

The Rise of Rome

The Land and People of Italy

- Italy is a peninsula extending about 750 miles from north to south and only about 120 miles wide.
- The Apennine mountains form a ridge from north to south down the middle of Italy that divides the west from the east.
- Italy has some fairly large fertile plains ideal for farming.
 - Most important are the
 - Po River Valley
 - The plain of Latium (where Rome is)
 - The region of Campania



The People of Italy

- Indo-European peoples moved into Italy during the period of from about 1500-1000 BC.
 - One of these groups was the Latins, who lived in the region of Latium.
 - These people spoke Latin
 - They were herders and farmers who lived in settlements consisting of huts on the tops of Rome's hills.
- After about 800 BC other people also began settling in Italy
 - The two most notable were the Greeks and the Etruscans

Α Alpha (a-fah)	Β Beta (bay-tah)	Γ Gamma (gam-mah)	Δ Delta (de-lah)	Ε Epsilon (ep-suh)	Ζ Zeta (zey-zah)
Η Eta (ay-tah)	Θ Theta (thay-tah)	Ι Iota (eye-oh-ee-ah)	Κ Kappa (kapp-uh)	Λ Lambda (lah-toe-uh)	Μ Mu (mew)
Ν Nu (new)	Ξ Xi (zee)	Ο Omicron (oh-mee-oh-ee-oh)	Π Pi (pee)	Ρ Rho (roh)	Σ Sigma (sig-mah)
Τ Tau (tau)	Υ Upsilon (up-suh-ee-oh)	Φ Phi (fee)	Χ Chi (kee)	Ψ Psi (sigh)	Ω Omega (oh-may-gah)

The Greeks in Italy



- The Greeks came to Italy in large numbers during the age of Greek colonization (750-550 BC)
 - They slowly moved around the coast of southern Italy and up the peninsula.
 - The eastern 2/3 of Sicily was occupied by the Greeks.
- The Greeks had a great deal of influence on Rome
 - Cultivation of olives and grapes
 - Passed on their alphabet
 - Gave the Romans artistic and cultural models through their sculpture, architecture, and literature.

The Etruscans

- The early development of Rome was influenced most by the Etruscans who were located north of Rome in Etruria
- After 650 BC, they expanded into north-central Italy and came to control Rome and most of Latium.
- The Etruscans found Rome a village but launched a building program that turned it into a city.
- Etruscan dress (toga, short cloak) was adopted by the Romans as was the organization of the army.



The Roman Republic

- Roman tradition maintains that early Rome (753-509 BC) was under the control of 7 kings. 2 of the last 3 were Etruscan
- In 509 BC the Romans overthrew the last Etruscan king and established a republic
 - Remember a republic is a form of government in which the leader is not a monarch and certain citizens have the right to vote.



War and Conquest



- At the beginning of the republic, Rome was surrounded by enemies. For the next 200 years, the city was engaged in almost continuous warfare.
- In 338 BC, Rome crushed the Latin states in Latium. During the 50 years, the Romans waged a fierce struggle against people from the central Apennines. Rome was again victorious. The Romans now had control over a large part of Italy.

War and Conflict

- The Romans were now in direct contact with the Greeks in southern Italy and took no time at all in going to war with them.
- By 264 BC the Romans had overcome the Greeks and take control of southern Italy.
- By defeating the remaining Etruscan states to the north over the next 3 years, Rome had conquered virtually all of Italy.

War and Conflict

- In ruling Italy, the Romans devised the Roman Confederation
 - Rome allowed some peoples (especially Latins) to have full Roman citizenship.
 - Most of the remaining communities were made allies.
 - They remained free to run their own local affairs but were required to provide soldiers for Rome
 - The Romans made it clear that loyal allies could improve their status and even become Roman citizens
- The Romans made the conquered peoples feel they had a real stake in Rome's success

Why Rome Was Successful

- Romans believed that their early ancestors were successful because of their sense of duty, courage, and discipline
- Looking back today, we can explain Rome's success in gaining control of the entire Italian peninsula was due to
 1. The Romans were good diplomats
 - By extending Roman citizenship and allowing states to run their own internal affairs

BUT

 - Being firm or even cruel when necessary by crushing rebellions without mercy
 1. The Romans excelled in military matters
 - Both accomplished and persistent soldiers
 - The loss of an army or a fleet did not cause them to quit but instead spurred them on to build new armies and new fleets
 - Brilliant strategists
 - As they conquered, they built fortified towns throughout Italy. By building roads, connecting these towns, the Romans could move troops quickly throughout their conquered territory.
 1. In Politics, the Romans were practical
 - They did not try and build an ideal government but instead created political institutions in response to problems, as the problems arose

The Roman State

- The Romans had been ruled by kings under the Etruscans.
- Because of this, they distrusted kingship and devised a very different system of government

The Government of Rome

- Early Rome was broke into 2 groups or orders:
 1. Patricians
 - Great landowners who became Rome's ruling class
 2. Plebeians
 - Less wealthy landholders, craftspeople, merchants, and small farmers
- Men in both groups were citizens and could vote, but only the patricians cold be elected to governmental offices

The Government of Rome

- The chief executive officers of the Roman Republic were the consuls and praetors
 - Two consuls, chosen every year, ran the government and led the Roman army into battle
 - The praetor was in charge of civil law or law as it applied to citizens.
 - As the Romans' territory expanded, another praetor was added to judge cases in which one or both people were noncitizens. The Romans also had a number of officials who had special duties, such as supervising the treasury

The Government of Rome

- The Roman Senate came to hold an especially important position in the Roman Republic. It was a select group of about 300 patricians who served for life.
 - At first, the Senate's only role was to advise government officials but the advice of the Senate carried a great deal of weight. By the 3rd century BC it had the force of law

The Government of Rome

- The Roman Republic had several people's assemblies in addition to the Senate.
- By far the most important of these was the centuriate assembly.
 - The centuriate assembly:
 - Elected the chief officials, such as consuls and praetors
 - Passed laws
 - Because it was organized by classes based on wealth, the wealthiest citizens always had a majority
- The council of plebs was the assembly for plebeians only and it came into being as a result of the struggle between the two social orders in Rome

The Struggle of the Orders

- There was often conflict between the patricians and the plebeians in the early Roman Republic.
 - Children of patricians and plebeians were forbidden to marry each other.
- In the 4th century BC, plebeians were permitted to become consuls and by 287 BC, all male citizens were supposedly equal under the law.
- In reality a few wealthy patrician and plebeian families formed an a new senatorial ruling class that came to dominate the political offices. The Roman Republic had **not** become a democracy.

Rome Conquers the Mediterranean

- After their conquest of Italy, the Romans found themselves face to face with a strong power in the Mediterranean – Carthage
- Carthage was the largest and richest state in the area which included the coast of northern Africa, southern Spain, Sardinia, Corsica, and western Sicily.
- Carthage had created an enormous trading empire in the western Mediterranean

The presence of Carthaginians in Sicily made the Romans fearful. In 264 BC, the two powers began a lengthy struggle for control of the western Mediterranean.

The First Punic War

(264-241 BC)

- Rome's first war with Carthage began in 264 BC.
- It is called the Punic War because the Latin word for Phoenician is *punicus*
- The war started when the Romans sent an army to Sicily. The Carthaginians considered this an act of war.
 - The Romans (a land power) realized that they could not win the war without a navy and created a large naval fleet.
- After a long struggle, a Roman fleet defeated the Carthaginian navy and the war came to an end.
- In 241 BC, Carthage gave up the rights to Sicily and paid a fine to the Romans. Sicily became the first Roman province
- Carthage vowed revenge and added new lands in Spain.
- The Romans encouraged one of Carthage's Spanish allies to revolt against Carthage. In response, Hannibal, the greatest of the Carthaginian generals, struck back, beginning the Second Punic War

The Second Punic War

(218-201 BC)

- Hannibal decided that the Carthaginians would bring the war home to the Romans.
 - Hannibal entered Spain, moved east, and crossed the Alps with an army of about 46,000 men, a large number of horses, and 37 battle elephants. In crossing the Alps took a toll and most of the elephants did not survive.
- In 216, the Romans decided to meet Hannibal head on and this cost Rome dearly. The Romans lost an army of about 40,000 men.
- Rome refused to surrender and raised yet another army.
- Rome gradually recovered and although Hannibal remained free to roam Italy, he had neither the men nor the equipment to attack major cities, including Rome.
- The Romans began to take back Italian cities that had been taken by Hannibal. More important, they sent troops to Spain and by 206 BC, they had pushed the Carthaginians out of Spain.
- Rome then decided to invade Carthage rather than fight Hannibal in Italy. This forced Carthage to call back Hannibal from Italy.
- At the battle of Zama in 202 BC, the Romans crushed Hannibal's forces and the war was over. Carthage lost Spain to Rome and Rome had become the most dominant force in the western Mediterranean.

More Conquests

- Fifty years later, the Romans fought Carthage in the Third Punic War and in 146 BC Carthage was destroyed.
- For 10 days, Roman soldiers burned and demolished all of the city's buildings.
- The inhabitants – 50,000 men, women, and children were sold into slavery.
- The territory of Carthage became a Roman province called Africa.
- During the struggle with Carthage, Rome also battled the Hellenistic states in the eastern Mediterranean. The Fourth Macedonian War ended in 148 BC and Macedonia was made a Roman province.
- Two years later, Greece was placed under the control of the Roman governor of Macedonia. In 129 BC Pergamum became Rome's first province in Asia.

Rome was now master of the Mediterranean Sea