

Roman Civilization

25: Marcus Aurelius



Homework

Paper III:

- Topic Sentences
- Concluding Sentences

Administrative Stuff

Paper III Outline

Return

Midterm II

- Next Thursday, April 28

Paper III

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

Fall Semester:

- Greek Civilization
 - *MW 5:30-6:45*
 - *Registration is open*

Five Good Emperors

Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius



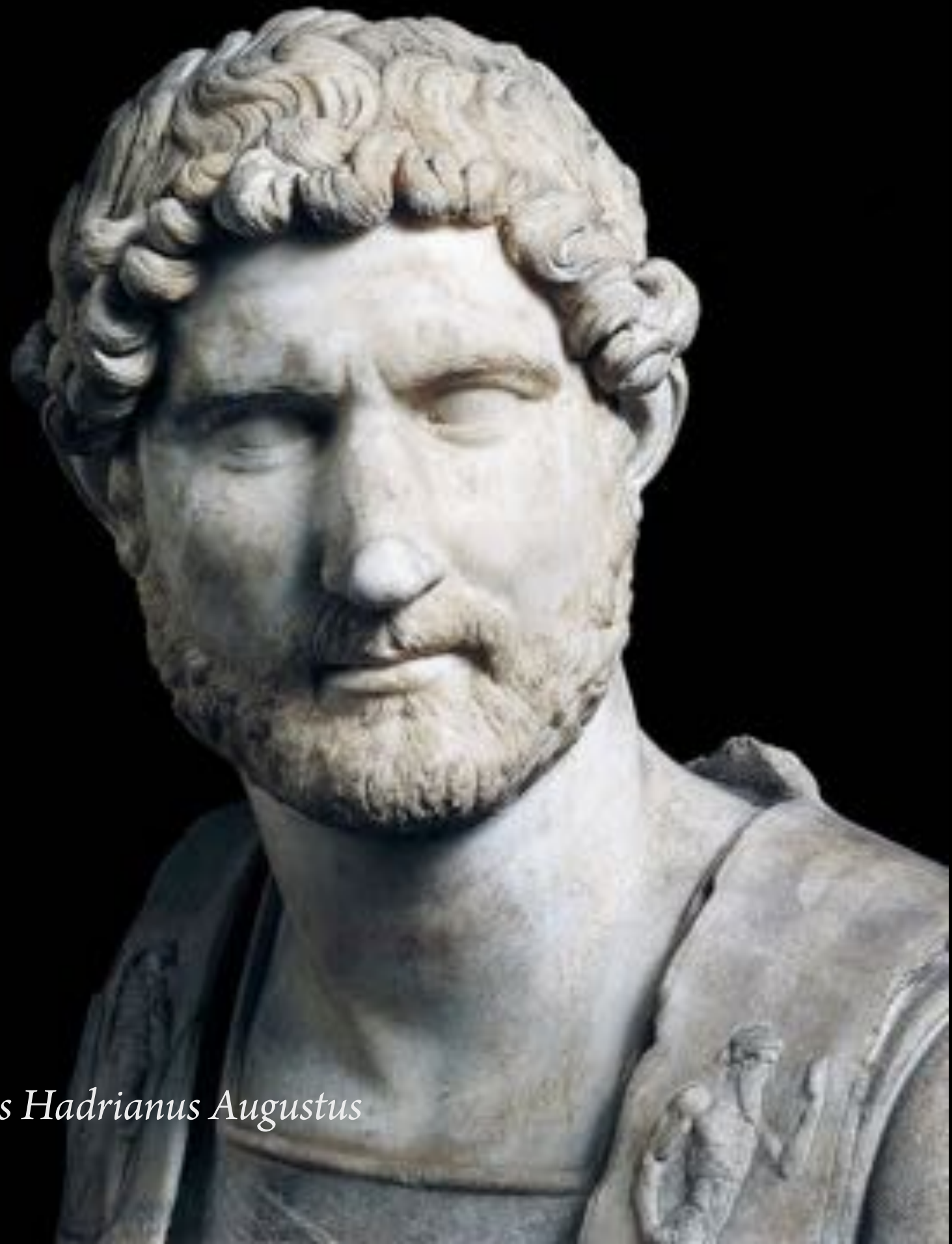
“If a man were called to fix the period in the history of the world, during which the condition of the human race was most happy and prosperous, he would, without hesitation, name that which elapsed from the death of Domitian to the accession of Commodus.”

—Edward Gibbon

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

Hadrian

Imperator Caesar Divi Traiani filius Traianus Hadrianus Augustus



Hadrian

Caesar Publius Aelius Traianus Hadrianus Augustus

Travels

- Gaul
- Britain
- Spain
- Sicily
- Africa
- Egypt
- Greece (Philhellene)



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Temple of Olympian Zeus



Temple of Olympian Zeus



Hadrian's Arch, Athens, Greece

Hadrian's Arch

Inscriptions

ΑΙΔ' ΕΙΣΙΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΘΗΣΕΩΣ Η ΠΡΙΝ ΠΟΛΙΣ

ΑΙΔΕ ΑΔΡΙΑΝΟΥ ΚΟΥΧΙ ΘΗΣΕΩΣ ΠΟΛΙΣ

Hadrian

Caesar Publius Aelius Traianus Hadrianus Augustus

Contraction of the Empire

- The size of the Empire was becoming costly and problematic
- Wanted to strengthen the empire from within
- Rome withdrew from Armenia, Mesopotamia, Assyria
- Stopped expanding north and instead focused on protecting the empire



Hadrian's Wall



©jeffdietz

Hadrian's Wall



Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian

Caesar Publius Aelius Traianus Hadrianus Augustus

Heirs

- Adopted: Titus Aurelius Fulvus Boionius Arrius Antoninus (Antoninus Pius)
- *Adopted: Marcus Annius Verus (Marcus Aurelius)*
- *Adopted: Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus (Lucius Verus)*

Hadrian

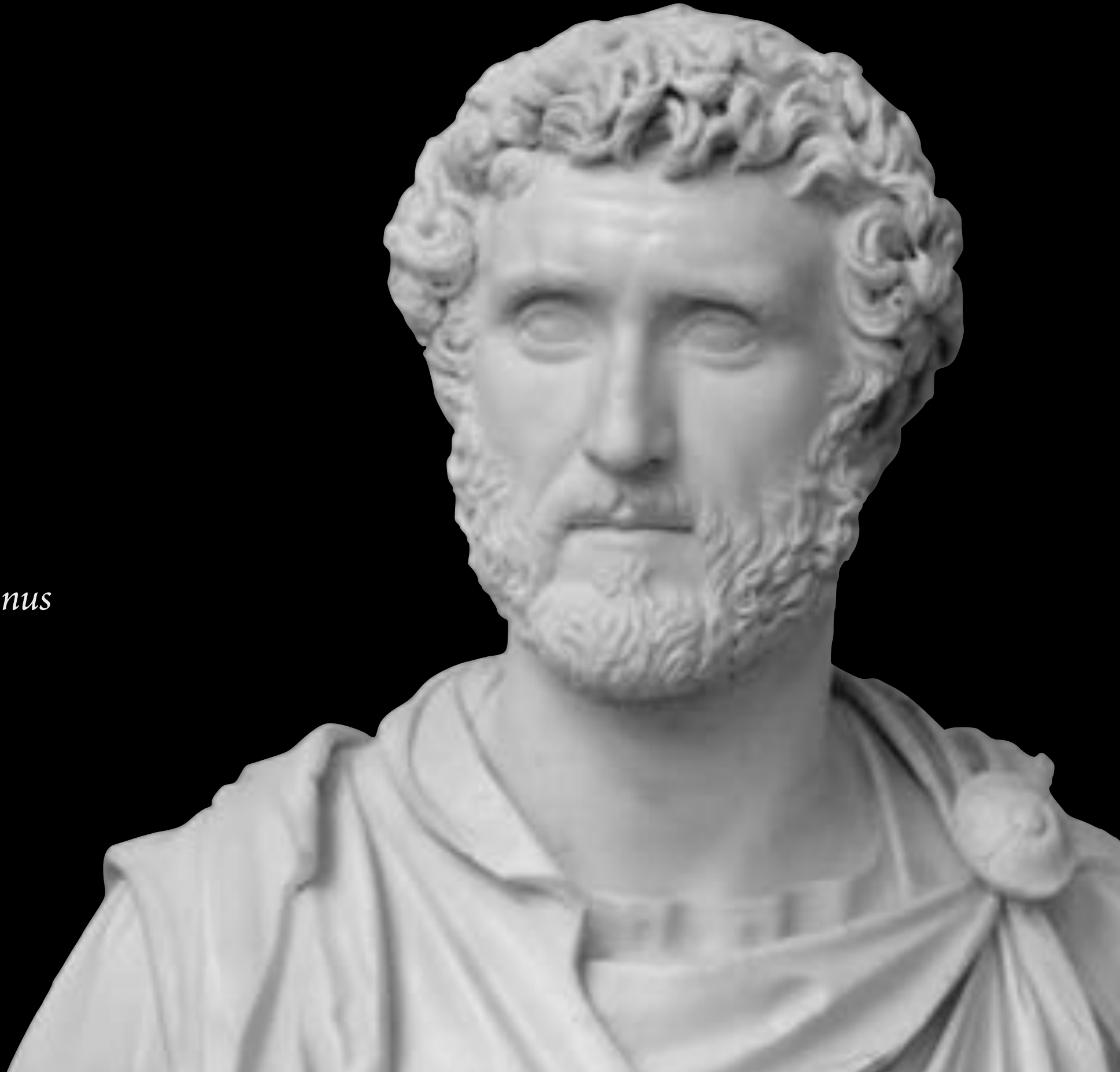
Caesar Publius Aelius Traianus Hadrianus Augustus

Life of Hadrian

- Reigned: August 7, 117 - July 10, 138
- Death: July 10, 138
 - *Natural Causes*
- Deified in 139 by successor Antoninus Pius

Antoninus Pius

*Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus
Antoninus Augustus Pius*



Antoninus Pius

Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius

Early Life

- Born: September 16, 86

Antoninus Pius

Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius

Accession

- Adopted by Hadrian in 138
- Forced to adopt Marcus Annus Verus and Lucius Aelius
- Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius
- First Act: Deified Hadrian



Antoninus Pius

Antoninus Pius

Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius

Public Works

- Built temples, theaters, mausoleums
- Promoted Arts and Sciences
- Encouraged philosophy and rhetoric

Antoninus Pius

Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius

War

- None
- “Throughout the twenty-three years of his reign, he never went within five hundred miles of a legion”

Antoninus Pius

Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius

Conquests

- Invasion of Scotland
- Antonine Wall (abandoned)



Antonine Wall
Begun in AD 142

Firth of Forth

*North
sea*

Hadrian's Wall
Begun in AD 122

Antoninus Pius

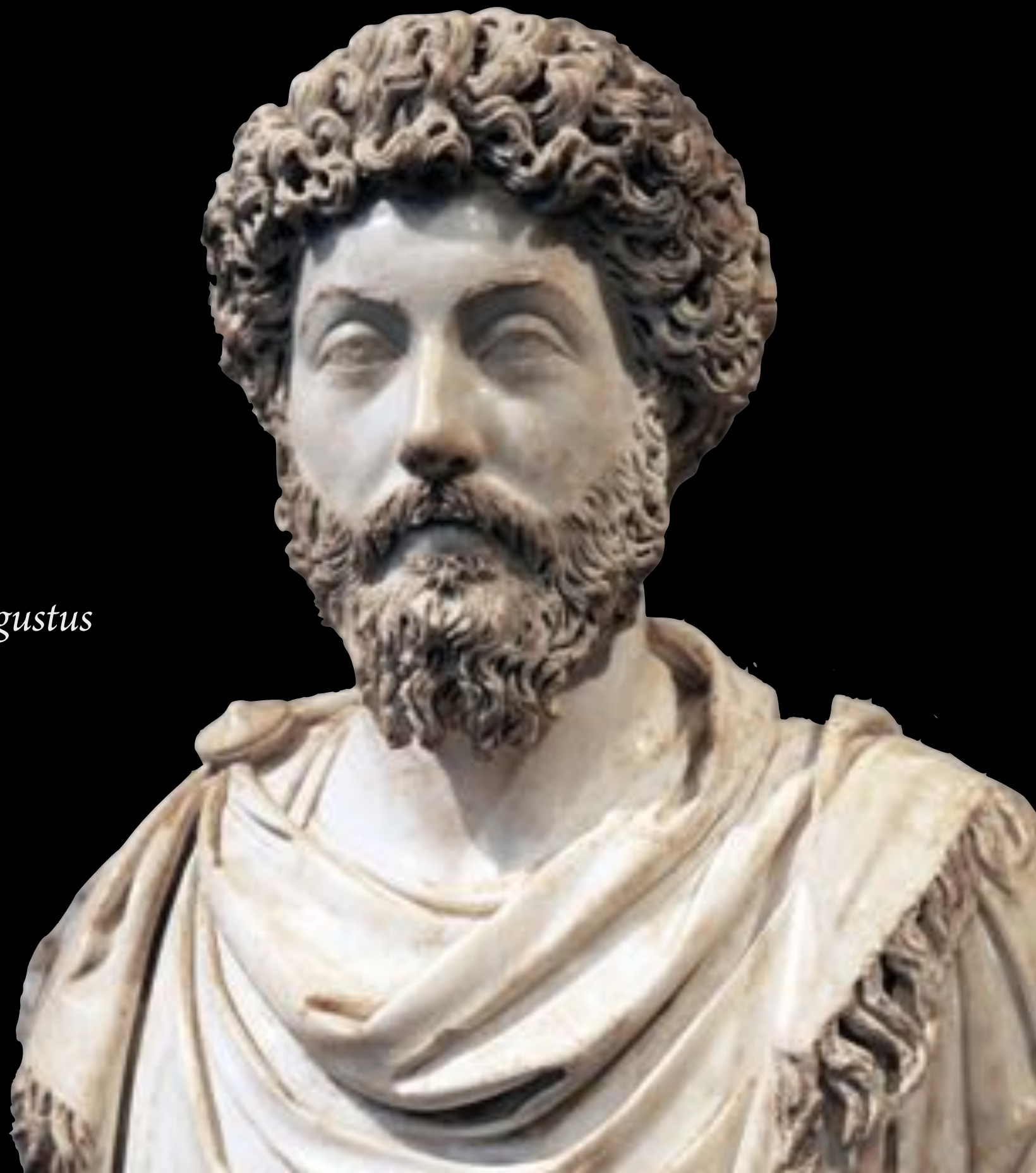
Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius

Death

- Died: March 7, 161
- Succeeded by Marcus Aurelius

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus



Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Early Life

- Born: April 26, 121
- Educated in literature, rhetoric, and law
 - *Alexander of Catinaeum, a leading Homeric scholar*
 - *Herodes Atticus*

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Marriage

- Married Annia Galeria Faustina Minor (Faustina the Younger)
- Thirteen Children
 - *Annia Aurelia Galeria Faustina (147 – after 165)*
 - *Gemellus Lucillae (died around 150), twin brother of Lucilla*
 - *Annia Aurelia Galeria Lucilla (148/50–182), twin sister of Gemellus, married her father's co-ruler Lucius Verus*
 - *Titus Aelius Antoninus (born after 150, died before 7 March 161)*
 - *Titus Aelius Aurelius (born after 150, died before 7 March 161)*
 - *Hadrianus (152–157)*
 - *Domitia Faustina (born after 150, died before 7 March 161)*
 - *Annia Aurelia Fadilla (159–after 211)*
 - *Annia Cornificia Faustina Minor (160 – after 211)*
 - *Titus Aurelius Fulvus Antoninus (161–165), twin brother of Commodus*
 - *Lucius Aurelius Commodus Antoninus (Commodus) (161–192), twin brother of Titus*
 - *Marcus Annius Verus Caesar (162–169)*
 - *Vibia Aurelia Sabina (170 – died before 217)*

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Accession

- Followed will of Hadrian
- Marcus Aurelius became emperor
- Refused to take office unless accompanied by Lucius Verus

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Two Emperors

- Emperor Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus
- Emperor Caesar Lucius Aurelius Verus Augustus
- Marcus gave his daughter, Lucilla, to Lucius in marriage

Lucius Verus

Caesar Lucius Aurelius Verus Augustus



Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

War

- Parthia
- Britain
- Germania

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Parthian War (161-166)

- Marcus and Lucius were victorious
- Triumphal parade in Rome
- Commodus (5) and Annius Verus (3) were declared Caesars
 - *“Caesar” is sub-emperor to “Augustus”*

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Plague

- Returning army brought back plagues, smallpox or measles
- Antonine Plague
- Eventually killed Lucius Verus and Marcus Aurelius

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Administration

- Wanted good relationship with senate
- Focused on:
 - *Manumission of slaves*
 - *Care of orphans*
 - *Election of city councillors*

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

War with Germanic Tribes (166-180)

- Attacks on norther borders: Marcomanni, Lombards, Sarmatians
- Death of Lucius Verus in 169
- Marcus Aurelius led the troops for much of the rest of his life
- Column of Marcus Aurelius

Column of Marcus Aurelius



Column of Marcus Aurelius





SIXTVS · V · PONT · MAX
COLVMNAM · HANC
COCHLIDEM · IMP
ANTONINO · DICATAM
MISERE · LACERAM
RVINOSAMQ(UE) · PRIMAE
FORMAE · RESTITVIT
A · MDLXXXIX · PONT · IV

Column of Marcus Aurelius



Column of Trajan



Column of Marcus Aurelius

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

External Threats

- More invasions from the east into Macedonia, Greece
- Invasions were put down
- Marcus Aurelius tours the east
- Protector of Philosophy

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Succession

- Started planning for succession in 175
- Commodus, his only surviving son, was only 13
- Commodus was co-emperor in 177, age 15

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

Death

- Died: March 17, 180 in Vindabona (Vienna)
- Possibly from the plague named after his family
- Ashes in Hadrian's Mausoleum in Rome



Marcus Aurelius(replica), Piazza del Campidoglio, Rome



Marcus Aurelius, Capitoline Museum, Rome

Marcus Aurelius

The Philosopher King

Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

Meditations

- Written between 170-180
- Written while on campaign
- Τὰ εἰς ἑαυτόν

“We should not say ‘I am an Athenian’ or ‘I am a Roman’ but ‘I am a citizen of the Universe.’”

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

“Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and another takes its place, and this too will be swept away.”

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

“The universal order and the personal order are nothing but different expressions and manifestations of a common underlying principle.”

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

"The universe is transformation; our life is what our thoughts make it."

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

*"You have power over your mind—not outside events.
Realize this, and you will find strength."*

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

"Accept the things to which fate binds you, and love the people with whom fate brings you together, but do so with all your heart."

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

"Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present."

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

"Execute every act of thy life as though it were thy last."

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

*"Death is a release from the impressions of the senses,
and from desires that make us their puppets, and
from the vagaries of the mind, and from the hard
service of the flesh."*

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

"Despise not death, but welcome it, for nature wills it like all else."

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

*"It is not death that a man should fear, but he should
fear never beginning to live."*

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

“A man should be upright, not be kept upright.”

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

"Because your own strength is unequal to the task, do not assume that it is beyond the powers of man; but if anything is within the powers and province of man, believe that it is within your own compass also."

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

*"How ridiculous and how strange to be surprised at
anything that happens in life!"*

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

"Everything that happens happens as it should, and if you observe carefully, you will find this to be so."

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

*"Nothing happens to any man that he is not formed
by nature to bear."*

—Marcus Aurelius

Meditations

How would you describe the philosophy of Marcus Aurelius?

Stoicism

Philosophy

History

- Founded by Zeno of Athens in 301 BCE
- Zeno taught at the Stoa Poikile
- Adherents:
 - *Cato the Younger*
 - *Seneca*
 - *Epictetus*
 - *Marcus Aurelius*

Stoicism

Philosophy

Cardinal Virtues

- Wisdom
- Courage
- Justice
- Temperance

Stoicism

Philosophy

Beliefs

- Free from passions
 - Each person is “citizen of the world”
 - Emphasis on duty, public service
 - Uphold traditional morality
 - Uphold established authority
 - Wise are naturally fit to rule
-
- “Stoic”



Last Words of Marcus Aurelius, Eugene Delacroix, 1844



The Death of Socrates, Jacques-Louis David, 1787

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

“...[Marcus] did not meet with the good fortune that he deserved, for he was not strong in body and was involved in a multitude of troubles throughout practically his entire reign. But for my part, I admire him all the more for this very reason, that amid unusual and extraordinary difficulties he both survived himself and preserved the empire.

—Cassius Dio

71.36.3-4

Marcus Aurelius

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus

“...[Marcus] did not meet with the good fortune that he deserved, for he was not strong in body and was involved in a multitude of troubles throughout practically his entire reign. But for my part, I admire him all the more for this very reason, that amid unusual and extraordinary difficulties he both survived himself and preserved the empire. Just one thing prevented him from being completely happy, namely, that after rearing and educating his son in the best possible way he was vastly disappointed in him. This matter must be our next topic; for our history now descends from a kingdom of gold to one of iron and rust, as affairs did for the Romans of that day.”

—Cassius Dio

71.36.3-4



Commodus

Caesar Marcus Aurelius

Commodus Antoninus Augustus

Commodus

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus

Early Life

- Born: August 31, 161
- *Born in the purple*

Commodus

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus

Obsession with Gladiator Games

- Megalomania: dressed as Hercules to fight gladiators and animals
- Fixed matches
- 620 Wins
- Drained the treasury surplus with games
- Gladiator Emperor

Commodus

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus

Death

- Assassinated in 192
- Strangled by an athlete
- Drunk in Bed
- Mistress was conspirator

Life in the Roman Empire

Entertainment

Life in the Roman Empire

Theaters and Processions

Theater

- 102 days a year are theater days
- Men, women, slaves, freed men all attended the theater
- Ovid: Great place to pick up a date
- Actors were considered disreputable

Life in the Roman Empire

Circuses and Chariot Races

Circuses and Chariot Races

- Circus Maximus
 - *Rape of the Sabine Women*
 - *Ovid: Great place to pick up a date*
 - *The palace of Augustus overlooked the Circus Maximus*
- “Political” Place
 - *Interaction between emperor and people*
 - *Tiberius didn’t attend*

Gladiator Games

Are you not entertained?

Three Types of Games

- Beast ‘Hunts’
- Dramatic Executions
- Gladiator Fights

Gladiator Games

Are you not entertained?

History

- First gladiator match in 264 BCE
- Originally, part of funerary rites
- Eventually, put on by emperor

Gladiator Games

Are you not entertained?

Participants

- Criminals
- Slaves
- Prisoners of War

Gladiator Games

Are you not entertained?

The Appeal

- Fame
- Fortune
- Sex
- Money
- Superstars but also lowest class

Gladiator Games

Are you not entertained?

Life as a Gladiator

- Gladiator Troupe
- State-supported gladiator school
 - *Training*
 - *Food*
 - *Medicine*
- 2-3 Fights per year
- 1-on-1, 2-on-2, equally matched

Gladiator Games

Are you not entertained?

Gladiator Games

- Gladiator games banned by Theodosius in 407
- Beast fights banned in 523



The Colosseum



The Colosseum



The Colosseum



A full-page image of the character Maximus from the movie 'Gladiator'. He is a muscular man with a beard, wearing a dark leather vest over a light blue tunic, and black arm guards. He is holding a sword in his right hand and has his left arm outstretched. He is shouting with his mouth wide open. The background is a stone wall with arches.

Are you not
entertained?

"What we do in life, echoes in eternity."

—Maximus
Gladiator