

Pr. Doug Allen

TIMELINE OF ROMAN HISTORY

The Kings of Rome

753-715: Romulus

715-673: Numa Pompilius

673-642: Tullus Hostilius

642-617: Ancus Martius (According to Livy, founder of Ostia, Rome's first colony)

616-579: L. Tarquinius Priscus (builds the Cloaca Maxima, the first sewer, Forum drained, Lapis Niger, and Forum Stele)

578-535: Servius Tullius (Constructs the "Servian" Wall.)

534-510: Tarquinius Superbus (Begins the Capitoline Temple)

The Early Republic: 509 BCE: The Founding of the Republic

494 BCE: The protest of the plebeians and the establishment of the Tribune of the Plebs

450 BC: the Twelve Tables of the Roman law

396 BC: Roma conquers the Etruscan city of Veii

390 BC: the Gauls/Celts sack Roma

326 BC: the Circus Maximus is built

312 BC: the Via Appia is opened

312 BC: the first aqueduct, the Aqua Appia, is built

308 BC: Roma conquers the Etruscan city of Tarquinia

295 BC: Roma defeats the Gauls/Celts in northern Italy

287 BC: the Lex Hortensia makes plebiscites binding

280 BC: Rome issues coins

275 BC: Rome conquers southern Italy (Greek colonies)

272 BC: a second aqueduct, the Anio Vetus, is built

Middle Republic: The Punic Wars and Roman hegemony over the Mediterranean

264 BC: Roma and Carthage fight the first Punic war

264 BC: the Romans destroy the last vestiges of the Etruscan civilization (Volsinies)

222 BC: the Gauls are defeated

221 BC: the Circus Flaminius

218 BC: Second Punic War / Hannibal invades Italy

214 BC: war machines designed by Greek mathematician Archimedes save the city of Syracuse, an ally of Carthage, from a Roman naval attack

202 BC: Scipio defeats Hannibal and Roma annexes Spain

196 BC: the Romans defeat the Macedonian king Philip V at Cynoscephalae

189 BC: Antiochus III, king of the Seleucids, is defeated at the battle of Magnesia and surrenders his possessions in Europe and Asia Minor

184 BC: the Basilica Porcia

149 BC: Rome destroys Carthage

149 BC: Rome conquers Greece with the battle of Corinth (and destroys Corinth)

133 BC: Attalus III of Pergamum wills his kingdom to Roma and the whole Mediterranean Sea is under Roman control ("mare nostrum")
106 BC: the Romans defeat Jugurtha, king of Numidia

The Late Republic: Rise of the Political Parties and Civil War

88 BC: Italians are granted full citizenship
83 BC: Sulla becomes dictator
74 BC: Cicero enters the senate
73 BC: Spartacus leads the revolt of the gladiators
71 BC: Mithridates VI of Pontus is conquered by Roman general Lucius Lucullus
69 BC: Rome invades Tigranes' Armenian kingdom and destroys its capital, Tigranocerta
64 BC: Syria becomes a Roman province under general Pompey (Gnaeus Pompeius)
63 BC: Pompey captures Jerusalem and annexes Palestine to Rome
53 BC: in the first war against Persia, Crassus is defeated by the Parthians at Carrhae (Syria)
51 BC: Caesar crushes revolt of Vercingetorix in Gaul
49 BC: Caesar becomes dictator, begins construction of "Imperial Fora"
47 BC: Caesar invades Egypt and appoints Cleopatra queen
45 BC: Julius Caesar employs the Egyptian astronomer Sosigenes to work out a new 12-month calendar (Julian calendar)
44 BC: Caesar is killed.
31 BC: Octavianus (Augustus) becomes the first emperor after defeating Mark Anthony at the battle of Actium
30 BC: Cleopatra commits suicide and Egypt is annexed to Rome

The Empire: 27 BC: Octavian becomes Princeps, and Dictator for life.

The Julio-Claudian Emperors:

20 BC: a treaty between Roma and Persia (Parthians) fixes the boundary between the two empires along the Euphrates river (Iraq)
17 BC: the theater of Marcellus
13 BC: Augustus expands the borders to the region of the Danube
2 AD: the Forum of Augustus constructed
5 AD: Rome acknowledges Cymbeline, King of the Catuvellauni, as king of Britain
6 AD: Augustus expands the borders to the Balkans
12 AD: The last Etruscan inscription is carved
14 AD: Augustus dies and **Tiberius** becomes emperor
14 AD: five million people live in the Roman empire
25 AD: Agrippa builds the Pantheon
37 AD: Tiberius dies and the mad **Caligula** succeeds him
41 AD: Caligula is assassinated and is succeeded by **Claudius**
43 AD: Claudius invades Britain
46 AD: Thracia becomes a Roman province
50 AD: the Romans found Londinium in Britain
54 AD: Claudius is succeeded by **Nero**
58 AD: the Romans conquer Armenia
64 AD: Fire / Nero blames Christians / People blame Nero.

Flavian Emperors:

68 AD: Nero commits suicide and is succeeded by **Vespasian**

79 AD: Vespasian succeeded by **Titus**

70 AD: Titus destroys Jerusalem and Jews spread in Armenia, Iraq, Iran, Arabia, Egypt, Italy, Spain and Greece

77 AD: the Romans conquer Wales

79 AD: the Vesuvius erupts and Pompeii is buried under ash

79 AD: the Colosseum is completed

80 AD: the Romans invade Caledonia (Scotland)

81 AD: the Arch of Titus. **Domitian** succeeds Titus

84 AD: British rebels are defeated by the Romans at the battle of Mons Graupius

97 AD: Rome forbids human sacrifice throughout the Roman empire

96 AD: Domitian assassinated.

The Antonines

96 AD: **Nerva** sets up practice of “adopting” emperors. Builds Forum Transitorium

98 AD: **Trajan** becomes emperor

106 AD: Trajan defeats Dacia that becomes a Roman province

106 AD: Trajan captures the Nabataean capital Petra (Jordan) and turns Nabataea into the province of Arabia

112 AD: the Forum of Trajan is constructed

116 AD: Trajan conquers Mesopotamia and the Parthian capital Ctesiphon

117 AD: Trajan dies on his way to the Persian Gulf and **Hadrian** becomes emperor

122 AD: Hadrian's Wall is built along the northern frontier to protect from the Barbarians

126 AD: Pantheon constructed

132 AD: Jews, led by Bar-Kochba, whom some identify as the Messiah, revolt against Rome

134 AD: Hadrian's Villa constructed (126-136 AD)

136 AD: Hadrian crushes the Jewish resistance, forbids Jews from ever entering Jerusalem, and rebuilds the city as Aelia Capitolina

138: Hadrian is succeeded by **Antoninus Pius**, who repeals Hadrian's anti-Jewish laws

139: Hadrian's mausoleum (Castel Sant'Angelo)

161: **Marcus Aurelius** becomes Roman emperor

164: the plague spreads throughout the Roman empire

180: **Commodus** regins with Marcus Aurelius

The Severan Emperors

212: Caracalla grants Roman citizenship on all free people who live in the Roman Empire

214: Caracalla murders King Abgar IX of Edessa and declares Edessa a Roman colony

216: the thermae of Caracalla

217: the Baths of Caracalla are inaugurated

217: Caracalla is murdered in Edessa

Brief return of the Antonines

218: Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, the last of the Antonines, becomes emperor and promotes the cult of Elegabalus, a Syriac sun god

244: Shapur I becomes king of the Sassanids and attacks Rome

250: emperor Decius orders the first systematic persecution of Christians

256: the Persians/Sassanids defeat the Romans and conquer Dura Europus in Mesopotamia

- 273: the Romans destroy the rebellious city of Palmyra in Syria
- 284: Diocletian becomes emperor but rules from Nicomedia in the East
- 295: Diocletian sets up the Tetrarchs, dividing the Empire into four Praetorian Prefects, each ruled by a "junior" emperor.
- 298: Rome captures Nisibis and the Sassanids sign a peace treaty with Roma
- 300: the population of the Roman Empire is 60 million (about 15 million Christians)
- 303: Diocletian orders a general persecution of the Christians
- 303: the Baths of Diocletian
- 312: Constantine becomes emperor
- 313: Constantine ends the persecution of the Christians (edict of Milano)

Christianity made legal:

- 313: Constantine recognizes the Christian church
- 330: Constantine I builds a new city, Constantinople (Byzantium)
- 337: after Constantine's death, his sons split the empire: Constantine II (Spain, Britain, Gaul), Constans I (Italy, Africa, Illyricum, Macedon, Achaea) and Constantius II (the East)
- 356: Rome has 28 libraries, 10 basilicas, 11 great public baths, over 800 lesser baths, two amphitheaters, three theaters, two circuses, 19 aqueducts, 11 public fora, 1,352 fountains, 46,602 insulae (city blocks)
- 359: Constantinople becomes the capital of the Roman empire
- 360: pagan (Mithraist) general Julian (the "apostate") defeats an invasion of Barbarians and is declared emperor by his German troops
- 363: Julian dies attempting to invade the Sassanid kingdom of Persia, which recaptures Nisibis and Armenia, and general Valentinian becomes emperor
- 363: an earthquake destroys Petra
- 364: Valentinian delegates Valens as emperor of the East
- 376: Valens allows Visigoths to settle within the empire
- 378: the Visigoths defeat the Roman army at Hadrianopolis
- 380: Theodosius I proclaims Christianity as the sole religion of the Roman Empire
- 393: Theodosius forbids the Olympic Games because pagans and shuts down the temple of Zeus at Olympia
- 395: Theodosius divides the Roman empire in the Western and Eastern Empires, with Milano and Constantinople as their capitals
- 402: the western Roman empire moves the capital from Milan to Ravenna
- 406: Barbarians invade France from the north
- 410: the Visigots sack Roma
- 410: Rome withdraws from Britannia
- 418: the emperor grants Wallia's Visigoths to settle in Aquitaine (Atlantic coast of France)
- 425: the eastern emperor Theodosius II installs Valentinian III as emperor of the west
- 427: Genseric's Vandals crosses the strait of Gibraltar and lands in Africa
- 443: the emperor grants Burgundi to settle in Savoy
- 450: Theodosius II dies and Marcian succeeds him, the first Roman emperor to be crowned by a religious leader (the patriarch of Constantinople)
- 452: the Huns invade Italy
- 455: the Vandals sack Roma
- 476: Odoacer, a mercenary in the service of Roma, leader of the Germanic soldiers in the Roman army, deposes the western Roman emperor and thereby terminates the western Roman empire
- 488: emperor Zeno sends Theodoric's Ostrogoths (still settled in Pannonia) to conquer Italy
- 500: Roma's population has declined to less than 100,000 people
- 526: Antioch in Syria is destroyed by an earthquake

- 527: Justinian becomes eastern Roman emperor
527: Byzantium enforces anti-Jewish laws and the Jews all but disappear from the eastern Roman Empire
529: Roman emperor Justinian shuts down the Academia of Plato
533: Justinian's code of law ("Corpus Juri Civilis") is published
537: Justinian's general Belisarius deposes pope Silverius and replaces him with pope Vigilius
534: Justinian's general Belisarius destroys the Arian kingdom of the Vandals and reconquers southern Spain and northern Africa
536: the Ostrogoths surrender and Belisarius reconquers Rome (beginning of the Barbar wars)
537: Justinian builds the church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople
540: Justinian's general Belisarius takes Ravenna from the last Ostrogothic resistance and thus reconquers Italy to the empire
542: the plague decimates the Empire
546: Visigothic rebels led by Totila sack Roma
551: imperial troops reconquer Rome
552: Nestorian monks smuggle silkworm eggs from China to Byzantium
554: Rome is reduced to a camp of about 30,000 people, while Constantinople has about one million people
554: the new king of the Visigoths, Athanagild, accepts the emperor's sovereignty over Spain
554: the empire reorganizes Italy as an imperial province (end of the Barbar wars)
565: Justinian dies
568: Alboin's Lombards invade northern Italy
600: Constantinople has 500,000 inhabitants
602: the Persians (Sassanids) attack the eastern Roman empire in Asia Minor
610: Heraclius I overthrows the tyrant Phocas and becomes emperor
614: the Persians (Sassanids) capture Jerusalem
614: the Visigoths reconquer all of Spain from the Roman empire
619: the Persians capture Egypt
620: the Visigoths conquer the last Roman possession in Spain
626: the Sassanids besiege Constantinople
627: the Sassanid king Khusrav II is defeated by Roman emperor Heraclius at Niniveh
628: the Romans retake Syria from the Sassanids
636: Arabs capture Syria and Palestine
639: the Arabs invade the southern provinces of the Empire
673: the Arabs besiege Constantinople
714: the Arabs besiege Constantinople
718: Leo III repels the Arabs from Constantinople
726: Emperor Leo III orders the destruction of all icons (iconoclasm)
739: emperor Leo III issues the Ecloga that introduces Christian principles into law
800: Charlemagne, king of the Franks, is crowned emperor by Pope Leo III and founds the Holy Roman Empire
811: the eastern Roman emperor recognized Charlemagne as emperor of Roma
812: a peace treaty between Charlemagne and the Eastern Roman Empire surrenders Venezia to the Eastern empire but grants Venezia the right to trade with the Holy Roman Empire
813: an Armenian general becomes eastern Roman emperor Leo V
840: Basil's fleet retakes Bari from the Muslims
843: Icons are restored
846: the city of Roma has 17,000 inhabitants
860: the Rus attack Constantinople
867: Basil I becomes the Byzantine emperor and founds the Macedonian dynasty

879: Basil I defeats the Arabs and reconquers Cappadocia
896: Symeon of Bulgaria defeats the Byzantine army for the first time
922: Symeon of Bulgaria defeats the Byzantine army for the fourth and last time
934: Magyars raid Constantinople
968: Nicephorus II defeats the Arabs and reconquers Syria
969: Nicephorus II defeats the Bulgars
976: Basil II becomes the Byzantine emperor
1018: Basil II annexes Bulgaria and the Byzantine empire reaches its zenith
1025: Basil II dies
1054: The patriarch of Constantinople and the pope in Roma excommunicate each other (the Great Schism)
1057: end of the Macedonian dynasty
1064: the Seljuks invade Armenia
1071: the Byzantine army of Romanus IV Diogenes is defeated by the Seljuks at Manzikert in Armenia, and establish a sultanate in Anatolia
1071: Normans led by Robert Guiscard conquer southern Italy from the eastern Roman empire
1081: Alexius I Komnenos establishes the Komnenos dynasty
1099: the first Crusade captures Jerusalem
1187: Saladin defeats the crusaders
1204: the Crusaders, led by the Doge of Venezia, sack Constantinople, expel the Greek emperor Alexius III and set up a Latin kingdom, led by Baldwin I of the Flanders, while Venezia acquires territories in the Mediterranean and Black Seas
1204: Theodore I Lascaris, son-in-law of Alexius III, flees from Constantinople to Nicaea (Bithynia), where he founds a the empire, whereas Alexius founds the empire of Trebizond further east
1211: Nicaea emperor Theodore I Lascaris conquers most of Anatolia
1261: Constantinople is liberated by the Nicaean emperor Michael VIII Paleologus and Greek becomes the official language of the ever smaller eastern Roman empire
1291: the Moslems expel the Crusaders from the Middle East
1345: Serbia defeats the eastern Roman empire and annexes Macedonia and Thrace
1347: the plague (Black Death) strikes Constantinople and it will kill half the population of the city
1348: Serbia defeats the eastern Roman empire and annexes Thessaly and Epirus
1453: the Ottoman Turks under Mehmet II capture Constantinople
1461: the Ottomans conquer the empire of Trebizond, the last Greek state. The last vestige of the Empire is gone.