



Ancient Rome & The Origin of Christianity

Outcome: A Republic Becomes an Empire

A Republic Becomes an Empire

1. Setting the Stage

- a. With the defeat of Carthage in the Punic Wars, Rome was proving to be the biggest and most powerful civilization on the Mediterranean
- b. The larger Rome's territory got, the more unstable the republic form of government became



A Republic Becomes an Empire

2. The Republic collapses

- a. Rome's increasing wealth and expanding territories brought problems
 - i. Discontent among lower classes
 - ii. Breakdown in military order



Roman Coins

A Republic Becomes an Empire

b. Economic Turmoil

- i. Gap between rich and poor widened
- ii. Rich lived on huge estates
- iii. Poor worked on estates (possibly as slaves)
- iv. By 100 B.C. one-third of Rome's population were enslaved



A Republic Becomes an Empire

c. Military Upheaval

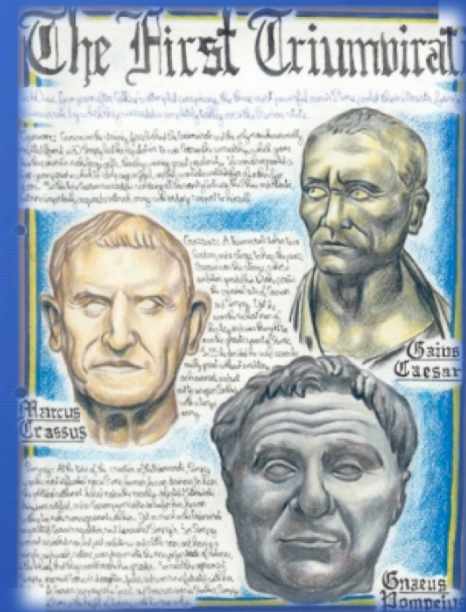
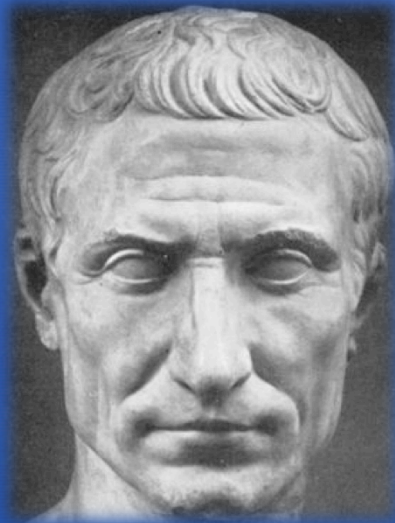
- i. Generals seized power for themselves
- ii. Recruited by promising land
- iii. Citizens loyal to generals rather than to Rome itself



A Republic Becomes an Empire

3. Julius Caesar

- a. 60 B.C. joins with Crassus (wealthy Roman) and Pompey (popular general) to create a Triumvirate
- b. Triumvirate: a group of three rulers
- c. They rule together for 10 years





Caesar



Pompey



Crassus

The First Triumvirate was an extralegal alliance formed in 60 BC by three already famous generals. Pompey and Crassus had been Consuls together in 70 BC but had later fallen out over questions of status and prestige. Caesar, who was younger and something of a protege of Crassus, brought the two back together. Each brought something to the table: Caesar led the *Populares*, Pompey led the *Optimati*, and Crassus, the richest man in Rome, led the *Equites* merchant class. Caesar sealed the deal by giving his daughter, Julia, in marriage to Pompey.

A Republic Becomes an Empire

d. Caesar takes power

- i. Caesar has success in Gaul (France), becomes quite popular
- ii. Political rival Pompey urges the senate to disband Caesar's legions
- iii. Caesar defies senate, marches into Rome
- iv. Pompey flees
- v. Caesar defeats Pompey's troops in Greece, Asia, Spain, and Egypt
- vi. Julius Caesar returns home in 46 B.C.- senate appoints him dictator
- vii. 44 B.C. Caesar is named dictator for life
- viii. Result: Even though Caesar has total control, Rome still embraces some of its republic roots, however it is moving closer to empire

A Republic Becomes an Empire

4. Julius Caesar's legacy

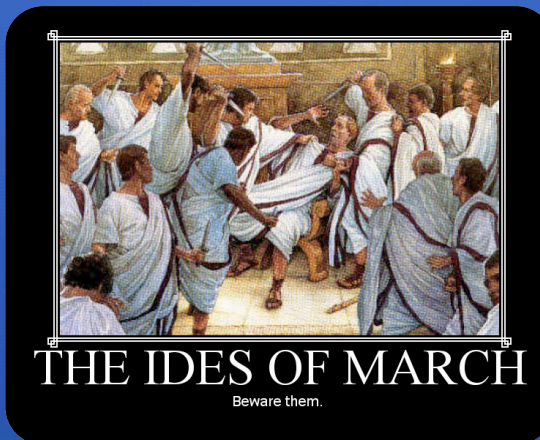
- a. Absolute ruler but he also expanded the senate
- b. Granted citizenship to people in Roman provinces
- c. Helped poor by creating jobs and building projects
- d. Increased pay for soldiers



A Republic Becomes an Empire

e. Beware the Ides of March

- i. Many nobles and senators expressed concern over Caesar's growing power, success, and popularity; feared losing their influence
- ii. Others considered Caesar a tyrant
- iii. Many felt Rome would suffer due to his ego
- iv. Caesar is stabbed to death in the senate by a gang of senators led by Marcus Brutus and Gaius Cassius on March 15, 44 B.C.



Beware them.
THE IDES OF MARCH

Death of Caesar



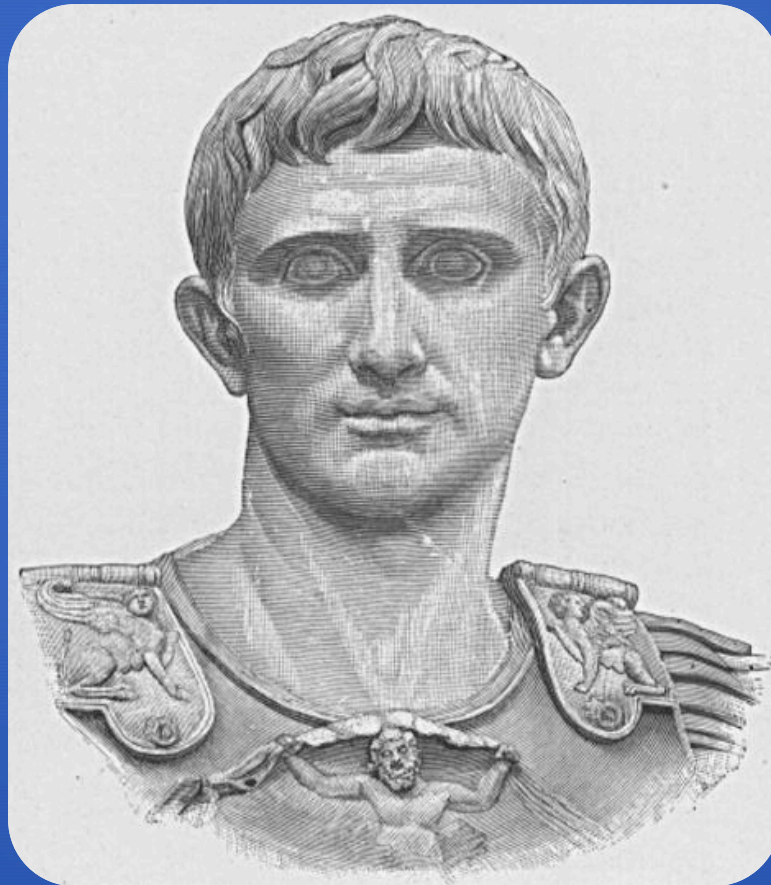
Really?



Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas



Octavian



A Republic Becomes an Empire

5. Octavian

- a. Caesar's 18 year old nephew and adopted son
- b. Takes power with Mark Antony and Lepidus = Second Triumvirate
- c. Octavian forces Lepidus to retire
- d. Mark Antony falls in love with Queen Cleopatra of Egypt



Second Triumvirate

Mark Antony



Octavian



Lepidus



In November of 43 BC, Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus formed an official (although extraconstitutional) three-man government. In order to silence opposition and raise money, they carried out bloody proscriptions, executing significant numbers of senators and equestrians, including the great orator Cicero, who had spoken against Antony in his "Philippics".

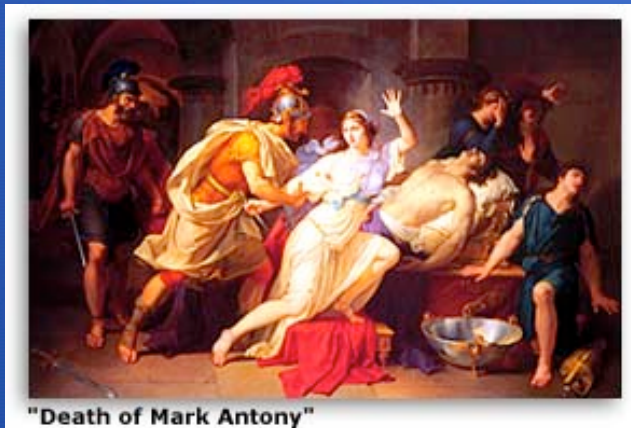
*The official title of the "triumvirate" was *Triumviri Rei Publicae Constituendae Consulari Potestate* ("Triumvirs for Confirming the Republic with Consular Power"), which was invariably abbreviated as "III VIR RPC". That abbreviation appears on both sides of the gold Aurei issued in 41 BC with profile images of the Triumviri on the obverse.*

Antony and Octavian are universally familiar. Lepidus had been Julius Caesar's "Master of the Horse" or cavalry commander and was effectively his second in command in military engagements. He was initially an ally of Mark Antony against Octavian, but was sidelined in their final struggle.

A Republic Becomes an Empire

5. Octavian

- e. Octavian accuses Antony of plotting to rule Rome from Egypt and this leads to another civil war
- f. Octavian defeats Antony & Cleopatra's forces at naval battle of Actium (31 B.C.)
- g. Mark Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide; leaving Octavian sole leader
- h. Octavian takes name Augustus meaning "exalted one" -27 B.C.



A Republic Becomes an Empire

- i. Result: Rome is officially an empire.



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6. A Vast and Powerful Empire

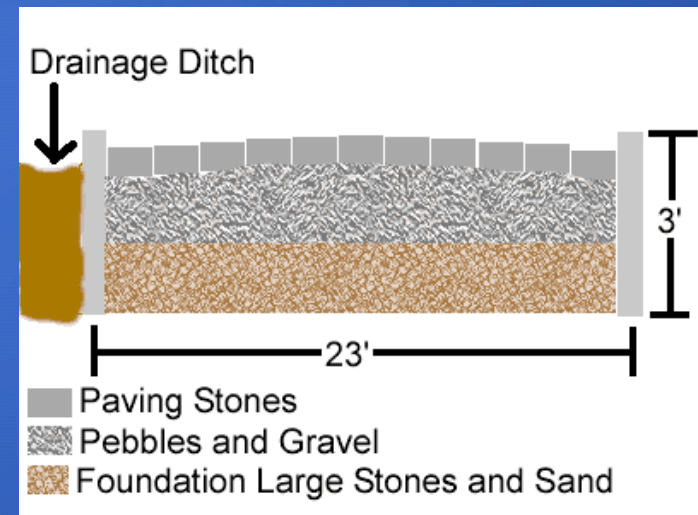
- a. Peak of Rome's power 27 B.C. to 180 A.D.
- b. Period known as the Pax Romana or "Roman Peace"
- c. Population of 60-80 million with 1 million in the city of Rome
- d. Rome held together through efficient means of government started by Augustus however many terrible emperors would gradually weaken the empire over the next 400 years
- e. Common coinage made trade easier

More Roman Coins



A Republic Becomes an Empire

- f. "All roads lead to Rome;" the Romans built about 250,000 miles of roads



Ever heard this phrase...?



Not so much...



A Republic Becomes an Empire

- h. The Colosseum was used to distract the masses because much of city of Rome was unemployed; gladiatorial battles were popular for entertainment
- i. Rich continued to live extravagantly



Gladiatorial Battles



The Colosseum at Caesar's Palace



A Republic Becomes an Empire

- j. **Coming up next:** The works of Jesus of Nazareth and Christianity would change the world forever

