Aim: What was the legacy of the Roman empire to successor Western civilizations?
“All roads lead to Rome.”
What does this quote mean?
Augustus Caesar, formerly known as Octavian, ushered in a new period in the history of Ancient Rome. After eliminating all rivals during a bloody civil war, Augustus laid foundation for the most successful political structures of antiquity – the Roman Empire. “The system was flexible and based on the strength of the Roman army and willing association of peoples and cities.” Augustus was declared a Princep, “first among equals.” Under the Principate (early Roman Empire is usually associated with the first three centuries CE), senators, equites, and the provincial elites shared in the rule or at least were given a voice in the system. The real power, of course, was in the hands of an emperor, a military dictator, who owed his position to the loyalty of his army. One of the unique features of the system, and its clear weakness, was that the emperor, who was the head of state, was not chosen by any specific legal process or “constitutional” means. Therefore, there were always some difficulties with figuring out the legitimate successor.

**CRITICAL THINKING QUESTION:**
What are some possible outcomes of those “difficulties”?
Octavius, later Augustus

April, 44 BCE: Caesar's nineteen-year-old great-nephew, Gaius Octavius Thurinus, entered Rome to claim his inheritance. Caesar's will had named him chief heir and adopted him as his son, making his name now Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus (so modern historians usually call him Octavian until he received the title Augustus in 27 BCE). His claim was not well received by Antony, but after many machinations on both sides they eventually reconciled, at least on the surface.

Partial bronze statue of Octavian -- National Archeological Museum of Athens
I. CONTINUATION OF ROMAN EMPIRE

A. AUGUSTUS 27 B.C.E. -14 C.E.

1. Augustus maintained republican forms while securing domination of the government, “Monarchy disguised as a republic”. He brought civil conflict to an end and consolidated his regime by instituting moral reforms, banning mystery religions in favor of traditional ceremonies, & strengthening family legislation. A building program created new jobs. Augustus reformed provincial control and rewarded the military for loyal service. The army (praetorian guard) was the source of power, a factor causing trouble when unclear succession mechanisms for selecting new emperors brought instability, or when incompetent emperors ruled.
Augustus

you're the first emperor of Rome. You defeated Mark Antony and boasted on your death bed that you turned Rome from clay into marble.

Your greatest achievement was the Pax Romana, the Roman peace.
B. Continuing Expansion and Integration of the Empire
1) Roman expansion into Med. basin, W Europe, down Nile to Kush.
2) PAX ROMANA, Roman Peace, for ~250 years.
3) Well-engineered Roman roads; postal system.
AUGUSTUS
63 B.C.—A.D. 14

Octavian was born to a wealthy family in a small Italian town southeast of Rome. During his youth, Octavian suffered a number of illnesses. He refused to let his illnesses interfere with his life, however, showing the determination that would later make him Rome’s first emperor.

Octavian’s father was a Roman senator, but it was Octavian’s great-uncle—Julius Caesar—who first introduced Octavian to public life in Rome. In his late teens, Octavian joined Caesar in Africa and then the following year in Spain. At the age of 18, while Octavian was studying at school, he learned that his great-uncle had been murdered. In his will, Caesar had adopted Octavian as his son. Caesar had also made Octavian his heir—a position that Antony had assumed would be his. Against his family’s advice, Octavian went to Rome to claim his inheritance. By the time he reached Rome, however, Antony had seized Caesar’s papers and money and refused to give them to Octavian. With remarkable political savvy for someone so young, Octavian turned the situation around in his favor. He won the hearts of Caesar’s soldiers and the people of Rome by celebrating the public games that Caesar had started.

In his rise to power and during his reign as Emperor Augustus, Octavian pushed himself and his loyal followers with relentless energy. In his private life, however, he lived simply and quietly and shunned personal luxury. He was devoted to his wife, Livia Drusilla, and spent his spare time with her at their home on the outskirts of Rome.

“I extended the frontiers of all the provinces of the Roman people.”


Then and Now

Augustus overcame the obstacles of illness and political enemies to become a great emperor. Can you think of any present-day individuals who overcame obstacles to excel at something?
II. Economy and Society in the Roman Mediterranean
A. TRADE AND URBANIZATION

1) *Latifundia* owners focused on specialized production for export.
2) The Mediterranean became a “Roman lake”.
   a. Sea lanes linked ports of the Mediterranean.
   b. Roman navy kept the seas largely free of pirates.
3. **ROME**
- Wealth of the city fueled its urban development.
- Statues, pools, fountains, arches, temples, stadiums.
- First use of concrete as construction material.
- Rome attracted numerous immigrants.
- Attractions: *aqueducts, roads, baths, pools, gymnasia, circuses, stadiums, amphitheaters.*
The Roman Road

Stone blocks

Crushed stone in cement

Stone slabs in cement

Sand

Drainage ditch
Roman Roads

Rome was famous for was their system of roads. Romans built over 53,000 miles (85,000 kilometers) of roads to connect every part of their empire. The roads were mostly built by the army and were all done by hand. The system of roads connected together every province in the empire. The Romans had a saying "All roads lead to Rome." One could start traveling on a Roman road in northwest Africa, travel around the entire Mediterranean sea, end up in Rome and never have left a Roman road.

The roads were first surveyed to keep them straight. Roadbeds were dug three feet down and twenty three feet across. It was then filled with large gravel and sand for the foundation. A layer of smaller gravel was placed down and leveled. The sides were lined with blocks and hand-carved stones. Stones were often pentagonal in shape (five sided) and fitted together to make the top layer of the road. The roads were sloped from the center so rainwater would drain off into ditches at the sides of the roads.
Roman Trade Routes

Goods were continually transported throughout the Roman Empire. The most effective way to transport goods was by sea. The type of ship commonly used by the Romans was known as Corbitas. It is described as "a round-hulled ship with curving prow and stern. Depending on its size, it could carry cargo weighing between 70 and 350 ton" (Snedden 1998, pg. 1). Ships could carry as many as six hundred passengers or six thousand amphorae (clay jugs) of wine, oil, or other liquids. Ships transported more goods in a shorter amount of time than could be moved overland. It took only two to three weeks by ship to go from Egypt to Rome. In order to increase the effectiveness of shipping, the Romans developed deep harbors at key locations. One of the largest harbors was at Ostia, about 15 miles from Rome on the Mediterranean Coast. In A.D. 0, a lighthouse was set up at Ostia to guide sailors. At its peak, Rome set up lighthouses in forty different locations to aid sailors. Pompey the Great promised the senate that the pirate threat on the Mediterranean Sea would be eliminated. When the threat was removed, Rome was able to get its much needed grain shipments for its citizens.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-21</td>
<td>Alexandria to Ostia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Alexandria to Antichia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Byzantium to Gaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Ostia to Carthago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Ostia to Gades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Rome to Caesaria</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Science and Inventions

Roman Aqueducts  Transporting water is a complex problem. Roman engineers solved it by building aqueducts. Roman aqueducts carried water across a valley or hillside using gravity, aboveground stone arches, and underground pipes made of stone or clay. Between 312 B.C. and A.D. 226, 11 aqueducts were built to bring water to Rome from as far away as 57 miles. Once the water made it to Rome, it was held in collecting tanks. Most people gathered water from these public tanks. Only the rich and high-ranking officials had private water tanks in their homes.

Many Roman aqueducts still stand and are used today. Engineers in ancient Persia, India, and Egypt built similar water systems hundreds of years before the Romans. However, historians agree that the Romans were the greatest aqueduct builders of the ancient world.

Connecting to the Past

1. How did the Romans transport water to the city of Rome?
2. Why do you think that only the rich and powerful had private water supplies?
HOW DID ROME'S ACHIEVEMENTS SHAPE THE WORLD?
ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS: 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C.E., Romans developed a taste for Greek art. Statues adorned their cities and homes. Sculptors added realistic, to the idealized Greek forms.
WHICH “TRAGIC” ROMAN RULER IS ILLUSTRATED?
Describe the Images

How are they similar/different?
WHICH GODDESS DOES THIS ROMAN STATUE REPRESENT?
Birth of Athene (Pelike, from Vulci)
5. ROMAN ARCHITECTURE
Romans created forms based on curved lines: the **dome**, **arch**, and **vault**. (Colosseum & Pantheon).
Roman and American Builders

One need only look at many public buildings in the United States to realize that Roman architectural models played an important role in their design. Thomas Jefferson, for example, believed that architecture could be a means for expressing the ideals of the newly founded United States. He wanted the ideals of classical architecture, especially as put into practice by the Romans, to serve as a model for American buildings. Jefferson copied Roman temples for his designs for the buildings of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

Concrete enabled the Romans to build mammoth colosseums that held tens of thousands of spectators. The Romans also used concrete to erect domed buildings that created new interior spaces.

American engineers continue to learn from the Romans. For example, all of us are aware of highway potholes, as well as crumbling bridges on American highways. In many cases, these problems are a result of concrete that is not hard and dense enough to survive the ravages of wind, ice, and rain. Recently, however, American engineers have experimented with a form of concrete used by the ancient Romans and have found it to be considerably harder and more durable than the usual concrete. By analyzing Roman concrete, they found that the Romans combined lime with deposits of volcanic ash to form a very hard and durable building material that would set into shape even under water. Almost two thousand years later, American engineers have finally caught up with the Romans.

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Identify a building in your community or state that has been modeled on Roman architecture. What features are most similar to Roman temples? Describe the similarities and the differences to your class.
The Roman Colosseum

The Colosseum in Rome could hold some 60,000 people. The arena even had a removable canvas awning to protect spectators from the hot Roman sun.

*What was concrete made from?*

A system of cages, ropes, and pulleys brought wild animals up to the Colosseum floor from rooms underground.
6. Greek Philosophy and Religions of Salvation

- **Roman deities**: gods, goddesses, and household gods.

- Greek influence—**Stoicism** (The Stoic's life should be based on reason and in harmony with the universe. Instead of avoiding the community and its potential temptations, like ascetics, Stoics felt themselves to be part of a universal community of man). Appealed to Roman intellectuals.

- **Cicero** (106-43 BCE)—persuasive orator and writer on Stoicism.

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*I have always been of the opinion that unpopularity earned by doing what is right is not unpopularity at all, but glory.*

—Marcus Tullius Cicero
Aim: Was the decline of the Roman Empire inevitable?
III. DECLINE

a. The empire was in decline before Christianity became important.

b. The government lacked the resources necessary for continuing expansion. Economic disruptions reduced prosperity and tax revenues.

c. Slavery declined and economic and political units focused on their own regions, not the larger empire. Epidemics seriously reduced population size.
First the economic factor. While the empire was expanding, its prosperity was fed by plundered wealth and by new markets in the semi-barbaric provinces. When the empire ceased to expand, however, economic progress soon ceased. . . . The abundance of slaves led to the growth of the latifundia, the great estates that . . . came to dominate agriculture and ruin the free coloni [farmers] who drifted to the cities, to add to the unemployment there. The abundance of slaves likewise kept wages low.

What economic issues does Muller identify as causes for decline? Explain.

How was slavery a cause for the decline of the Roman Empire?

This excerpt, from *The New Deal in Old Rome* by Henry Haskell, blames the decline on the heavy taxation required to support the government's expenses.

. . . Part of the money went into . . . the maintenance of the army and of the vast bureaucracy required by a centralized government . . . the expense led to strangling taxation. . . . The heart was taken out of enterprising men . . . tenants fled from their farms and businessmen and workmen from their occupations. Private enterprise was crushed and the state was forced to take over many kinds of business to keep the machine running. People learned to expect something for nothing. The old Roman virtues of self-reliance and initiative were lost in that part of the population on relief [welfare]. . . . The central government undertook such far-reaching responsibility in affairs that the fiber of the citizens weakened.

Why did the Roman government have large expenses?

What was the effect of high taxation on the people?

What effect did the establishment of a governmental welfare system have on the people?
Concluding Journal Entry

The Roman Empire was twice the size of Alexander the Great’s empire. WHAT IF Rome never fell? How would the world be different?