

World History: Connection to Today

Chapter 6

Ancient Rome and the Rise of Christianity (509 B.C.–A.D. 476)

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Chapter 6 : Ancient Rome and the Rise of Christianity (509 B.C.–A.D. 476)

Section 1: The Roman World Takes Shape

Section 2: From Republic to Empire

Section 3: The Roman Achievement

Section 4: The Rise of Christianity

Section 5: The Long Decline

The Roman World Takes Shape



- How did geography shape the early development of Rome?
- What were the major characteristics of government and society in the Roman republic?
- Why was Rome's expansion in Italy successful?



Main

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Geography and Rome



Rome is located in the center of the Italian peninsula. This location helped the Romans expand in Italy and beyond.

The Apennine Mountains run down the center of Italy but are not too rugged.

Fertile plains supported a growing population.

Ancestors of the Romans settled along the Tiber River. These villages eventually grew into Rome.



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The Roman Republic



In 509 B.C., the Romans drove out the Etruscans and set up a new government, which they called a **republic**. In a republic, some officials are chosen by the people.

In the early republic, the senate dominated the government. Its members were **patricians**, or members of the landholding class.

Little by little, the **plebeians**, or common people, gained some political power. These included the right to elect their own officials, called **tribunes**. The tribunes could **veto**, or block, laws that they felt harmed plebeians.

More than 2,000 years later, the framers of the United States Constitution would adapt Roman ideas of government, such as the senate, the veto, and checks on political power.



Roman Society



FAMILY	WOMEN
<p>The family was the basic unit of Roman society.</p> <p>Male was head of household and had absolute authority.</p>	<p>Women gained greater freedom and influence over the centuries.</p> <p>Some women ran businesses. Most worked at home, raising families.</p>
EDUCATION	RELIGION
<p>Both girls and boys learned to read and write.</p> <p>Education was highly valued.</p>	<p>Gods and goddesses resembled those of Greeks and Etruscans.</p> <p>Religious festivals inspired sense of community.</p> <p>Romans built many temples for worship.</p>



Main

Section



Expansion in Italy



By about 270 B.C., Rome controlled most of the Italian peninsula.

Why was Rome's expansion in Italy successful?

- Skilled diplomacy
- Loyal, well-trained army
- Treated defeated enemies fairly
- Gave rights to conquered people



Main

Section



Section 1 Assessment



Which group of people made up the Roman senate?

- a) Etruscans
- b) peasants
- c) patricians
- d) plebeians

Which of the following was true of Roman society?

- a) The Romans were monotheistic.
- b) The female was the head of the household.
- c) Both girls and boys were taught to read.
- d) The influence of women declined over time.

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Section 1 Assessment



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From Republic to Empire



- How did Rome win an empire?
- Why did the Roman republic decline?
- How did Roman emperors promote peace and stability in the empire?



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Winning an Empire



After gaining control of the Italian peninsula, Rome began to build an empire around the Mediterranean Sea.

- The Romans followed a policy of **imperialism**, establishing control over foreign lands and peoples.
- Carthage, Macedonia, Greece, and parts of Asia Minor became Roman **provinces**, or lands under Roman rule.



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The Roman Empire at Its Height



By 133 B.C., Roman power extended from Spain to Egypt.



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Decline of the Republic



Conquered people forced to work as slaves
Huge quantities of grain



Small farmers no longer needed to produce food
New wealth increases corruption



Farmers flock to Rome and other cities looking for jobs
Greed and self-interest replace virtues of simplicity,
hard work, and devotion to duty



Civil wars



From Republic to Empire



Civil wars

Julius Caesar forces the Roman senate to make him dictator.

Caesar institutes reforms to try to solve Rome's many problems.

Caesar is killed by enemies who feared that he planned to make himself king of Rome.

More civil wars break out.

Octavian defeats Mark Antony in a struggle for power.

The Roman senate gives Octavian the title of *Augustus*, or Exalted One, and declares him first citizen.

The 500-year republic comes to an end. The age of the Roman empire begins.



Roman Empire and Roman Peace



Augustus laid the foundation for a stable government that would function well for 200 years. This period was called the Pax Romana.

Augustus' reforms

- Created efficient civil service to enforce the laws.
- Opened up high-level jobs to men of talent, regardless of race.
- Allowed cities and provinces to govern themselves.
- Ordered a **census**, or population count, in order to make the tax system more fair.
- Set up a postal service and issued new coins.
- Employed the jobless.



Main

Section



Section 2 Assessment



Which of the following contributed to the decline of the Roman republic?

- a) widespread unemployment
- b) food shortages
- c) conquest of Italian peninsula
- d) Pax Romana

Who was given the title of Augustus?

- a) Julius Caesar
- b) Mark Antony
- c) Octavian
- d) Pompey

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Main

Section



Section 2 Assessment



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The Roman Achievement



- How was Greco-Roman civilization formed?
- What were some Roman contributions to literature, the arts, and technology?
- What principles of law did Romans develop?



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Section



How was Greco-Roman civilization formed?



The Romans borrowed heavily from Greek culture after they conquered Greece.

At the same time, Roman generals carried achievements of Roman civilization to conquered lands.

The blending of Roman, Hellenistic, and Greek traditions produced Greco-Roman civilization.

Trade and travel during the Pax Romana helped spread this new civilization.



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Roman Advances in Literature, History, and Philosophy



History

Historians wrote about the rise and fall of Roman power.

Poetry

Writers imitated Greek styles in prose and poetry.

Virgil praised Rome's heroic past in the *Aeneid*.

Poets used verse to **satirize**, or make fun of, Roman society.

Philosophy

Roman philosophers borrowed heavily from the Greeks.

Stoics emphasized acceptance of one's fate and concern for the well-being of others.



Roman Advances in Art and Science



Technology	Science
<p>Built roads, bridges, and harbors throughout empire</p> <p>Built many aqueducts</p>	<p>Romans left scientific research to the Greeks.</p> <p>Ptolemy proposed that Earth was the center of the universe.</p> <p>Galen used experiments to prove a conclusion.</p>
Art	Architecture
<p>Sculptors stressed realism.</p> <p>Artists depicted life scenes in frescoes and mosaics.</p>	<p>Emphasized grandeur</p> <p>Improved column and arch</p> <p>Developed rounded dome</p>



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Roman Law



During the Roman empire, these principles of law fostered unity and stability:

- An accused person was presumed to be innocent until proven guilty.
- The accused was permitted to face the accuser and offer a defense.
- Guilt had to be established through evidence.
- Judges were expected to interpret the laws and make fair decisions.

Centuries later, these principles would become the basis for legal systems in Europe and the Americas.



Main

Section



Section 3 Assessment



What scientific theory did Ptolemy propose?

- a) that the sun is the center of the universe
- b) that the Earth is the center of the universe
- c) that the Earth is flat
- d) that the planets revolved around the moon

Roman principles of law

- a) led to civil war within the empire.
- b) were primitive and harsh.
- c) were based on the idea that the accused was presumed guilty.
- d) would later become the basis for legal systems in Europe and the Americas.

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Section 3 Assessment



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Main

Section



The Rise of Christianity



- What was Rome's policy toward different religions in the early empire?
- What were the major teachings of Jesus, and how were they spread?
- How did the early Christian Church develop?



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Religious Diversity in the Early Empire



As long as people honored Roman gods and acknowledged the divine spirit of the emperor, they were allowed to worship other gods as they pleased.

After the Romans conquered Judea, they excused the monotheistic Jews from worshiping the Roman gods.

Rome mistrusted Christians because they refused to make sacrifices to the emperor or honor the Roman gods.

Roman officials persecuted the Christians. Many Christians became **martyrs**, people who suffer or die for their beliefs.



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The Teachings of Jesus



Some of Jesus' teachings were rooted in Judaism:

Belief in one God

Ten Commandments

Mercy and sympathy for the poor and helpless

Obedience to the laws of Moses

Jesus also preached new beliefs:

- 1) Called himself the Son of God
- 2) Proclaimed that he brought salvation and eternal life to anyone who would believe in him
- 3) Jesus also emphasized God's love and taught the need for justice, morality, and service to others.



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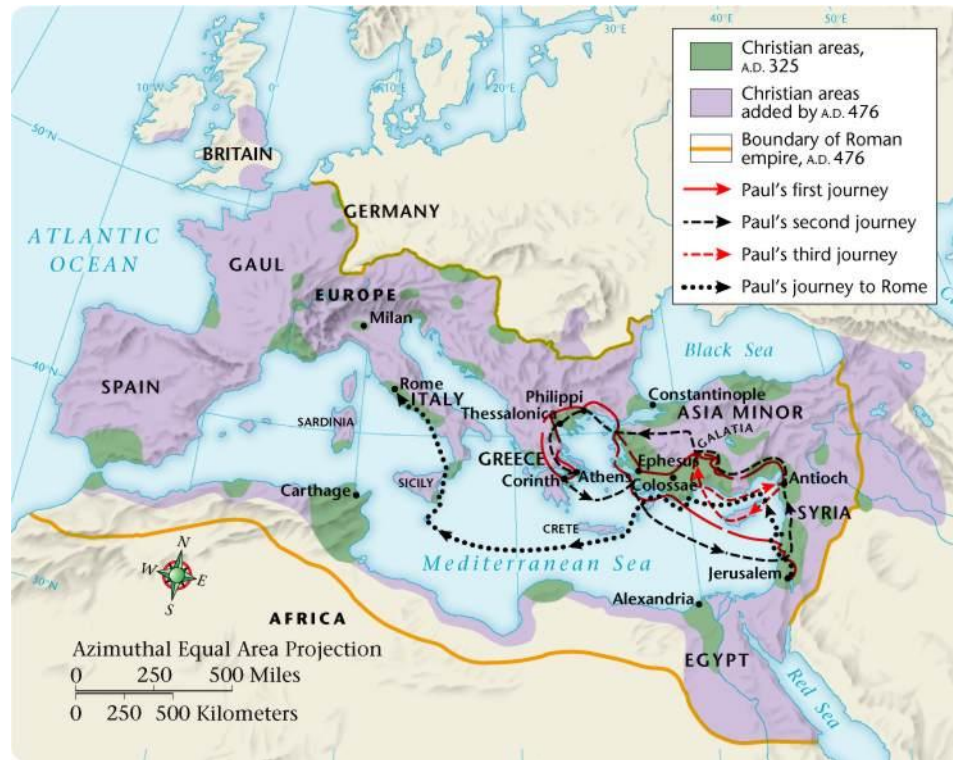
Spread of Christianity



At first, the **apostles** and disciples preached only in Judea.

Disciples began to preach in Jewish communities throughout the Roman world. Jews who accepted the beliefs of Jesus became the first Christians.

Paul spread Christianity beyond the Jewish communities, to non-Jews.



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The Early Christian Church



Early Christian communities shared a common faith and a common way of worship.

A **bishop** was responsible for all Christians in a particular area called a **diocese**.

Gradually, some bishops became **patriarchs**, with authority over other bishops in their area.

The Christian Church thus developed a hierarchy.



Main

Section



Section 4 Assessment



Roman leaders mistrusted Christians because Christians

- a) refused to pay taxes.
- b) refused to worship Roman gods.
- c) supported the Jews.
- d) rebelled against the emperor.

Who first spread Christianity beyond the Jewish community?

- a) Peter
- b) the Romans
- c) Jesus
- d) Paul

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Main

Section



Section 4 Assessment



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The Long Decline



- How did Roman emperors try to end the crisis in the empire?
- How did Hun invasions contribute to the decline of Rome?
- How did economic and social problems lead to the fall of Rome?



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The Empire in Crisis



With the end of the Pax Romana, political and economic turmoil rocked the Roman empire.

Political Problems	Economic & Social Problems
<p>Emperors were repeatedly overthrown or assassinated.</p> <p>In one 50-year period, 26 emperors ruled, and only one died of natural causes.</p>	<p>High taxes to support the army burdened business people and farmers.</p> <p>Poor farmers were forced to work and live on wealthy estates.</p> <p>Overcultivated farmland lost its productivity.</p>



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Two Reformers



Diocletian	Constantine
<p>Divided the empire into two parts to make it easier to govern</p> <p>Tried to increase the prestige of the emperor</p> <p>Fixed prices to slow inflation, or the rapid rise of prices</p> <p>Established laws to ensure steady production of food and goods</p>	<p>Continued Diocletian's reforms</p> <p>Granted toleration to Christians, which led to the rapid growth of Christianity</p> <p>Built a new capital at Constantinople, making the eastern part of the empire the center of power</p>



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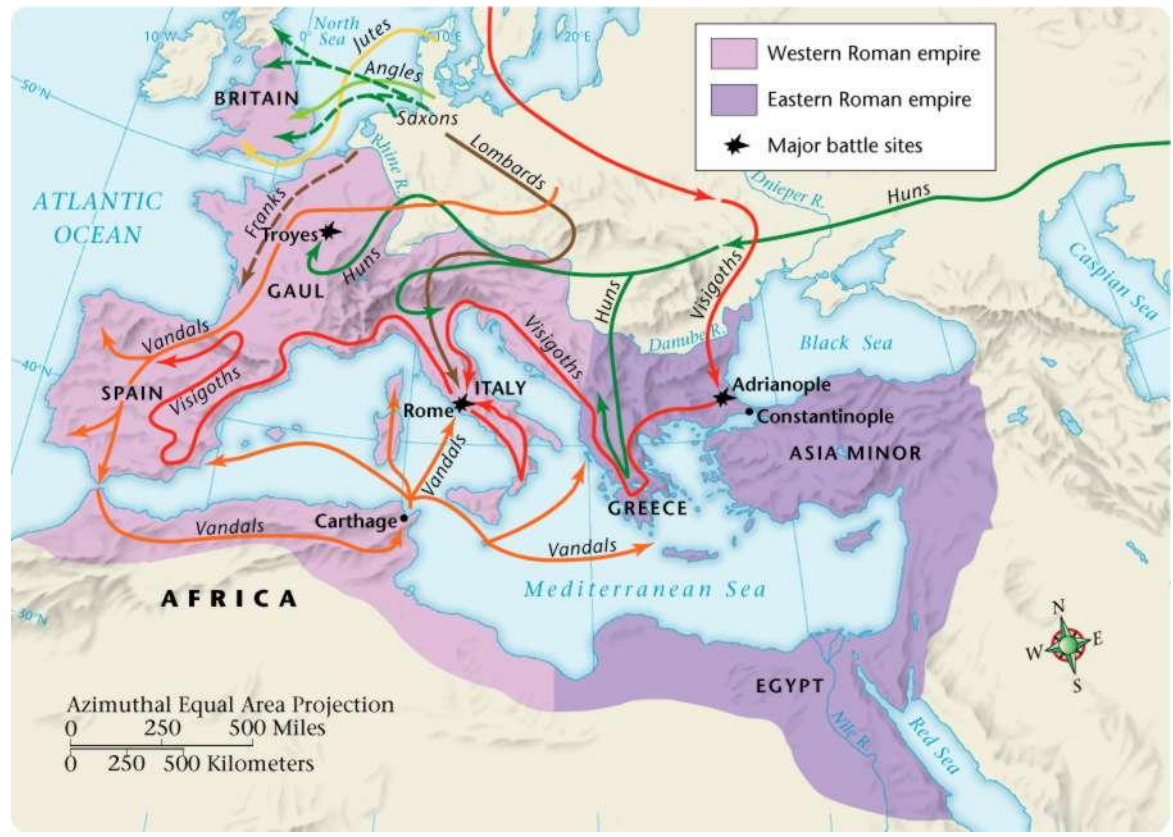


Foreign Invasions



A weakened Rome could not withstand the forces of Germanic invasions.

The Huns dislodged other Germanic peoples and, little by little, conquered the Roman empire.

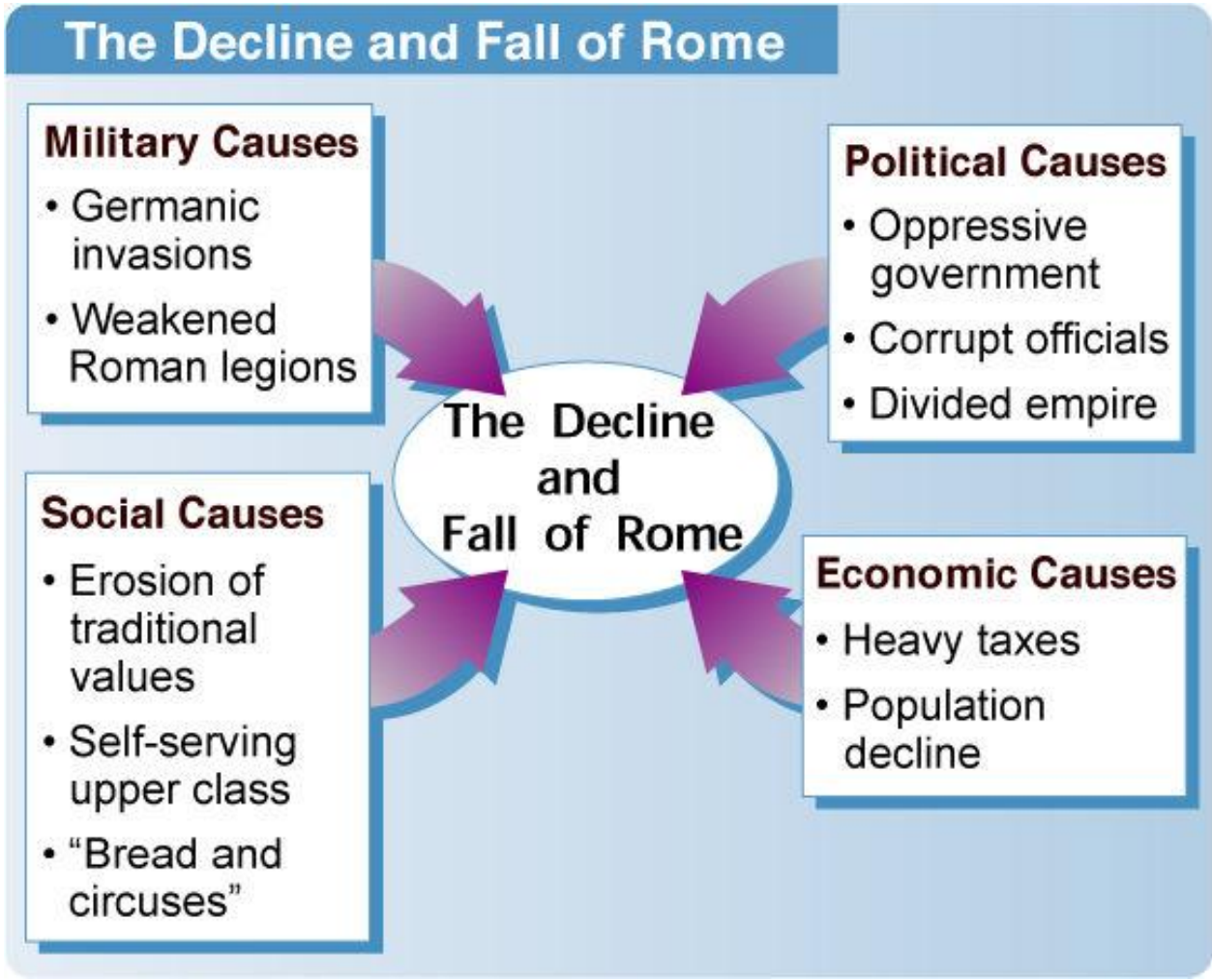


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The Decline and Fall of Rome



Main

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Section 5 Assessment



Why did Diocletian divide the empire into two parts?

- a) to separate the Jews from the Christians
- b) to make it easier to govern
- c) to defend against the Huns
- d) to allow the two halves to compete with each other

One *political* cause of the decline of the empire was that

- a) the government was oppressive.
- b) traditional values eroded.
- c) the population declined.
- d) farmers were taxed too heavily.

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Main

Section



Section 5 Assessment



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