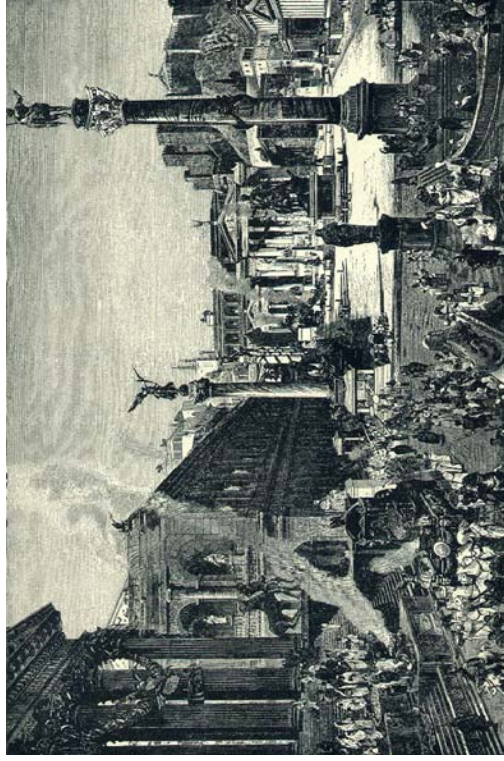


STA Co-op Spring 2016

Ancient Rome – Height of Empire



Height of Empire - Timeline

Reign of Tiberius to Last Severan Emperor
14 to 235 A.D.

- 14-68 **Julio-Claudian** Dynasty
 - 54 years **Tiberius - Caligula - Claudius - Nero**
- 69 Year of Four Emperors
 - 2 years **Nero - Galba - Otho - Vitellius - Vespasian**
- 70-96 **Flavian** Dynasty
 - 26 years **Vespasian - Titus - Domitian**
- 96-180 “Five Good Emperors”
 - 84 years **Nerva - Trajan - Hadrian - Antoninus - Aurelius**
- 180-239 **Severan** Dynasty
 - 59 years **Severus – Caracalla/Geta - Elagabalus -Alexander**

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Praetorian Guard

- High status legion, based in Rome
 - Established by Augustus
 - Imperial bodyguard, Roman police
- Had power to depose, elect emperors
- Little political power, other than controlling emperor.
- Disbanded by Constantine



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Praetorian Guard

- Played a major role in early years of Empire
- Preferred weak, easily controlled Emperors
 - Head of guard nearly overthrew **Tiberius**
 - Murdered **Caligula**, appointed **Claudius**, turned against **Nero**



Roman Festivals

- Many holidays throughout Year
- Most dedicated to gods or persons
- No work done, slaves "freed"
- Religious rituals part of celebration
- Festivals often led to debauchery

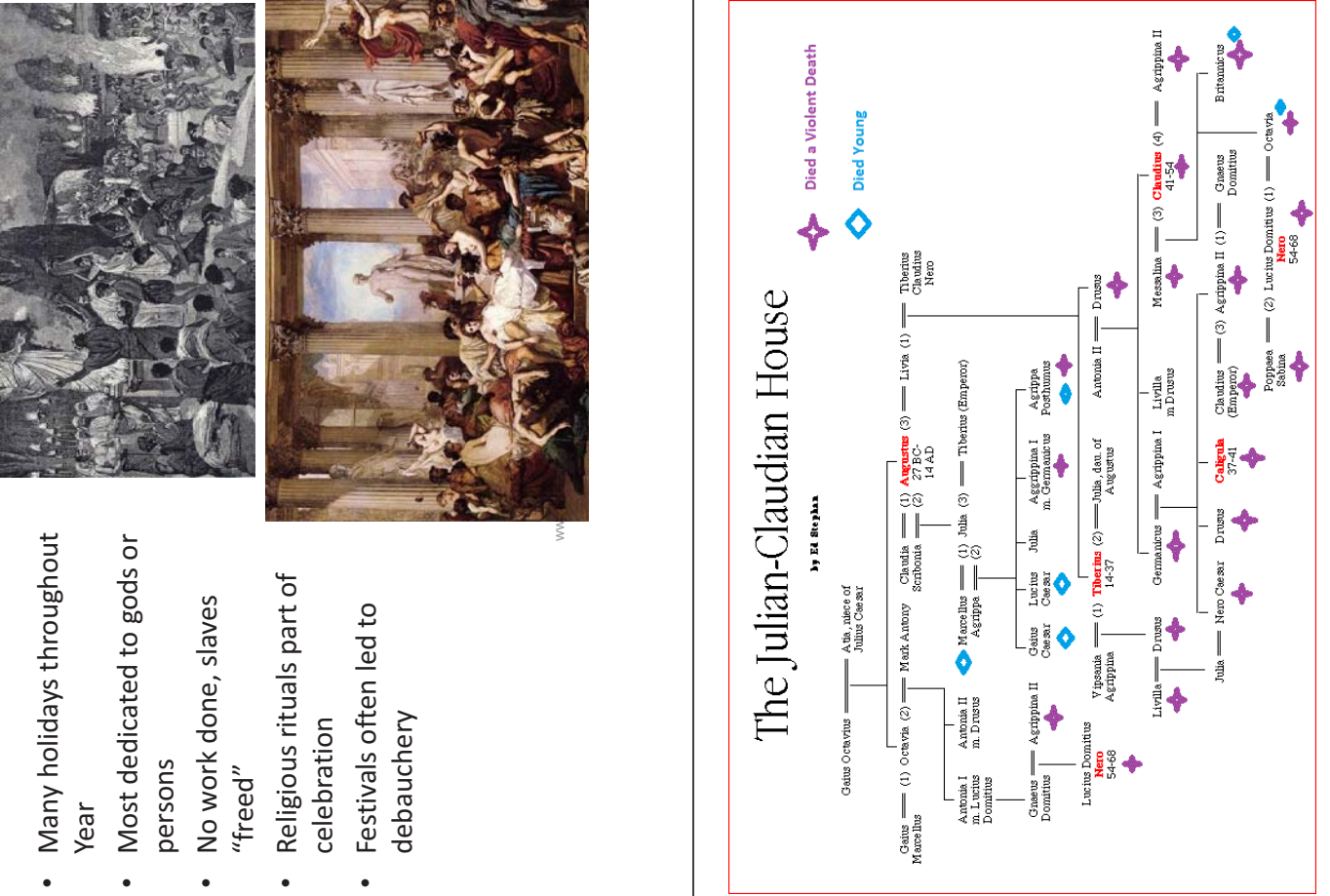


Roman Holidays

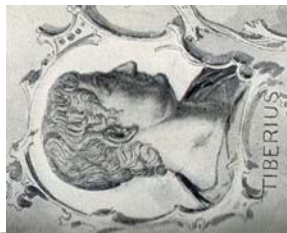
- **Saturnalia:** Winter solstice, **Lupercalia:** Fertility Festival
- **Parentalia:** Ancestor worship, **Matronalia:** Mars, Military
- **Vestalia:** Vesta, Home/Hearth, **Consualia:** Sabine Women
- Other festivals honoring: Harvest, Springs & water, Fire, Grain, Venus, Crossroads, Fishermen, Beauty & Love, etc.



The Julian-Claudian House



Julio-Claudian Dynasty



Augustus and Livia



- No Biological Children
 - **Julia** only daughter of Augustus
 - **Tiberius, Drusus**, sons of Livia
- 4 adopted nephews & grandsons
 - All died before Augustus
 - Julia married Agrippa—only daughters survived childhood
- Murders start early
 - **Germanicus**, popular son of Drusus murdered by **Tiberius**
 - **Drusus II**, son of Tiberius murdered by **Sejanus**
 - Emperor **Caligula**—son of Germanicus, murdered by **Senators/Praetorians**.

Tiberius (14 – 37 A.D.)

- Emperor during ministry of **Christ**.
- Good general, disliked “politics” of Rome.
- Assumed throne after death of all other adopted sons of Augustus.
- Forced to marry **Julia** after **Agrippa** died.
- Spent much of his time in Capri

MURDER & CONSPIRACIES

Tiberius accused of murdering Germanicus (19 A.D.)

Sejanus, captain of Praetorian guard, murdered Drusus II, son of Tiberius (23 A.D.)

Sejanus conspiracy uncovered, dozens of senators executed.

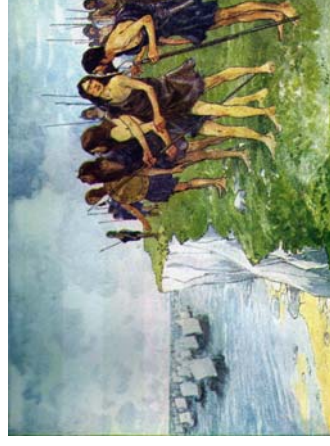
Caligula and Claudius (37-54 A.D.)

- **Caligula** only surviving son of **Germanicus**
 - Ruled for **four years**, then assassinated
 - Outlandish behavior, thought to be insane
- **Claudius** was “dimwit” brother of **Germanicus**
 - Ruled for **thirteen years**, then murdered
 - Competent, thoughtful ruler; **Four** appallingly corrupt wives



Rome Conquers Britain

- Caesar's Invasion 55-54 B.C.
- Claudius' Conquest 43-60 A.D.
 - **Caratacus** is captured, 50 A.D.
- **Boadicea** Rebellion 61 A.D.
- **Agricola** Governor 78-84 A.D.



Nero (54 – 68 A.D.)

- Emperor at 17 — Praetorians thought him easily led.
- Good advisors at first (**Seneca**), then corrupted by flattery
- Considered himself cultured, a poet and musician
- Murdered wife, brother, mother to appease mistress.
- 40 associated executed for failed “Pisonian Conspiracy”.
- Chickened out of suicide after rebellion of Praetorians.



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Great Fire of Rome

- Fire in July 64 A.D., burned for six days
- Up to half the city destroyed.
- Nero said to have “Fiddled while Rome Burned”.
- Built a large palace in cleared city.
- Accused “Christians” of setting fire—tortured and burned them to death.

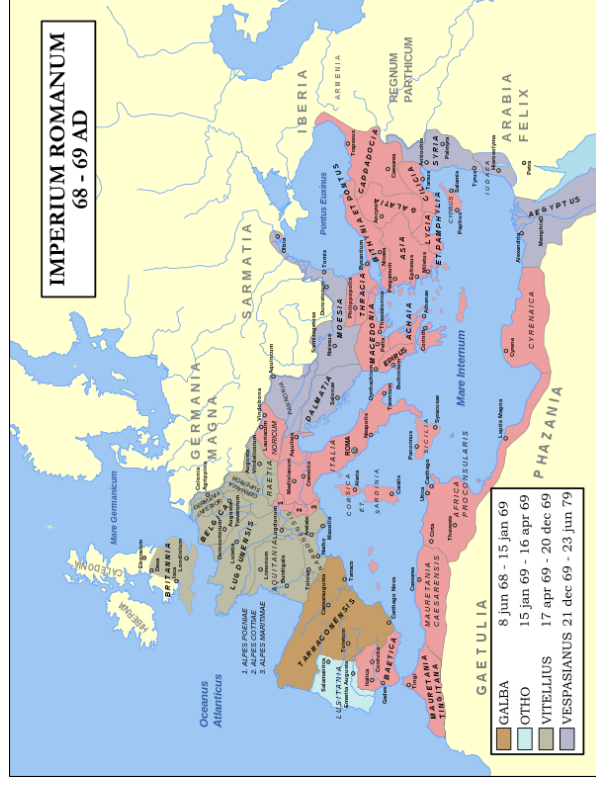


Blame the Christians



- “To get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians, Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty . . . at the hands of Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, . . . but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular. . . . An immense multitude was convicted, not as much of the crime of firing the city as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.” — Tacitus

69 AD – Year of Four Emperors



Flavian Dynasty

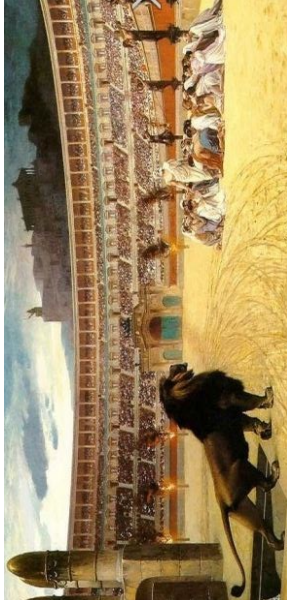
- **Vespasian** 69-79
 - Competent, well-respect leader
 - 1st Emperor from modest Family
- **Titus** 79-81
 - Renowned military leader
 - Conquered Jerusalem
- **Domitian** 81-96
 - Competent, but tyrannical leader
 - Unpopular with Senate
 - Persecuted Christians
 - Rival of **Tacitus's** father-in-law, **Agricola**



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Colosseum – 80 A.D.

- Authorized by Vespasian
- Largest amphitheatre in Empire
- Could hold 80,000 spectators
- Used for gladiators, mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions
- Damaged by earthquake in 1349
- Protected by Catholic Church



Siege of Jerusalem (70 AD)

- Besieged by **Vespasian**, taken by **Titus**
- Horrific “**Zealot**” civil war within Jerusalem
- Up to a million killed.
- City and temple destroyed.
- Jews were considered trouble-makers
- Recorded by **Josephus**, Jewish historian.
- Titus mistress was Jewish Princess



www

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius – 79 A.D.

- Cities of **Pompeii**, **Herculaneum** buried under 20 ft. of ash.
- **Pliny the Younger** an eyewitness, describes the death of his uncle, **Pliny the Elder**
- Location of bodies preserved perfectly in the ash.
- 16,000 thought to have perished. . . .



Five Good Emperors (96 – 180 A.D.)



- **Nerva** (2 yrs) — Trusted Flavian minister
- **Trajan** (19 yrs) — won **Dacian War**, grew empire
- **Hadrian** (21 yrs) — built Hadrian's wall
- **Antoninus** (23 yrs) — peaceful, prosperous reign
- **Aurelius** (19 yrs) — Stoic philosopher, warred with **Parthia**, Germanic tribes.

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Trajan — Conquest of Dacia 106 A.D.

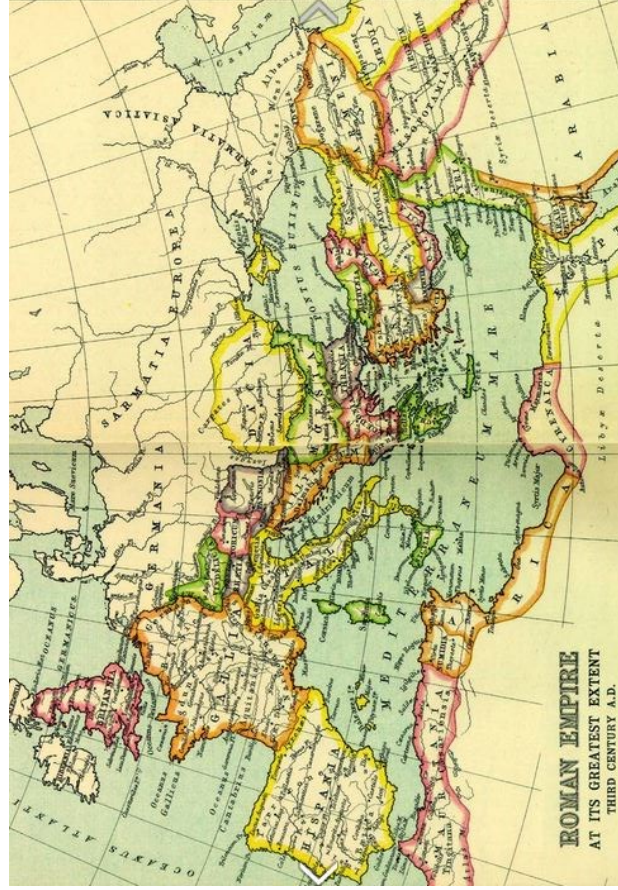


With Trajan's conquest of Dacia (Now Romania), the Roman Empire reached its greatest extent.



Trajan built bridge almost a mile long across Danube river to conquer Dacia.

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ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT
THIRD CENTURY A.D.

Hadrian — Peace, Prosperity, and Palaces



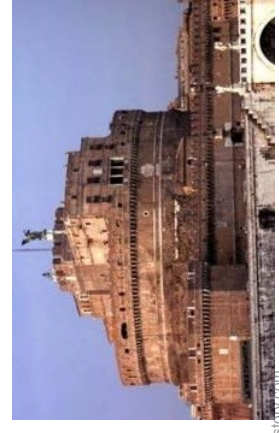
Elegant Pools surround villa



Hadrian's wall was N. border of Roman England.



Hadrian's Villa in hillside near Rome



Hadrian's Tomb was fortified castle.

History.com

Marcus Aurelius and Son



• Marcus Aurelius was honorable, stoic philosopher during decadent, difficult period in Rome.

- Ruled justly in spite of Wars in Persia and on German borders.
- 'Meditations' reflect pagan view of duty and service.
- But family did not share his serious outlook.
- Commodus not exceptional—only 19 when became Emperor.
- Fell under control of ministers, favorites. Fought with sisters.

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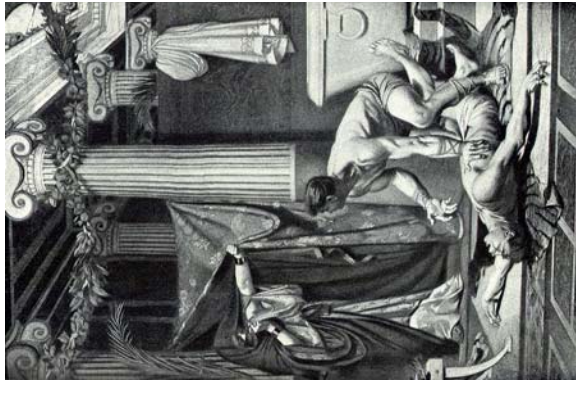
Roman Empire—Beginning of the End

• **Commodus** (180-192 A.D.)

- Unworthy son of **Aurelius**. First father-son emperors since Titus.
- Turned administration over to corrupt favorites.
- Devaluated the currency—first time since **Nero**.
- Commodus strangle in bath by close friend.

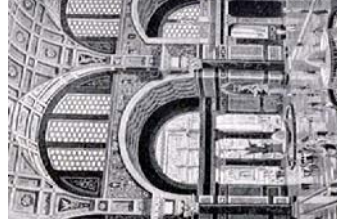
• **Year of 5 Emperors** (193 A.D.)

- Pertinax assassinated.
- Four way Civil War won by **Septimius Severus**



Severan Dynasty (193-235 A.D.)

- **Septimius Severus** born in Africa, of Punic Stock.
- Wife, **Julia Domna** was Syrian, ruled in Rome, regent for sons **Gela** and **Caracalla**.
- Two Severus Boy emperors were cousins, Rome ruled by Regent mothers, relatives of Julia Domna.



EMPEROR →	→	BORN/REIGNED/DIED →	MANNER-OF-DEATH
Julius Caesar	→	*.THE JULIANS***¶ 100...48...44	→ murdered-by-senators¶
Augustus Caesar	→	-63...31...14	→ natural-death¶
Tiberius	→	-42...14...37	→ natural-death¶
Caligula	→	-12...37...41	→ lynched-by-soldiers¶
Claudius	→	10...41...54	→ poisoned-by-wife¶
Nero	→	37...54...58	→ forced-suicide¶
	→	*.AD-69***¶	
Galba	→	-3...68	→ 69
Otho	→	32	→ 69
Vitellius	→	12	→ 69
	→	*.THE FLAVIANS***¶	
Vespasian	→	9	→ 69
Titus	→	39	→ 79
Domitian	→	51	→ 81
	→	*.THE FIVE GOOD EMPERORS***¶	
Nerva	→	30	→ 96
Trajan	→	53	→ 97
Hadrian	→	76	→ 117
Lucius Aelius	→	101	→ 138
Antoninus Pius	→	86	→ 138
Marcus Aurelius	→	121	→ 161
	→	121	→ 180

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EMPEROR	BORN	REIGNED	DIED	MANNER OF DEATH
END OF GOOD EMPERORS				
Commodus	161	180	192	murdered by courtiers
Perthax	126	193	193	lynched by soldiers
Darius, Valerianus	133	193	193	lynched by soldiers
THE SEVERANS				
Septimius Severus	145	193	211	natural death
Geta	189	211	211	murdered by Caracalla
Caracalla	186	197	217	murdered by Macrinus
Macrinus	165	217	218	executed
Elagabalus	203	218	222	lynched by soldiers
Severus Alexander	209	222	235	lynched by soldiers
BEGINNING OF MILITARY ANARCHY				
Maximianus Thracian	172	235	238	lynched by soldiers
Gordian I	158	238	238	suicide
Gordian II	192	238	238	suicide
Ballabinus	?	238	238	lynched by soldiers
Pupienus	164	238	238	lynched by soldiers
Gordian III	225	238	244	lynched by soldiers
Philip the Arab	204	244	249	lynched by soldiers
Decius	193	249	251	lynched by soldiers
Trebonian the Gaul	206	251	253	lynched by soldiers
Aemilian	207	253	253	lynched by soldiers
Valerian	200	253	262	died in captivity
Gallienus	213	253	268	died in captivity
Claudius II Gothicus	214	268	270	natural death
Quintillus	?	270	270	natural death
Aurelian	214	270	275	lynched by soldiers
Tacitus	200	275	276	lynched by soldiers
Florian	?	276	276	lynched by soldiers
Probus	232	276	282	lynched by soldiers
Carus	224	282	283	lynched by soldiers
Carinus	250	283	285	struck by lightning
Numerian	254	283	284	struck by lightning
	254	283	284	struck by lightning

Christian Persecutions/Martyrs

- Early Persecutions often local, not empire-wide.
- Early Christians were “trouble-makers”, Jewish sect.
- Claims to objective moral-truth are never popular.
- Early Persecutions
 - 64-68 Nero St. Peter, St. Paul,
 - 95-96 Domitian St. John, Flavius Clemens
 - 106-24 Trajan St. Simeon, St. Ignatius of Antioch
 - 161-180 Aurelius St. Polycarp, St. Germanicus, St. Felicitas, St. Justin
- Church was small but growing for 200 years, large scale persecutions came later.

EMPEROR	BORN	REIGNED	DIED	MANNER OF DEATH
DIOCLETIAN SPLITS EMPIRE				
Diocletian	245	284	314	retired, 305; natural death
Maximian	250	286	310	ret. 205; d. in captivity
Constantine I Chlorus	250	305	306	natural death
Galerius	255	305	311	natural death
Severus	???	306	307	murdered
CONSTANTINE RE-UNIFIES EMPIRE				
Constantine the Great	272	306	337	natural death
Maxentius	278	306	312	lynched in action
Licinius	265	308	325	resigned/Executed
Maximianus Daia	270	310	313	natural death
Constantine II	316	337	340	lynched in action
Constans	320	337	350	murdered by courtiers
Constantius II	317	337	361	natural death
Magnentius	303	350	353	suicide
Julian the Apostate	331	360	363	lynched in action
Jovian	331	363	364	unknown

Early Christian Communities

