

## Bread and Circuses: The Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic

### I. Non-Roman Cultures in Italian Peninsula

- A. Etruscan Culture
- B. Celtic Expanding Power—Sack of Rome (387 BC)
- C. Greek Colonies

### II. Sources of Information about Early Roman History

- A. Archeological Objects
- B. Documentary Records (no written sources before ca. 300 BC)
- C. Historical Narratives
  - 1. Polybius, *The Rise of the Roman Empire* (150–118 BC)
    - a. covers period from 264 BC to 146 BC
  - 2. Dionysius of Halicarnassus, *Roman Antiquities* (ca. 30 BC)
    - a. originally covered the period from founding of Rome (ca. 750 BC) to 241 BC
    - b. only first 10 books and fragments of others remain
  - 3. Livy, *History of Rome* (29 BC–AD 17)
    - a. covers period from ca. 1200 BC to 9 BC
    - b. of 142 books, only 35 are extant

### III. The Story of the Rise of Rome

#### A. Conquest of Italian Peninsula—Key to Roman Victories

- 1. Samnites
- 2. Battle of Caudine Forks (321 BC)
- 3. military innovation (280–275 BC)

#### B. Punic Wars and the Setting Up of an Overseas Empire

- 1. First Punic War (265–241 BC)—Carthage
- 2. Second Punic War (219–202 BC)
  - a. Personages: Hannibal Barca, Hasdribul Barca; Quintus Fabius Maximus; Publius Cornelius Scipio (Africanus)
  - b. Battles: Cannae (August 2, 216 BC); Zama (202 BC)
- 3. Third Punic War (149–146 BC)

## C. Change in Roman Social Structure

1. Reforms of the Gracchi
  - a. Tiberius Gracchus, Tribune, murdered 133 BC
  - b. Gaius Gracchus, Tribune, killed 121 BC
  - c. M. Livius Drusus
  - d. *populares* (plebians) vs. *optimates* (patricians)
2. Military-Social Innovation
  - a. clientage networks
  - b. Marius (157–86 BC); Sulla (138–78 BC)
  - c. Julius Caesar: “the entire and perfect man” and *Omnium mulierum vir et omnium virorum mulier?*
  - d. Augustus Caesar (27 BC–AD 14)

## D. Expansion of Wine and Oil Production

1. Centrifugal dispersion of wealth—Pella, Pergamum, Antioch, Alexandria, Petra
2. East-West Silk and Spice Routes (Parthian and Kushan Empires)
3. Augustus (27 BC–AD 14) established armies on frontiers of Empire

## IV. The Story of the Establishment of the Empire

### A. Empire Established to Save the Republic

1. Augustus Caesar, *Res gestae divi Augusti* (*Achievements of the Divine Augustus*)
2. Tacitus (ca. 56–117), *The Annals of Imperial Rome*
3. Dio Cassius (ca. 150–235), *Roman History*

### B. Rome Ruled the World?

#### *Recommended Reading:*

- Tim Cornell and John Matthews, *The Roman World*, “The Cultural Atlas of the World” (Stonehenge Press, 1991).
- “Early Rome—Myth, Poetry or History?” in *Problems of Ancient History*, ed. Donald Kagan, 2 vols. (New York: Macmillan, 1975), vol. 2: *The Roman World*, pp. 1–29.
- Matthias Gelzer, *Caesar: Politician and Statesman*, trans. Peter Needham (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1968).
- Keith Hopkins, *Conquerors and Slaves* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978).
- J. A. O. Larsen, *Representative Government in Greek and Roman History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1955).
- T. G. E. Powell, *The Celts* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1980).
- Seutonius, *Twelve Caesars*, trans. Robert Graves (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1979).
- Lily Ross Taylor, *Party Politics in the Age of Caesar* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1966).
- C. M. Williams, *Chronicles: Investigating the Ancient World*, book 2 (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1996).