

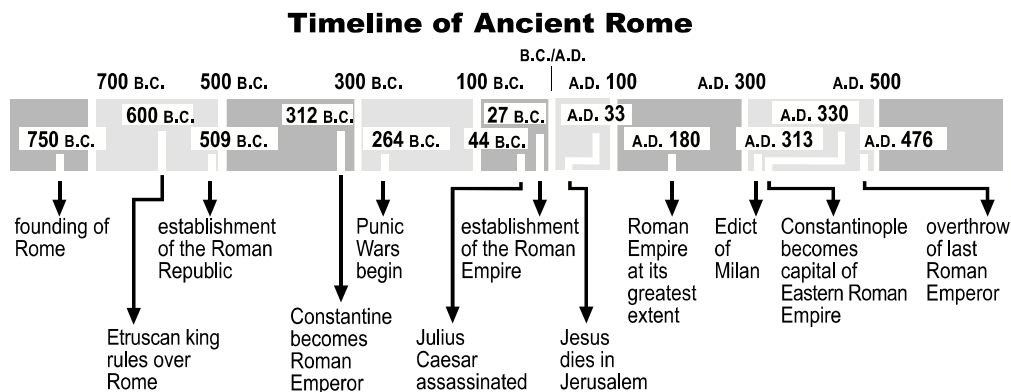
Ancient Rome (750 B.C.-A.D. 452)

Italy

Italy, like Greece, is a peninsula. Because of its shape, it is often described as *a boot in the water*. On the south and west of Italy is the Mediterranean Sea, and on the east is the Adriatic Sea (see map page 153). Italy's northern border touches the Alps. Mountains run through the center and throughout the south of Italy.

Alexander the Great planned to conquer Italy but died before he could accomplish that goal. Instead, Italy was conquered by its city-state Rome. Rome was built on seven hills in the center of the country, on the western coast along the Tiber River. The hills provided protection, and this location became the center of the land trade routes.

Rome, the present capital of Italy, was established about 750 B.C. It became the most powerful of the city-states. Rome was ruled by the Etruscans from 600 B.C. to 509 B.C. When the Romans drove out the foreign rulers, they set up a **republic** form of government. In a republic, citizens choose people to run the government. Over the next 250 years, the Romans became the masters of Italy.



Early Roman Society

In the early Roman Republic, most men were farmers. There were few class distinctions—no one was very rich or very poor. In time this changed. The wealthy and powerful people who owned land were called the **patricians**. The common classes of workers, farmers, artisans, and merchants were called **plebeians**.

Slaves made up the other class of people in Rome. As in most ancient civilizations, the majority of people were slaves. Enemies who were captured were made slaves. Women, however, could be citizens. This meant that they were above slaves in social status.

Romans, like Greeks, stressed education. Children were trained in **moral** conduct and good citizenship at home. History was studied at all levels. Roman literature, like that of the Greeks, speaks of man's relationship with the gods. Like other ancient civilizations, the Romans believed in many gods.

Roman Gods and Goddesses	
The Roman gods were much like the Greek gods, but they had different names. Romans built temples to their gods and goddess. Look back in Unit 5 on page 144 and compare the Roman gods' names to the Greek gods' names.	
Diana	The goddess of the moon and of hunting.
Janus	The god of beginnings. January, the first month of the year is named for him.
Juno	The queen of the gods.
Jupiter	The king of the gods. God of light.
Mars	The god of war.
Mercury	Messenger of the gods. He was the protector of travelers.
Minerva	The goddess of wisdom.
Neptune	God of the seas.
Venus	The goddess of love. Her son was Cupid.
Vulcan	The god of fire.



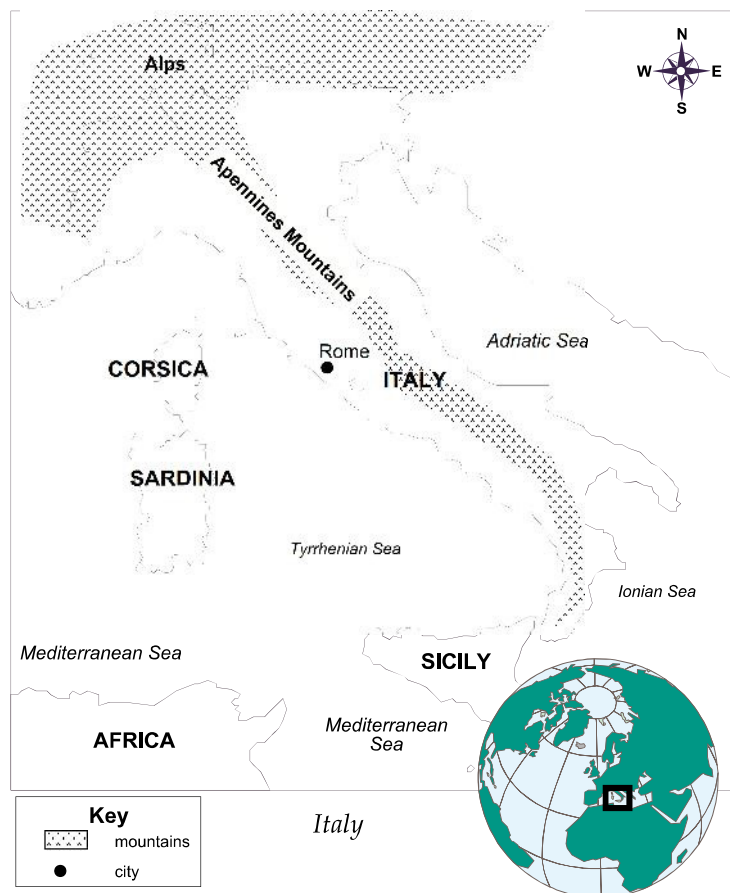
Roman Government

The new republic was governed by the **Senate (Roman)**, two **consuls**, and two Assemblies. The Senate, the most powerful branch, was made up of 300 men who served for life. The Senate advised government officials and proposed laws. The **Assembly of Centuries** elected two consuls who served for one-year terms. The consuls had the **authority** over other officials in the government. Each consul could **veto** the actions of the other. Both had to agree on decisions made for the Roman people. Only patricians could serve as consuls, sit in the Senate, or hold most government offices.

The government of the Roman Republic had some democratic features, such as **legislative** assemblies. The Assembly of Centuries had legislative power and dealt with military issues. This Assembly declared war and elected the people to serve in the government.

The plebeians elected an Assembly called the *Assembly of Tribes*, but it had little power. With a clever plan, the plebeians were able to gain more power. To get the patricians' attention, the plebeians moved out of Rome. The patricians could not manage without the services of these common citizens, so they agreed to give the plebeians more power in the government.

The Assembly of Tribes elected officials called *tribunes*. The tribunes could veto laws in the Senate that the plebeians did not like. Gradually, the plebeians' power increased. About 450 B.C. they won the right to have the laws written down. The written laws, called the *Twelve Tables*, were carved on bronze tablets and hung in the public forum. The codification of laws prevented judges who were nobles from interpreting unwritten laws to favor their own class.



The Republic Grows

Throughout the history of the Roman Republic, the Romans expanded their territory through wars. The Roman army was successful in conquering nearly all of Italy by about 265 B.C. As their power increased the Romans had conflicts with other powerful lands. One of these conflicts was with Carthage, a city-state in North Africa. Both Rome and Carthage wanted to control the Mediterranean Sea. Rome and Carthage fought each other from 264 B.C. to 146 B.C. in three wars called the *Punic Wars*.



Hannibal

In the First Punic War (264-241 B.C.), Rome defeated Carthage and gained Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica. However, in the Second Punic War (218-202 B.C.), a great, young general from Carthage named Hannibal surprised the Roman army by attacking from the north. Hannibal marched through Spain, across the Alps, into Italy, and south towards Rome. Despite the difficult trip, Hannibal and his army, which included war elephants, remained in Italy and fought there for 15 years. At first Hannibal won many victories. However, he was unable to seize the city of Rome. The tide of

battle gradually turned in favor of Rome. Roman armies defeated a Carthaginian army sent to help Hannibal. When the Roman army threatened the city of Carthage, Hannibal was called home to defend Carthage, but Rome was able to defeat Carthage and take over its empire and reduce Carthage to a second-rate power.

As a result of the wars, the Romans expanded their territory even further. They conquered Spain and North Africa. In the Third Punic War (149-146 B.C.), Rome attacked Carthage and destroyed the city. They also conquered Macedonia and Greece. Later the mighty armies conquered lands in the Middle East and Egypt. By 100 B.C. almost all the land around the Mediterranean was under Roman control.

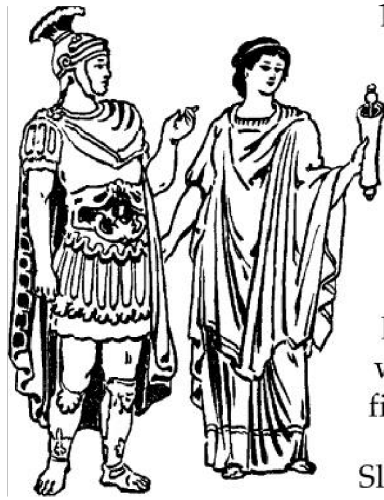


Roman farm cart

The End of the Roman Republic

Conquests Bring Wealth to Rome

The expansion of the Roman Republic brought changes which finally led to the end of the Republic. Some people—rich for the first time—became greedy and less disciplined. As the riches of war came into Rome, the



Roman soldier and wife

people's attitudes toward the state changed. Many lost traditional feelings of discipline, patriotism, responsibility, and public duty.

Conquests Ruin Small Farmers

Not all became rich. Taxes were high. Farmers had to sell their farms to pay taxes. Rich Romans formed large farms and used slaves to work them. The farmers moved to the city to find jobs, but there were none.

Slaves, captured in war and imported, took jobs held by the common people. Many of these farmers and workers became unemployed, poor, and hungry. An unhappy and out-of-work mob was troublesome. Worried Roman leaders feared a revolt.

The wars hurt farming in other ways, too. Much land was destroyed in battle. Farmers became jobless and had to depend on the government to feed them. The growing class of poor had little power in the government. To keep the angry mobs happy, Roman politicians sponsored free government programs of bread and circuses (food and entertainment).

The Gracchus Brothers Attempt Reforms (133-121 B.C.)

Rome was now torn by fighting between the common people, or the plebeians, and the rich patricians. Violence and civil war divided the country. Two brothers, Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus, were elected by plebeians and tried to help the masses of common people by giving them

farmland gained in the wars. The wealthy were alarmed. One brother was murdered; supporters were attacked and killed. The other brother committed suicide, and fighting between the classes continued. Conditions grew worse.

Conquests Change the Roman Army

Along with the economic and social problems, another problem developed. This problem developed in the army. Instead of keeping the military draft, the Romans began a new system for enlisting soldiers which allowed generals to **recruit** their own armies. This reform planted a seed for revolution. When generals recruited their own armies, soldiers changed their **allegiance** from the republic to the generals in command. The generals who gathered the strongest armies could defy the government. Under the right circumstances, a general with a powerful army could take over the government.



Roman helmet

Under these conditions, resulting from the expansion of the Republic, the Republic began to crumble. By the second century B.C. the Roman Republic was suffering from a bitter civil war as various generals fought each other to gain control. Julius Caesar, a famous general, returned to Italy to become ruler at the end of the Roman Republic.

Rome: From Republic to Dictatorship

Romans were weary from civil wars, political unrest, and poor economic conditions. Julius Caesar took control and ruled well. He made reforms to help the common people. Struggles for power among the leaders continued, however.

Rule by Triumvirates

Two generals, Pompey and Crassus, formed an alliance with Caesar and forced the Senate to elect them consuls.

In 60 B.C. they became the *First Triumvirate*. **Triumvirate** means *rule by three people*. Pompey, Crassus, and Julius

Caesar ruled together for about 10 years. After Crassus was killed in battle in 53 B.C., Pompey

began to grow jealous of Caesar's rising popularity. Pompey and the Roman Senate feared that Caesar would seize complete power over Rome

and its provinces. In 49 B.C., the Senate ordered Caesar to disband his army and return to Rome. He refused

and led his army against Pompey. In 48 B.C., when their armies eventually fought, Caesar defeated Pompey and other opponents to become the sole leader of Rome.



General Pompey



Julius Caesar

Although Caesar was a dictator, he did make some major contributions to Rome. For example, he expanded Roman citizenship to include non-Italians, and improved the Roman calendar. In 44 B.C. Caesar was named dictator for life. But fearing that Caesar was becoming too powerful, a group plotted and had him assassinated on March 15, 44 B.C.

Upon Julius Caesar's death, more fighting began. This fighting led to the end of the Roman Republic. A *Second Triumvirate* was formed, consisting of Marc Antony, Lepidus, and Octavian. Eventually, disagreements among the three led to military confrontation which Octavian won. Octavian was soon named Augustus Caesar. Under his rule the Roman Empire was established in 27 B.C., and today he is remembered the Emperor Augustus.

The Roman Empire

Augustus was one of the world's greatest leaders and a wise ruler. He immediately set out to reform the Senate. In doing so, he took power away from the Senate. He improved the government, stopped the wars, and helped the jobless. He ruled the empire in a fair manner.

During the period from Augustus' rule in 27 B.C. to the end of the reign of Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 180, or for about the first 200 years of the empire, the Romans enjoyed peace and security, generally speaking. This period is called the *Pax Romana*, which means the *Roman Peace*.

However, there were some problems after Augustus' death in A.D. 14. The Roman Empire experienced political troubles over the next 80 years. Although there were good emperors, like Claudius, some were corrupt, cruel, or incompetent. Two, Caligula and Nero, were either insane or unstable. After Nero, the empire was ruled for almost 20 years by emperors who were controlled by the army. Then came a series of five good emperors who ruled wisely. The last of these, Marcus Aurelius, reigned until A.D. 180. After his death, the empire entered a long period of decline and suffering.

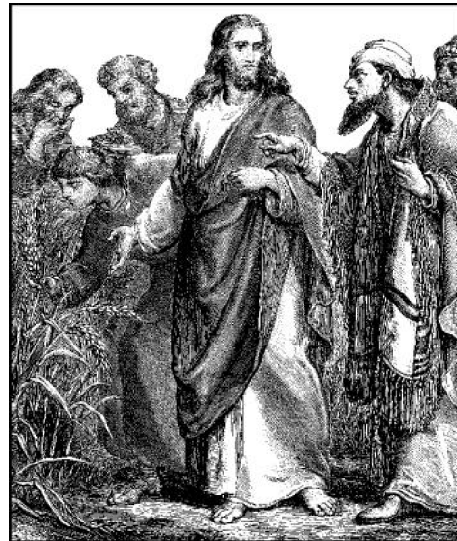
As the empire expanded, more and more foreigners came to live in Rome. These foreigners, called *barbarians* by the Romans, would eventually overthrow the government.

Emperors of Rome	
Augustus	27 B.C. - A.D. 14
Julian Dynasty - related to family of Julius Caesar	
Tiberius	A.D. 14 - A.D. 37
Caligula	A.D. 37 - A.D. 41
Claudius	A.D. 41 - A.D. 54
Nero	A.D. 54 - A.D. 68
Army Emperors	
Galba, Otho, Vitellus	A.D. 68 - A.D. 69
Flavian Dynasty	
Vespasian	A.D. 69 - A.D. 79
Titus	A.D. 79 - A.D. 81
Domitian	A.D. 81 - A.D. 96
Five Good Emperors	
Nerva	A.D. 96 - A.D. 98
Trajan	A.D. 98 - A.D. 117
Hadrian	A.D. 117 - A.D. 138
Antoninus Pius	A.D. 138 - A.D. 161
Marcus Aurelius	A.D. 161 - A.D. 180

Rise of Christianity

Another important event took place during this period. As the once powerful Roman Empire declined, many Romans turned to their old gods, Mars, Jupiter, and Minerva. Other Romans looked to the teaching of Greek philosophy which taught people to accept their fate with quiet courage. In the first century A.D., still others turned to a new faith that had been founded in Palestine. This faith was called *Christianity*, a religion based on the teachings of a Jew named Jesus. Although it grew slowly at first, Christianity would become one of the most influential forces during the Roman Empire's decline and throughout the later history of Western civilization.

Most of what is known of Jesus' life comes from the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Jesus began his public life of preaching when he was about 30 years old. His teachings were based on traditional Hebrew beliefs. He believed in one God and taught people to obey the Ten Commandments (see Unit 3, page 70). He believed people should love God with all their hearts, and they should love their neighbors as they love themselves. Jesus taught that God was loving and forgiving.



Jesus and followers

*Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.
If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also.
If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic.
Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to
you, do not demand it back.
Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

Luke 6: 27-31

According to his followers, Jesus called himself the *Son of God*. He urged people to concentrate on helping others, and those who followed these teachings and believed in Jesus were promised spiritual salvation and eternal life. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus summed up his ethical message, which was similar to the Jewish ideas of mercy and sympathy for the poor and helpless.

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth....
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy....
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
the children of God.*

Matthew 5: 5, 7, 9

To the Roman authorities, Jesus was a revolutionary who might lead people in a rebellion against Roman rule. He was arrested, tried, condemned, and executed Roman-style (crucified) by being nailed to a cross and left to die of shock, loss of blood, and exposure.

The New Testament tells how Jesus rose from the dead and reappeared to his followers. Jesus encouraged them to spread his teachings. A Jew named Saul from Asia Minor converted to Christianity, changed his name to Paul, and began to preach the beliefs of Christianity. He set up churches from Mesopotamia to Rome. Because the Greek word for messiah or savior was *Christos*, the followers of Jesus became known as *Christians*.

Those known as Christians looked towards the teachings of the followers of Jesus Christ. While many groups of Christians existed, all believed in love for their fellow humans and equality in the eyes of God. Unlike the Romans, who believed there were many gods, the Christians believed in one God.

As the Christian beliefs grew in popularity, the leaders of the Roman Empire became nervous. Christians were mistreated by the emperors because they were afraid they would rebel against them. The Christians refused to worship the Roman emperor as a god or join the Roman army. In A.D. 64 Nero ordered the first persecution of Christians. Two apostles or followers of Christ, Peter and Paul, were killed during Nero's rule. As has happened to other groups of people since, the Christians were blamed for the political and economic decline within the Roman Empire. Christians were driven from the empire, imprisoned, and tortured. Toward the end of the second century A.D. through the third century A.D., Christians were cruelly **persecuted**.



The Colosseum was originally built to stage lavish spectacles, such as battles between animals and gladiators in various combinations. The extravagant, inhumane shows cost thousands of lives, among them those of many Christians. Emperors would compete with one another to see who could produce the most elaborate spectacles. In A.D. 80, for an opening performance, the arena was flooded and a complete naval battle with over 3,000 participants was performed before as many as 50,000 spectators.



In the year A.D. 303, the Emperor Diocletian began the most extensive persecution of Christians. Thousands of Christians became **martyrs**—people who chose to die rather than give up their beliefs. This period of persecution had the reverse effect of what Diocletian intended. In spite of mistreatment, Christians continued to practice their religion. Christianity grew in popularity and spread through the empire.

Christianity eventually became the official religion of the Roman Empire. In the year A.D. 313, the Emperor Constantine issued the *Edict of Milan*. As a result of the Edict of Milan, all religious groups in the Roman Empire were accepted. Constantine did this after having had a *religious experience* that converted him to Christianity one year earlier. Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the empire's official religion in A.D. 380.

The Roman Empire Began to Decline

Following Marcus Aurelius' rule, Rome had fewer good emperors. Revolts and wars were frequent within the empire. Two emperors stopped the decline for a time. They were strong and powerful and took control of the government. The first was the general Diocletian, and the second was Constantine.

When Diocletian became the emperor in A.D. 284, his first effort was to restore order in the empire and increase its strength. To improve administration, Diocletian divided the Roman Empire into an Eastern and Western Empire. Because the empire had grown too large for one ruler, each part had its own emperor. Diocletian himself ruled the eastern province and turned over the rule of the western province to an associate. When Diocletian retired in A.D. 305, civil wars broke out. These wars continued until Constantine came to power in A.D. 312.

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

The empire began to decline at a rapid pace in the fourth century. Sensing the decline of Roman authority and morals, Constantine moved the capital of the empire from Rome east to Byzantium. In the year A.D. 330 the city of Byzantium was renamed Constantinople in honor of Constantine. Today, Constantinople is called *Istanbul*, and is the capital of Turkey.

Emperor Diocletian divided the Roman Empire into two separate empires. The western half of the Roman Empire had its capital in Rome. The eastern half had its capital in Constantinople and became known as the *Byzantine Empire*. The eastern half of the empire or Byzantine Empire survived after the western half of the empire was in decline. The western half, also known as the *Roman Empire*, continued to decline because it was getting little military and economic help from the East. Why did the Roman Empire decline after achieving so much greatness and power?

The decline of the Roman Empire was due to several factors. For one thing, the empire decayed from within. During the later years of the Roman Empire, the Roman armies included many Germanic mercenaries of uncertain loyalties. The decline of training, discipline, and morale of the army led to a sharp decline in Rome's military strength. Barbarian warriors were able to invade the empire and ultimately overthrow the Roman Empire. The values and morals of the middle class were rapidly declining. The early Roman ideals of duty, patriotism, and service to the state had vanished. The authority of the government was limited by the power of a few strong generals. The government of Rome became inefficient and corrupt.

Rivalries over the succession to the throne often led to civil wars. Heavy taxation and the widespread use of slaves led to serious economic problems. No factor can be singled out as the most important cause of the fall of the Roman Empire. Many causes, each of which influenced all the others, contributed to the empire's decline and fall.

FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

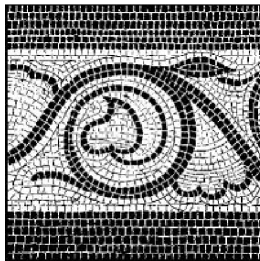
CONTRIBUTING CAUSES

Social	Economic	Political	Military
<p>empire declined from within; values and morals were rapidly declining</p> <p>more foreigners came to live in Rome</p> <p>disloyalty and lack of patriotism</p> <p>contrast between rich and poor</p> <p>lack of interest in public affairs</p> <p>lack of confidence in the empire</p>	<p>land destroyed in battle caused poor harvests</p> <p>high taxes</p> <p>farmers had to sell their farms to pay taxes</p> <p>slaves took jobs held by the common people</p> <p>many farmers and workers became unemployed, poor, and hungry</p>	<p>fewer good emperors</p> <p>revolts and wars were frequent within the empire</p> <p>many lost feelings of responsibility and public duty</p> <p>authority of the government was limited by the power of a few strong generals</p> <p>division of the empire into an Eastern and Western Empire</p>	<p>threats of invasions of barbarians from the north</p> <p>did not keep the military draft; generals began recruiting their own soldiers</p> <p>general with strongest armies could defy the government</p> <p>decline of patriotism and loyalty among soldiers to the empire</p>

IMMEDIATE CAUSES

Invasion from the north by the Huns and from the south by the Vandals invading from North Africa

In addition, the successful invasion of barbarians from the north, especially at the beginning of the fifth century, proved the Roman Empire was merely a fragile, empty shell. In A.D. 410 the Visigoths, under Alaric I, entered Rome and destroyed it. Then, in A.D. 451, Attila the Hun from the north sacked Rome. The Vandals, after invading North Africa, invaded Italy in A.D. 455. The western half of the Roman Empire existed no longer. The last Roman emperor was a 14-year-old boy named Romulus Augustulus. In A.D. 476, he was overthrown by a German general named Odoacer and sent into exile.



Roman mosaic of the leaves of the acanthus plant

During hundreds of years, from the establishment of the Roman Republic up to the decline of the Roman Empire, Roman civilization flourished. It must be understood that in art, literature, and philosophy, the Romans borrowed from Greek ideas. However, in the area of engineering, law, and administration, the Romans were leaders. They also had a great sense of history and recorded all of their triumphs.

Roman Contributions to Civilization

Engineering and Architecture

The Romans excelled in building and in engineering many roads, bridges, and harbors. These structures were so solidly built that even today one can visit Roman ruins throughout western and eastern Europe. These include the Colosseum and the Pantheon in Rome, aqueducts (a system by which water is brought to cities from far away) in southern France, and baths in England. These are just four examples of incredible engineering feats left by the Romans, to say nothing of the 50,000 miles of roadways they built between Scotland in the north and Syria in the east.



The Roman forum was once a marketplace and a gathering spot for political discussions.

Architectural ideas borrowed from the Romans can be seen in Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States. Roman-style architecture can also be seen in New York, Paris, Istanbul, and other places around the world.

Science and Mathematics

Roman scientists used information gathered from other civilizations. The discoveries of Galen, a Greek physician, formed the basis of Roman medical knowledge. The ideas of Ptolemy, a Greek astronomer, were the basis of Roman astronomy. Ptolemy thought that Earth was the center of the universe and the sun revolved around Earth. His ideas were later corrected by Copernicus, a 16th century A.D. astronomer.

Law

Roman laws and justice were Rome's greatest contribution to western civilization. Romans based their laws on the principles of justice and reason. The Romans started the system of common laws to protect the citizen. Most governments use a system of common laws in some form today.

Some of the most important principles of Roman law were as follows:

- All persons are equal under the law.
- A person is considered innocent until proven guilty.
- The burden of proof rests with the accuser rather than the accused.
- Unfair or unreasonable laws can be set aside.

In the area of government, the modern world adopted many of the Roman methods for administration of land and people. The structure of Roman government, with its consuls, Assemblies, and Senate, is similar to the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the United States and other current democracies. The idea of representative government also came from the Romans.

Art

Roman sculptors adapted Hellenistic styles, portraying their subjects realistically, showing every wart and vein. In stone and on coins, the carved portraits revealed an individual's character. A statue of an emperor might capture an expression of pride or smugness.

Language and Literature

The language of the Romans, Latin, is the basis of many modern languages, including Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Romanian. English has many words which came from Latin, as well.

The Romans produced many great works of literature. Some of the best Roman poets lived during the rule of Augustus. The poet Virgil wrote the *Aeneid*, an epic poem that tells the story of Aeneas, whose descendants founded Rome. Horace wrote poems that praised early Roman virtues of duty, honor, and patriotism. Ovid wrote poetry for enjoyment.

The Roman historian Livy wrote an encyclopedic history of Rome from its founding to the period of Augustus' rule. He wrote about the heroism and



Roman woman

patriotism of the early Romans. The historian Tacitus described life among the German tribes on the Roman frontier. His works also criticized the selfish, pleasure-loving lives of the Romans.

Rome's Lasting Influence

Because Roman civilization lasted so long and because its effects were so far reaching, it is important to understand Roman contributions to history. Even though its Empire collapsed, Rome left a cultural heritage that has influenced western civilization ever since. The Romans spread the teaching of the Greeks along with their own contributions and carried Greco-Roman culture throughout Western Europe.



Roman man

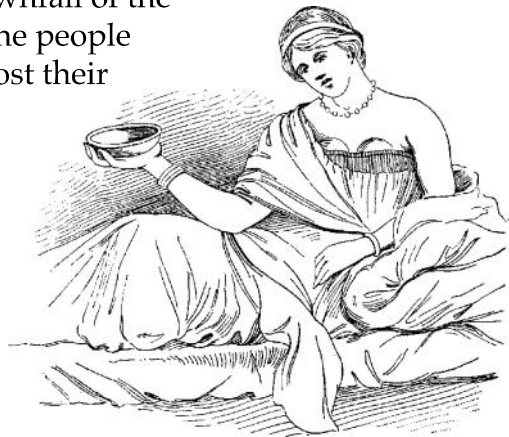
Review

Rome began as one of many city-states on the Italian peninsula. In 509 B.C., Rome was able to overthrow its foreign rulers and establish the Roman Republic. Over time the Romans dominated all of Italy.

The government of the Roman Republic was democratic in some ways. For instance, it had legislative assemblies, such as the Senate, the Assembly of Centuries, and the Assembly of Tribes. Even though the government had some democratic features, Roman society had a rigid class structure. The patricians were wealthy and powerful. The plebeians were the common people. Most people in the Roman Republic were slaves.

The Romans continually expanded their territory. They eventually extended the Republic around the Mediterranean through a series of wars. For instance, the Romans fought the people of Carthage, a city in North Africa, for control of the Mediterranean Sea. The Romans and Carthaginians fought three wars, known as the Punic Wars.

The expansion of Rome led to the downfall of the Roman Republic. With new wealth, the people were less loyal to the state. Farmers lost their jobs when slaves replaced them or when their land was destroyed in battle. New slaves took the jobs of other workers, too. The growing class of poor had little power in government. Fighting between the patricians and the plebeians divided the country. Finally, a military reform allowing generals to recruit members for their own armies undermined the unity of the Republic. Because these new soldiers were loyal mainly to their generals, the generals were in a position to take control of Rome.



Three military leaders agreed to rule Rome jointly in the First Triumvirate: Pompey, Crassus, and Caesar. After the death of Crassus, Pompey and Caesar fought for control of Rome. Caesar won and became a dictator for life. Although he made many contributions to Roman life, he was assassinated in 44 B.C. by a group who feared he was becoming too powerful.

A Second Triumvirate was formed, but soon they fought among themselves just as the first triumvirate had. Octavian was the winner of this conflict. He was renamed Augustus Caesar; under his rule the Roman Empire was established. Augustus ruled fairly, although he took power away from the Senate and added to his own power. The next 200 years after Augustus's death are called the Pax Romana because they were generally peaceful years.

After the death of the emperor Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 180, the Roman Empire began to decline. In A.D. 330, the emperor Constantine moved the capital from Rome east to Byzantium. The eastern part of the empire survived while the western part declined.

The Roman Empire declined for many reasons. Most of the people in the army were peasants; they were unhappy with their situation and became disloyal. At the same time, the army generals were gaining power and challenging the emperor's authority. Values and morals began to decline. Finally, the barbarians invading from the north and from the south continued to weaken the empire. In A.D. 476 the barbarians completed the defeat of the Roman Empire.

The Romans were defeated, but they left a lasting legacy of achievements. Latin, the language of the Romans, was the basis of many modern languages. Roman engineering skills can still be seen today in the remains of the marble buildings, aqueducts, and roads they built. The idea of representative government served as a model for many modern governments today. Roman laws and justice were Rome's greatest contributions to western civilization.