Aim #19: How did Rome go from Republic to Empire?

From Republic to Empire

Mini Lecture

- As the Romans extended their territory around the Mediterranean, they came into conflict with Carthage in North Africa. The two powers battled in three Punic Wars between 264 B.C. & 146 B.C.
- Rome was committed to imperialism, or establishing control over foreign lands. Rome also controlled trade routes, (key trans-regional trade network-Mediterranean Sea Complex, which greatly impacted the Empire & the world & brought great wealth)
- Rich families bought large estates, called latifundia, & forced war captives to work as slaves. The gap between the rich & poor grew, leading to corruption & riots.
- Rome needed social & political reform. Patrician tribunes Tiberius & Gaius Gracchus were among the first to try. The senate felt threatened, however, & in a series of riots, the brothers & their followers were killed.
- This power struggle led to a time of civil war. Out of the chaos came Julius Caesar, successful military commander.
- With Caesar’s fame, a rivalry grew between him & another general, Pompey. Caesar defeated Pompey. Then Caesar’s soldiers swept around the Mediterranean, suppressing rebellions.
- In control, Caesar returned to Rome. He forced the senate to make him dictator for life & made reforms that restored order.
- Fearing that Caesar would make himself king & to save the Republic, his enemies killed him.
- His friend Marc Antony & his nephew Octavian joined forces to avenge Caesar. However, they soon battled one another. Octavian defeated Antony & the senate gave him the title of Augustus, or “Exalted One.” He became the first emperor, marking the beginning of the Roman Empire.
- Augustus built a stable government. To make the tax system fair, he ordered a census. This was a population count.
- While not all of Augustus’ successors were great rulers, some were. Hadrian was a great emperor, who codified Roman lawmaking it the same for all provinces.
- During the Pax Romana, or Roman Peace, Roman rule brought peace, prosperity, & order for 200 years. People all across the empire enjoyed spectacular forms of entertainment-Bread & Circuses. However, social & economic problems hid beneath the general prosperity.

Review Questions:
1. What is imperialism?
2. What were the impacts of Rome’s growth?
3. What is the difference between the Republic & the Empire?

Resources/Documents:
- Maps of Roman Empire, roads, & Mediterranean Sea Complex
- Excerpts on trade, slavery, Punic Wars, roads, & Pax Romana
- Videos on the Punic Wars

Further Reading: Chapter 5, Section 2
1. Which continent(s) was the Roman Empire located on?

2. Which ocean is to the west of the Roman empire?

Directions: Examine the map below, answer the questions and then fill out the chart with what you see & think about the size of the Roman Empire.

1. Describe the extent of the Roman Republic in 218 BCE.

2. Describe the extent of the Roman Republic in 44 BCE.

3. Based on your study of other empires, how do you think the Romans expanded their territory and consolidated and maintained their power?
What was the Mediterranean Sea Complex? How did the Mediterranean Sea Complex affect the civilizations connected by it?

Directions: Examine the map below and answer the questions that follow.

Which continents are connected through the Mediterranean Sea Complex?

What was traded in the Mediterranean Sea complex?

Directions: Examine the map below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Identify three commodities that were traded in the Mediterranean Sea complex that originated in Europe.

2. Where were the sources of slaves in the Mediterranean Sea complex?

3. Where did the pepper and spices that were traded in the Mediterranean Sea complex come from?
Directions: Examine the maps below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Based on the maps to the left, which civilizations did the Romans have contact with through trade around 200 CE?

2. How do you think this connection affected the lives of Romans and those who lived in the other civilizations?
What effect did this transregional trade have on the Roman Empire?

How did Silk from China Affect Trade in Rome?

**Directions:** Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

Where did silk spread? Why?
By the first century CE silk clothes were popular on the streets of Rome among its wealthy citizens. Much consumption of silk, at both ends of the Silk Road, was devoted to religious activities. Christian priests used purple silk embroidered with gold silk thread for their vestments. Kings, priests, and saints were shrouded in silks at their burials; even burials from long ago were dug up and shrouded in silk. In the Buddhist areas, yards of silk were used for banners, sometimes tens of thousands at one monastery. Buddhist lay people made donations of silk to monasteries as a reward for the monks’ intercessions and as a way to gain merits for future life. The monks, in turn, traded silk for daily provisions and for the “seven treasures” used to decorate their stupas, or shrines: gold, silver, lapis lazuli, red coral, crystal, pearls, and agate.

What impact did Silk have in Rome?
Quick Facts About The Impact of the Silk Trade on Rome
“[B]y the time of the Roman Emperor Augustus (27 BCE – 14 CE), trade between China and the west was firmly established and silk was the most sought after commodity in Egypt, Greece, and, especially, in Rome.” Romans valued silk at its weight in gold
Politicians tried to ban the sale of silk because Romans were spending all of their money on it instead of buying Roman goods and products of more use
Politicians also tried to ban silk because they thought it was immoral because it was too revealing when worn

1. Why was silk in demand in Europe and other parts of Asia?
2. What impact did the sale of silk have on Roman society?
Slavery and the Slave Trade in Rome

**Directions:** Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

Slavery was an ever-present feature of the Roman world. Slaves served in households, agriculture, mines, the military, manufacturing workshops, construction and a wide range of services within the city. As many as 1 in 3 people in Italy and 1 in 5 people across the empire were slaves, and upon this foundation of forced labor was built the entire Roman state and society.

**ORIGIN OF SLAVES IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE**
Aside from the huge numbers of slaves taken as war captives (e.g., 75,000 from the First Punic War alone), slaves were also acquired via piracy, trade, robbery and reproduction (a child born to a slave mother (*vernae*) automatically became a slave irrespective of who the father was). Slave markets existed in most large towns, though, and here, in a public square, slaves were paraded with signs around their necks advertising their virtues for prospective buyers.

**THE STATUS OF SLAVES**
The number and proportion of slaves in society varied over time and place. For example, in Augustan Italy the figure was as high as 30% while in Roman Egypt slaves made up only 10% of the total population. A more modest Roman business owner, artisan or military veteran might own one or two slaves while for the very wealthy, the number of slaves owned could run into the hundreds. For example, in the 1st century CE, the prefect L. Pedanius Secundus had 400 slaves merely for his private residence.

Slaves were the lowest class of society and even freed criminals had more rights. Slaves had no rights at all in fact and certainly no legal status or individuality. They could not create relations or families, nor could they own property. For all intents and purposes, they were merely the property of a particular owner, just like any other piece of property - a building, a chair or a vase - the only difference was that they could speak. Slaves were, for many of the Roman elite, a status symbol and, therefore, the more slaves one had, the better. Wealthy Romans very often appeared in public accompanied by an entourage of as many as 15 slaves.

**THE ROLES OF SLAVES**
Slaves were employed by private individuals or the state and worked in agriculture (especially the grain, vine and olive sectors), in mines (especially for gold and silver), manufacturing industries, transportation, education (where they brought their specialist knowledge of such topics as philosophy and medicine to the Roman world), the military (principally as baggage porters and camp assistants), the service industries (from food to accounting), in the private home, in the construction industry, on road-building projects, in public baths, and even to perform tasks in certain cult rituals.

1. How were people enslaved in the Roman world?

2. What rights did slaves have in Roman society?

3. What jobs did slaves perform in Rome?
WINNING FREEDOM
There was, at least for a small minority, the possibility of a slave achieving freedom to become a freedman or woman, and this incentive was fully exploited by slave owners. Freedom could be granted by the owner but in most cases was actually bought by the slaves themselves. Freedom could be absolute or might be limited and include certain obligations to the former owner such as inheritance rights or the payment of a portion (statuliber) of their earned assets (peculium).

Children of a freed woman would not have any limits on their rights (although social status might be affected in terms of reputation). Also, former slaves could become citizens (especially from the Augustan period) and even become slave owners themselves. One famous example was the freedman C. Caecilius Isidorus who would eventually own over 4,000 slaves. This prize of freedom and integration back into society was also used by owners and authority to convince slaves of the benefits of working hard and being obedient.

4. How could a slave be freed?

SLAVE REBELLIONS
Treatises were written advising the best methods of managing slaves - what food and clothing was best, which were the most efficient methods of motivation (e.g. giving time off or better food rations), and how to create divisions amongst slaves so that they did not form dangerous protest groups. Sometimes, however, these careful plans and strategies proved ineffective and slaves turned against their owners. Undoubtedly, the most famous examples of such uprisings were those led by Eunus in Sicily in 135 BCE and Spartacus in southern Italy in 73 BCE, but slaves could protest against their lot in life in much more subtle ways such as working more slowly, stealing, truancy, and sabotage. The case of Spartacus, then, was an unusual but spectacular one. It was not an attempt to overthrow the entire system of slavery but rather the actions of a disaffected group willing to take the risk to fight for their own freedom. Spartacus was a Thracian gladiator who had served in the Roman army and he became the leader of a slave rebellion beginning at the gladiator school of Capua. Supplemented their numbers with slaves from the surrounding countryside (and even some free labourers) an army was assembled which numbered between 70,000 and 120,000. Amazingly, the slave army successively defeated two Roman armies in 73 BCE. Then in 72 BCE Spartacus defeated both consuls and fought his way to Cisalpine Gaul. It may have been Spartacus' intention to disperse at this point but with his commanders preferring to continue to ravage Italy, he once more moved south. More victories followed but, let down by pirates who had promised him transportation to Sicily, the rebellion was finally crushed by Marcus Licinius Crassus at Lucania in 71 BCE. Spartacus fell in the battle and the survivors, 6,000 of them, were crucified in a forceful message to all Roman slaves that any chance of winning freedom through violence was futile.
How did Rome gain, consolidate, and maintain power?

Gaining power is the process of getting it and expanding it.

Consolidating power is the process of taking control from other people who also have power.

Maintaining power is the process of keeping one’s power.

Punic Wars: Gain, Maintain, and Consolidating Power Through War

Directions: Examine the map & excerpt below and answer the questions that follow.

1. According to the map above, which regions of the Mediterranean area did the Carthaginian Empire control?

2. According to the map to your left, which regions of the Mediterranean area did Rome and its allies control?

3. Both Carthage and Rome were interested in controlling the Mediterranean region. Why would both societies be interested in this region?

4. What problem might arise between Carthage & Rome? Why?
1a. Who did the Romans fight against in the Punic Wars?

1b. Who was Hannibal and what was his role in the Punic Wars?

1c. How did Hannibal and his troops get to Italy?

1d. What did Scipio do in response to Hannibal’s campaign in Italy?

1e. What was the result of the Battle of Zama between Scipio and Hannibal’s troops?

The Second Punic War ended after the Battle of Zama with a Roman victory. Unlike the treaty that ended the First Punic War, the terms Carthage had to agree with bankrupted the city and ensured that they would never be powerful again.
Primary Source: Appian, The Destruction of Carthage

The Roman Empire fought three wars against the Carthaginian Empire in North Africa, called the Punic Wars. The last war ended with the destruction of Carthage in 146 BCE. Appian, who lived in the second century CE., wrote a vivid description of the

After penetrating into the city [Carthage], Scipio [the Roman commander] turned his attention to the citadel, its strongest point, where many people had taken refuge. Three streets leading from the marketplace to the citadel were lined on both sides with six story houses, from which the Romans were pelted. They seized the first houses and used them as a base for attacking the next. From their roofs they made bridges of planks and beams to cross over to the next. While one battle was in progress on the roofs another was fought, against all comers, in the narrow street below.

Everywhere there was groaning and wailing and shouting and agony of every description. Some Carthaginians were killed out of hand, some flung down alive from the roofs to the pavement, and of these some were caught on upright spears or ambers or swords....

Others were seen still living, especially old men, women, and young children who had hidden in the inmost corners of the houses, some of them wounded, some more or less burned, and uttering pitiful cries. Still others thrust out and falling from such a height with the stones, timbers, and fire, were torn asunder in all shapes of horror, crushed and mangled.

Nor was this the end of their miseries, for the street cleaners, who were removing the rubbish with axes, mattocks, and forks, and making the roads passable, tossed with the dead and the living together into holes in the ground....

Six days and nights were consumed in this kind of fighting, the soldiers. Soldiers worked in shifts to ensure that that they might not be worn out with toil, slaughter, lack of sleep, and these horrid sights.

The city of Carthage which had flourished for seven hundred years from its foundation, which had held broad dominion over lands and islands and seas, which had vied with the greatest of empires in its wealth of arms and ships and elephants and money, which had manifested extraordinary courage by resisting a strong enemy and famine for three years after its ships had been taken—this city was now being utterly blotted out and destroyed. As Scipio looked on he is said to have wept and openly to have lamented the enemy’s fate. For a long while he remained sunk in thought, reflecting that the fortunes of all cities and peoples and empires, like of those of individuals, must change. Troy had fallen, once so prosperous a city; the empires of the Assyrians, and the Medes, and the Persians after them, had fallen, and so, lately, the Macedonian empire, the most brilliant of them all.

1. If you were a Roman citizen reading this description how might you feel? Why?

2. If you were an emperor thinking about going to war against Rome, how might you feel about this description? Why?

3. Based on Appian’s description of the destruction of Carthage, describe one way the Romans increased and consolidated their power.

4. Scipio, the Roman commander, reflects on the history of great cities and empires. In your own words, what does he state? Can you think of any other examples to support his claim?
Roman Roads: Gain, Maintain, and Consolidating Power Through Efficient Transportation

Directions: Examine the images below, then answer see & think questions about the Roman road network.

The Tabula Peutingeriana is an illustrated road map showing the cursus publicus, or the road network in the Roman Empire. These public roads shown in Tabula Peutingeriana were built in the first century under Emperor Augustus to improve communication throughout the empire. At this point in the Roman empire, Rome had conquered many regions and there were more people that needed to be controlled and ruled over. This road was used to transport messages, officials, and tax revenues between the provinces. There were stations throughout the empire, located at 12 mile increments, where foot couriers could hand off messages. The original map upon which Tabula Peutingeriana is based probably dates to the 4th or 5th century and was prepared by Agrippa during the reign of the emperor Augustus (27 BC – AD 14). The present map is a 13th-century copy and covers Europe. The surviving version is a 22-foot parchment. The map shows the entire Roman empire, the Near East, and India as far as the Ganges and Sri Lanka. There are no less than 555 cities and 3,500 other place names shown, illustrated with small pictures. A town usually consists of two houses, and great cities (Rome, Constantinople, Antioch) receive a medallion. Roads are in red, with each hook in the road representing a day’s travel.

1. List three things you see in the image.

2. Based on your observations, what do you think this map reveals about the road system in the Roman empire?

Purposes and Kinds of Roman Roads

Why did the Romans build roads? The Romans considered a well-organized and efficient transportation system a basic element of proper administration; i.e. an indispensable element in creating and maintaining the Roman state. The earliest highways or main roads were constructed for the use of the military, and their economic benefit for civilians was a later byproduct and not the main reason for their creation. The military nature of the roads continued to be essential as Romans expanded into territory outside Italy. In the province of Arabia Petraea (which included what is now Jordan), the movement of troops and ease of communication for the army and Roman administration were the primary reasons for construction of the Via Nova, one of the many viae militares or military roads built in conquered provinces. However, smaller, shorter, and less well-constructed local roads (actus) or tracks (callis) also increased in territory after it was brought under Roman control. Nevertheless, the main public highways (viae publicae) normally began as military roads and only gradually evolved into civilian conduits [passageways].

Hispania Roads

The map above shows the Roman road system in one section of the empire located in modern day Spain.

3. Based on Tabula Peutingeriana and the text above, describe how roads helped Rome increase and consolidate its power.
What led to the Roman Golden Age, Pax Romana? How did Pax Romana impact Rome, other regions, and later periods in history?

Contextualize Pax Romana, the Golden Age of Rome

Directions: Examine the timeline, text, and images below, then answer the questions below.

The assassination of Julius Caesar, the Roman dictator, in 44 BC led to two decades of civil war as rival leaders tried to take control of Rome. Eventually, Caesar’s great nephew, Augustus, defeated his rivals and united Roman-controlled lands as the Roman Empire. He expanded Rome’s borders to cover most of Europe and the areas of Asia and North Africa surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

Augustus’ rule (27 BCE-14 CE) started a two-hundred year long Golden Age known as Pax Romana. Pax Romana means “Roman Peace” in Latin and is used to identify the years 27 BCE-180 CE during which there were fewer wars than in any other period in Rome’s history.

The empire strengthened its central government, consolidated its power, and created a stable condition in which trade and communication flourished. The empire protected and governed individual provinces, permitting each to make and administer its own laws while accepting Roman taxation and military control. Through state sponsorship, Romans made great achievements in architecture, engineering, and the arts.

1. Who united Rome after the death of Julius Caesar?
2. What does Pax Romana mean in Latin?
3. Why is Pax Romana considered a golden age?