

# Pax Romana

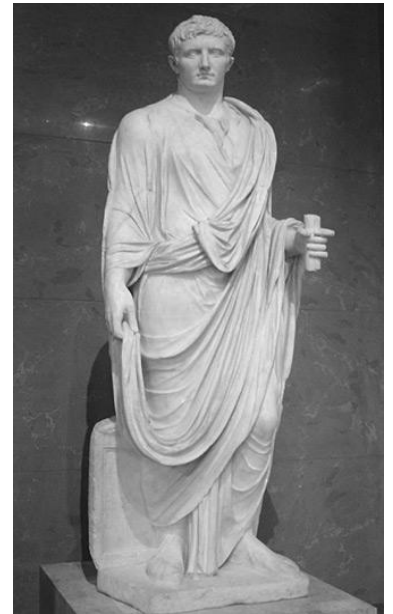
## Fallout from Caesar's death

- Second Triumvirate formed
  - o Mark Antony, Lepidus, and Octavian
- Leads to Civil War for control
  - o Triumvirate vs Brutus and Cassius
  - o Then war between members of Triumvirate
  - o Caesar's Nephew, Octavian, is eventual victor
    - Lepidus forced to retire
    - Antony and Cleopatra defeated at battle of Actium

## Julio-Claudian Dynasty (27 B.C.E. – 14 C.E.)

### Augustus Caesar (27 B.C.E. – 14 C.E.)

- AKA. Caesar Augustus, Augustus, Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus, Gaius Octavius, Octavian
- Took throne by beating or killing all political opponents
- Used Sister and Daughter as political tool
  - o Forced divorces and marriages
    - Daughter Julio exiled for unfaithfulness
- Once Augustus takes throne begins period of *Pax Romana*
  - o Roman Peace
- FIRST EMPEROR
  - o Consolidation of Empire under the rule of one person
  - o *Princeps*
    - "First Citizen" – Full Emperor power for life (27 B.C.E.)
      - Makes sure that his heir is granted the same power
- Expansion of Empire under Augustus
  - o Fought battles along borders to protect Roman frontiers
    - Teutoburger
      - Losing three legions in Germania
      - Publius Varus leading legions and auxiliaries into forest
      - Ambushed by Germanic warriors
      - All killed or Enslaved



### Tiberius (14 C.E. – 37 C.E.)

- Stepson of Augustus
  - o Adopted by Augustus
- Celebrated General
  - o Conquering northern Adriatic territories
- Seemed to hate power but want more of it
- Consolidated Rule
  - o Killing off anyone else who might have claim (Verge of paranoia)

### Caligula (37 C.E. – 41 C.E.)

- Great nephew of Tiberius
  - o Picked by Tiberius to succeed
- Son of Roman General Germanicus
  - o "little Boots"
- First two years ruled well

- After that power goes to his head and becomes obsessed with himself
- Abuses of power
  - Exhausted State Treasury
  - Incest
  - Killed for the fun of it
  - Considered himself a god
  - Made horse a priest
  - Sexual Fiend
  - Looting trip to Egypt
- Good uses of power
  - Aqua Claudia and Aqua Novus
  - Added Mauretania to empire
    - Modern day Morocco
- Assassinated by Praetorian guard as part of Senate plot
  - Attempt to restore republic
  - Instead proclaim Claudius emperor

### **Claudius (41-54 C.E)**

- Rise to Power by bribery
- Described as being a good emperor
  - Invaded Britain
  - Public Works (Aqueducts)
  - Interest in law
    - Personally presided over court cases
  - Expanded empire
    - Thrace
    - Judea
- Heavily influenced by others
  - Senators influenced him heavily
  - Convinced by wife to name her son Nero as heir
    - Poisoned by wife
      - Wife was also his niece

### **Nero (54-68 C.E.)**

- Direct descendant of Augustus
- First part of rule he was just a puppet
  - Had puppet masters killed
- Thought of himself as an actor
  - Had many theaters made
- Burning of Rome in 64 C.E.
  - Third of Rome burned down
  - Nero suspected of starting fire
  - Seen on a tower playing his lyre
  - Built massive pleasure palace on site
  - Blames fire on Christians
    - Begins persecution of Christians
- Problems of Nero
  - 65 C.E. – Senatorial Conspiracy
    - Complained they had no power
    - Wanted to restore republic
      - Conspirators killed
  - 66-67 C.E. – Jewish Rebellion



- Vespasian dispatched
      - Destruction of second Solomon’s Temple
  - 67 C.E. – Rebellion in Gaul
    - Complained about taxes
    - Governor of Hispania joins
      - Galba
- Death of Nero
  - Committed suicide in 68 C.E.
    - “What an actor dies in me”

#### Roman Civil War

- Nero dies without clear heir to throne
- Roman Generals vie for power
- Rapid transitions of power
- Year of the Four Emperors
  - 69 C.E.
  - Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian
- Vespasian overall victor
  - Powerful support base in Eastern Roman Empire
  - Establishes new Dynasty
    - With military backing

### The Flavian Dynasty (69 C.E. – 96 C.E.)

#### Emperors of the Flavian Dynasty

- Vespasian 69-79 C.E.
- Titus 79-81 C.E.
- Domitian 81-96 C.E.

#### Accomplishments of the Flavians

- Set out to re-establish people’s faith in Emperor
- Re-Stabilized Army
- Fixed Treasury
- Improved Social Conditions
- Building of the Colosseum
  - “Flavian’s Amphitheatre”
  - Started by emperor Vespasian but completed by Titus



#### Last Days of Pompeii

- 79 C.E. Mount Versuvius Erupts, burying town of Pompeii in 4-6m of ash
- City discovered again in 1749 C.E.
  - Offered a mostly intact look at a Roman city

#### The Nerva Antonine Dynasty

- Nerva Emperors
  - Nerva (96-98 C.E.) – Established Dynasty and tried to involve senate more
  - Trajan (98-117 C.E.) – Added Armenia and Mesopotamia to Empire, massive public works projects (Forum)

- Hadrian (117-138 C.E.) – Extended Empire in Britain, built many temples. Revived Rome and Greece
  - Between years 147-150 Rome Reached its greatest extent
  - Build Hadrians wall to establish northern border
    - Except for 20 yr span
    - Meant to prevent Celtic warriors from attacking Roman Settlements
- Reasons for success of Emperors
  - Emperors of dynasty adopted acceptable heirs
  - Passed over biological sons
  - Allowed them to choose strong emperors



### The Antonine Dynasty

- Antoninus Pius (138-161 C.E.)
  - Strictly followed Roman traditions
  - shared power with Senate
- Marcus Aurelius (161-180 C.E.) / Lucius Verus (161-169 C.E.)
  - Stoic Philosophers
  - Defeated Parthian Empire but major German problems
  - Overall moral and just rule.
  - Last of the “5 good emperors”
- Commodus 180-192
  - De-valued Roman money
  - Increasing political instability
  - Wanted the perks but not responsibility
  - Corruption
  - Let power get a hold of him
  - *End of Pax Romana*
    - Beginning of Decline of Empire