

S P Q R

Roman Empire

1A.D.-479 A.D.

The Roman Empire



Pax Romana

- “The Roman Peace” - 27-180 AD
 - ◆ Period of peace and prosperity.
- Julio-Claudian dynasty
 - ◆ No real line of succession to the throne.
 - ◆ First four emperors after Augustus that were either related to him or his wife.
 - ◆ Not as good as Augustus.

Nero



- Claudius' stepson
- Becomes Emperor at age 17.
 - ◆ First half of Nero's reign is great: lower taxes, reorganized the military, etc.
- Becomes bloodthirsty and violent.
 - ◆ Murders own mother for criticizing his mistress.
- Rome burns in 64 AD.
 - ◆ Nero blames the Christians.
 - ◆ May have wanted land for new palace!
- Army rebels against him, and he commits suicide.

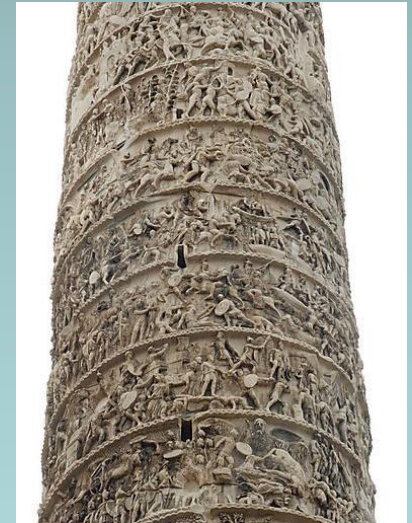
Judean revolt

- 66 AD- Jews revolt against Rome.
- Jerusalem captured and the 2nd Holy Temple is destroyed.
- Masada- 1000 Jews take refuge in a mountain fortress.
 - ◆ 2 year siege- falls to Rome in 73 AD.
 - ◆ All the Jews inside commit suicide.

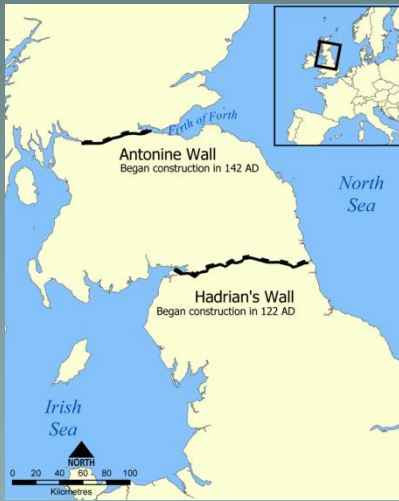


Trajan

- 98-117 AD
- Adopted son of Nerva.
- Spanish-born
- Wise and popular
 - ◆ Eases tax burden.
- Empire reaches its greatest size.
 - ◆ Invaded Dacia and Mesopotamia



Hadrian

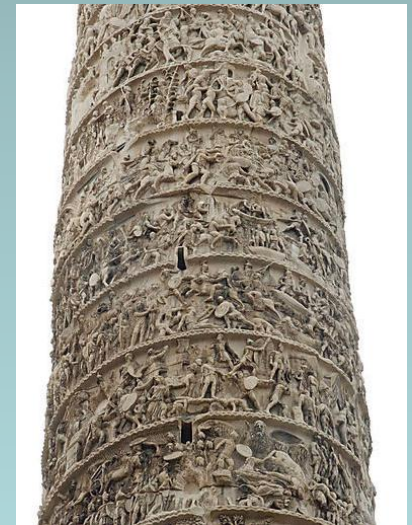


- 117-138 AD
- Devoted to protecting the Empire, rather than expanding it.
 - ◆ Gave up Mesopotamia in order to protect empire
 - ◆ built "Hadrian's Wall" in England
- Creates Palestine out of Jewish territory.
 - ◆ Encourages non-Jews to live there.



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The Height of the Roman Empire

- Empire stretched from Asia Minor to the Danube and Rhine Rivers to Great Britain.
- Roman governors
 - ◆ Enforced Roman law and settled provincial disputes.



The Height of the Roman Empire

● Roman Prosperity

- ◆ New roads, drained swamps, irrigation systems for the deserts.

● Roman Citizenship

- ◆ By 212 AD, virtually all free people in the Empire became Roman citizens.

The Huns

Scourge of Europe

Confederation of independent
tribes

United under "Attila" the Hun

Devastated vast amounts of Europe

Hungary became their home

disappeared after Attila's death

Lived on their horses

In order to prevent stopping to rest, they would drink
the blood of their horses-Europe was terrified by such

stories



The Germans

Unrelenting invasion

Many served in Roman
legions, learning how to fight

Avars, Lombards, Franks, Angles,
Vandals, Goths

Even manage to sack Rome!



Barbarian map



Problem with the military

Rome almost always had a problem with the legions following a rogue general

In the Republic...

the military was drafted from Italy

soldiers were not allowed to marry while in the army

soldiers were constantly fighting and on the move

In the Empire...

no one wanted to serve 20 years in the army

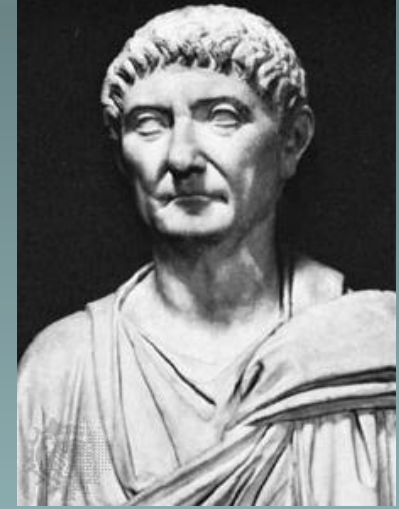
army remained stagnate (not moving) thus, not learning

soldiers frequently married local women, so that when the time came to fight, they refused to leave their posts

Division!



Diocletian



reorganized the Empire to ensure its survival

Divided the Empire into 13 dioceses in order to control the provinces better

Divided Empire into Eastern and Western halves

Empire was too much for one man to control

Created system of four emperors-Tetrarchy

-two Augustus' (were the primary emperors)

-two Caesar's (were the back-ups)

Diocletian

Began mass persecutions of the Christians

Problems arose quickly after his death.

The other emperors constantly fought over the throne.

Constantine

Fought to reunite the Empire
defeated enemy at the
Battle of Milvian Bridge

Myth: Constantine saw a fiery
cross in the sky that told him
In this you will conquer

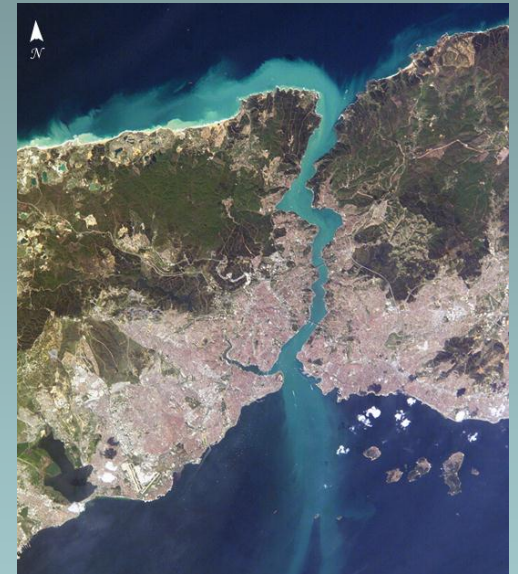


He had his soldiers repaint their shields with
the symbol of the Christian cross thus,
becoming the first Christian army!

New Rome-Constantinople

Constantine moved Roman capital to Byzantium. (small Greek town)

He brought senators, merchants, the aristocracy



It became the first truly Christian city.

Christianity

Edict of Milan-312- Christianity became official religion

Council of Nicea-325- made the rules for the Church,
put the Bible together

Original Christians were a major problem for the Empire

-Refused to fight in the legions

-Refused to serve in civil government

-Disobeyed orders for emperor worship

-Frequently led revolts or protests

Roman Technology

Aqueduct - carried fresh water into the cities



Arch

City planning



Odometer - measured road distances

Bath - hot water baths

Roads

Bridges

