Lecture 5: The Roman Republic: From Founding to Fall

The Etruscans
• Settled in Northern Italy ca. 750 BC
• 12 Autonomous city-states
• Roman’s adopted
  – Toga
  – Alphabet
  – Fasces
  – Vault and arch
• Rome grew under Etruscan dominance
• The Etruscans would be “Romanized”

The Founding of Rome
• In 509 Rome overthrew the Etruscan Monarchy
• The republic is born around 509 - 575
• The Roman’s seemed a practical people
• There political institutions developed over time
• Rome had a constitution

The Roman Republic, c. 500-300 B.C.
• A Roman Republic of checks and balances
• The Roman state worked under the concept of
  – “Right of Command” (imperium)
  – Two consuls and a Praetor
  – Senate (senatus consultum)
• Roman Assemblies
  – Army represented in the Comitia centuriata,
  – Comitia tributa (tribal assembly)
  – 471 Plebeian assembly (Concilium plebis)

The Struggle of Orders c. 500-300 B.C.
• Patricians vs. Plebeians
  – Patricians 10% of population
  – Monopoly of power
• 494 Plebeians threaten to leave Rome
• 494 Tribunes
• 471 The plebeian assembly (Concilium plebis)
  – Roman civil laws published in 450 as Twelve Tables
  – Licinian-Sextian laws (367)
• Lex Hortensia 287
  – laws passed by assembly had force of law…
• Lex Canuleia
  – right to inter-marry with the patricians
Roman Society, Roman Family
- The real power in ancient Rome was the family
- *Paterfamilias* in Society and Family
  - Family was a “state within a state”
- Religion
  - based on a Pantheon of gods
  - It was all in the proper observance of ritual
- Conquest brought large numbers of slaves to Rome
  - Large groups of slaves worked estates
    - *Latifundia*

Rome Conquers Italy, 340-267 BC
- *Rome’s growth was opportunistic*
- Rome surrounded by enemy states (city-states)
- Rome conquered all of Italy by 264
- *Livy’s history of Rome’s rise*

Punic Wars (264-133 BC)
- *Carthage* was an important trading center in North Africa
- The First Punic War (264-241)
  - *Mylae* in 260 BC
- In the Second Punic War (218-204)
  - Rome decisively defeated Carthage
  - War broke out over division of Spain
  - Hannibal of Carthage invaded Italy and devastated the peninsula
  - Hannibal destroyed Roman Army at Cannae (216)
  - Rome defeats Carthage at *Zama* (204)
- In a third war (149-146) Carthage was destroyed
- Rome master of the Western Mediterranean

The Roman Revolution 133-27 BC
- Senate ruled by custom
- Provincial tax structure
- Senate increasing controlled by the Nobiles
  - Optimates vs. Populares
- Traditional small farmers undermined by constant warfare
  - Lands destroyed during Second Punic War
  - Farmers “forced” into longer military service
  - Aristocrats bought up small farms forming *Latifundia* (large estates)
  - Large class of day-laborers drifted into Rome
- Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus
- Marius creates a “New Model” army

Marius and Sulla ca. 111-79
- *Marius* professionalizes army
  - Gaius Marius equestrian family no Senatorial ancestors
  - The Jugurthine War (B.C. 111-105)
– The Cimbric War (B.C. 113-101)
  – Marius retires from office
• The Italian Social War (90 BC)
• Sulla (B.C. 82-79)
  – “declared dictator to hold the office as long as he pleased”
  – Sulla restores the Senate

The Late Republic (70-31 BC)
• The Civil Wars of the Late Republic
  – The Revolt of Lepidus (B.C. 77)
  – The Sertorian War (B.C. 80-72)
  – War of the Gladiators “Spartacus Revolt”, (B.C. 73-71)
• Pompeii and Crassus become consuls
• First Triumvirate (B.C. 60)
  – Pompey
  – Caesar
  – Crassus

Julius Caesar
• Caesar becomes consul in 59
• Caesar conquers Gaul (B.C. 58-51)
  – Gallic and Civil Wars
• Caesar crosses Rubicon (49 BC)
• Pompey’s army destroyed at Pharsalia (48 B.C.)