

Chapter 11: Mediterranean Society: The Roman Phase

After reading Chapter 11, you will be able to:

Identify and explain the stages of political progression of Rome from republic, to kingdom to empire

Explain the importance of the imperial period and its administrative centralization, public works projects, military expenditures, and heavy taxation

Explain expansion and specialization of Roman economy as the government gained control of the entire Mediterranean basin

Explain the complexity and inequality of Roman society: patriarchy, slavery, rich and poor, wealthy entrepreneurs and old nobility, farmers and urban poor; Roman laws, language, Roman gods and emperors, and the rise of Christianity

Explain the role of Greek influence on Roman high culture and the forte of Roman technology from roads to aqueducts and mills to the coliseum

Identify and explain the segments of the disaffected Roman imperial population such the “low culture” urban masses and Jews who followed Jesus

Identify and explain Roman objections to Jesus and the importance of imperial conversion to furthering Christianity among the elites

Identify and explain division of Rome in the Eastern and Western empires

Explain how the total collapse of the western Roman empire (law, military, taxes, road maintenance) meant the collapse of urban societies throughout western Europe, leading to the localized feudal political arrangements and the rural, manorial economy of the Middle Ages.

On provided maps, label all the classical empires circa 300 C.E.: Rome, Persia, Maurya India, Han China

As you read Chapter 11, take notes on the following terms and concepts: Who, what, where, why, when, how, so what?

Paul of Tarsus

Po River

senate

patricians

tribunes

Gaul

Carthage

Latifundium / ia

Octavian Augustus

Cleopatra

Mare nostrum

Pater familias

Jesus of Nazareth

Republic

Tiber River

consuls

plebeians

dictator

Celtics

Punic Wars

Julius Caesar

Marc Anthony

Pax romana

Colosseum

Bread and circuses

Sources from the Past: Tacitus on
Corruption in the Early Roman Empire

Sources from the Past: Jesus' Moral
and Ethical Teachings

From Chapter 12

Diocletian

Constantinople

Western and eastern Roman empires

Attila

St. Augustine

Constantine

Visigoths

Huns

476 C.E.

Bishop of Rome