UNIT 5 ANCIENT ROME



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1 THE FOUNDING OF ROME AND THE MONARCHY

1.1 THE FOUNDATION OF ROME.

Rome \rightarrow One of the greatest civilisations in history.

Based and founded in the city of Rome:

- On the banks of the river Tiber
- In the Italian peninsula
- Central Mediterranean → strategic position.

8th century → **Foundation of Rome**.

Italian peninsula → Etruscans in the north and centre

- → Latins in the centre
- → Greeks in the south

753 BCE \rightarrow Rome was founded.

- Legend of Romulus and Remus.
- Some Latin tribes settled around the seven hills, next to river Tiber → Good position

because:

- Defence: hills and river
- Sea trade: near the end of the river.
- Land route: crossroads.

History of Ancient Rome \rightarrow Divided into different periods: monarchy, republic and empire. Between the 8th century BC until the 5th century AD.

1.2 THE MONARCHY (753-509 BCE)

Monarchy → King:

- Absolute power: government, religion and head of the army.
- Elected by the most important families.

7 kings: 4 Latin kings, 3 Etruscans (6th century)

509 BC: Tarquin the Proud (Etruscan king) was expelled by a revolt (deposed by a rebellion).

2 THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (509-27 BCE)

2.1 POLITICAL SYSTEM AND INSTITUTIONS

Republic: System of government in which power is held by a person elected by the citizens for a limited period of time.

Res publica ('The public affairs')

Motto \rightarrow SPQR \rightarrow Senatus populusque Romanus \rightarrow The Senate and the People of Rome Political power \rightarrow Shared among several institutions: the Senate, the magistrates and the people's assembly.

- Senate → 300 members (former magistrates)
 - o The most important institution.
 - o Functions:
 - Responsible for foreign policy
 - Control over laws, army, religion, etc.
- Magistrates → Carried out the government.
 - 2 consuls → the most important magistrates.

- Government and army → two consuls were elected each year, serving together, each with veto power over the other's actions.
- <u>Assemblies of citizens</u> (*comitia*) → All Roman citizens.
 - o Voted the laws, elected magistrates.

2.2 SOCIAL CONFLICTS: THE FIGHT OVER POLITICAL RIGHTS

Two social classes (in addition to slaves):

- Patricians → Political and economic power.
- Plebeians → Majority of the population. Lived modestly, no political rights.

 5^{th} to 3^{rd} century BCE \rightarrow the plebeians fought for equal political rights \rightarrow they got:

- o Two new magistrates, looking after their interests: Plebeian tribune and aediles.
- Access to magistracies.
- Right to choose consuls.
- o Social rights: abolition of slavery for accumulating debts.

However, no redistribution of wealth.

2.3 THE TERRITORIAL EXPANSION OF ROME

During the republic → Great expansion:

- Italian Peninsula: 4th-3rd BCE.
- Western Mediterranean: Punic Wars (264-146 BCE).
 - Against Carthage
 - o For the control of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - o They conquered the Iberian Peninsula from 218 BCE (finished in 19 BC).

Before Punic Wars: Rome only controlled the Italian Peninsula. 146 BC: also North-west Africa and Iberian Peninsula.

- Eastern Mediterranean: Macedonia, Greece and Syria (2nd BCE-2nd AD)
 - o Egypt: 30 BCE.

End of the Republic: Italian Peninsula, Iberian Peninsula, Gaul, Northern Africa, Balkan Peninsula, Greece, Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine.

2.4 THE END OF THE REPUBLIC

Internal instability because of social conflicts \rightarrow More power to army generals \rightarrow Generals fought over the power \rightarrow Julius Caesar named dictator (one person holds absolute power) in 48 BCE \rightarrow Assassinated in 44 BCE \rightarrow Civil War (Octavian, Marc Anthony and Lepidus) \rightarrow End of Republic \rightarrow EMPIRE.

3 THE EMPIRE (27 BCE-476 AD)

27 BC → ROMAN EMPIRE

The Senate gave Octavian (Augustus) political and religious powers → New political system → EMPIRE.

- * Emperor: all the powers.
 - Head of the Senate.
 - Head of the Army.
 - o Pontifex maximus (main priest).

- Directed foreign policy.
- Established the laws.
- o Lifetime power. He named his successor.
- * <u>Senate</u>: Accepted the decisions of the emperor.

Maximum territorial expansion. Empire divided into provinces.

3.1 THE HIGH ROMAN EMPIRE (1ST TO 3RD CENTURIES AD).

Most prosperous period, long period of stability and maximum territorial expansion. Characteristics:

- <u>Pax Romana</u> (Roman Peace): long period of peace, stability and territorial control, which allowed economical, political and social development.
- Territorial expansion
 - Around the Mare Nostrum (Mediterranean Sea)
 - o Europe: British Isles to Greece. Northern border: Rhine and Danube rivers.
 - o Africa: North-west (Mauretania), Libya and Egypt.
 - o Western Asia: Syria, Mesopotamia and Anatolia.
- <u>ROMANISATION</u>: process of assimilation of the conquered peoples into the Roman political, social, economic and cultural organisation.

Main features of the Romanisation: Latin language, life in cities, introduction of Roman law and government, adoption of Roman social organisation, Roman religion and culture, etc.

3.2 THE LOW ROMAN EMPIRE (4TH-5TH CENTURIES AD).

Crisis of the 3^{rd} century \rightarrow Causes:

- Expansion stopped.
- Barbarians (foreigners from the north, Germanic peoples) → Attacked.
- Corruption, political crisis, civil wars.
- Insecurity → Less trade → People leave the cities → Ruralisation.
- 330 → Constantine the Great founded Constantinople (former Greek colony of Byzantium, modern-day Istanbul) and made it the capital of the empire.
 - 395 → Theodosius the Great divided the Empire:
 - * Western Roman Empire: capital in Rome → Lasted until 476.
- * Eastern Roman Empire: capital in Constantinople → Byzantine Empire → Lasted until 1453.

5th CENTURY

Germanic peoples (Visigoths, Suebis, Vandals, Alans) invaded some areas of the Empire \rightarrow Allegiances with Rome (settling in regions in exchange of military help).

476 AD → Odoacer (Ostrogoth) deposed Romulus Augustulus → End of the Western Roman Empire.

4 ROMAN SOCIETY AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

4.1 SOCIETY.

Divided into citizens and non-citizens:

- FREE PEOPLE
 - o Patricians:

- Rich nobles.
- Political rights.
- Plebeians:
 - Farmers, traders, craftsmen, etc.
 - No political rights until 5th century BCE.
- o Foreigners:
 - Free people, but limited rights.
- Liberti (freed slaves)
- NON-FREE PEOPLE
 - Slaves: considered property, not people.
 - Hardest works, no rights.
 - Very important for Roman economy.

Women → Subjected to the father or husband (*pater familias*). Some rights, but no political participation.

Patriarchal society.

<u>DIVISION INTO CITIZENS</u> (Patricians and plebeians) <u>AND NON-CITIZENS</u> (Foreigners, Liberti, Women and Slaves).

4.2 ROMAN URBANISM AND CITIES.

Many new cities all across the empire \rightarrow Centres of political, economic and cultural life. Rome \rightarrow Largest and most important city.

- <u>City planning</u> (Urbanism) → Rectangular cities, with grid system
 - Cardo (North-South street)
 - Decumanus (East-West street)
 - \circ Forum \rightarrow At the intersection of the cardo and decumanus.
 - Centre for politics, culture and society. Main public space.
 - The most important buildings and monuments
- Housing
 - \circ Domus \rightarrow for rich people.
 - One family in each house
 - Rooms around a central courtyard (atrium)
 - Insulae
 - Building with apartments
 - Generally rented
 - Low quality

4.3 ROMAN ECONOMY

Roman civilisation → Centred in cities → Importance of trade

ROME → Capital of the Ancient World.

Everything organised around Rome.

AGRICULTURE

Many different products → Depending on the province in the empire Cereals, grapes, olives, fruits, etc.

New farming techniques, and improvements of previous:

- Irrigation
- Roman plough

 Crop rotation → One part of the land is left fallow (not cultivated) for resting and recovering minerals

Farms:

- Large properties: belonged to rich citizens and the State.
 - Large villas
 - Worked by slaves and tenant farmers.
 - o Production sold.
- Small properties: belonged to peasants. Subsistence.

CRAFTWORK

In cities \rightarrow workshops with a shop for selling the products

Textiles, furniture, weapons, jewellery, pottery, etc.

Also, food production \rightarrow Oil, wine, bread, etc.

Small workshops (organised in *collegia* [associations]) or large workshops worked by slaves.

TRADE

The most important activity

Internal and external trade

- <u>Internal trade</u> (with other provinces of the empire) → Favoured by the sea and land routes, and the use of money

Each province specialised in different products (Hispania: wheat, olives, wine, *garum* [fermented fish sauce], metals, etc.). All products were taken to Rome.

- o Roads: network reaching all the parts of the empire.
- \circ Mare Nostrum (our sea) \rightarrow Very important for sea trade.
- <u>External trade</u> (outside the empire)
 - Imports
 - Northern Europe: amber, wheat and slaves
 - Africa: Slaves, gold, ivory, gems, etc.
 - Asia: spices, silk, perfumes, etc.

5 RELIGION AND CULTURE IN ROME

5.1 ROMAN GODS AND WORSHIP.

Official religion \rightarrow Polytheistic. They assumed the practices of conquered peoples (Greeks and Etruscans).

Imperial cult \rightarrow Some emperors were considered divine and were worshipped \rightarrow Loyalty to Rome.

5.2 CHRISTIANITY.

Beginning of the Empire (1^{st} century AD) \rightarrow Christianity emerged in Palestine, following Jesus of Nazareth.

Main ideas:

- Monotheism → They did not adore the emperor → Prosecutions and punishments.
- Love and forgiveness, equality among peoples, eternal afterlife

313 AD \rightarrow Edict of Milan (Emperor Constantine the Great) \rightarrow Freedom of worship in the empire

380 AD \rightarrow Emperor Theodosius the Great proclaimed Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire.

5.3 ROMAN CULTURE

Language \rightarrow Latin. Spoken all over the empire \rightarrow Vehicle of culture.

Main contributions:

- Legislation: Roman Law. Base for modern legal systems.
- Philosophy: Seneca, Cicero
- Literature: Virgil.
- History: Julius Caesar, Tacitus, Plutarch.
- Medicine: Galen
- Julian calendar (365 days in 12 months starting in January, leap year every four years, etc.)

6 ROMAN ART

6.1 **ARCHITECTURE**

Characteristics:

Great builders → Architecture and engineering → Objective → Practical and functional structures.

- Function, rather than aesthetics
- Very big buildings (monumental) → Symbol of power

Materials: stone, bricks, wood, mortar, concrete, etc.

Elements:

- Semi-circular arches
- Barrel vaults
- Composite columns (Ionic + Corinthian orders)
- Domes → for covering large spaces
- Decoration: paintings and mosaics

Typologies:

- Religious: temples (rectangular or circular, with Greek influence)
 - o **Pantheon**: temple for all the gods. 2nd century AD. Large dome, and front as a Greek temple.
 - Maison Carrée (Nimes) → On a podium.
- Political and economic:
 - o Curia (meeting-house of the Roman senate) and basilicas (meetings, trials and commercial activities).
- Leisure activities:
 - Theatres → Based on Greek theatres, but not on slopes.
 - Theatre of Mérida
 - Amphitheatres → Like two theatres together. For gladiators, animal fights and naval combats.
 - Flavian Coliseum (Coliseum, Rome) → For 50.000 spectators. 80 AD.
 - Circus → For chariot racing. Based on the Greek stadia. Rectangular shape, with a curved end.
 - Circus Maximus (Rome)

- Thermal baths → Public baths with different rooms (*caldarium*, *frigidarium* and *tepidarium*). Very important for social life.
 - Baths of Diocletian
- <u>Commemorative</u>: columns and triumphal arches. For remembering and honouring important events such as military victories.
 - Trajan's column (2nd century AD)
 - Arch of Constantine (4th century AD)
- Public works: for making life easier and more comfortable.
 - o Roads
 - Aqueducts → For transporting water.
 - Aqueduct of Segovia
 - Bridges
 - Pont du Gard (France)

6.2 SCULPTURE

Characteristics:

- Great Greek influence.
- Very realistic.

Types:

- Portraits:
 - Whole body, equestrian or bust.
 - Depended on the period:
 - Republic: realistic.
 - Empire: idealised.
 - Decline of the Empire: rigidity, less idealisation, etc.
- Historical relieves: relevant episodes of Roman history. On commemorative monuments (columns and arches)

Examples:

- Augustus of Prima Porta
- Augusto Pontifex Maximus

- Ara Pacis (Altar of Peace)
- Trajan's column Relieves

6.3 <u>OTHER ART FORMS</u>

a. <u>Painting</u>

Decoration of buildings, on the walls.

Polychrome.

Daily scenes, mythology, imaginary landscapes, portraits, architectural features (blocks of marble, columns, windows, etc.).

b. Mosaic

Small tesserae together forming an image.

Also for decoration, but on the floors.

Geometric designs for mythological, floral and daily scenes.

7 THE WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE AFTER THE FALL OF ROME: THE GERMANIC KINGDOMS

Germanic peoples → Across the Rhine and Danube rivers.

- Led by kings.
- Involved in rural economy (livestock farming)
- Metallurgy.
- Organised in different tribes.
- 3rd century → Settled in the Roman territory → Pacts: land in exchange of defending the borders.
- 5th century → They spread throughout the Roman empire → Different groups in different territories → They formed kingdoms.
 - Frankish kingdom (France and part of Germany)
 - Angles and Saxons (England)
 - Suebis (N-W Iberian Peninsula)
 - Visigoths (Toulouse kingdom → Iberian Peninsula and southern France)
 - Burgundian kingdom (Western France, Switzerland, etc.)
 - Ostrogothic kingdom (Italy, northern Balkans)

Political organisation

Elective monarchy → Political and military role.

Council

Territory divided into counties (ruled by a count)

Social organisation

Hierarchical society → King, noblemen, high clergy, rest of population (peasants)

Economic organisation

Ruralisation (3rd century onwards) → Rural society. Agriculture and livestock farming.

Religion and culture

They adopted many elements of the Romans.

First pagans, then Christians.

They adopted Latin as language.

Culture was restricted to monasteries.

GLOSSARY

Rome **Empire** Constantine the Great Monarchy Roman Emperor Theodosius the Great Republic Octavian Augustus Patricians Senate High Roman Empire Plebeians **SPQR** Pax Romana Forum Punic Wars Romanisation Christianity Julius Caesar Low Roman Empire Germanic peoples

TIMELINE

Elaborate a timeline with of the history of Ancient Rome with the following dates of periods and events. Follow the instructions given in the blog about how to do a timeline.

Periods:

- 753 BCE 509 BCE Monarchy.
- 509 27 BCE Republic.
- 27 BCE 284 AD High Empire.
- 284 476 AD Lower Empire.

Events:

- 264-146 BCE Punic Wars.
- 44 BCE Assassination of Julius Caesar.
- 330 AD Capital of the Roman Empire to Constantinople.
- 395 AD Division of the Empire into Eastern and Western.

TEXT - ROMULUS AND REMUS: THE FOUNDATION OF ROME

"Romulus and his twin brother, Remus, were the sons of a priestess named Rhea Sylvia and of Mars, the god of war. Rhea Sylvia was the daughter of Numitor, who was the rightful king of Alba, but the throne had been taken away from him by his wicked brother Amulius. Amulius, being afraid that the children of Numitor might try to take his crown as he had taken their father's, had killed Numitor's sons and obliged his daughter, Rhea Sylvia, to become a vestal virgin. Vestal virgins were the priestesses of Vesta, one of the heathen goddesses, and their chief duty was to look after the sacred fire that burned in her temples, and to see that it never went out. There was a severe law against their marrying and having children.

So, when Amulius made Rhea Sylvia a vestal virgin, it thought there would be no fear of any one after her doing him any harm. He was therefore very angry when Rhea Sylvia became the mother of Romulus and Remus, and declared that Mars was her husband. He had her buried alive, and the two little infants were put in a basket and thrown in the river Tiber to be drowned. [...] The basket was carried by the tide till it reached a place where the water was very shallow. [...] They would have perished of hunger and cold had it not been for a she-wolf, who fondled and fed them as if they were her own offspring until a shepherd named Faustulus found the two boys and carried them home to his wife.

Romulus and Remus were unusually robust and beautiful infants, and as they grew into boyhood they were noted for their bravery. In public games both showed remarkable skill, and their manners were so kind and affable that everybody loved them. In course of time they became famous because of their readiness to defend the oppressed, and their courage in punishing robbers and other wicked people.

- [...] Romulus and Remus did not wish to stay at Alba, because so long as their grandfather lived they would not assume the reins of government. So, after placing Numitor on the throne, they resolved to return to the spot where their infancy had been passed, and there try to build up a city.
- [...] Romulus and Remus occupied themselves at once with the laying out of their city, but a dispute arose as to its site, for the former selected a square which he called Rome, while the latter chose a piece of ground on the Aventine Mount which he called Remonium. Neither was willing to yield, for each thought that the spot he had chosen possessed more natural advantages than the other. At last, no amount of argument proving of any avail in bringing the brothers to an agreement, it was decided to settle the question by means of an augury. Placing themselves at a considerable distance apart in the open air, Romulus and Remus waited to see what would happen.

After a while the latter announced that he had seen six vultures, whereupon the former declared that he had seen twelve, and the contest was therefore decided in favor of Romulus. [...] But Romulus told an untruth, for he did not really see more vultures than his brother did. When Remus discovered the cheat, he was so angry that he ridiculed the ditch that Romulus had dug for his foundation wall, and jumped over it,

contemptuously exclaiming, "Just so will the enemy leap over." "And in this manner will our citizens repulse the enemy," cried a bystander, as he dealt Remus a deadly blow.

Romulus buried his brother, and then proceeded with the building of his city. [...] Romulus marked out the bounds of the city with a brazen ploughshare, to which he yoked a bull and a cow.

[...] It is supposed that on the 21st of April the building of Rome began, and the Romans always regard that day as their country's birthday."

VIDEO - THE ROMAN EMPIRE. OR REPUBLIC. OR... WHICH WAS IT? CRASH COURSE WORLD HISTORY #10

- 1. Who founded the city of Rome?
- 2. What does Shakespeare think about why Julius Caesar was killed?
- 3. What is the main political institution of the Roman Republic?
- 4. What was the social class of the senators?
- 5. Why were there two consuls?
- 6. What was the role of the dictator?
- 7. When did Julius Caesar become consul?
- 8. In addition to Crassus, who did he ally with?
- 9. How were the Roman armies called?
- 10. What did Julius Caesar conquer after Gaul?
- 11. What was Julius Caesar named in 48 BC?
- 12. Why was Julius Caesar killed by senators? What did they want?
- 13. Who won the war among Octavian, Mark Anthony and Lepidus?
- 14. What were the political systems of Rome since its foundation?
- 15. When did the expansion of Rome begin?
- 16. After what wars did Rome begin being more diverse?
- 17. Who was the leader of the Cathaginians?
- 18. What did Rome conquer as result of that war?

TEXT - THE PUNIC WARS

"In the year 264 BCE, when reaching the South of the Italian Peninsula, the Romans clashed with a city-state of Phoenician origin placed in North Africa: Carthage. This city had already established its power in the West of Sicily. In many aspects, Carthage was the opposite of Rome: it was a sea and maritime power, and their wealth and influence were based on trade. Also, since they could never be sure of the loyalty of those peoples under their rule, they depended on many mercenaries for fighting their wars.

During the First Punic War (264-241 BCE) the Romans crossed the sea and defeated the Carthaginians with the assistance of other Italian tribes. As a result of this conflict, Rome had a new province in the year 241 BCE, Sicily, and they soon occupied and included Sardinia under their domains.

In the year 218 BCE the Carthaginians challenged Rome again attacking Saguntum, in Hispania, causing the Second Punic War (218-202 BC). From their bases in the recently-added province of the Iberian Peninsula, and led by a military genius –Hannibal-, the Carthaginian army invaded Italy through the western part of the Alps.

Rome fought for its very survival for sixteen years in Italian land. However, the Senate could cope with the

successive crisis and disasters, and could turn the situation over: their Italian and Greek allies maintained their loyalty; a Roman military force disembarked in Hispania and cut the communications between Hannibal and his army and their bases; an increasing number of soldiers were recruited among the Italian peasants for fighting the Carthaginians.

Eventually, under the command of the great general Scipio the African (Scipio Africanus) the Romans conquered Northern Africa, forcing Hannibal to leave Italy, and then being beaten in 202 BC. Carthage never recovered its splendour".

WALBANK, F.W. *La pavorosa revolución. La decadencia del Imperio Romano de Occidente* (Madrid: Alianza Universidad, 1987), pág. 15. [Adapted and translated]

Answer the following questions in your notebook:

- 1. Mention all the geographical locations of this text.
- 2. How long did the Punic Wars lasted for? Do a diagram with the dates and locations of the Three Punic Wars.
- 3. Why is Carthage –according with the text– the opposite of Rome? How was Rome?
- 4. What was the consequence of the First Punic War?
- 5. Look for information about Hannibal (birth and death dates and places, family, main events of his life, etc.) and write three lines about him.
- 6. Look for the main victories of Hannibal in Italy.
- 7. What military tactics did the Romans use for defeating Hannibal?
- 8. What areas were new Roman provinces as result of the Second Punic War?

TEXT - THE END OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE BEGINNING OF THE EMPIRE: JULIUS CAESAR AND THE CONQUEST OF GAUL

"Caesar dreamt with an absolute power in order to carry out reforms to amaze the world. He began his political career at the forum, with the juvenile passion of making reforms as Pericles did, not holding the sword. He kept that eagerness for twenty years, until he was conscious of one basic idea: nobody would ever be great without the power of the legions. That is why when he was named consul of Gallia Narbonensis (Transalpine Gaul) and Gallia Cisalpina (Cisalpine Gaul), he did not aim towards clumsy personal enrichment as so many previous governors. He wanted to conquer all the independent Gaul. It was only then, with the careful management of his wealth and the devotion of his soldiers, when he could go back to Rome with enough importance to preside the funerals for the Republic and conceive the Roman Empire.

The Gallic Wars ended with astonishing figures for those times. A population of ten million Gauls suffered one million deaths, one million slaves and eight years of atrocious acts. Julius Caesar even exceeded himself during the Great Roman Civil War (Caesar's Civil War). It has been said that it was the first true world war, since half a million soldiers fought each other for five years in three continents and one hundred land and sea battles"

AYLLÓN, J. R., "Introducción", en SUN TZU, *El arte de la guerra* (Madrid: Ediciones Martínez Roca, 1999), pp. 27 y 28. My translation [JJAC]

REVISE - INFORMATIVE TEXTS

Write an informative text for each of the following topics worked in this unit.

- The Roman Republic: political institutions and territorial expansion.
- The origins of the Roman Empire: the end of the Republic, the beginning of the Empire and political organisation.
- The evolution of the Roman Empire: the High Roman Empire.

- The evolution of the Roman Empire: the Lower Roman Empire.

Remember the characteristics of informative texts, with an introduction and sequence of ideas separated by paragraphs. Remember to take the notes into account, and not the textbook.

REVISE - PERIODS OF ROMAN HISTORY

Draw a table like this one in your notebook and complete it with the information of the unit.

Remember that some of the gaps may not have an answer.

| | MONARCHY | REPUBLIC | EMPIRE |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| <u>Dates</u> | | | |
| Who held power? | | | |
| Main political institutions | | | |
| Role of the Senate | | | |
| Territorial expansion | | | |
| <u>Characteristics</u> | | | |

VIDEO - CHRISTIANITY FROM JUDAISM TO CONSTANTINE: CRASH COURSE WORLD HISTORY #11

- 1. Why does JG say that being the 'son of god' was not extremely unusual when Jesus was born?
- 2. How is Christianity?
- 3. What is a covenant? Why are the Jews considered 'the chosen people'?
- 4. Why is the god of the Jews considered 'deeply personal'?
- 5. What was the message of Jesus of Nazareth about?
- 6. Why did the Romans crucify Jesus?
- 7. What did Augustus and Jesus had in common?
- 8. What did Emperor Constantine do?

REVISE ROMAN ARCHITECTURE

Draw a table like this one (with as many rows as you need) in your notebook and complete it with the information of the unit.

| <u>TYPOLOGY</u> | <u>EXAMPLES</u> | <u>FUNCTION</u> | <u>CHARACTERISTICS</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | | | |