

Ancient Rome & the Rise of Christianity (509 BC – 476 AD)



Chapter 6: pages 126-151

Parallel Events

(Greece vs. Rome)

◆ Ancient Greek Events

- ◆ 490-479 BC: Persian Wars
- ◆ 460 BC: Age of Pericles in Athens
- ◆ 431 BC: Peloponnesian Wars
- ◆ 331 BC: Alexander the Great conquers Persian Empire: Hellenistic Age
- ◆ 133 BC: end of Greek dominance in Med. world

◆ Ancient Rome Events

- ◆ 509 BC: Rome sets up a Republic
- ◆ 450 BC: 12 Tables of Law
- ◆ 270 BC: Rome controls most of Italian peninsula
- ◆ 264-146 BC: Punic Wars vs. Carthage
- ◆ 133 BC: Roman power extends from Spain to Egypt

Section 1: The Roman World Takes Shape

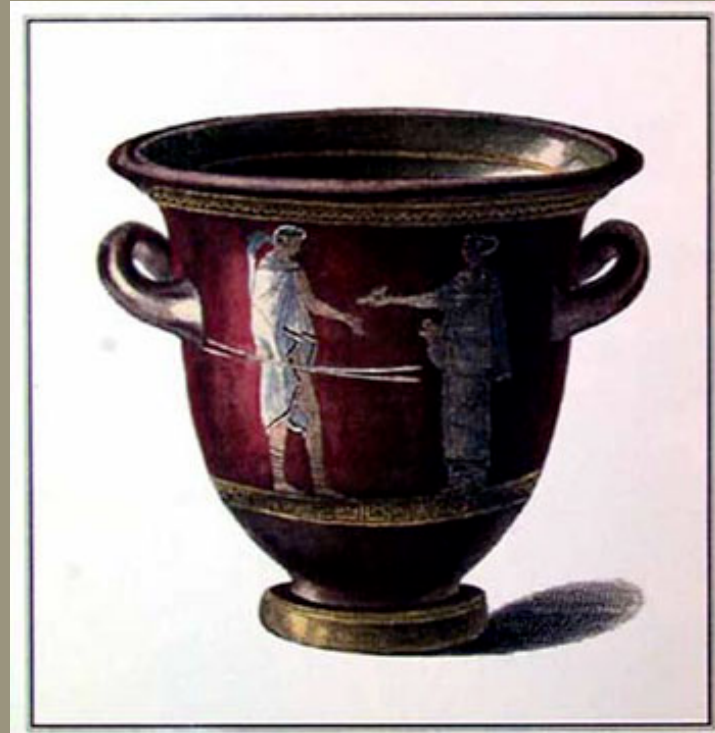
- ◆ Geography and People of Italy
- ◆ Rome began as a small city-state (Palatine hill) located in the center of the Italian peninsula
- ◆ Apennine mountains run the length of Italy
- ◆ Less rugged than Greek mountains
- ◆ Italy much easier to unify --- no isolated city-states
- ◆ Most Romans settled in the west
- ◆ Fertile plains in the north below the Alps

Early Roman People

- ◆ Latins: ancestors of the Romans
- ◆ Herders and farmers: settled along the Tiber River along the 7 hills
- ◆ Etruscans: ruled central and northern Italy
- ◆ Came from Asia Minor (Eastern Mediterranean)
- ◆ Called themselves Tyrrhenians in honor of their king
- ◆ Romans borrowed Etruscan alphabet, arch and worshipped similar gods/goddesses
- ◆ Greeks: settled in southern Italy/Sicily

Etruscan Origins

- ◆ 1828 AD: a plowman and his oxen crashed through a buried stone roof of a tomb
- ◆ Knowledge of the Etruscan way of life comes from their death
- ◆ Kept the ashes of their dead in urns
- ◆ Loved games: chariot races, wrestling, boxing, discus, dice, handball, & knucklebones



The Roman Republic



- ◆ Romans drove out Etruscan rulers around 509 BC
- ◆ Set up a **Republic** (govt. of the people)
- ◆ **Senate**: most powerful governing body made up of 300 **patricians** (landholding upper class): served for life

Roman Senate continued!

- ◆ 2 **consuls** elected from the patrician class
- ◆ Job was to consult with the Senate, supervise business of the govt. and command the armies
- ◆ Consuls served 1 year term
- ◆ In times of war: Senate chose a **dictator** to rule for 6 months

Plebeians Demand Equality

- ◆ **Plebeians** (commoners): farmers, merchants, artisans, traders
- ◆ Made efforts to gain power
- ◆ 450 BC: **12 Tables of Law** set up in the Forum
--- made it possible for plebeians to appeal decision of a judge
- ◆ Later gained right to elect **tribunes** (10) to protect their interests
- ◆ Tribunes could **veto** (block) laws that weren't in the interest of the common people

Roman Society

- ◆ **Family:** basic unit of society
- ◆ Male head of household (usually father) had absolute power
- ◆ Enforced discipline
- ◆ Demanded respect
- ◆ **Women:** played larger role than Greek women
- ◆ Could run businesses, attend baths, theater and public entertainment – supported arts and public festivals
- ◆ Most worked at home, however!

Education

- ◆ Girls and boys learned to read and write
- ◆ Wealthy Romans hired private tutors (from Greece) to supervise education of children
- ◆ Rhetoric was important subject for boys who wanted to pursue political success

Religion

- ◆ Gods/goddesses resembled Greek and Etruscan deities
- ◆ Statues and temples built throughout Rome
- ◆ Festivals honored the deities
- ◆ <http://www.gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/roman/>
- ◆ <http://www.messagenet.com/myths/names.html>