

## Unit 1 Introduction

### Course Overview: What we will be covering in this course

#### A. Definition of Republic

1. Republic 509-27 BC
  - a. Latin- *Res Publica*, which is not a term meant to describe government
  - b. The Republic is not a democracy in modern sense
  - c. *Res Publica* means common public property, or public affairs, as opposed to private affairs.
  - d. Modern scholars use the word Republic to mean the form of government that developed in 5th c. BC, in which the commonwealth/empire was managed jointly by members of the aristocracy who worked within a structure of laws and institutions that limited arbitrary use of power.
  - e. Constitutional problems of *Res Publica*:
    - i. Laws and senate versus people and popular reform
    - ii. *auctoritas patrum*= indelible authority of senate
    - iii. *auctoritas patrum* was religiously sanctioned because state religion was state (literally!)
    - iv. Senate controlled priesthoods: (religious) calendar and divination
    - v. Popular assemblies/sovereignty versus authority of senate
    - vi. conservative popular reform versus creative foreign policy
    - vii. failure to resolve issue of people versus senate/aristocracy led to collapse of republic

#### B. Geography

1. Rome as a city: has the geographic advantage of a river; hills which make it more defensible.
2. These geographic features allowed it to expand into Italy and Mediterranean world.
3. Rome's relationship with Italy was very important. It was pivotal in the development of her empire.
4. The Roman Empire would span great distances, time zones, climates, and native languages, ethnicities, and races, in a part of the world that today is almost impossible to unite politically.
5. Tyrrhenian: geographical meaning Western Basin of the Mediterranean  
Cultural Meaning: Orientalizing Culture of Italy see Learning Module #5
6. Adriatic Eastern Basin of the Mediterranean Sea

**7. Mediterranean: sea connected to the Atlantic Ocean surrounded by the by and the center of the Greek and Roman World: Southern Europe and Anatolia, North Africa, and the Levant**

**8. Magna Graecia: Southern Italy where Greeks colonized: literally “Great Greece”**

**9. Tiber: a river in central Italy, rising in the Tuscan Apennines and flowing south through Rome to the Tyrrhenian Sea**

**10. Apennines: Mountain range extending down Italian peninsula: backbone of Italy**

**11. Stenochoria: land hunger: informed Greek colonization. Not a problem for Italy; agrarian tradition of Romans.**

### **C. Ancient Time Keeping: BC (Before Christ); BCE (Before the Common Era); AD (Anno Domini); CE (Common Era)**

**1. In late 6th c. AD BC and AD was formulated by chronographers and chroniclers in order to have a universal system. Before this: ancients used eponymous chronology (year named after most important magistrate). It was too regional.**

### **Chronology: TIME LINE**

#### **TIME LINE OF PRE\_REPUBLIC & REPUBLIC:**

**2,000,000: glacial period Pleistocene**

**600,000: Stone Age (=later part of Pleistocene) Archaeology: cave sites, nomadic**

**4000: NEOLITHIC: Emergence of agriculture and permanent settlement:**

**2000: Copper technology (tools and ornaments): CHALCOLITHIC**

**Lake Dwellers; Bell Beaker Folk**

**1800–1200: BRONZE AGE**

**1400–1100: Mycenaean contacts with Italy and Sicily**

**1185: Traditional date of Fall of Troy: Aeneas sets off to found Lavinium**

**c. 1000: First traces of settlement at the site of Rome (note that this is not consistent with traditional foundation date).**

**1,000–700: IRON AGE****Indo-Europeans establish linguistic profile of Italy****Villanovan, Latial and Fossa cultures thrive****c. 800: Phoenicians found Carthage****c. 775: Greeks begin to settle in Italy and Sicily****753-509: Traditional Regal/Monarchic Period: Rome ruled by kings****c. 750: Formation of first city-states****700's Introduction of writing to Italy****753–509: REGAL/MONARCHIC PERIOD (Traditional dates)****(Seven kings ruled Rome in succession)****c. 725–580: Orientalizing Period: Greek and Etruscan Influence****c. 700: Cultivation of grape vines and olive trees spreads to central Italy****c. 700: Adoption of hoplite warfare****c. 700–500: Monumental burials (Etruscan and Latin)****700–400: Etruscan and Greek cities at their height in Italy****650–600: Urbanization of Rome: Construction of Forum and public buildings****c. 580–480: ARCHAIC PERIOD****c. 500: First Treaty between Carthage and Rome****c. 509/500: Expulsion of Rome's last king, and establishment of the Republic****509/500 -31: REPUBLIC****500/509-264: EARLY REPUBLIC****c. 500–287: "Struggle of Orders" Secessions****c. 450: Laws of the Twelve Tables**

**c. 396: Romans take over Veii**

**c. 387: “Gallic Sack:” Gaulish mercenaries loot Rome**

**c. 350-264: Age of (Italian) Conquest**

**343–341: First Samnite War**

**341–338: Latin War/Revolt**

**338 BC System of Alliances**

**326-304: Second Samnite War**

**298–290: Third Samnite War**

**280–275: Pyrrhic Wars:**

**c. 280: Rome first issues own coins**

**264-133: MIDDLE REPUBLIC**

**264–241: First Punic War**

**241: Sicily becomes Rome’s first “province”**

**241-237: “Truceless War:” Roman takeover of Sardinia from Carthage**

**227: Sardinia-Corsica becomes a Roman province**

**226: Ebro Treaty: Carthaginians in Spain recognize the Ebro River as their limit**

**218–201: Second Punic War. Final defeat of Hannibal at Zama (202)**

**217–216: Romans are defeated by Carthaginians at Lake Trasimene and at Cannae (216)**

**215–205: First Macedonian “War”**

**c. 211: Rome first mints silver denarii;**

**204: Cult of Magna Mater is brought to Rome**

**198: Two Roman provinces are formed in Spain (Further, Nearer)**

**200–196: Second Macedonian War**

**“Freedom” of the Greeks proclaimed at Rome (196),**

**c. 200: Beginnings of historical writing at Rome;**

**Roman elite engages with Greek literature, philosophy, rhetoric.**

**195: Cato's consulship, and (194) command in Spain**

**c. 200–c. 170: Colonies are established in peninsular Italy and the Po Valley**

**192–189: Rome defeats Antiochus III in Syrian War**

**186–183: Bacchanalian Scandal: Suppression of the cult of Bacchus**

**171–168: Third Macedonian War; end of its monarchy**

**169: Battle of Pydna; Monument of Aemilius Paullus**

**168: Polybius comes to Rome as a hostage**

**c. 155–135: Spanish Wars: Roman wars with Lusitanians and Celtiberians**

**149: "Extortion" court (*quaestio de repetundis*) established**

**149–148: Fourth Macedonian "War"**

**Suppression of Rebellion of Andriscus Macedon becomes Roman province**

**149–146: Third Punic War; destruction of Carthage.**

**Territory becomes province of Africa**

**146: Destruction of Corinth**

**136–132: First Slave War in Sicily**

**133-31: LATE REPUBLIC**

**133: Tribuneship of Tiberius Gracchus**

**130's: Secret ballot is introduced for voting in Roman assemblies**

**133: Capture of Numantia**

**133: Kingdom of Pergamum bequeathed to Rome (129) becomes province of Asia**

**123-122: Tribuneships of Gaius Gracchus; attempts of Gaius to establish colony (Junonia) on site of Carthage**

**121: Province of Transalpine Gaul is formed**

**121: Senatus Consultum Ultimum authorizes the elimination of Gaius Gracchus**

**113-101: German Wars: Confrontation with Cimbri and Teutones**

**112–105: War with Jugurtha in Numidia**

**107, 104, 103, 102: Consulships of Gaius Marius**

- c. 107–101: Major reform of the Roman army**
- 104–100: Second Slave War in Sicily**
- 102: Cilicia annexed as province**
- 100: Tribuneship of Saturninus and (6th) consulship of Marius; downfall of Marius**
- 91: Tribuneship of Livius Drusus**
- 91–87: Social or Marsian War**
- 90–89: Extension of Roman citizenship throughout Italy**
- 88: Tribuneship of Sulpicius Rufus; Sulla's first march on Rome**
- 90–85: War with Mithridates in Asia Minor and Greece; Sulla offers peace terms**
- 87–84: Cinna works to restore stability; death of Marius (86), after he and Cinna had both marched on Rome (87)**
- 86: Financial crisis: three-quarters of all debts are cancelled**
- 83–82: Sulla's second march on Rome; Pompey raises forces in support**
- 82–81: Dictatorship of Sulla; proscriptions; "reforms"**
- 80–73: Sertorius in Spain resists Sullan commanders (Pompey among them) until he is murdered.**
- 78–77: Lepidus marches on Rome; fails to overturn Sulla's program**
- 75: Kingdom of Bithynia is bequeathed to Rome and annexed (74) as province**
- 73–71: Slave revolt of Spartacus**
- 74–63: Lucullus, then (66) Pompey resume war against Mithridates**
- c. 70: Earliest known construction of an amphitheater in stone (at Pompeii)**
- 70: Consulship of Crassus and Pompey; repudiate Sullan program**
- 70: Cicero secures the condemnation of Verres for misgovernment in Sicily**
- 67: Pompey suppresses piracy in the Mediterranean**
- 66: Pompey campaigns against Mithridates**
- 65: Censorship of Crassus**
- 63: Death of Mithridates**
- 64: Syria annexed as province**

- 63: Pontus annexed as province**
- 62: Cicero (consul in 63) exposes Catiline's "great conspiracy"**
- 63: Julius Caesar is elected pontifex maximus**
- 60–59: Formation of "First Triumvirate" (Caesar, Crassus, Pompey)**
- 61–55: Pompey builds a theater complex in the Campus Martius**
- 59: Consulship of Julius Caesar**
- 58–51: Caesar campaigns in Gaul and (55–54) England**
- 58: Tribuneship of Clodius**
- 58–57: Cato Younger makes Cyprus a Roman province; Cicero in exile**
- 58–51: Caesar's "commentaries" on his Gallic campaigns**
- 56: "Triumvirs" meet at Luca to strengthen and extend alliance**
- 55: Consulship of Crassus and Pompey**
- 54: Premature death of Julia**
- 53: Crassus' army invades Parthia and is slaughtered at Carrhae**
- 52: Death of Clodius; "special" consulship of Pompey**
- 51–50: Cicero governs Cilicia and Cyprus**
- 49: (March to fall) Caesar campaigns against Pompeians in Spain; besieges Massalia**
- 49: (January) SCU is passed; Caesar crosses Rubicon River to invade Italy**
- 49: (March) Pompey evacuates Italy**
- 48: Caesar holds (second) consulship, together with one- year dictatorship**
- 48: Pompey is defeated by Caesar at Pharsalus (August), and killed upon arrival in Egypt as a fugitive (September)**
- 48: Debtors' rising in Italy is suppressed by force**
- 48: (October) –mid-47: Caesar in Alexandria; Cleopatra ruler of Egypt;**
- 47: (Fall)–mid-46: Caesar campaign in Africa; victory over Pompeians at Thapsus; Cato commits suicide**
- 47: (summer) Caesar defeats Pharnaces at Zela**

- 46: Caesar holds (third) consulship, and is appointed to ten-year dictatorship**
- 46: New “Julian” calendar introduced; dedication of Forum Julium in Rome**
- 46: (Fall) –mid-45 Second campaign in Spain; Caesar’s victory over Pompeians in Battle of Munda**
- 45: Caesar holds (fourth) consulship, and continues as dictator**
- 44: Caesar holds (fifth) consulship and (February) made perpetual dictator**
- 44: March 15 he is assassinated**
- 44: Caesar becomes the first living Roman whose head appears on coins;**