

HI126-Lecture 6

Rome: From Republic to Empire

- ROME** began as a settlement of farmers and shepards on seven hills overlooking the Tiber River
- Became a vast city and the capital of a huge empire
- Founded by Romulus and Remus that were raised by a she-wolf
- Romans believed there was an exceptional destiny from the two twin brother
- The Roman empire has shaped Western Civilization: it gave centuries of unity to Western Civilization, left lasting dreams of European political unity, forged a new Graeco-roman civilization—Rome allied with or conquered and then absorb other peoples first in Italy
- at first, each of the three Roman tribes contributed 1,000 men to the army
- in the 7/6th centuries BC, the romans adopted the Greek phalanx
 - men aged 17-46 with wealth served as hoplites while the poor served with poor weapon
- the phalanx proved unsuitable in fighting the Celts from the North, who sacked Rome in 390 Bc
- the romans now developed the LEGION- from the latin legit: “levy”
- the army reorganized into legions of about 4,000-5,000 infantry each: phalanx with joints
 - each legion was divided int 30 maniples oft centuries
 - from 107BC each legion was divided into 10 cohorts of 6 centuries each

Weapons of Roman legionary soldier:

- puggio=dagger, gladius=sword, scutum=shield, pilum=javelin
- roman soldiers hurled their javelins, then closed enemy and engaged them with shield
- gladius was used for slashing, but especially for thrusting and jabbing
- gradually rome defeated her neighbours and turned them into **socii (allies)**

Roman Citizenship:

- The *Lex Julia* extended Roman citizenship to most freeborn Italians
- Roman citizens could hold office and vote for officials,, but voting was in Rome itself
 - Citizens could not be tortured and could be executed for treason
- In the third century Rome came into conflict with the Carthaginian Empire over control of Sicily, which led to the **PUNIC WARS**(264-146)
- Carthage has been founded by seafaring Phoenician colonists from Tyre

The First Punic War (264-241)

- to drive the Carthaginians out of Sicily, the Romans had to build a fleet to cut the Punic army off from Carthage
- to compensate for their lack of seamanship the Romans built with *corvi*
- Romans won war

The Second Punic War(218-201) BC

- Carthaginian expansion to Iberia (Spain) led to renewed conflict with Rome
- 218BC: Hannibal led a Carthaginian army from Spain, to France and across the Alps into Italy with 20,000 men and horses and elephants
- Hannibal campaigned for 15 years in Italy with the supported of the French and some Italians
- He annihilated several roman armies most notably battle of Cannae (216BC) where 50,000 romans died
- But Romans recruited more men and a new dictator: *Quintus Fabius Maximus*
 - adopted the Fabian Strategy- avoided pitched battle and wearing down enemy by attrition*

-he led a Roman army in the invasion North Africa and Carthage recalled

The Third Punic War (149-146BC)

- At the end of the Second Punic War, the Romans stripped Carthage of the most of its empire obliged it to reduce its army and navy and imposed a heavy financial indemnity
- but determined to destroy Carthage, Rome declared war 50 years later and laid siege to the city
- After capturing it in 146 BC, the Romans destroyed Carthage
- The same year a Roman army took Corinth
- Greece became 2 Roman provinces: *Achaia and Epirus*
- Also in 146BC- after a series of wars between Rome and the Kingdom of Macedonia
- Turned it into a Roman province

Social Changes in Rome= The Transformation of the Roman Army

- The army was mainly a citizen militia of a small independent property owners: an estimated 17-29% of all adult males were recruited for six years
- as Rome expanded, campaigning went on for longer periods and there was also long-term garrison duty in the empire
- military service became long and burdensome...& many farmers lost their land while away fighting for long periods
- at the same time, imports of cheap grain from the new territories undercut Italian farmers and many went bankrupt and lost their land
- Rich *patricians* bought up the land and established *latifundia* worked by slaves
- there was an increase on poor *proletarians* who were poor people

The Marian Reforms(107BC)

- Roman statesman *Gaius Marius* turned the Roman army from a citizen militia into a long-serving professional force with a new relationship to society and the state
 - propertyless proletarians could enlist as volunteers for 16 years
- the state equipped and paid soldiers
- the Roman Senate appointed generals, giving men high social rank and command an army
- the soldiers developed loyalty to their commanders, with whom they now had a patron
- the soldiers looked to their generals to get them rewards: pay, supplies, booty
- soldiers became a distinct caste, separate from civilian society
- the unintended result of the Marian reforms was to undermine the army's allegiance to the Roman state, to reinforce its allegiance to its generals and to create a new political situation
 - the legions became political weapons in the rivalries between the generals
- There was sixty years of civil war(88-60BC) as rival generals jockeyed power and their struggles were complicated by broader social political conflict in Rome:
 - between **Optimates** (best men)
 - the **Populares** (popular): reformists, often high social rank
- a victorious general would post a proscription list sentencing his opponents to death and confiscating their property
- Julius Caesar emerged victorious in 45 BC and the Senate named him "Dictator for Life"
- he began a program of reform, but grouped a senators, fearing that Caesar aimed to be king, assassinated him on the Ides of March

- his great-nephew and adopted son Octavian Caesar took up his heritage and a new series of civil wars began until Octavian won out over Mark Anthony and Cleopatra
- Octavian kept the outward trappings of the roman constitution, but in fact he established a regime: he was **princeps or imperator**
- the senate gave him the name AUGUSTUS
- _augustus is considered the First Roman Emperor- the republic was now at an end and a new era in history began
- he ruled for 44 years and on his death his powers passed to his stepson: Tiberius