Chapter 5

The Roman Republic
The Geography of Italy

- 750 miles by about 120 miles
- Apennine Mountains
- Po Valley
- Rome
  - Settlements near the mouth of the Tiber River
  - Building on the seven hills
  - Fourteen miles from the sea
- Tiber River
The Italian Peninsula

- **The Etruscans**
  - Origins
  - Dominated area between the Arno and the Tiber
    - Etruria (modern Tuscany)
  - Height of power in the 6th century B.C.
  - Decline, 480 B.C.
  - Limited to Etruria by 400 B.C.

- **The Greeks**
  - Colonization, 750-550 B.C.
  - Southern Italy
    - Magna Graecia
The History of Rome

- Livy – 1\textsuperscript{st} century B.C. historian
- **Roman Monarchy**, 753-509 B.C.
  - Rome founded, April 21, 753 B.C.
- **Roman Republic**, 509-31 B.C.
  - Early Republic, 509-287 B.C.
    - (Spielvogel, 509-264 B.C.)
  - Middle Republic, 287-133 B.C.
    - (Spielvogel, 264-133 B.C.)
  - Late Republic, 133-31 B.C.
- **Roman Empire**, 31/27 B.C. – 5\textsuperscript{th} century A.D.
  (about 476 A.D.)
Early Rome

• Romulus and Remus, 753 B.C.

• Influence of Etruscans
  – Urbanism, town-planning
  – Transmission of the Alphabet
  – Monarchy, Senate
  – Dress
  – Military
The Roman Monarchy, 753-509 B.C.

- 1st King – Romulus
- 6 Kings after him
- Advised by a Senate
- Last King, Tarquin the Proud, was deposed
  - His son’s rape of Roman noblewoman Lucretia
- Foundation of the Republic
The Roman Republic, 509 B.C.-31 B.C.

- **Patricians** (aristocrats)
  - Oldest and noblest Roman families
  - A fraction of the society
- **Plebeians** (commoners)
- The 2 “Orders”
The Roman State
Spielvogel, pp. 110-111

• Describe the branches of government in the Roman Republic

• What were the offices in the Roman Republic?
  – What were the specific roles and jurisdictions?
  – Who could hold office? For how long?

• How does the Roman Republican system of government compare to the U.S. government?
The Struggle of the Orders
Spielvogel, pp. 111-112

• What were the “Orders”?  
• What was the “Struggle”?  
• How did the Roman constitution change to address the issues in this “struggle”?  
• When?
The Roman Constitution

- **Two consuls**
  - Patricians
  - *imperium*

- **Praetors**
  - Patricians
  - *Imperium*

- **Annuality and Collegiality**

- **Senate**
  - 300 men serving for life (Patricians)

- **Assemblies**
  - *Comitia centuriata* (Roman army)
  - *Concilium plebis* (Plebeian assembly)
  - *Comitia tributa* (Tribal assembly)
The Roman Constitution

- Quaestors
- Aediles
- “Course of Offices”
- Provincial Governors
  - Pro-Consuls and Pro-Praetors
- Censors
  - 2 elected every 5 years
- Dictator
  - Cincinnatus Saves Rome, Spielvogel, p. 113
Key principles of the U.S. & Roman Constitutions

• **U.S. Government:**
  – **Separation of powers** - assignment of law making, law interpreting and law executing functions to different branches of government
  – **Checks and balances** - the power of scrutiny and control of each branch over the other two branches of government
  – **Republicanism** - not classical democracy, but based on representation, calibrated popular input
  – **Federalism** - two levels of government, with central government supreme

• **Roman Republic**
  – **Collegiality**
  – **Annuality**
  – **Republicanism**
The Struggle of the Orders

• **Tribunes, 494 B.C.**
  – 10 tribunes per year, 1 year term
  – Highest Plebeian officials

• **Plebeian Assembly, 471 B.C.**
  – Pass own laws, Plebscites

• **Twelve Tables of Law, 450 B.C.**
  – *Decemviri* (ten men)
  – Spielvogel, p. 112

• **Canuleian law, 445 B.C.**
  – Intermarriage between Patricians and Plebeians

• **Licinian-Sextian laws, 367 B.C.**
  – One consul must be a plebeian, 342 B.C.

• **Hortensian law, 287 B.C.**
  – Laws passed in Plebeian Assembly are binding on all Romans
The Struggle of the Orders

- **What was the result of the Struggle of the Orders?**
  - The Struggle of the Orders resulted in a Rome stronger and better united than before.
- **It ended with a new concept of Roman citizenship:**
  - All citizens shared equally under the law.
  - All could aspire to the highest political offices.
  - Patrician or Plebeian, rich or poor, Roman citizenship was equal for all.
- **How does the evolution of the Roman Constitution differ from the evolution of politics in Greece?**
The Roman Conquest of Italy

• Took 200 years
  – Samnite Wars, 343-290 B.C.
  – Revolt of Latium, 340-338 B.C.
  – Defeated Greek city-states to the south
    • Pyrrhic War, 281-267 B.C.

• Granted full or partial Roman citizenship
  – Tax and legal benefits
  – Developed loyalty in conquered Italian areas
The Roman Army

• Soldier-citizens
• Abandoned phalanx idea
• By 250 B.C., soldiers fought in small units of about one hundred men (centuries) under the command of a centurian (elected)
• Light armor and oblong shields
• Centuries combined into legions of about four thousand men.
The Roman Conquest of the Mediterranean, 264-133 B.C.

• The Struggle with Carthage
  – Interest in Sicily

• 3 Punic Wars: 264-241 B.C.
  – First Punic War, 264-241 B.C.
  – Second Punic War, 218-202 B.C.
  – Third Punic War, 149-146 B.C.
The Roman Conquest of the Mediterranean, 264-133 B.C.

- **First Punic War, 264-241 B.C.**
- By 256 B.C. Rome built and 500 warships manned by 250,000 men
  - New naval engagement strategy with *corvus* (gangplank)
- Navy lost in a bad storm
- *What did Rome do...?*
- Why the Romans always won:
  - They were prepared to spend as much money as needed
  - They were prepared to sacrifice as many troops as needed
  - They stuck it out for as long as it took
The Roman Conquest of the Mediterranean, 264-133 B.C.

• Second Punic War, 218-202 B.C.
  – Hannibal
  – Battle of Cannae
    • 216 B.C.
  – Battle of Zama
    • 202 B.C.
    • Scipio Africanus

• Third Punic War, 149-146 B.C.
  – Scipio Aemilianus
  – Appian, *Roman History*, Spielvogel p. 117
The Roman Conquest of the Mediterranean, 264-133 B.C.

• Greece
  – Macedonia
    • 4 Macedonian Wars
    • Seleucids of Syria brought into the conflict
  – Sack of Corinth in 146 B.C.
The Roman Conquest of the Mediterranean, 264-133 B.C.

• By 146 B.C., Rome emerged as the dominant power in the whole Mediterranean
• Overseas provinces included:
  – Sicily
  – Sardinia
  – Corsica
  – Macedonia
  – Africa
  – Spain
  – shortly afterwards Asia Minor and southern Gaul
  – Pergamum in 133 BC when Attalus III bequeathed kingdom to Rome
The Roman Provincial System

• Provincial Governor
  – Proconsuls and Propraetors
  – If accused of abuses, tried in the Senate

• Tax collection
  – Publicani
The Roman Conquest of the Mediterranean, 264-133 B.C.

- The Nature of Roman Imperialism
  - No master plan
  - Opportunistic
  - Expansionism
  - Greed

- Now it was time to unify the whole region in the Roman Empire

- But at precisely this moment, the new policeman of the world fell victim to
  - Internal disorder
  - Corruption
  - Revolution
Society and Culture in the Roman Republic

• Religion
  – Animism

• Pantheon of gods
  – Adapted Greek myths to the Roman pantheon
    • Vestal Virgins: Spielvogel, p. 119
  – Domestic Spirits:
    • Lars
    • Penates

• Human dependency
• Ritual
• Religious festivals
Education

• The Importance of Rhetoric
  – Rhetoric – art of persuasive speaking
  – Professional teachers
  – Greek Influence

Portrait of a husband and wife, wall painting from Pompeii, Italy, ca. 70–79 CE. Approx. 1’ 11” x 1’ 8 1/2”.

Schoolmaster and Pupils
The Growth of Slavery

• Conquests increased the number of slaves
• Slaves constituted as much as 40% of the population
• Piracy source
• Conditions were poor
• Children of slaves
• Occupations
  – *Latifundia*
• Slave law
• Slaves took jobs from the plebs so plebs were given food and other benefits
• Romans feared slave uprisings:
  – Rebellion in Sicily, 104-101 B.C.
  – *Spartacus* rebellion, 73 B.C.
The Roman Family

• *Paterfamilias*
  – Arranged marriages
  – Divorce

• Women

• Roman respect for ancestors
  – Upper class Romans had 3 names
    • personal name
    • *gens* =kinship group – middle name
    • family name
    • Example: *Gaius Julius Caesar*
    • Daughters
The Development of Literature and Art

- Literature
  - Plautus (c. 254-184 B.C.)
  - Terence (185-159 B.C.)
  - Panaetius of Rhodes (c. 180-111 B.C.)

- Hellenistic style of art

- Architecture and sculpture
Decline and Fall of the Roman Republic (133-31 B.C.)

- Background: Social, Economic, and Political Problems
- *Equites* (equestrians) [Business class]
- The Impact of War and Conquest
  - Service changed from 2 to 6 years
  - Disappearance of independent farmers
  - *Latfundia*
  - Tenant farmers and slaves
  - Urban mob
- Landless families and the crisis of recruitment
The Gracchus Brothers

- Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus, grandsons of Scipio Africanus
- Tiberius Gracchus, Tribune in 133 B.C.
- Advocated land reform:
  - Redistribute public land, limiting the size of farms
  - Settle the farms with retired soldiers and urban poor
  - Reduce the need for slave labor (and therefore reduce the threat of slave rebellions)
- Reforms passed in Plebeian Assembly
- Stood for election again in 132 B.C.
- Assassinated on election day along with 300 supporters
The Gracchus Brothers

- Gaius Gracchus
  - Tribune, 123-122 B.C.
  - Supported by *Equites*
  - 3000 supporters were killed on election day, 121 B.C.
  - Gaius chose suicide to avoid being arrested

*Did they make the situation better or worse?*

- Rome polarized: *Populares* and *Optimates*
Marius and the New Roman Army

• **Marius** (157-86 B.C.)
  – Consul 107, 104-100 B.C.
  – Battle against Jugurtha in North Africa

• Instead of farmer-soldier, recruitment of volunteers from urban and rural proletariat
  – Bettering selves through pay, loot, promotion, grants of land or money

• Oath of loyalty to the general
  – Army commanders turn into warlords
The Role of **Sulla** (138-78 B.C.)

- Marius’ deputy in the Social War, 91-88 B.C.
- Consul, 88 B.C.
- General in war in Anatolia against Mithridates IV
- Dictator 82-79 B.C.
- Power back to the senate
- Elimination of powers of popular assemblies and tribunes of the plebs
- Epitaph, “No man had ever done more good to his friends or more harm to his enemies”
The Death of the Republic

• **Crassus** (c. 112-53 B.C.)
  – Ended slave revolt led by Spartacus

• **Pompey** (106-48 B.C.)
  – Rid the Mediterranean of pirates
  – Defeated Seleucid ruler and captured Jerusalem in 63 B.C.
  – Elected consul with Crassus, 70 B.C.

• **Marcus Tullius Cicero** (106-43 B.C.)
  – Consul, 63 B.C.
  – “Concord of the orders”
The Death of the Republic: The Rise of Julius Caesar

• **Julius Caesar** (100-44 B.C.)
  – From an old Patrician family

• **1st Triumvirate**, 59 B.C.
  – “Coalition of 3 men”
  – Caesar, Pompey, Crassus

• Caesar’s Command in Gaul
The Death of the Republic: Caesar vs. Pompey

• “Crossing the Rubicon River,” 49 B.C.
  – Civil War, Caesar vs. Pompey
  – (Crassus had died in 52 B.C.)

• Battle of Pharsalus, 48 B.C.
  – Pompey fled to Egypt – King Ptolemy XIII

• Caesar and Cleopatra
  – Cleopatra VII, 69-30 B.C.
  – Reigned 47-45 B.C. with Ptolemy XIV
  – Visits Rome with Caesar, 46-44 B.C.
  – Reigned 45 B.C. with Ptolemy XV Caesar (Caesarion)
The Death of the Republic: The Reforms of Caesar

- Settled 80,000 poor Romans in provincial colonies
- Set up new colonies in Spain, Gaul, Greece, and Africa
- Handed out subsidized grain to Rome’s poor
- Initiated huge building program at Rome
- Replaced lunar calendar with the Egyptian calendar (known after him as the Julian Calendar)
The Assassination of Caesar

• Caesar ruled as Dictator, 47-44 B.C.
  – Assassinated, March 15, 44 B.C.
  – Conspiracy of Senators led by Brutus and Cassius

• Spielvogel, p. 131: Plutarch, *Life of Caesar*
  – Judging from Plutarch’s description, what lessons did classical historians intend their readers to take away from retellings of great and dramatic political events? What does this account of Julius Caesar’s assassination reveal about his character?
Octavian

• Gaius Octavianus (known as Octavian), 63 B.C. – 14 A.D.
  – Grandnephew of Caesar
  – Adopted as Caesar’s son in his will

• Second Triumvirate
  – Mark Antony
  – Marcus Lepidus
  – Octavian

• Mark Antony joins Octavian to defeat Cassius and Brutus (Caesar’s assassins)
  – Battle of Philippi, 42 B.C.
The Death of the Republic: Octavian and Antony

• Division of the Roman World between Octavian and Antony
  – _________ rules the West
  – _________ rules the East
  – *Who got the better half?*

• Octavian defeats Antony at Actium, 31 B.C.
  – Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide
Literature of the Late Republic

- Catullus (c. 87-54 B.C.)
- Lucretius (c. 94-55 B.C.)
  - *On the Nature of the Universe*
- Cicero (106-43 B.C.)
  - *On the Laws*
  - *On the Republic*
- Sallust (86-35 B.C.)
  - *War with Jugurtha*
  - *War with Cataline*
- Julius Caesar
  - *Commentaries on the Gallic War*