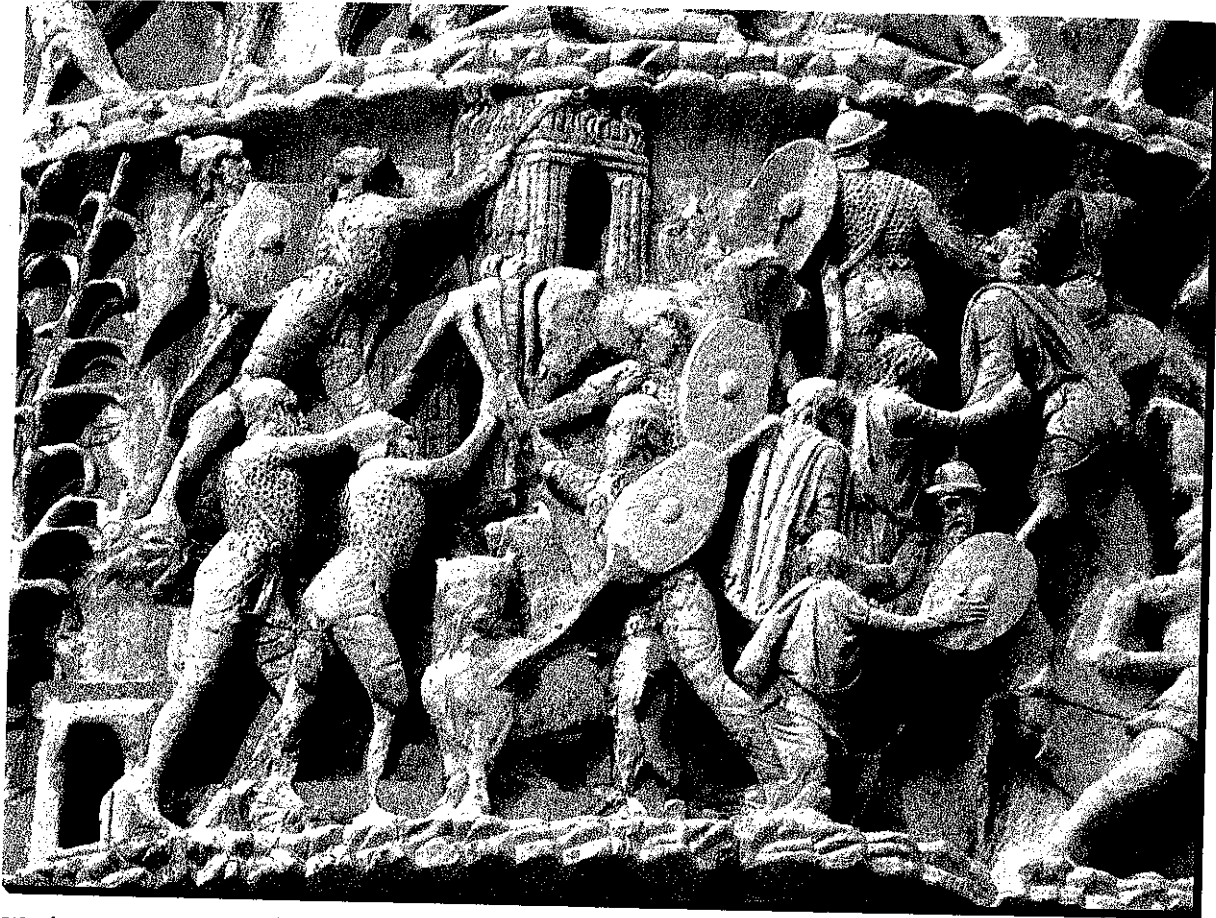


## Chapter 6

1000 B.C. - 27 B.C.

# The Roman Republic



Warfare was almost a way of life for many Romans.

### Key Terms

republic	mercenary
gravitas	proletariat
patrician	tribune
plebeian	triumvirate
legion	civil war
monarchy	
consul	
veto	
senate	
dictator	

### Read and Understand

1. The Romans built a great city.
2. The Roman republic spread its power.
3. Republican government collapsed in Rome.

According to an ancient Roman myth, the war god Mars fathered twin sons, Romulus and Remus. Their mother was a Latin princess, Rhea Silvia. A jealous Latin king feared that the twins might some day claim his throne, so he ordered them placed in a basket and set afloat on Italy's Tiber River. The king assumed they would drown. Miraculously, a she-wolf found the half-starved infants and fed them with her own milk. Soon after, a shepherd discovered the babies and brought them up as his sons.

As young men, Romulus and Remus decided to build a city near the spot where they had been abandoned as babies. In the rolling land near the Tiber, each brother chose a hilltop and claimed leadership of the new city. Soon they were quarreling bitterly over their rival

claims. In the heat of anger, Romulus struck his brother and killed him. The hilltop Romulus had chosen, the Palatine (PAL-uh-TYN), became the center of the new city. The city itself was called Rome, taking its name from the triumphant and murderous brother.

After a long reign, the myth continues, Romulus disappeared one day during a thunderstorm. A dark cloud enveloped him and lifted him up to heaven. Romulus, now a god, later came back to earth to speak to an old comrade. "Go tell the Romans," he said, "it is heaven's will that my Rome shall be capital of the world. Let them learn to be soldiers. Let them know and teach their children that no power on earth can stand against Roman arms."

Although this story is a myth, it has historic value (as many myths do). It tells how Romans in the days of Rome's greatness viewed themselves and their world. By 27 B.C., Rome had indeed become capital of the world—at least, of the world known to the people of Italy. Rome's ships controlled the entire Mediterranean Sea. Its armies exacted taxes and tribute from people on three continents—Africa, Asia, and Europe.

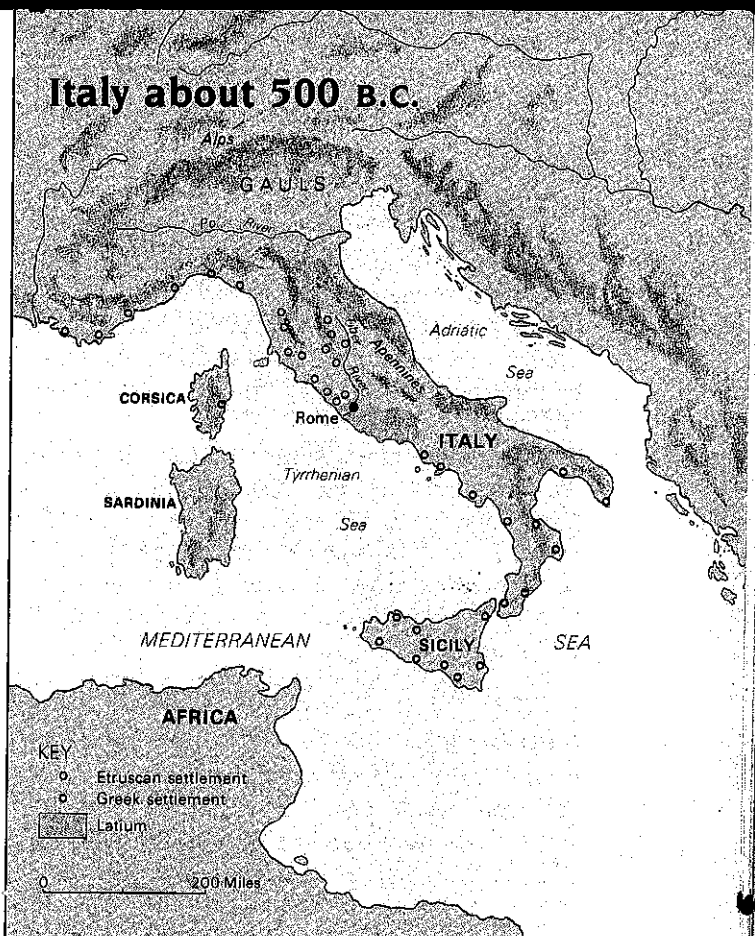
In the years of Rome's growth, Romans overcame the enemies who surrounded them. At the same time, they developed an effective government and an outstanding system of law. At last, however, disputes among groups of Romans gave way to civil war. The Roman government in which many men had a voice gave way to rule by a single man. This chapter will trace the development of Rome from a small village to "capital of the world."

## The Romans built a great city.

# I

The map on this page shows the long Italian peninsula. Shaped like a high-heeled boot, it seems ready to kick the nearby island of Sicily. To the east of Italy lies Greece. To the west stretch the southern coasts of modern-day France and Spain. To the south, only 80 miles from Sicily, lies the coast of Africa.

Geography was important to Rome's success. The Italian peninsula is near the midpoint of the



### Map Study

What mountains lie north of Italy? Where were most of the Greek settlements in Italy?

Mediterranean, dividing the sea into an eastern and a western half. Rome itself is located midway between the Alps and Italy's southern tip. Thus, the city is a central point within a central peninsula. Rome occupies an ideal position from which to send out ships and armies in all directions. Moreover, the city was built about 15 miles inland from the sea, at the first convenient place for crossing the Tiber River. Thus, many key trade routes between northern and southern Italy met at Rome.

Italy's land is mountainous but not as rugged as the land of Greece. The snow-capped peaks of the Alps sharply separate Italy from the rest of Europe. There are, however, passes through the Alps by which invaders and migrating groups could reach the peninsula. A lower mountain range, the Apennines (AP-uh-nynz), runs down the length of Italy. Especially on the western side of the Apennines, the country in ancient times was rolling, wooded, and fertile.

### **Greeks, Latins, and Etruscans battled for Italy.**

The earliest settlers of the Italian peninsula arrived in prehistoric times. Around 1000 B.C., Italy's prehistoric period drew to a close. Over the next 500 years, the region's culture was shaped by three dominant groups: the Latins, the Greeks, and the Etruscans.

**The Latins** The Latins wandered across the Alps into Italy around 1000 B.C. They settled on either side of the Tiber River, a region that they called Latium (LAY-shee-uhm). Rome began as a settlement of Latin shepherds, no more than a cluster of round wooden huts perched atop the 300-foot Palatine Hill.

According to the Roman myth, Romulus built his wall around this hill in 753 B.C. At that time, however, Rome barely deserved to be called a city. Its farmers and shepherds lived very simply and wore coarse, homespun clothing. Only a few trade goods from the outside world reached their village. The growth of Rome into a city would soon be influenced greatly by the other two groups that settled in Italy, the Greeks and the Etruscans (ih-TRUHS-kuhnz).

**The Greeks** Between 750 and 600 B.C., settlers from Greece established about 50 colonies on the coast of southern Italy and Sicily. The numerous Greek colonies prompted the Latins to call this area *Magna Graecia*, or Greater Greece. These prosperous and commercially active cities brought all of Italy, including Rome, into closer contact with Greek civilization.

**The Etruscans** A third group of settlers, the Etruscans, entered northern Italy between 1200

and 800 B.C. Historians have never been sure where the Etruscans originated, but evidence suggests they may have come from Asia Minor.

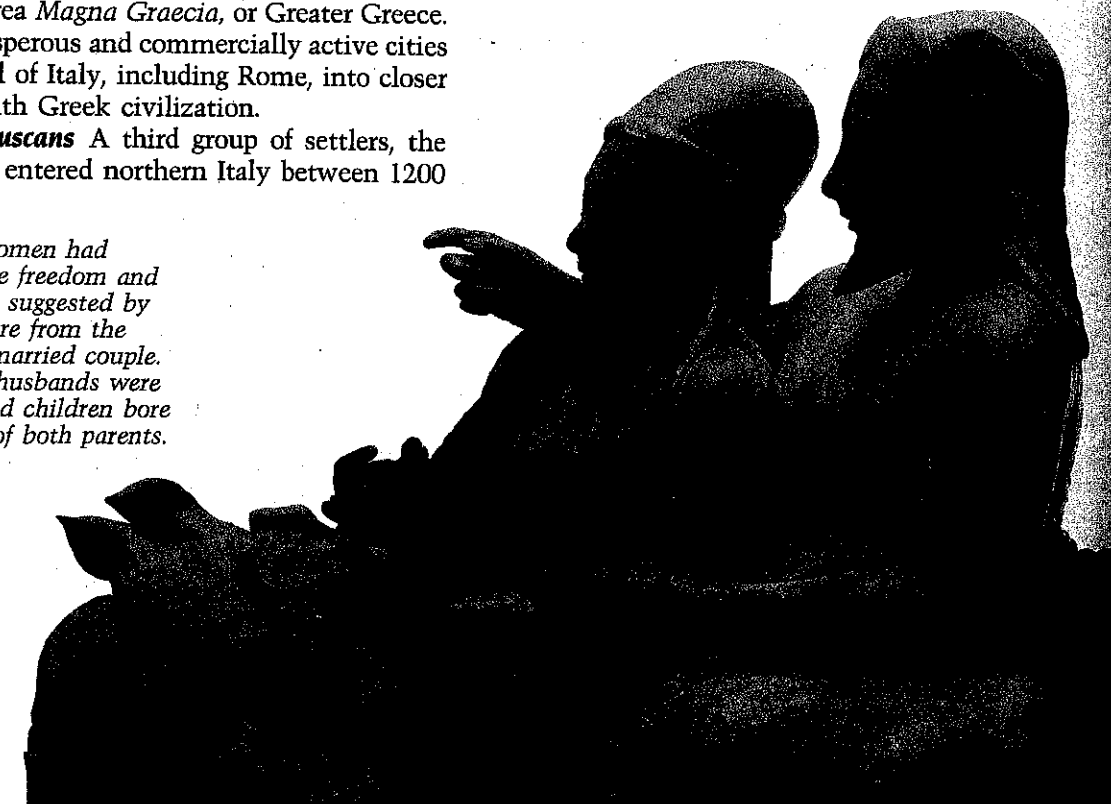
The Etruscans were much more civilized than their Latin neighbors. The Etruscans had a writing system, which the Latins did not. (Etruscan letters were adapted from the Greek alphabet, which the Greeks in turn had adapted from the Phoenicians.) However, linguists have not yet deciphered the Etruscan language, and so their writings remain unread.

The Etruscans had a great cultural influence on the Latins. Eventually, the Latin settlers of Rome adopted the Etruscan alphabet. Roman buildings show the influence of Etruscan architecture. Etruscans also helped to develop Rome's trade. Several of Rome's kings were of Etruscan background, having migrated to Rome from Etruscan cities.

### **Romans borrowed religious ideas.**

Both the Greeks and the Etruscans had a great influence on the development of Roman religious ideas. Like the Greeks, the Romans were polytheists, believing in many gods and spirits. Unlike Greek gods, however, many early Roman gods had no names or personalities. Instead, they were spirits linked with daily cares such as guarding

*Etruscan women had considerable freedom and equality, as suggested by this sculpture from the tomb of a married couple. Wives and husbands were partners, and children bore the names of both parents.*



children's food, protecting the household, and keeping grain supplies safe.

From the Etruscans, Romans learned the practice of "taking the auspices," which literally meant "watching birds in flight." It was auspicious (a good sign) if, before a battle, a vulture or eagle soared overhead. There were also other ways of trying to interpret the will of the gods, including looking at the liver of a slaughtered animal.

Knowledge of Greek gods filtered into Rome through traders. The Romans gave their own names to these gods but kept the legends and personalities of the Greek divinities. The almighty Greek god Zeus became the almighty Roman god Jupiter. The Greek goddess Hera became the Roman goddess Juno.

### **Romans overthrew their kings and established a republic.**

In its early years, Rome was ruled by kings. During the years of royal rule between about 600 and 509 B.C., Rome changed from a collection of hilltop villages to a city. Kings ordered the construction of many of Rome's first temples and public buildings. By royal order, the swampy valley below the Palatine Hill was drained, making a public meeting place. In later years, this valley, known as the Forum (FAWR-uhm), became the heart of Roman political life, as the agora was the heart of the Greek polis.

According to legend, the son of the last king of Rome attacked a Roman woman, Lucretia. The outraged Romans rose in revolt and overthrew the prince's father. Then, the Romans declared they would never again be ruled by a king. Henceforth, any Roman who plotted to make himself king could be killed without trial.

In 509 B.C., Rome set up a **republic**, a government in which citizens who have the right to vote choose their leaders. The word *republic* comes from a Latin phrase, *res publica*, which simply means "public affairs." For the Romans, a republic was not a democracy, because the right to vote and other political rights were not shared by all citizens. Rather, in the Roman republic, various groups struggled for power, sometimes resorting to violence. To understand how the Roman republic worked, we must look first at Rome's social organization.

### **Romans valued family ties.**

Throughout Rome's history, the character of its citizens was influenced by a group of values called "the ways of the fathers." The Romans emphasized discipline, strength, and loyalty. A person with these qualities was said to have the important virtue of **gravitas** (weightiness or seriousness). The Romans honored strength more than beauty, power more than grace, usefulness more than elegance, and steadiness more than quickness of mind. The sober, weighty quality of gravitas left its mark on all aspects of Roman society, from its government to its art.

At the heart of Roman society was the family. By law and custom, power to rule the early Roman household belonged exclusively to one person—the eldest man, known as the *pater familias* (PAY-tur fuh-MIHL-yuhs), or "father of the family." The *pater familias* had complete power over his family. He controlled all family property. He could sell a family member into slavery or even kill any member of his household without penalty. Usually, of course, the *pater familias* acted as the protector of his family. It was he who spoke for the family in public assemblies or in the law courts. The *pater familias* in each household also acted as its chief priest.

Although the *pater familias* was the legal head of the family, Roman women were in charge of the daily running of the household. A woman in Rome had much greater freedom than in Athens. She was a citizen, with the right to own property and testify in court. She ate meals with her husband, even though he reclined on a couch while she sat upright on a chair. She often advised her husband on business and politics. She did not, however, have the key right, the right to vote. Officially, the Roman woman was expected to remain in the background.

### **Society was divided into classes.**

Not all families were equal in Roman society. Although all male Roman citizens could take part in politics, the city was dominated by a small group of families. Romans of this upper class claimed that their ancestors had been *patres*, or "fathers," who founded Rome. These specially privileged families were known as the **patrician** (puh-TRIH-shuhn) class. They claimed that their

ancestry gave them the authority to make laws for Rome and its people.

The common farmers, artisans, and merchants were known as **plebeians** (plih-BEE-uhnz). The plebeians were free citizens with a number of rights, including the right to vote. However, they had far less power than the patricians, who held nearly all important political offices.

Birth alone (not merit or wealth) determined every Roman's social and political status. The line between the patrician and plebeian classes was extremely rigid. In the early years of the republic, for example, marriage between the two classes was forbidden by law.

### **Rome built a mighty army.**

The constant threat of war forced both patrician and plebeian men in Rome to lead double lives as farmers and soldiers. All male citizens were

required to serve in the army, and no one could hold public office until he had first served ten years as a soldier.

Learning to fight Roman-style meant being part of a massive military unit called a **legion**. The Roman legion was made up of 4,000 to 6,000 heavily armed foot soldiers (infantry). A group of soldiers on horseback (cavalry) cooperated with each legion. Every legion was divided into 60 smaller groups, each of which was known as a century.

In battle, the Roman legion proved superior to the Greek phalanx because the legion was more flexible. The wall-like phalanx could move effectively in only two directions—forward and backward. But each century in a legion could move independently. Under a skillful general, a Roman legion could surround and outflank its foes. The legions were the fighting force that spread Rome's power around the Mediterranean.

### **Daily Life • The Roman Toga**

Practicality has never been a requirement of fashion. The Roman toga (TOH-guh) was an uncomfortable garment. It was hot in summer, cold in winter, and clumsy for just about any activity but standing still. The toga was, however, practical in one way: It was easy to make, since it involved no sewing. Not even a buttonhole was needed. An adult's toga was basically a large wool blanket, measuring about 18 by 7 feet. It was draped around the body in a variety of ways, without the use of buttons or pins.

In the early days of the Roman republic, both women and men wore togas. Women eventually wore more dresslike garments, called *stolas*, with separate shawls. For men, however, the toga remained in fashion with very little change.

Soon after the republic was formed, the toga became a symbol of Roman citizenship. Different styles of togas indicated a male citizen's place in society. For example, a young boy would wear a white toga with a narrow purple band along the border. When his family decided he was ready for adult responsibilities, he would don a pure white toga. On that day, usually when he was about 16, his family would take him to the Forum, where he would register as a full citizen. For the rest of his life, he would wear a toga at the theater, in court, for religious ceremonies, and on any formal occasion. At his funeral, his body would be wrapped in a toga to mark him, even in death, as a Roman citizen.





## Section Review 1

Define: (a) republic, (b) gravitas, (c) pater familias, (d) toga, (e) patrician, (f) plebeian, (g) legion, (h) century /4

Identify: (a) Italy, (b) Rome, (c) Romulus, (d) Palatine Hill, (e) Alps, (f) Tiber River, (g) Apennines, (h) Latins, (i) Etruscans, (j) Forum /1

Answer:

1. How did geography help Rome? /2
2. Why was each of the following groups important to Rome's development? (a) Latins (b) Greeks (c) Etruscans /3
3. What were the values of early Roman society?
4. (a) How was the Roman household organized? (b) What freedoms did women have in the family and in society?
5. How was the army linked to Roman society?

### Critical Thinking

6. Compare the values of Roman society to those of another civilization.

## The Roman republic spread its power.

# 2

For 500 years, the Romans governed their city and surrounding farmland as a republic. The history of these five centuries may be divided into two periods. In the first (509–265 B.C.), Roman troops battled for mastery of the Italian peninsula, and plebeians forced patricians to surrender some of their power. The second (265–44 B.C.) was marked by civil war, the rising power of army leaders, and the eventual triumph of Julius Caesar. Romans also extended their rule around the Mediterranean Sea.

### Plebeians slowly won more power.

For centuries, Roman coins bore the letters SPQR, which stood for *Senatus Populusque Romanus*—the senate and the Roman people. Together, these two groups were the heart of Roman government. This simple phrase masked years of bitter struggle between patricians (who con-

trolled the Roman senate) and plebeians (who made up the majority of the population).

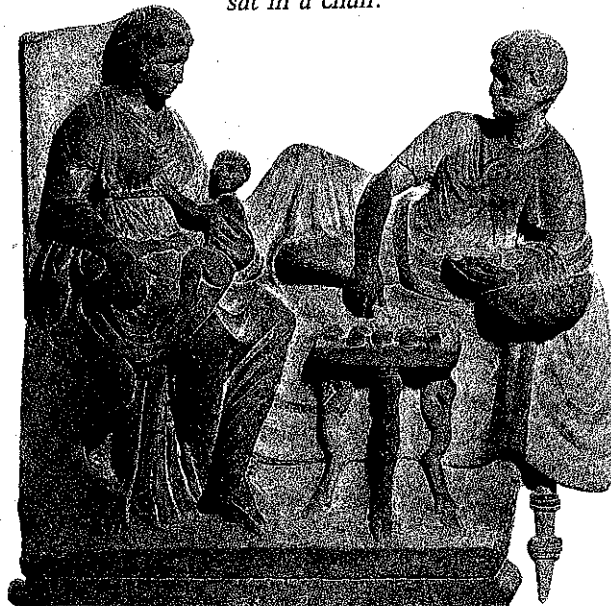
**Conflict between patrician and plebeian** After the Romans drove out their kings in 509 B.C., patricians controlled Rome's government. Plebeians were barred by law from holding most important positions in government—commanding armies, serving as high priests, or holding high offices.

In time, plebeians won a greater share of political power. Between 494 and 287 B.C., thousands of plebeians refused to fight in the Roman army unless patricians agreed to certain reforms. In this way, they gained access to many political offices and obtained more favorable laws. Enslavement for debt was ended, and marriage between patricians and plebeians was allowed.


**Twelve Tables** Among the first victories of the plebeians was the creation of a written law code. Roman law rested heavily on custom. When laws were unwritten, patrician officials often interpreted the law to suit themselves. Consequently, plebeians demanded that the laws of Rome be published.

In 451 B.C., a group of ten officials took on the task of writing down Rome's laws. The laws were carved on 12 great tablets, or tables, and hung in the Forum. They became the foundation

At Roman family meals, the husband reclined on a couch while the wife sat in a chair.



## MILESTONES OF DEMOCRACY: ROME (275 B.C.)

	FORM OF GOVERNMENT	CITIZENSHIP	INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
<b>Benefits</b> 	Republic with representation. Two consuls were elected by assemblies of male citizens. A consul's power was limited by veto of other consul and by power of Senate.	Full or partial citizenship was granted to many conquered people.	Roman law protected rights of citizens and half-citizens. Allies had their own laws.
<b>Limitations</b>	At first, only patricians could hold higher office or be members of Senate. Women did not have right to vote.	Half-citizens had private rights and public duties of citizens but not right to vote.	Slaves had no rights.

for later Roman law. Although the laws were sometimes harsh, the Twelve Tables established the idea that all free citizens had a right to the protection of the law. Thus, the Twelve Tables helped to settle the conflict between patricians and plebeians.

### **Rome achieved a balanced government.**

By about 275 B.C., Roman writers boasted that Rome had achieved a balanced government. They meant that their government was partly a monarchy (government by a king), partly an aristocracy (government by nobles), and partly a democracy (government by the people). The Romans believed that this mixture gave them the best features of all kinds of governments.

**The office of consul** In place of a king, Rome had two officials called **consuls**. Like kings, they commanded the army and directed the government. They had the power of life and death over citizens in wartime and great powers in peacetime as well.

The consuls' power was limited, however, by two rules. First, a consul's term was only one year long, and the same person could not be

elected consul again for ten years. Second, one consul could always overrule, or **veto**, the other's decisions. (In Latin, *veto* means "I forbid.")

**The powerful senate** The **senate** was the aristocratic branch of Rome's government. Tradition said that Romulus had named 100 patricians to advise him, thus creating the first senate. Later, the number of senators increased, and plebeians could also be members. Membership was for life. Therefore, the senate provided continuity and stability in the government. It exercised enormous influence over both foreign and domestic policy.

**The power of the people** The democratic side of Roman government was the assembly. All citizen-soldiers were members of this branch of government. In the early days of the republic, the assembly had little power in comparison to the consuls and the senate. Over the years, however, the powers of the assembly increased. Eventually, its decisions gained the force of law.

**The office of dictator** In times of crisis, the republic could turn to another type of political leadership, a **dictator**—a leader who had absolute power to make laws and command the army. A dictator's power lasted for only six months. Dictators were chosen by the consuls and then elected by the senate.

The Roman ideal of a dictator is shown by the story of Cincinnatus (SIN-sih-NAY-tus). In 458 B.C., when Rome's armies were in peril, the senate named Cincinnatus dictator. Cincinnatus was plowing his four-acre farm when messengers brought him the news. He left his plow, defeated Rome's enemies, and stepped down as dictator within 15 days. Then he returned to his farm to finish his plowing.

### **Rome won control of Italy.**

Political struggles between patricians and plebeians were remarkably bloodless during these years. Outside the city walls, however, the blood of both classes was spilled over Italian hills and fields as Rome's legions subdued Italy. City by city, the Romans defeated other Latin groups and the Etruscans. Roman power grew slowly but steadily. And then, Rome suffered a smashing defeat.

**The sack of Rome by the Gauls** In 390 B.C., Rome's walls were successfully stormed by marauding Gauls (gawlz), a people from the Po River valley, north of the Apennines. The Gauls sacked Rome, leaving it in ruins. Then, the Romans were forced to pay a humiliating bribe to persuade the Gauls to leave.

The Romans recovered rapidly, though. They built a stronger, larger wall around their city. The reconstructed Rome spanned 1,000 acres, making it the largest city in Italy. Foreign troops would not sack the city again for 800 years.

**War with the Greeks** Eventually, Romans controlled all of the Italian boot except its heel and toe. For centuries, those southern regions of Italy had been colonized by the Greeks.

The Greek cities watched the rise of Roman power with alarm. In 282 B.C., Greek colonists sought aid from Pyrrhus (PIHR-uhs), a king in western Greece. A brilliant general, Pyrrhus brought 20,000 soldiers to fight the Romans. Twice Pyrrhus's army slammed into the Roman legions and drove them from the field. In each battle, however, the Greek army suffered terrible losses. Pyrrhus learned a bitter lesson of warfare (and of life): You can win every battle and still lose the war. In 275 B.C., the Romans drove Pyrrhus's tired and decimated troops back to Greece. Ever since, a victory gained at too high a price has been known as a "Pyrrhic victory."

### **Rome governed Italy skillfully.**

After 275 B.C., the Romans were masters of all Italy except the Po Valley in the north, which was still held by the Gauls. Different parts of the conquered territory were subject to different laws and treatment from Rome.

Latin neighbors on the Tiber were treated as full citizens of Rome. They could marry other Romans, vote in assemblies, and appeal for justice in a Roman court.

In territories farther from Rome, conquered peoples were given the status of half-citizens. They enjoyed all the rights of a Roman citizen except the privilege to vote.

All other conquered groups fell into a third category, allies of Rome. Allies were required to contribute troops to the Roman army. They were forbidden to make treaties of friendship with any state but Rome. An allied city was free, however, to govern its own people without any Roman interference.

Unlike the Athenians, the Romans were willing to extend their citizenship to people outside Rome itself. The new citizens became partners in Rome's growth. This policy helped Rome to succeed in building a long-lasting empire, where Athens had failed.

With most of Italy unified behind it, Rome was now ready to enter the second stage of its astonishing rise to power. In the 250 years after 275 B.C., Roman power spread far beyond Italy.

### **Rome fought with Carthage.**

After the decline of Athens, trade in the Mediterranean region was dominated by two wealthy cities, both on the northern coast of Africa. One was Alexandria in Egypt, still ruled by the Ptolemies. The other was Carthage, the former Phoenician colony. Like Rome, Carthage had the advantage of a location near the midpoint of the Mediterranean coast.

In 264 B.C., Rome and Carthage went to war for control of Sicily and the western Mediterranean. Thus began the first of three periods of struggle known as the Punic (PYOO-nik) Wars. *Punic* comes from the Latin word for Phoenicia.

Let us compare the two cities and their capacity for making war. With a population of 250,000, Carthage was about three times the size of Rome.



Carthage had a huge navy of 500 ships. Overseas trade had made Carthage an immensely wealthy city. Each year, it collected the equivalent of almost 1 million pounds of gold in tariffs and tribute. With this great wealth, Carthage employed the people of neighboring Numidia as **mercenaries**, soldiers who fight in any country's army for pay.

Rome's resources in ships and wealth seemed meager by comparison. In fact, at the beginning of the First Punic War, Rome had no navy whatsoever. Rome's power had always rested entirely on its armies. However, this great disadvantage was offset by three advantages. First, Rome could draw on a reserve of more than 500,000 troops made available through its conquests in Italy. Second, Rome's citizen troops were generally more loyal and reliable than the mercenaries employed by Carthage. Third, warfare was a Roman specialty. Over the centuries, Romans had directed much of their energy toward winning wars. All of Carthage's energies, on the other hand, had been aimed at winning wealth through trade.

Luck also seemed to favor the Romans. Toward the beginning of the first war, a Carthaginian warship washed up on the Italian shore. Needing a fleet in a hurry, the Romans hastily built 140 ships by copying the Carthaginian design. Unlike the Carthaginian model, however, each Roman warship was equipped with a long gangplank. When not in use, this gangplank was lashed upright to the mast. Attached to the bottom of the gangplank was an iron hook, shaped like a bird's beak and called a raven. When a Roman ship drew alongside a Carthaginian vessel, the gangplank crashed down between the two. Its beak stuck deep in the Carthaginian deck, binding the ships together. Roman soldiers then rushed over the gangplank.

By this means, the Romans won their first two naval battles against the African master of the Mediterranean. Carthage later avenged itself with several shattering victories of its own on land and sea.

The First Punic War dragged on for 23 punishing years before Carthage's last fleet was defeated and sunk in 241 B.C. The defeat marked the end of Carthage as a sea power. Rome took over the rich, grain-growing island of Sicily as the chief prize of victory.

## **Hannibal sought revenge on Rome.**

From 241 to 218 B.C., Carthage and Rome each had other interests. Rome was bent on driving the Gauls out of northern Italy. Carthage set out to win much of southern Spain, which it then turned into a rich colony.

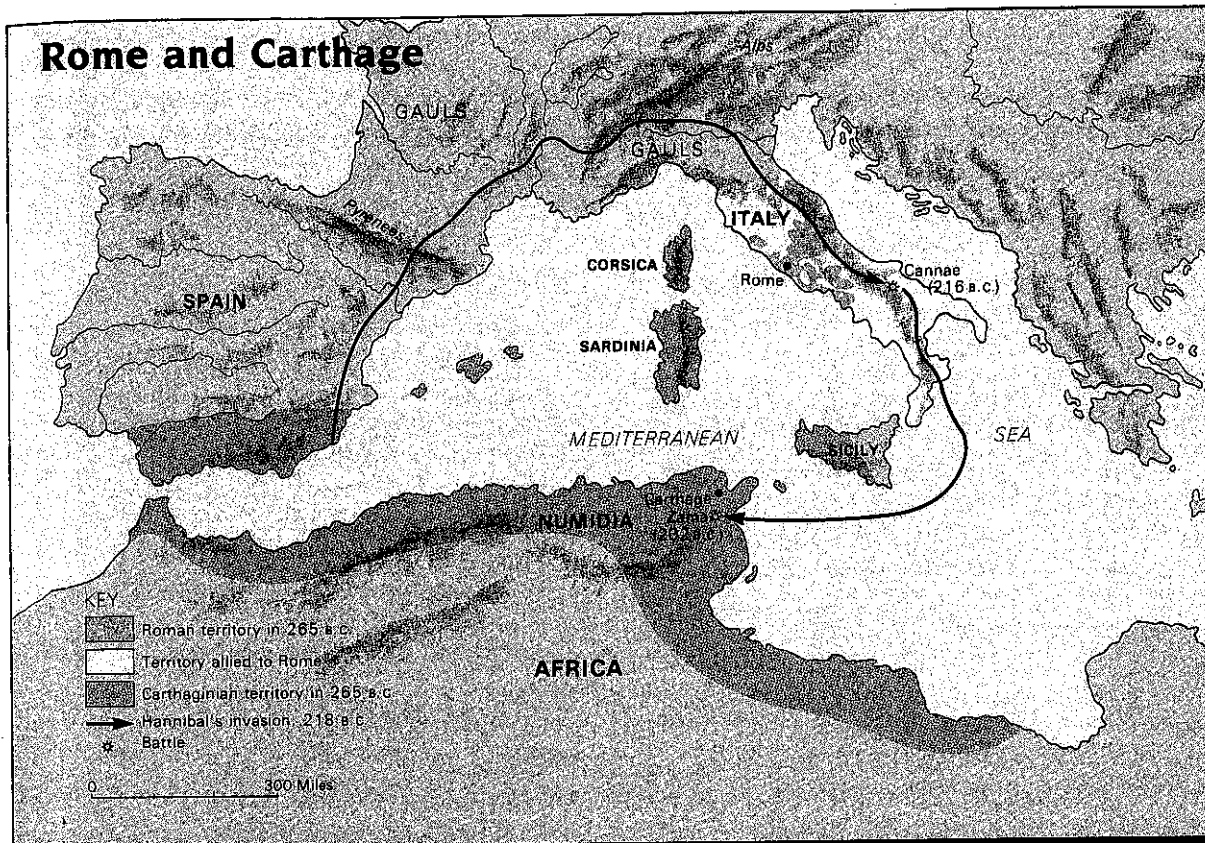
In 218 B.C., however, the uneasy peace between the two cities was broken. The mastermind behind this Second Punic War was a Carthaginian leader named Hannibal, one of the great military geniuses of all time. He was only a boy of nine when his father, a general, made him swear that he would always hate Rome and seek to destroy it. Hannibal grew to manhood on the southern coast of Spain. Here he observed his father's masterful tactics for fighting Spanish tribes and gained experience with troops of his own.

**Hannibal's invasion of Italy** When Hannibal was 29 years old, in 218 B.C., he assembled an army of 50,000 infantry, 9,000 cavalry, and 60 elephants to try to capture Rome itself. He led his army on a long trek from Spain across France and up into the dizzying heights of the Alps. Desertions, battles with Gallic tribes, and blizzards in the mountains killed more than half his men and most of his elephants.

Rome assembled an army to fight this invader, but Hannibal destroyed it. A second Roman army, larger than the first, was also routed. In 216 B.C., a third army of 86,000 Romans found Hannibal's reinforced army of 50,000 men camped at Cannae on the eastern coast of Italy. By brilliant maneuvering, Hannibal drew the attacking army into a deadly trap. In this battle—Hannibal's greatest victory—between 40,000 and 70,000 Romans died.

For the next 13 years, Hannibal marched his armies at will up and down the Italian peninsula. The Romans did not dare to challenge him again in open battle. His soldiers lived off the land, seizing crops and cattle, pillaging farmhouses. However, they could not capture Rome itself. Its walls were too high and their own forces too small even to make the attempt. For years, Hannibal waited for Carthage to send him reinforcements. For years, he waited for Rome's allies to revolt and join his own armies. For years, Hannibal was disappointed.

**The Battle of Zama** Finally Rome found a general whose boldness and brilliance were nearly



### Map Study

How far was Carthage from Rome? Where did Hannibal begin his march to invade Rome? What two mountain ranges did he cross on his way?

equal to Hannibal's. His name was Scipio (sip-ee-oh). Scipio attacked Carthage itself, forcing Hannibal to rush home to the rescue. The great Carthaginian, unbeaten on European soil, was soundly thrashed by Scipio at the Battle of Zama in 202 B.C. (Hannibal survived and governed Carthage for seven years. He later killed himself to avoid capture by Rome.)

Thus ended the Second Punic War. Zama is one of the few battles that may truly have changed the course of history. Quite possibly, if Hannibal had been the victor, Carthage and not Rome would have become the greatest empire in the world. Because Rome was victorious, it was Rome that passed on its laws, its government, and its culture to Western civilization.

Scipio, in honor of his victory, was named *Africanus* (conqueror of Africa). In the terms of peace, Rome allowed Carthage to keep its lands in northern Africa but nothing more.

### Rome made conquests to the east.

Rome now dominated the western half of the Mediterranean Sea. During the next 70 years, Romans also conquered the eastern half.

After the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C., his empire had been divided among his generals. Their descendants still ruled the lands around the eastern Mediterranean. The Antigonid dynasty ruled Macedon, the Ptolemaic dynasty ruled Egypt, and the Seleucid dynasty ruled most of what had been the Persian empire. These three—and a few other small kingdoms—were almost constantly at war with one another.

Greece lay nearest Rome, and it was the first to feel Rome's heavy hand. At first, Roman armies marching into Macedon looked like protectors of Greek freedom. The Greeks rejoiced when, in 197 B.C., the Romans freed them from the rule of Philip V of Macedon. Once settled in Greece,

however, the Romans interfered in Greek politics, crushing all opposition to rulers favored by Rome.

As time passed, the exercise of Roman power in the east became increasingly ruthless. A few Greek city-states tried to free themselves from Rome's tightening grip, but the effort failed. Rome singled out Corinth for punishment as an example to the others. In 146 B.C., its people were massacred or enslaved, its walls wrecked, and its homes and temples burned. The once lovely city was reduced to an ash heap.

### Rome finally destroyed Carthage.

In the same year, 146 B.C., Carthage was destroyed. By the time of the Third Punic War (149–146 B.C.), Carthage was no longer a threat to Rome. Yet it was still a prosperous city, and some Romans were filled with hate each time they thought of it. The Roman most responsible for this needless war was a senator named Cato (KAY-toh). Over and over, Cato ended his speeches with the same vindictive message: "*Carthago delenda est*" ("Carthage must be destroyed").

In 149 B.C., Rome forced war on Carthage, seizing on the excuse that Carthage had warred

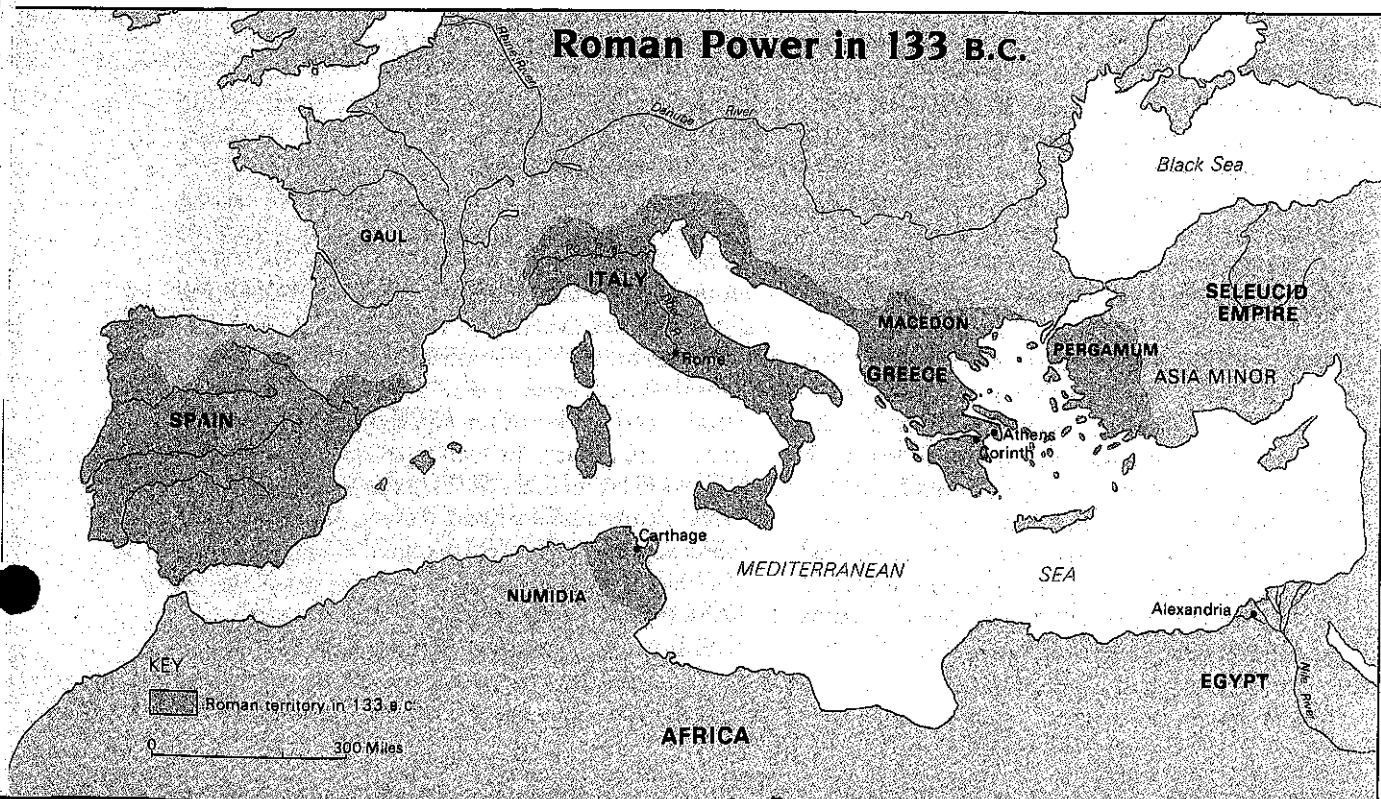
with neighboring Numidia without Rome's permission. The Carthaginians barricaded themselves in their beloved city. For three years, they withstood a Roman siege. Finally, under the leadership of Scipio Aemilianus (uh-MIHL-ee-AY-nuhs)—the grandson of Scipio Africanus—the Roman army broke into Carthage and set it afire. Carthage flamed and smoked for six days, while fighting raged from street to street. Watching the city burn, the Roman general wept. "This is a glorious moment," he said to a friend, "but I am seized with foreboding that someday the same fate will befall my own country." He was right, but Rome's downfall did not come for another 556 years.

Legend says that after Carthage was destroyed, the Romans plowed salt into the soil, so that not even crops would spring up again for Rome's hated rival. The legend, however, is untrue.

After the Third Punic War, Rome continued to expand eastward. In 133 B.C., the western tip of Asia Minor dropped peacefully into Roman hands as the gift of a dying king. This king of Pergamum had welcomed Roman aid against the Seleucids. Dying without an heir, he left his kingdom to Rome. Thus, Rome's Mediterranean empire stretched from Asia Minor to Spain.

### Map Study

What territory had Rome gained by 133 B.C. in the region of Asia Minor? Name a city shown on this map that was not under Roman control.



12

## Section Review 2

Define: (a) consul, (b) veto, (c) senate, (d) assembly, (e) dictator, (f) mercenary 15

Identify: (a) SPQR, (b) Twelve Tables, (c) Cincinnatus, (d) Gauls, (e) Pyrrhus, (f) Carthage, (g) Punic Wars, (h) Hannibal, (i) Battle of Zama, (j) Scipio Africanus, (k) Scipio Aemilianus 16

### Answer:

- 13
- 1 (a) Why were many plebeians dissatisfied with Rome's government in the early years of the republic? (b) How did they win reforms? (c) What changes did they bring about in Roman government?
  2. Why did Romans consider that they had a balanced government?
  3. Once Rome had conquered most of Italy, how did the Roman government win the support of the conquered people?
  4. (a) At the start of the Punic Wars, why might Carthage have appeared the stronger power? (b) Why was Rome, in fact, the victor?
  5. Why was the Battle of Zama a major turning point in history?
  6. (a) Why did the Greeks at first welcome Roman armies? (b) Why did the Greek attitude change?

### Critical Thinking

7. (a) How was the Roman republic different from a democracy? (b) What features of the republic were democratic?
8. (a) Give two examples of Rome's increasing ruthlessness as its empire grew. (b) How did Rome's treatment of conquered people outside Italy differ from that of the groups Rome conquered within Italy?

## Republican government collapsed in Rome.

3

Carthage was not the only loser of the Punic Wars. Rome was also hurt in many ways. Thousands of men and boys who left their farms to fight in a Roman legion never came back. Those who did return found conditions in Italy drastically changed.

## The gap between rich and poor grew.

Hannibal's armies had destroyed farms, homes, and villages. Returning soldiers could rarely afford to rebuild. Many small farmers sold their ruined acres to wealthy citizens. These new landowners treated farming strictly as a business. On their huge estates, known as *latifundia*, they found that raising cattle was more profitable than growing grain. (After the First Punic War, cheap wheat from Sicily had flooded Italian markets.) Labor for the *latifundia* was cheap because Rome's many wars brought thousands of chained captives to work as slaves.

Battle-scarred farmers could not return to their old way of life. Their land was gone, owned now by wealthy strangers, worked by slaves. Where could uprooted veterans go? Thousands of them sought new homes in or around Rome. They sought city jobs but seldom found them. Wealthy Romans preferred owning slaves to hiring free workers. This new class of urban, landless poor was called the **proletariat** (PROH-leh-TAIR-ee-uh). The people of this class were the poorest of Romans. Without work or hope, they became a dangerous and discontented mob within the city. From this time on, riots were a constant danger in Rome.

While poor farmers lost their land, the rich were corrupted by wealth. Winning a war always meant an opportunity for collecting loot. A victorious general might take a share of the spoils for himself and send the rest to the Roman treasury. After one year's victories, for example, Scipio Africanus displayed in the Roman Forum 123,000 pounds of silver that his army had brought back from Spain and Carthage.

Captured booty was proudly paraded through Roman streets during special holidays called "triumphs." The typical triumph consisted of a victorious general, dressed in purple-trimmed toga and golden crown, riding through a triumphal arch to the cheers of the crowd. He was followed by wagons of loot and bands of veterans.

The spoils of war brought dramatic changes in patrician life. Modest homes turned into ornately furnished mansions. There might be urns from Babylon, silk from China, gold from Carthage, and marble from Athens. While their dress remained rather simple, the rich learned to love exotic foods and lavish entertainment.



### *Slavery became widespread.*

The luxury of the rich depended on the labor of slaves. In Rome's slave market, a tablet around the neck of a foreign captive identified his or her special skills and place of origin. Every year, thousands of unhappy captives were inspected and sold. As a result of the First Punic War alone, 75,000 formerly free men and women became Roman slaves. By the year 100 B.C., slaves formed perhaps one third of Rome's total population.

Low-priced slaves, unskilled and uneducated, were assigned to heavy labor in Roman mines, on cattle farms, in vineyards, and in shipyards. The more expensive slaves, usually from Greece and Asia Minor, worked in Roman households as cooks, teachers, musicians, private secretaries, and messengers. In one mansion, a rich Roman kept 11 highly educated Greek slaves just to recite the poems of Homer at his banquets.

Romans lived with the ever-present danger of a massive slave uprising. As the Roman slogan went, "Every slave we own is an enemy we harbor." Three times between 138 and 70 B.C., thousands of slaves rebelled against their masters. The third uprising was by far the most threatening. It was led by the slave Spartacus, who had been trained as a gladiator (a person who fought other warriors or wild beasts as a form of public entertainment). Spartacus raised an army of 70,000 slaves and ravaged the Italian countryside from 73 to 71 B.C. They fought desperately for their freedom, beating the Roman army nine times before their revolt was crushed. About 6,000 of Spartacus's followers were crucified.

*Gladiators fought to the death in Roman arenas. Political leaders used such games to entertain the proletariat and prevent rebellions.*

### *The Gracchi attempted reforms.*

The worst threat to the Roman republic, however, came from the Roman citizens themselves. The richest families of the city, plebeian as well as patrician, competed for political power. It was a more violent kind of politics than the old struggle between patricians and plebeians. After the Punic Wars, political arguments and rivalries often were settled by bloodshed.

Two brothers, Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus (**GRAK-us**), attempted to reform Rome's government. The elder brother, Tiberius, was elected to the political office of **tribune** in 133 B.C. Tribunes were officials who spoke on behalf of the plebeians. They were elected by the assembly. Tiberius spoke eloquently about the plight of the landless, dispossessed farmers. "The wolves and the bears have dens to rest and sleep," said Tiberius. "But the men who fight their country's battles have nothing . . . You fight and die only for the wealth and luxury of others. You are called the masters of the world, but you do not have a single clod of earth to call your own." What could be done for these unfortunate citizens? Give them land, said Tiberius. Limit the size of large estates, and distribute lands to the poor people of Rome.

To a poor man, Tiberius's program seemed only fair. To a rich landowner, it seemed like robbery. Tiberius further alarmed the rich by seeking to be reelected as tribune, something never before attempted. On election day, some senators and their followers clubbed Tiberius to death and flung his body into the Tiber.



Ten years later (123 B.C.), the murdered man's younger brother, Gaius Gracchus, was elected tribune. Gaius made the office of tribune the most powerful position in Rome. By his eloquence and political skill, he pushed through a series of laws designed to weaken the senate. He planned programs to deal with unemployment.

The senate's opposition to the younger Gracchus's reforms again led to open violence. Gaius was declared an enemy of the state. The senate offered a large reward for his head. Gaius and his supporters took refuge on one of Rome's hills, where they were attacked by a band of senators with their slaves and foreign mercenaries. Gaius died in the battle. Later, the senate executed 3,000 of his followers.

### Army leaders took political power.

After the death of the Gracchi, two army leaders muscled their way to power. First came Marius, whose victories against German tribes made him immensely popular with the people. Then came Sulla, the strong-armed champion of the senate.

Marius and his army saved Rome from a frightening invasion of Germanic tribes in 105 B.C. As a result, he was elected consul five times in a row, breaking the tradition that a consul could not be reelected for ten years. Marius blamed the weakness of Rome's defenses on its dwindling number of citizen-soldiers. Only landowners could serve in the army, and too many farmers had been forced off the land. To make

## Voice from the Past • The Perils of Success

The Roman historian Sallust lived between 86 and 35 B.C., when Rome was already the greatest power in the Mediterranean region. Sallust had strong views on the course of Roman history, especially on changes he believed had taken place in the character of the Romans.

*[In Rome's early years,] good morals were cultivated at home and in the field; there was the greatest harmony and little or no greed; justice and integrity prevailed. [Citizens] were lavish in their offerings to the gods, thrifty at home, loyal to their friends. By boldness in warfare and justice in peace, they watched over themselves and their country.*

*But when our country had grown great, then Fortune began to grow cruel and to bring confusion into all our affairs. Those who had found it easy to bear hardship and dangers, found leisure and wealth, desirable under other circumstances, a burden and a curse. Hence, the lust for money first, then for power, grew upon [Romans]; these were, I may say, the root of all evils. For greed destroyed honor, integrity, and all other noble qualities; taught in their place insolence, cruelty, to neglect the gods, to set a price on everything. Ambition drove many men to become false, to have one thought locked in the breast, another ready on the tongue; to value friendships and enmities not on their merits but by the standard of self-interest, and to show a good front rather than a good heart. At first these vices grew slowly. Finally, when the disease had spread like a deadly plague, the state was changed and a government that had been second to none in equity and excellence became cruel and intolerable.*

1. According to Sallust, how did Romans show their good moral character in early times?
2. What two evils caused Rome's later problems?
3. Do you agree with Sallust that hard times sometimes bring out people's better qualities? Explain your answer.



A Roman triumphal procession

up for this loss of manpower, Marius allowed the city's poor to enlist in the army. The new recruits received weapons and armor from the state, unlike the self-equipped citizen-soldiers.

These new soldiers signed up for a period of 16 years—much of their adult lives. In other words, they became professional soldiers. As such, they were willing to fight for any army leader who rewarded them with land and gold. After Marius, Roman armies did not fight for the republic. They fought instead for the military leader who used his political power to give them weapons, food, and loot. More often than not, these leaders used their armies to advance their own political ambitions. It was now possible for rival politicians, each supported by his own army, to win power by force of arms.

In 88 B.C., Marius commanded one army while his rival, Sulla, commanded another. Over the next six years, both leaders used their armies to march against Rome. Each held power for a while and slaughtered the supporters of his opponent. Each forced his own laws on Rome. Sulla, who returned to power in 82 B.C., abolished the six-month limit to a dictator's term and had himself named dictator until he chose to step down. Both Sulla and Marius died peacefully in bed, somehow escaping the violent deaths they had dealt to others. But their pattern of using the army to gain political power outlived them both.

### ***Julius Caesar rose to power.***

Among those whom Sulla intended, but failed, to kill was a 20-year-old patrician named Gaius Julius Caesar (SEE-zuhr). Caesar escaped an early death because he understood the uses of money. He bribed Sulla's soldiers to spare his life.

Caesar had little money of his own, but like other ambitious Romans of his day, he knew that the quickest way to wealth was to govern one of Rome's provinces—Spain, Sicily, Gaul, Asia Minor, Macedon, or Africa. A provincial governor could amass a small fortune from just one year's collection of taxes, bribes, and war booty. The position of governor was seldom given to the best administrator. It went instead to the politician who won the goodwill of the senate and the Roman people.

For more than 20 years, Caesar played hard at the game of Roman politics. In the Forum, he

charmed crowds with his brilliant speeches. In his country villa, he threw lavish parties for influential politicians.

To support his extravagant life-style, Caesar borrowed huge sums from a man whose well-deserved nickname was Crassus the Rich. Crassus invested in Caesar's political career as a gambler might invest in a racehorse. The gamble paid off handsomely when Caesar was appointed governor of a province in Spain. Caesar collected enough booty there in one year to enrich himself, his soldiers, and Crassus.

***The First Triumvirate*** In 60 B.C., Caesar and Crassus joined forces with Pompey, a popular general. To cement their alliance, Pompey married

*Julius Caesar*



Caesar's daughter, Julia. With the help of his two allies, Caesar was elected consul in 59 B.C. For the next ten years, the three men ruled Rome as a **triumvirate**. The senate and assembly were bribed and bullied into following their decisions.

**The conquest of Gaul** Abiding by ancient tradition, Caesar served only one year as consul. Then he assigned himself the governorship of Gaul. (See the map on page 140.) For eight years, he led his legions in a series of grueling but successful wars in western Europe. He pushed north into the dense woodlands and fertile valleys of central Gaul. He even crossed the English Channel and battled the barbaric tribes who lived in Britannia (present-day England). Back on the continent, he crossed the Rhine River to meet the onslaught of Germanic tribes. According to the historian Plutarch, Caesar's army killed a third of the people in the land it conquered.

Caesar was a tough and dauntless fighter. He drove himself and his troops relentlessly. Carrying 60-pound packs, Caesar's soldiers might march 50 miles in a day. At the day's end, each soldier pulled a shovel from his pack and dug his share of a trench to protect a camp more than one mile square. Inside, two legions (about 9,000 men) could eat and sleep safely before the next day's ordeal. Dinner in Caesar's army was meager: a few handfuls of grain and a cup of sour wine. Caesar himself ate no better. Because he shared fully in the hardships of the march, he won his men's enduring loyalty and devotion.

Never forgetting politics, Caesar sent back regular dispatches to Rome, telling of his victories. Collected into six books, these writings became one of the classics of Latin literature, Caesar's *Commentaries on the Gallic Wars*.

### Caesar made himself ruler of Rome.

News from Gaul caused two reactions in Rome. The poorer citizens, who generally adored Caesar, loved him all the more for his conquests. But senators, alarmed at his immense popularity, feared for their own power. By 50 B.C., the triumvirate of Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey had come apart. Crassus was dead, killed in battle while commanding Roman troops in Asia. Pompey had become Caesar's rival rather than his ally. With Pompey's approval, the senate ordered Caesar to disband his legions and return to Rome.

**Crossing the Rubicon** Caesar's next move led inevitably to **civil war**, or to conflict between political groups. On the night of January 10, 49 B.C., he rode south across the Rubicon River in Italy, the southern limit of his military command. His troops followed loyally behind. Thus, Caesar defied the senate's order and directly challenged Pompey. To this day, "crossing the Rubicon" means making a decision from which there is no return.

Caesar's army marched swiftly through northern Italy and occupied Rome. Pompey barely managed to escape, fleeing eastward to rally his own armies. A year later (48 B.C.), Caesar's troops defeated Pompey's at Pharsalus in Greece. Pompey sailed to Alexandria in Egypt, hoping to win support there for his next campaign against Caesar. Instead, the young pharaoh ordered Pompey to be greeted warmly—and then murdered. When Caesar arrived in Alexandria, he was presented with Pompey's head as a gift. Caesar grieved at the sight, remembering that Pompey had once been both his ally and his son-in-law.

**Becoming absolute ruler** When Caesar returned to Rome in 46 B.C., he commanded the support of both his armies and the masses. In 44 B.C., the senate appointed him dictator for ten years.

As absolute ruler, Caesar made several sweeping changes. He granted Roman citizenship to many people in provinces outside Italy. He expanded the senate to 900 men, adding loyal followers from other parts of Italy and from Gaul. Caesar had made the senate more representative of the empire, but the patricians were angry that Caesar controlled the senate.

Some of Caesar's other actions would have pleased the Gracchi. He ordered landowners who used slave laborers to substitute free men for at

### Decisions in History

Caesar hesitated before making his fateful decision to cross the Rubicon. He knew that invading Italy would violate the law and start a bloody civil war. Yet if he obeyed the senate, he risked being banished from Rome forever. Caesar's supporters urged him to ignore the Senate. Opponents demanded that he obey the law. Moderates urged both Caesar and Pompey to give up their commands and avoid a civil war. What decision would you have made, and why?



least one third of their work force. He set up a public works program to create more jobs. He also founded 20 colonies in Spain, France, Switzerland, Africa, and elsewhere to provide land for Rome's landless poor. These programs cut by more than half the number of Romans who lived on government grain handouts.

**The calendar** Caesar's most lasting reform was to set up a new calendar. He replaced the old Roman calendar, linked to the phases of the moon, with a new solar calendar worked out by the scholars of Alexandria. The new calendar was called the Julian calendar. It counted 365 days in a year and 1 extra day every fourth year. Because the Romans thought February unlucky, they made it the shortest month. The seventh month, July, was named after Julius Caesar, because it included his birthday. The Julian calendar was used in most of Europe until 1582, when slight changes were made for even greater accuracy.

**Caesar's death** On March 15, 44 B.C., Caesar walked to the Theater of Pompey, where the senate was meeting. Waiting for him were a number of senators with knives hidden beneath their togas.

The chief conspirators, Brutus and Cassius, had been generously pardoned by Caesar for their earlier support of Pompey. Brutus, especially, had been Caesar's friend since then. Even so, both men were still troubled by Caesar's ambitions and his disregard for the old constitution of the republic. They feared that he would make himself king. (According to the ancient laws, you may recall, anyone who plotted to become king could be killed without trial.)

As Caesar approached, the conspirators pressed up against him, pretending to discuss urgent business. Suddenly they struck. Stabbed countless times, Caesar groaned his last words to his old friend Brutus, "*Et tu, Brute!*" ("And you, also, Brutus!") Thus died one of history's most remarkable men.

### **Civil war followed Caesar's death.**

Caesar's assassins thought they had saved the Roman republic. By that time, however, the republic was almost as dead as Caesar himself. Two civil wars (Marius against Sulla and Caesar against Pompey) had crippled the former power of the patricians. Soon after Caesar's death, a

third civil war broke out. The final victor of this conflict proved to be an even more astute politician than Julius Caesar. His name was Octavian (ahk-TAY-vee-uhn).

**The Second Triumvirate** Octavian was Caesar's grandnephew and adopted son. When Caesar was murdered in 44 B.C., Octavian was a frail, sickly youth of 18. Octavian's chief rival, Mark Antony, had been Caesar's trusted comrade. Compared to the young Octavian, Antony was a robust, mature leader and an experienced general.

There was little trust between the two men. For a time, however, they agreed to cooperate in destroying Caesar's enemies. Teaming up with Lepidus, a powerful politician, Antony and Octavian led armies into Rome and forced the assembly to grant them power to rule the state. For ten years (43–33 B.C.), Caesar's three avengers acted together as the Second Triumvirate.

Their vengeance was indeed cruel. A list was drawn up of more than 100 senators and 2,000 businessmen to be killed. One of those murdered was Cicero (sihs-uh-roh), the senate's greatest orator. Although Cicero had not plotted to kill Caesar, he often had spoken in defense of the republic and against absolute rule. As for Caesar's chief murderers, Brutus and Cassius, they both committed suicide by falling on their own swords after their armies were routed by Antony in 42 B.C. at the Battle of Philippi in Greece.

**War between Octavian and Antony** The Second Triumvirate ended like the first, in jealousy and violence. Octavian defeated Lepidus and forced him to retire, but Antony's position still seemed secure.

Antony had married Octavian's sister as a political gesture. But while commanding Roman troops in Asia Minor, Antony met the bewitching Cleopatra. (She came to greet him on a barge rowed with silver oars and adorned with purple sails.) Egypt's queen wooed and won Antony as she had won Caesar. Antony sent back word to Rome that he was divorcing Octavian's sister and marrying Cleopatra. In the senate, Octavian accused Antony of plotting to rule Rome from the foreign city of Alexandria. Rome braced itself for a third civil war, this one between Antony and Octavian.

The two forces clashed in a naval battle off the west coast of Greece. In the Battle of Actium (31 B.C.), the fleet commanded by Antony and



This cameo shows Octavian (Augustus) after he was well established as Rome's sole ruler.

Cleopatra was defeated by Octavian's navy. The couple later committed suicide. To make his triumph even sweeter, Octavian made Egypt another province of Rome.

### Octavian became sole ruler.

Like Caesar before him, Octavian was now the sole ruler of Rome. The powers in his hands were as great as a king's or emperor's. However, Octavian remembered what happened to his grand-uncle, Caesar. As a politician, Octavian was more cautious than Caesar, and therefore he lived longer. Instead of seeking a crown, Octavian took only the title of "first citizen."

In 27 B.C., the senate begged Octavian to accept the title of Augustus (aw-GUS-tus). The word means "exalted one" and was normally reserved for the gods. Octavian offered token resistance and then graciously accepted the honor. Afterward, he was known by his honorary title, Augustus, rather than Octavian.

The Roman state under Augustus was no longer ruled by the senate and the assembly as a republic. It was ruled by one man as an empire. However, the senate and the assembly continued to meet and transact business in the old ways. Augustus continued to address the senate as if, at any time, it could strip him of his power and titles.

The senators were not fools. They understood that Augustus held the real power while they held almost none, yet they played along. After all, only by flattering and supporting Augustus could they hope to win appointment to a rich government post in the provinces. Besides, what could they hope to achieve by plotting to overthrow him? Nothing but another civil war, perhaps ending in their own deaths. Thus, Roman politicians found it convenient to let the ancient republic die while pretending that it still lived.

Octavian was to rule Rome for 41 years. His reign marked the beginning of the longest period of peace and prosperity that Rome ever knew.

### Section Review 3

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**Define:** (a) proletariat, (b) gladiator, (c) tribune, (d) triumvirate, (e) civil war

13

**Identify:** (a) Spartacus, (b) the Gracchi, (c) Marius, (d) Sulla, (e) Julius Caesar, (f) First Triumvirate, (g) Cleopatra, (h) Brutus, (i) Octavian, (j) Second Triumvirate, (k) Mark Antony, (l) Cicero

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#### Answer:

1. How did victory in the Punic Wars change Roman society?
2. How did slavery undermine Roman society?
3. What reforms did the Gracchi try to make?
4. How were military leaders able to gain political power in Rome?
5. (a) What tactics did Julius Caesar use in his rise to power? (b) What groups supported Caesar? (c) What groups opposed him?
6. (a) Why did Octavian and Mark Antony join forces? (b) How did Rome come under the rule of one man?

12

13

#### Critical Thinking

7. (a) What event do you think was the turning point in Rome's change from a republic to one-man rule? (b) Give two reasons to support your answer.

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