrupted by a severe illness, and followed by two years of horrible rule
- Members of family and perceived enemies
  - Exiled some, killed some, and forced others to commit suicide
- Assassinated in 41 CE by members of the Praetorian Guard
Claudius (41-54 CE)

- Brought southern Britannia (what later became Great Britain) under Roman control, as well as several kingdoms in the East
- Opened the Senate up to provincials
- Became emperor because he was the last adult male of his family (brother of Germanicus and uncle of Caligula)
- Conducted a census of the empire in 48 CE
  - 5,984,072 Roman citizens
Nero (54-68 CE)

- Considered a tyrant
- Came to power after his mother allegedly poisoned his predecessor, Claudius
- Murdered his mother, his stepbrother, and two of his wives
- Also killed his teacher, the famous philosopher Seneca
- Fire in Rome (64 CE)
  - Nero was accused of setting the fire, and of fiddling while the city burned
  - Nero blamed the fire on the new religious group known as “Christians”
- Forced to commit suicide
Year of the Four Emperors (69 CE)

- Brief period of civil war after the death of Emperor Nero
- Four emperors ruled in quick succession
  - Galba
  - Otho
  - Vitellius
  - Vespasian
- Illustrated the problems of imperial succession
Vespasian (69-79 CE)

- Built the Colosseum in Rome
  - Place where gladiatorial combats were held
- First Jewish Revolt (66-70 CE)
- Systematic strengthening of the frontiers, especially on the Danube
  - Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, in the Roman province of Judea

- Succeeded by son Titus, then son Domitian
The Empire at its Peak

• Flavian Dynasty
  – Vespasian (69–79)
  – Titus (79–81)
  – Domitian (81–96)

• Five Good Emperors
  – Nerva (96-98)
  – Trajan (98-117)
  – Hadrian (117-138)
  – Antoninus Pius (138-161)
  – Marcus Aurelius (161-180)
Flavian Dynasty (69 to 96)

The Flavian dynasty rose to power during the civil war of 69, known as the Year of the Four Emperors. Although the dynasty proved to be short-lived (with three emperors reigning only 27 years), several significant historic, economic and military events took place during their reign.

60s
69 - Following the civil war of 68, general Vespasian emerges victorious and is proclaimed by the Senate as Emperor

70s
70 - As part of the Roman response to the Great Jewish Revolt, the general Titus lays siege to Jerusalem, destroying the Great Jewish Temple
73 - Lucius Bassus, military governor of Judea, lays siege to Masada, ending the Great Jewish Revolt
77 - Gnaeus Julius Agricola is appointed military governor of Britain, consolidates Roman control over the island, and expands Roman domination into Wales and Scotland
79 - Vespasian dies of natural causes at the age of 69 after a 10-year reign. His eldest son, the general Titus, becomes Emperor
Mount Vesuvius erupts, destroying the Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum

80s
81 - Titus dies of fever at the age of 41 after a 2-year reign. His younger brother Domitian becomes Emperor.
85 - Gnaeus Julius Agricola, military governor of Britain, returns to Rome after successful campaigns in Britain and is honored by Emperor Domitian.
86 - Dacians under King Decebalus cross the Danube river and invade the Roman province of Moesia, beginning a two-year war with the Empire
88 - Following a Roman victory against the Dacians at Tapae, the Dacian King Decebalus sues for peace. Domitian grants favorable terms to Decebalus, with Dacia becoming a Roman client kingdom and receives massive annual subsidies
89 - Lucius Antonius Saturninus, military governor of Germania Superior, revolts against Domitian’s rule
Under orders from Domitian, the general Trajan defeats Saturninus and restores imperial control over Germania Superior

90s
96 - Domitian is assassinated by members of his own court at the age of 44 after a 15-year reign. The Senate proclaims the elderly Nerva as Emperor
Nerva-Antonine Dynasty (96 to 192)

The Nerva-Antonine dynasty were seven Emperors who ruled the Roman Empire from 96 to 192. The dynasty began when the Senate proclaimed Nerva as Emperor following the assassination of Emperor Domitian. The first five of the six successions within this dynasty were notable in that the reigning Emperor adopted the candidate of his choice to be his successor. The Emperor Marcus Aurelius would be the only Emperor of this dynasty to be succeeded by his biological son, the Emperor Commodus. Commodus’ assassination would plunge the Empire into a civil war, known as the Year of the Five Emperors.

90s
96 - Following the assassination of Domitian, the Senate proclaims the elderly Nerva as Emperor
97 - Facing military opposition to his reign, Nerva adopts the popular and successful general Trajan as his son and heir
98 - Nerva dies of natural causes at the age of 67 following a 2-year reign. His adoptive son, the general Trajan, becomes Emperor without opposition

100s
101 - As part of his conquest of Dacia, Trajan crosses the Danube river and launches an invasion of Dacia, defeating the Dacian King Decebalus at Tapae
102 - Trajan approves a peace treaty unfavorable to Decebalus, though Dacia remains a Roman client kingdom
105 - Unhappy with his peace treaty with Rome, Dacian King Decebalus crossed the Danube river and raids Roman cities in Moesia. In response, Trajan crosses the Danube and launches an invasion as part of his conquest of Dacia,
106 - Defeating the Dacians at the Battle of Sarmisegetusa, Trajan brings his Dacian wars to an end with the annexation of Dacia into the Empire as a province
107 - Rabbel II Soter, Roman client king of Nabataea, dies. Trajan annexes his kingdom into the Empire as the province of Arabia Petraea

110s
113 - Trajan begins his invasion of the Parthian Empire
114 - Trajan deposes Parthamasiris of Armenia, a Roman client king, and annexes his kingdom into the Empire
116 - Trajan captures the Parthian capital of Ctesiphon, annexing Mesopotamia and Assyria into the Empire
   Trajan deposes King Osroes I of Parthia, installing Parthamaspates of Parthia as his puppet king over the whole of the Parthian Empire
117 - Trajan dies of natural causes at the age of 63 after a 20-year reign. His adoptive son, the general Hadrian, becomes Emperor
   Osroes I of Parthia, the deposed Parthian king, deposes King Parthamaspates of Parthia, reclamimg the Parthian throne
118 - Hadrian withdraws from the Parthian Empire, returning the recently acquired provinces of Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Assyria to their status prior to Trajan’s war
119 - Hadrian arrives in Britannia to suppress a revolt
Trajan (98-117 CE)

- Born into a non-patrician family in what is now Spain
- Massive public works program in Rome
  - Trajan’s Column, Trajan’s Forum, Trajan’s Market
- Oversaw the expansion of the empire to its greatest extent
- Considered to have been a great emperor

*Optimus princeps* by Roberto Paribeni
Hadrian (117-138 CE)

- Strengthened the empire’s defenses
  - Hadrian’s Wall separated Roman territory in Britannia from the Picts (in what is roughly now Scotland)

- Under Hadrian, the Romans put down the Second Jewish Revolt, 132-136 CE
Frontiers of the Roman Empire

Roman provinces and frontiers in the middle of the 2nd century AD

Culture 2000
120s
122 - Construction of Hadrian's Wall in Britannia begins
123 - Hadrian arrives in Mauretania to suppress a revolt
124 - Hadrian arrives in Greece to experience Hellenistic culture
126 - Hadrian returns to Rome and his ordered reconstruction of the Pantheon begins

130s
131 - Hadrian’s anti-Jewish policies while in Judea sparks the Bar Kokhba revolt
135 - Hadrian defeats the Bar Kokhba revolt, suppressing Jewish political autonomy and religious freedom, renaming “Judea” as “Syria Palaestina”
136 - Hadrian names Lucius Aelius Caesar as his adoptive son and heir
138 - Lucius Aelius Caesar, Hadrian’s adoptive son and heir, dies of natural causes
Hadrian names Antoninus Pius as his adoptive son and heir on the condition that he, in turn, adopt Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus as his heirs
Hadrian dies of natural causes at the age of 62 after a 21-year reign. His adoptive son Antoninus Pius becomes Emperor

160s
161 - Antoninus Pius dies of natural causes at the age of 74 after a 23-year reign. His adoptive sons Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus become Co-Emperors
169 - Lucius Verus dies of plague, leaving his adoptive brother Marcus Aurelius as sole Emperor

170s
177 - Marcus Aurelius names his son Commodus as Co-Emperor

180s
180 - Marcus Aurelius dies in Danube War at the age of 58 after a 19-year reign. His son Commodus becomes sole Emperor

190s
192 - Commodus is assassinated on December 31 by members of his court at the age of 31 after a 15-year reign.
193 - A civil war begins to determine Commodus’ successor as Emperor
Marcus Aurelius (161-180 CE)

- Stoic philosopher
  - Wrote book *Meditations*
- Succeeded by his son, Commodus (180-192 CE)
  - The characters in the Russell Crowe film “Gladiator” are very loosely based on Marcus Aurelius and Commodus
- The end of the reign of Marcus Aurelius was the end of the Pax Romana (27 BCE-180 CE)
- From 161 to 169 reigning together with adopted brother Lucius Verus
Weklice
Wielbark culture
1st-4th c.
Severan Dynasty (193 to 235)

The Severan dynasty ruled the Empire between 193 and 235. The dynasty was founded by the general Septimius Severus, who rose to power as the victor of the civil war of 193, known as the Year of the Five Emperors. Although Severus successfully restored peace following the upheaval of the late 2nd century, the dynasty was disturbed by highly unstable family relationships and constant political turmoil.

190s
193 - Following the civil war of 193, general Septimius Severus emerges victorious and becomes Emperor
198 - Septimius Severus names his eldest son Caracalla as Co-Emperor

200s
209 - Septimius Severus names his youngest son Geta as Co-Emperor with himself and Caracalla

210s
211 - Septimius Severus dies of natural causes at the age of 65 after an 18-year reign. His sons Caracalla and Geta rule the Empire jointly as Co-Emperors
211 - Geta is assassinated by his brother Caracalla at the age of 22 after an 11-month reign. Caracalla becomes sole Emperor
217 - Caracalla is assassinated by members of his bodyguard at the age of 29 after a 19-year reign. His Prefect of the Praetorian Guard, Macrinus, becomes Emperor
218 - Following a military revolt, Macrinus is executed at the age of 53 after a 13-month reign. Septimius Severus' great-nephew Elagabalus becomes Emperor

220s
222 - Elagabalus is assassinated by the Praetorian Guard at the age of 18 after a 4-year reign. His cousin Alexander Severus, another great-nephew of Septimius Severus, is proclaimed Emperor by the Guard.

230s
235 - Following a military revolt, Alexander Severus is assassinated by his own troops at the age of 26 after a 13-year reign. The army proclaims the general Maximinus Thrax as Emperor, beginning a fifty-year political and military crisis.
Near Collapse 235-284

- 20-25 emperors and many claimants
- Internal dissension weakens frontiers
- Dacia (modern Romania) lost
- Empire fractures into three parts 258-275
- Economic stagnation and hyperinflation
- Two tough general-emperors, Claudius Gothicus and Aurelian, stabilized Empire
- Diocletian (284-305) created autocracy, reformed military, bought another two centuries for the Empire
Crisis of the Third Century (235 to 285)

- The Crisis of the Third Century was a period in which the Roman Empire nearly collapsed under the combined pressures of invasion, civil war, plague, and economic depression.
- The Crisis began with the assassination of Emperor Alexander Severus at the hands of his own troops, initiating a fifty-year period in which dozens of claimants to the Imperial throne, mostly prominent Roman Army generals, assumed imperial power over all or part of the Empire.
- In 260, the Empire split into three competing states: the western Gallic Empire, the eastern Palmyrene Empire, and the Roman Empire proper in the center.
- The Emperor Aurelian reunited the three states into a single Empire by 274. The Crisis ended with the ascension and reforms of Diocletian.

- The Crisis resulted in such profound changes in the Empire's institutions, society, economic life and, eventually, religion, that it is increasingly seen by most historians as the transition period between the historical periods of Classical antiquity and late antiquity.
The Empire in Crisis: 3c
Diocletian (284-305 CE)

- Rome had a century of chaos following the death of Marcus Aurelius.
  - The “Crisis of the Third Century”
  - Diocletian was the first emperor in 100 years to properly restore order and end the violence
- Absolute ruler who ended all personal liberties
- Weakened by illness, Diocletian left the imperial office on 1 May 305, and became the first Roman emperor to abdicate the position voluntarily
- Administration
  - Increased the bureaucracy for more effective administration
  - Divided the empire into two administrative realms (east and west) in 285 CE
    - This was the first step in the creation of what would become two separate empires
      - Roman (Western) Empire
      - Byzantine (Eastern) Empire
Diocletian and the Tetrarchy (285 to 313)

- When Diocletian was proclaimed Emperor, he ruled the entire Empire as sole Emperor. Diocletian named Maximian as his Co-Emperor in 286, through Diocletian remained the senior partner.
- He then established a system for governing the Empire by four rulers known as the Tetrarchy: two Senior Emperors (Augustii) and two Junior Emperors (Caesars'), with one Senior and Junior Emperor (the designated heir) in the West and East respectively.
- Diocletian, and his successors, become Senior Emperor of the East and Maximian, and his successors, Senior Emperor in the West. The Tetrarchy was relatively stable until the death Constantius Chlorus in 306, which started a civil war to determine the true successor to the Western throne.
- The Tetrarchy system ended in 313 with the death of Eastern Emperor Maximinus II, when internecine conflict eliminated most of the claimants to power, leaving Constantius' son Constantine I as Western Emperor and Licinius as Eastern Emperor.
Diocletian Splits the Empire in Two: 294 CE

Division of the Roman Empire

- Western Empire
- Eastern Empire

- Home of Constantius I, Maximian’s Caesar
- Home of co-emperor Maximian
- Home of Galerius, Diocletian’s Caesar
- Home of Emperor Diocletian

Dividing line between lands under Diocletian and Maximian
From principate to dominate

- The Dominate or late Roman Empire was the "despotic" later phase of imperial government, following the earlier period known as the "Principate", in the ancient Roman Empire. It has traditionally been considered to begin with the commencement of the reign of Diocletian in AD 284, following the Third Century Crisis of AD 235–284.
- The term Dominate is derived from the Latin dominus, which translates into English as lord or master. This form of address—traditionally used by slaves to address their masters—was sporadically used in addressing emperors throughout the Principate, usually in the form of excessive flattery when referring to the emperor. Augustus actively discouraged the practice.
- Under Diocletian the term was adopted as part of the emperor's official titulature, forming part of Diocletian's radical reforms that transformed the Principate into the Dominate.
- Transition from the Principate
- The Dominate system of government emerged as a response to the 50 years of chaos that is referred to as the Crisis of the Third Century.
- The stresses and strains of those years (chronic usurpations, military insurrections, simultaneous military conflicts across multiple frontiers) exposed the weaknesses in the Roman state under the Principate, and saw a gradual movement from the collegiate model of government that existed prior to AD 235 to a more formally autocratic version that begins after AD 285.
- In broad terms, it saw the gradual exclusion of the senatorial elite from high military commands and the parallel elevation of the equestrian orders, the reorganisation of the armed forces and the creation of mobile field armies, changes in imperial dress and ceremonial displays, a religious policy aiming at religious unity, large scale monetary reforms, and the creation of an empire-wide civil bureaucracy.
The Two Empires

- Emperor Diocletian had believed that dividing the empire for administrative purposes would strengthen the empire
  - He was wrong
  - Once Constantine set up Constantinople as a capital city, the east/west split deepened

- **Western (Roman) Empire**
  - Ended officially in 476 CE when the last emperor, Romulus Augustus, was deposed by a barbarian, Odoacer

- **Eastern (Byzantine) Empire**
  - Lasted until 1453 when the empire was conquered by the Ottoman Turks
Palace of Diocletian in Spalato
Constantine (312-337 CE)

- Moved the capital from Rome to Byzantium
  - Renamed the city Constantinople
  - Today the city is Istanbul (in modern Turkey)

- Constantine and Christianity
  - His mother, Helena, had converted to Christianity
  - Edict of Milan (313 CE)
    - Christianity legalized (religious toleration)
  - Converted to Christianity on his deathbed
Barbarzyńskie tsunami. Okres Wędrówek Ludów w dorzeczu Odry i Wisły

- Muzeum Narodowe w Szczecinie – Muzeum Tradycji Regionalnych, ul. Staromłyńska 27
  31.10.2017–07.01.2018
  Kurator: dr Bartłomiej Rogalski
- Wystawa zorganizowana przez Muzeum Narodowe w Szczecinie i Uniwersytet Warszawski
- Kolejne prezentacje:
  Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne w Warszawie:
  01.2018–03.2018
The Rise of Christianity
Final Decline

- Constantine the Great (306-337)
  - Legalized Christianity 313
- Theodosius I (379-395)
  - The last ruler of the whole empire
  - Made Christianity official 391
  - Empire divided East-West 395
- Eastern Invasions
- Romulus Augustulus deposed 476
- Eastern half endures as Byzantine Empire to 1453