THE ROMAN EMPIRE

BEGINNINGS, ROMAN LIFE, AND THE EMPERORS
I. The Pax Romana

II. Effects of the Pax Romana

III. Life in Imperial Rome

IV. The Emperors

SOURCES: McDougal Littell’s World History: Patterns of Interaction, and Marvin Perry’s History of the World (Your old history book)
The Pax Romana

Rome started its peak of power at Augustus’ (Octavian’s) rule in 27 BC. There is peace throughout the empire, except for some wars along the borders. This period of prosperity is known as the Pax Romana (Roman peace.)

During the Pax Romana:
1. The Empire included more than 3 million sq. mi.
2. Its population increased to 60-80 million people
3. About 1 million people lived in the city of Rome.
The Pax Romana started from 27 BC. Augustus’ reign brought large prosperity to the empire, which caused the Pax Romana.

The Pax Romana ended in 180 AD when Commodus, Marcus Aurelius’ son, was chosen as emperor.
EFFECTS OF THE PAX ROMANA
TECHNOLOGY
Rome’s landmark in technology is architecture. Roman engineers and architects made aqueducts to carry/circulate water throughout Rome. They made paved roads by using stones, brick and pottery. They also included ditches along the sides to carry away water.

PANTHEON – Roman’s triumph of engineering. The dome is shaped like an almost perfect hemisphere. Arches within the concrete walls redistribute the weight of this dome which gives a large open interior.

COLOSSEUM – A large stadium suitable for 50000 people. Seats are on concrete tiers around an oval arena where gladiatorial contests were held.
MILITARY

The borders of the Roman Empire measured some 10,000 miles. It extended in Asia Minor, and the armies secured the frontiers in Europe at the Rhine and Danube rivers.

By the second century A.D., the empire reached from Spain to Mesopotamia, from North Africa to Britain. Included in its provinces were people of many languages, cultures, and customs. The Roman army drew upon the men of the provinces as auxiliary, or support, forces.
Augustus was Rome’s ablest emperor. He stabilized the frontier, glorified Rome with splendid public buildings, and created a system of government that survived for centuries. He set up a civil service. That is, he paid workers to manage the affairs of government, such as the grain supply, tax collection, and the postal system. Although the senate still functioned, civil servants drawn from plebeians and even former slaves actually administered the empire.

In the *Pax Romana*, Augustus’ system of government was a success because of the civil service he implemented. Therefore, the cruelty of an emperor did not hinder the stableness of the empire.
TRADE

Rome had a vast trading network. Ships from the east traveled the Mediterranean protected by the Roman navy. Cities near Rome and on the Mediterranean coasts grew wealth. Rome also traded with far places such as China and India, Persia and Russia because of the Silk Roads, named for the overland routes on which silk from China came through Asia to the Romans. Other luxury goods traveled along the same routes. Trade also brought Roman ways to the provinces and beyond.

Click any text box for an in-view depth of the effects of Pax Romana.
UNITY

From Britain to Arabia and from the Danube River to the sands of the Sahara, some 70 million people, speaking different languages and following different customs, were united under Roman rule and law. Citizenship was granted generously.

212 AD – all free people in the empire became Roman citizens. All of them can learn Latin, the Roman language. They also used the same system of measurement, obeyed the same laws, and swore allegiance to one emperor.

Click any text box for an in-view depth of the effects of Pax Romana.
ECONOMY

• Mainly based on agriculture and trade.

• Agriculture was the most important industry in the empire. All else depended on it. About 90 percent of the people were engaged in farming. Most Romans survived on the produce from their local area. Additional foodstuffs (when needed) and luxury items for the rich were obtained through trade.

• DENARIUS – Roman coin used throughout the empire. It made trade between different civilizations much easier. It is also used for propaganda or public relations purposes and it carried the likeness of the emperor or depicted a Roman achievement.

Click any text box for an in-view depth of the effects of Pax Romana.
LIFE IN IMPERIAL ROME
MEN AND WOMEN IN ROME

Gravitas – Latin for weightiness
- Important virtue of a person who has discipline, strength, and loyalty.

The Romans were a practical people. They honored strength more than beauty, power more than grace, and usefulness more than elegance.
Family is the heart of the Roman society. Paterfamilias – eldest man in the family and has the power to rule the household

*The paterfamilias can disown newborn children, banish family members, or even sell them to slavery (!)
Difference between rich and poor (patricians and plebeians) had been decreased because of the plebeians successfully gained legal equality. Distinctions between patricians and plebeians were based mainly on wealth and not on birth (like in the Republic).
Upper class women – ran the household and were given authority and respect. (More personal freedom than the women of Greece!)
- Can own property and testify in court, but they cannot vote.
- Frequently attended apodyteriums (public baths), plays, festivals, and games.

Lower class women – worked as weavers, spinners, shopkeepers, midwives, entertainers, and waitresses.
CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

- Favored boys over girls
- Girls’ name – name of the girl version of the father’s name with “the elder” or “the younger” or a Roman Numeral (Ex: Augusta II)
- Few children come to school. Schooling ends at the start of adulthood, which is 16 for Romans.
- Girls are often homeschooled and trained for marriage and motherhood. Age of marriage for girls is between 12-15 years old.
- Children from lower class families are forced to work.
Numina – powerful spirits that Romans thought live in their surroundings
Lares – closely related to the numinas. Guardian spirits of each family.

In Rome, church and state are combined. Among the most important Roman gods and goddesses were Jupiter, father of the gods; Juno, his wife, who supposedly watched over women; and Minerva, goddess of wisdom and of the arts and crafts. During the empire, worship of the emperor also became part of the official religion of Rome.
FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

- In Rome, boiled ostrich and parrot-tongue are two of the most rare and expensive foods in Rome.

- Gladiators – strong male slaves who were forced to fight to the death in public contests

- Charioteers - professional athletes (former slaves) who were popular in the Roman Empire. They raced for one of the 4 colors, white, red, green, or blue. When a charioteer wins, his portrait will appear over the city walls.
THE ROMAN EMPERORS
## TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good/Bad</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Service</th>
<th>Dynasty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good</strong></td>
<td>Augustus</td>
<td>27 BC – 14 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tiberius</td>
<td>14 AD – 37 AD</td>
<td><strong>Julio-Claudian</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bad</strong></td>
<td>Caligula</td>
<td>37 AD – 41 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good</strong></td>
<td>Claudius</td>
<td>41 AD – 54 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bad</strong></td>
<td>Nero</td>
<td>54 AD – 68 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domitian</td>
<td>81 AD – 96 AD</td>
<td><strong>Flavian</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good</strong></td>
<td>Nerva</td>
<td>96 AD – 98 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trajan</td>
<td>98 AD – 117 AD</td>
<td><strong>Five Good Emperors (Nervan-Antonian)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hadrian</td>
<td>117 AD – 138 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antoninus Pius</td>
<td>138 AD – 161 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marcus Aurelius</td>
<td>161 AD – 180 AD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JULIO-CLAUDIAN DYNASTY

Caligula
- Mentally disturbed
- Assassinated by members of the imperial guard after short, brutal reign.

Nero
- Cladius’ stepson. Good administrator but vicious
- When Rome was devasted by fire in A.D. 64, Nero blamed it on the Christians and began to persecute them.
- A.D. 68 – Army rebelled against him and he committed suicide.

We will only discuss the emperors in your Homework. 😊
FLAVIAN DYNASTY

Domitian
- Ruled as a dictator
- Feared treason everywhere and executed many.
- Assassinated in 96 AD

We will only discuss the emperors in your Homework. 😊
DYNASTY OF THE FIVE GOOD EMPERORS

Nerva
- Senate chose him because he is well respected
- Began the custom of adopting heir to avoid violence

Trajan
- Nerva’s Spanish-born son. Also a military governor of Northern Italy.
- Empire reached its greatest extent
- Enlarged social welfare
- Undertook vast building program

We will only discuss the emperors in your Homework. 😊
Hadrian
- Rather than adding more territory, he made the empire secure
- Admired Greek culture and was a poet and amateur architect
- Encouraged citizens in the provinces to guard the borders (armies)
- Consolidated earlier conquests
- Reorganized the bureaucracy
- Hadrian’s wall – A defensive wall in the province of Britain
- Suppressed a Jewish revolt in Judaea during 132-133 AD
Antoninus Pius
- Reign largely a period of peace and prosperity
- Contributed to maritime law

Marcus Aurelius
- Scholarly man who followed the ideas of Stoic philosophers, and he wrote philosophy
- Forced to concentrate on border wars with the Germanic tribes, and defeated them
- Abandoned Nerva’s adoptive system
- Brought Rome to its peak of economy

We will only discuss the emperors in your Homework. 😊
Thanks for listening/participating. 😊 (Play this game. It’s IMBA. :D)