

Roman Civilization

23: Flavian Dynasty



Homework

Read:

- Suetonius: Vespasian, Titus, Domitian

Administrative Stuff

Paper III Outline

Due: Thursday, April 14

Midterm II

- Thursday, April 28

Paper III

- Due: May 10, 5:30 p.m.

Fall Semester:

- Greek Civilization
 - *MW 5:30-6:45*
 - *Registration opens April 18*

Paper III

Instructions and Details

Paper Outline

- Due Thursday, April 14 (next class)
- Graded (out of 20 points)
 - *Topic*
 - *Thesis*
 - *Outline of major supporting points*
 - *List of sources*

Paper III

Instructions and Details

Paper Outline

- Your paper should be approximately 1250-2500 words (5-10 pages), though you will be graded on writing and content, not length.
- You **MUST** use at least **three sources** and at least three direct quotes from your sources. You must use at least one primary source.
- The final paper is due **May 10, 5:30 p.m.**, submitted at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be accepted. There will be no opportunity for re-writes.

Paper III

Instructions and Details

Possible topics (but you must find your argument):

- Classical Tradition (Ancient Rome in America)
- Rebuilding ancient monuments/buildings
- Augustus and propaganda
- Women in Rome
- Death and succession of emperors
- Entertainment in Rome (gladiator games)
- Christianity
- Literature/architecture
- Sources: written vs. physical
- Rewrite/expand a previous paper

Paper III

Worksheet

Topic:

Thesis:

Major Reason 1:

Major Reason 2:

Major Reason 3:

Sources:

Timeline

Julio-Claudians



27 BCE

0



14 CE



37 CE



41 CE



54 CE



Nero

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

(r. 13 October 54 – 9 June 68)

Great Fire of Rome

July 18–19, 64

Great Fire of Rome

- Started July 18-19, 64
- Burned for 5 or 6 days



Great Fire of Rome



Great Fire of Rome

Great Fire of Rome

July 18–19, 64

Great Fire of Rome

- Causes
 - *Nero sent drunk men to start the fire. Nero watched from his palace on the Palatine Hill singing and playing the lyre. (Cassius Dio)*
 - *Nero openly sent out men to set fire to the city. Nero watched from the Tower of Maecenas on the Esquiline Hill singing and playing the lyre. (Suetonius)*
 - *Nero sent out men to set fire to the city. Nero sang and played his lyre from a private stage. (Tacitus)*
 - *The fire was an accident. Nero was in Antium. (Tacitus)*
 - *The fire was caused by Christians. (Tacitus)*

Nero

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

“To dispel the gossip Nero therefore found culprits on whom he inflicted the most exotic punishments. These were people hated for their shameful offenses whom the common people called Christians. The man who gave them their name, Christus, had been executed during the reign of Tiberius by the procurator Pontius Pilate.”

—Tacitus

XV.44

Nero

Nero and Christianity

Treatment of Christians

- Blamed for Great Fire of Rome
- Tortured:
 - *Arrested*
 - *Mocked*
 - *Crucified*
 - *Covered in animal skins, fed to beasts*
 - *Dipped in oil, and used as lanterns*



Great Fire of Rome

Nero

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

*“There was nothing however in which he was more ruinously prodigal than in building. He made a **palace extending all the way from the Palatine to the Esquiline**, which [he] rebuilt, the **Golden House**. Its vestibule was large enough to contain a colossal statue of the emperor a hundred and twenty feet high; ... There was a pond too, like a sea, surrounded with buildings to represent cities, besides tracts of country, varied by tilled fields, vineyards, pastures and woods, with great numbers of wild and domestic animals. In the rest of the house all parts were overlaid with gold and adorned with gems and mother-of-pearl. There were dining-rooms ... fitted with pipes for sprinkling the guests with perfumes. The main banquet hall was circular and constantly revolved day and night, like the heavens. He had baths supplied with sea water and sulphur water.”*

—Suetonius

Nero 31.1-2



Nero

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus

Death of Nero

- Died June 8, 68 at the age of 30
- Last Words:
 - *"What an artist dies in me."*
- End of the Julio-Claudian dynasty

Year of the Four Emperors

Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian

Year of the Four Emperors

69 CE

Galba

- Governor of Hispania Terraconensis
- Declared himself Caesar and marched on Rome
- Reigned: 8 June 68 – 15 January 69
- Murdered by Praetorian Guard

Otho

- Reigned: 15 January 69 – 16 April 69
- Suicide

Vitellius

- Reigned: 17 April 69 – 20 December 69
- Murdered

Vespasian

- Reigned: 21 December 69 – 24 June 79

Vespasian

Titus Flāvius Caesar Vespasiānus Augustus



Life of Vespasian

- Born: November 17, 9
- Fought in the Jewish Revolt in Judaea
- Following the defeat of Vitellius, Vespasian was declared emperor by the Roman Senate
- Began building a massive amphitheater
- Died: June 23, 79
- Succeeded by his own natural son, Titus

Titus

Titus Flāvius Caesar Vespasiānus Augustus



Life of Titus

- Born December 30, 39
- Jewish-Roman War
 - *Destruction of Jerusalem*



Western Wall

Titus

Titus Flavius Caesar Vespasianus Augustus

Life of Titus

- Born December 30, 39
- Jewish-Roman War
 - *Destruction of Jerusalem*
- Reigned: June 24, 79 – September 13, 81
- Died: September 13, 81
- Deified

Arch of Titus



Arch of Titus



Arch of Titus



Arch of Titus

SENATVS

POPVLVSQVE•ROMANVS

DIVO•TITO•DIVI•VESPASIANI•F

VESPASIANO•AVGVSTO

When was it built?

The Colosseum



Colosseum

Flavian Amphitheater

Construction

- Begun in 72 by emperor Vespasian
- Completed in 80 by Titus
- ‘Colosseum’

Colosseum

Flavian Amphitheater

Capacity

- 50,000 - 80,000 people

Colosseum

Flavian Amphitheater

Use

- Gladiator contests
- Animal Hunts
- Re-enactment of battles



The Colosseum

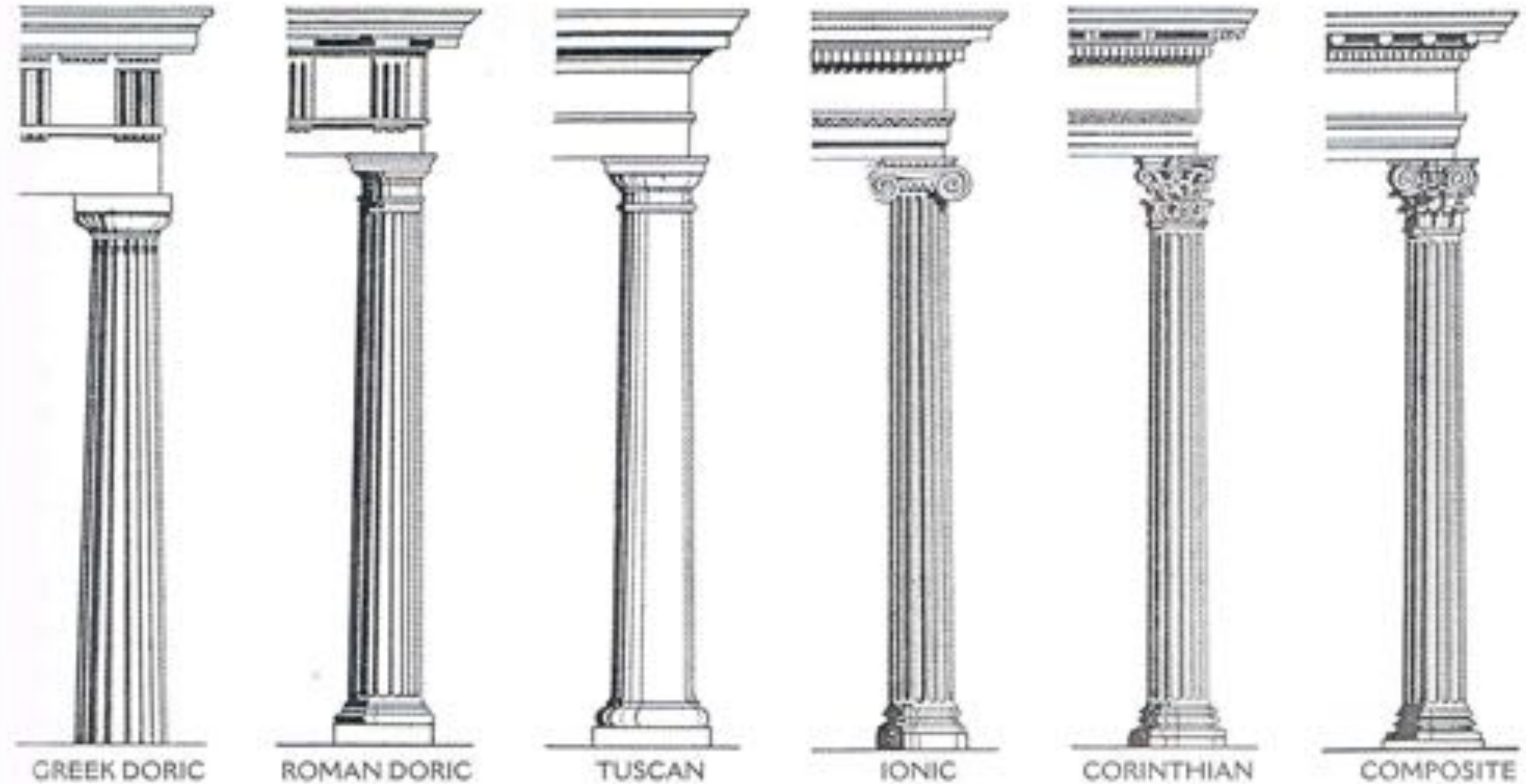


The Colosseum



The Colosseum

Figure 5-6 The five Roman orders. The Greek Doric order has been added for comparison, even though it was not used by the Romans.





The Colosseum



The Colosseum



The Colosseum



The Colosseum



The Colosseum



The Forum and Colosseum

Should the Colosseum (and/or the forum) be rebuilt?

Should the Colosseum be rebuilt?

Building an argument

Topic: Rebuilding the Colosseum

Thesis:

Major Reason 1:

Major Reason 2:

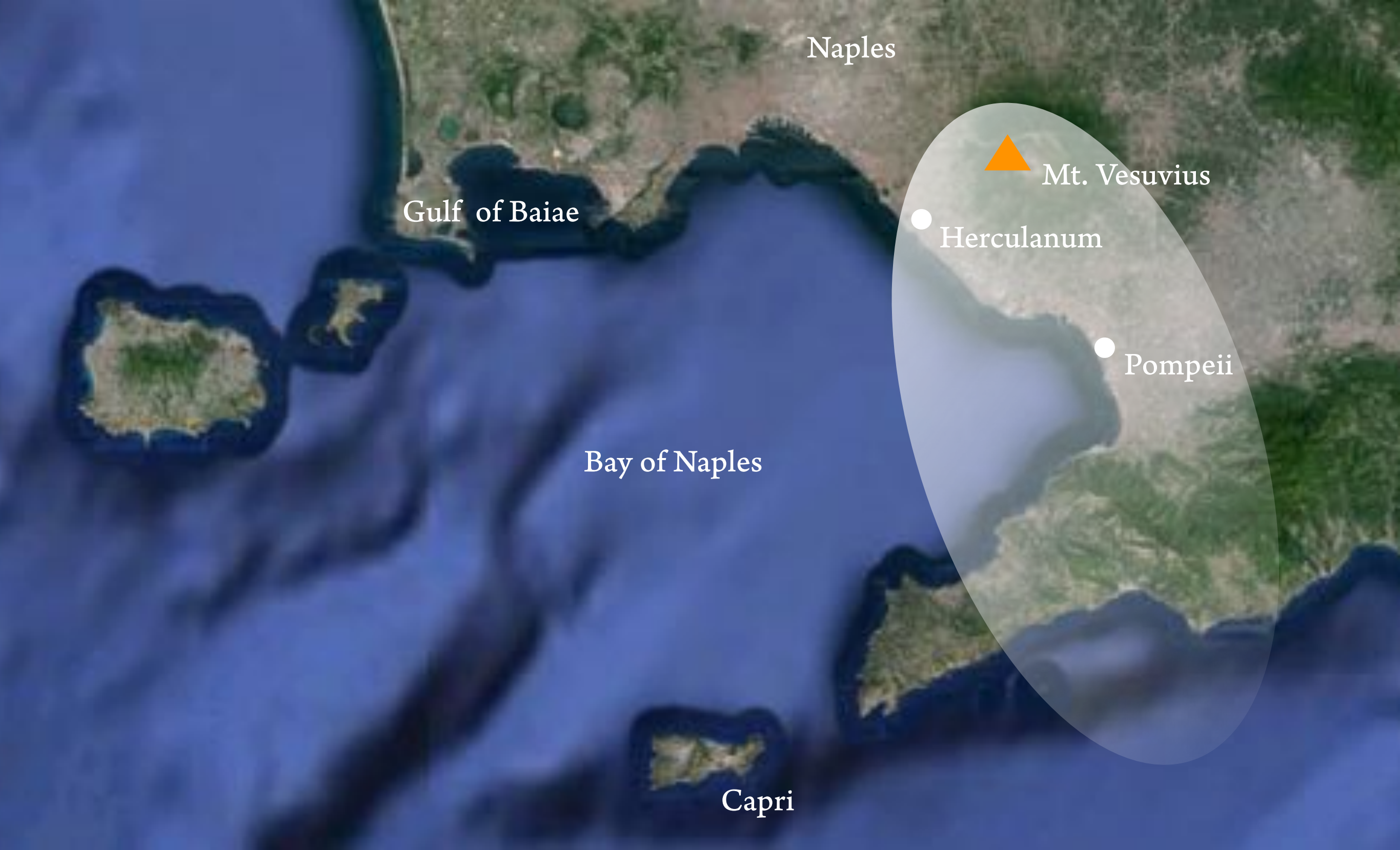
Major Reason 3:

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

Happened during the reign of Titus

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

August 24, 79



Naples

Mt. Vesuvius

Gulf of Baiae

Herculaneum

Pompeii

Bay of Naples

Capri

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, 79

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

August 24, 79

Sources

- Written
 - *Pliny the Younger*
- Physical
 - *Remains*

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

August 24, 79

“My dear Tacitus,

You ask me to write you something about the death of my uncle so that the account you transmit to posterity is as reliable as possible. I am grateful to you, for I see that his death will be remembered forever if you treat it. He perished in a devastation of the loveliest of lands, in a memorable disaster shared by peoples and cities, but this will be a kind of eternal life for him.”

—Pliny the Younger

Letter 6.16

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

August 24, 79

“He was at Misenum in his capacity as commander of the fleet on the 24th of August, when between 2 and 3 in the afternoon my mother drew his attention to a cloud of unusual size and appearance. He had had a sunbath, then a cold bath, and was reclining after dinner with his books ... I can best describe its shape by likening it to a pine tree. It rose into the sky on a very long "trunk" from which spread some "branches." I imagine it had been raised by a sudden blast, which then weakened, leaving the cloud unsupported so that its own weight caused it to spread sideways. Some of the cloud was white, in other parts there were dark patches of dirt and ash. The sight of it made the scientist in my uncle determined to see it from closer at hand.”

—Pliny the Younger

Letter 6.16

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

August 24, 79

“Ash was falling onto the ships now, darker and denser the closer they went. Now it was bits of pumice, and rocks that were blackened and burned and shattered by the fire. Now the sea is shoal; debris from the mountain blocks the shore... Meanwhile, broad sheets of flame were lighting up many parts of Vesuvius; their light and brightness were the more vivid for the darkness of the night ... The buildings were being rocked by a series of strong tremors, and appeared to have come loose from their foundations and to be sliding this way and that. Outside, however, there was danger from the rocks that were coming down.”

—Pliny the Younger

Letter 6.16

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

August 24, 79

“They tied pillows on top of their heads as protection against the shower of rock. It was daylight now elsewhere in the world, but there the darkness was darker and thicker than any night. But they had torches and other lights. They decided to go down to the shore, to see from close up if anything was possible by sea. But it remained as rough and uncooperative as before.

As I understand it, his breathing was obstructed by the dust-laden air, and his innards, which were never strong and often blocked or upset, simply shut down. When daylight came again 2 days after he died, his body was found untouched, unharmed, in the clothing that he had had on. He looked more asleep than dead.”

—Pliny the Younger

Letter 6.16

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

August 24, 79

“Now came the dust, though still thinly. I look back: a dense cloud looms behind us, following us like a flood poured across the land.

“Let us turn aside while we can still see, lest we be knocked over in the street and crushed by the crowd of our companions.

“We had scarcely sat down when a darkness came that was not like a moonless or cloudy night, but more like the black of closed and unlighted rooms. You could hear women lamenting, children crying, men shouting.”

—Pliny the Younger

Letter 6.20

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

August 24, 79

“At last the cloud thinned out and dwindled to no more than smoke or fog. Soon there was real daylight. The sun was even shining, though with the lurid glow it has after an eclipse. The sight that met our still terrified eyes was a changed world, buried in ash like snow. We returned to Misenum and took care of our bodily needs, but spent the night dangling between hope and fear. Fear was the stronger, for the earth was still quaking and a number of people who had gone mad were mocking the evils that had happened to them and others with terrifying prognostications.”

—Pliny the Younger

Letter 6.20



Plinian Eruption



Mt. St. Helens



Mt. St. Helens



Mt. St. Helens



Mt. St. Helens



Eyjafjallajökull



Pompeii



House of Menander



Pompeii



Pompeii Thermopolium



Pompeii



Pompeii Baths



Pompeii Baths, Frigidarium



Pompeii Baths



Pompeii, Husband and Wife



Villa of the Mysteries



Pompeii Wall Art



Pompeii Wall Art



Pompeii Wall Art

The following images may be offensive or disturbing.

You may leave if you want.



Pompeii Wall Art



Pompeii Wall Art





Pompeii Dog Mosaic, "Cave Canem"



Pompeii Dog



Pompeii Casts



Pompeii Casts



Pompeii Casts