

THE FALL OF ROME

The Principate of Augustus

- 27 BCE- Octavian “_____,” grandnephew of Julius Caesar, becomes the first Emperor of Rome.
- He founds the _____ government, which retained the structure of the _____, including the Senate, but with the Emperor, or “Princeps” (first citizen) having total control.
- While officially the _____ had to approve new a new Emperor, it was the choice of the previous emperor that made the real decision, or in times of conflict, the will of the _____

Julio-Claudian Dynasty

- Following the example of Julius Caesar and Augustus, the next emperors took _____ sons as heirs
- While Augustus was well-liked by the people for stabilizing and building up Rome, his successors were _____ popular
 - _____, who was described by historians as insane, cruel, and incestuous, was killed by his own soldiers
 - _____, who was accused of setting fire to Rome, lost the loyalty of the army, and committed _____ to avoid being killed

Flavian Dynasty

- Nero’s death led to _____ war and the Year of the Four Emperors, which ended with Vespasian, a military leader who put down the Great _____ Revolt (66-69 CE), as the new emperor, beginning the Flavian Dynasty
- His son Titus completed the conquest of Jerusalem and destruction of the Holy _____, and later became emperor himself, building the _____ (aka Flavian Amphitheater)

Nerva-Antonine Dynasty

- The following Nerva-Antonine Dynasty saw Rome expand to its greatest extent under the “_____ Good Emperors,” identified as Nerva, _____, _____, Antoninus Pius, and _____
- Marcus Aurelius was admired for his book Meditations, which reflected his love of _____
- After defeating the _____ Empire in war, Roman troops carried back the Antonine Plague (probably _____) which killed about 5 million people, especially Roman soldiers, as well as the Emperor
- His son Commodus was self-obsessed and a terrible ruler, seen as the beginning of Rome’s decline

Crisis of the Third Century (235-284 CE)

- Several bad emperors were assassinated or overthrown, leading to the Crisis of the Third Century, which saw 26 emperors in 50 years, mostly _____ fighting for power
- Two parts of the Empire broke away from Rome, forming the _____ Empire in Gaul and Britannia and the _____ Empire in Syria and Egypt
- Also during this period, the _____ and _____ emerged as a major threat to Rome

- Although the Empire was eventually reunited, the Crisis did serious damage
 - Wars did not make _____, so to pay soldiers, Emperors had devalued the currency, putting _____ in coins, which caused _____ (rise in prices) and people avoiding money altogether
 - Invasions and division of the Empire made travel _____ for merchants, causing decline in _____
 - People began to move to _____ areas to work as farmers for rich _____ who protected them

Diocletian & Constantine

- Emperor _____ tried to stabilize the Empire by dividing rule between four emperors, called the _____, a system that soon collapsed
- He is also known for beginning the most _____ persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire and for abandoning the title of Princeps for the title _____, meaning Lord, beginning the Dominate Period
- Emperor Constantine reunited the Empire, and moved the capital to _____, renamed _____, in the more prosperous East. However, the empire soon split between East and West.
- Constantine also _____ Christianity, ending persecutions and beginning a series of Christian Emperors until Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the _____ religion of the Empire.

Invasion and Collapse

- Rome had become too _____ to maintain, and its weakened military was too widely _____, so Rome had to make _____ with the Germanic peoples living on their borders in which they paid them to protect Rome from other invaders (_____ = soldiers for hire) and gave them training
- However, Rome was running out of money and could not _____, so these groups were no longer _____, and they began to attack Rome for breaking _____, so the Romans had to give away chunks of _____ to stay safe, causing the Empire to continually shrink
- Additionally, new groups of invaders, especially the _____ from the East, forced more and more Germanic populations to flee toward Rome as _____, and they were often mistreated by the Romans, which led them to attack Rome as well
- Under the leader _____, the Huns became a rival Empire in the north, and Rome faced further attacks from the Huns
- 476 CE- The last emperor was _____ from power by the Germanic Warlord Odoacer, who became King of Italy, but by this point, there was barely any “Rome” left to fall

After the Fall

- The _____ became divided into a number of Germanic _____, most people lived as farmers on large agricultural estates, and the _____ grew in its influence and control under the authority of the Pope.
- The _____ Roman Empire continued on for another thousand years, known today as the _____ Empire, maintaining Roman and Greek culture, traditions, and learning.