

Roman Civilization

26: Septimus Severus to Constantine



Administrative Stuff

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!*

Administrative Stuff

Today

- A lot of names
 - *Sometimes very confusing*
- Focus on the big picture

Homework

Paper III

- Revised thesis statement
- For each of your supporting points:
 - *Topic Sentence*
 - *Concluding Sentence*

Paper III

Writing Paragraphs

Topic Sentence

- An introductory sentence stating the main point of a paragraph.

Middle Sentences

- Your supporting evidence

Concluding Sentence

- A sentence that states that you proved the point of the paragraph.

Paper III

Writing Paragraphs

Topic Sentence

- An introductory sentence stating the main point of a paragraph.

Middle Sentences

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Concluding Sentence

- A sentence that states that you proved the point of the paragraph.

Paper III

Finding a topic and thesis statement

Topic: Women in Rome

- Finding a thesis statement:
 - “*Women played an important role in Rome.*”
 - Too broad
 - “*Messalina was promiscuous.*”
 - Too narrow, too focused
 - “*Agrippina played an important role in the reign of three emperors.*”
 - Better

Paper III

Topic Sentences and Concluding Sentences

Agrippina played an important role in the reign of three emperors.

- Topic Sentence:
 - *“Agrippina played an important role in the reign of Caligula.”*
- Concluding Sentence:
 - *“Thus, Agrippina played an important role in the reign of Caligula.”*
- Topic Sentence:
 - *“Agrippina played an important role in the reign of Claudius.”*
- Concluding Sentence:
 - *“Thus, Agrippina played an important role in the reign of Claudius.”*
- Topic Sentence:
 - *“Agrippina played an important role in the reign of Nero.”*
- Concluding Sentence:
 - *“Thus, Agrippina played an important role in the reign of Nero.”*

Paper III

Topic Sentences and Concluding Sentences

Agrippina played an important role in the reign of three emperors.

- Topic Sentence:
 - *“Agrippina played an important role as the sister of Caligula.”*
- Concluding Sentence:
 - *“Thus, Agrippina played an important role as the sister of Caligula.”*
- Topic Sentence:
 - *“Agrippina played an important role as the wife of Claudius.”*
- Concluding Sentence:
 - *“Thus, Agrippina played an important role as the wife of Claudius.”*
- Topic Sentence:
 - *“Agrippina played an important role as the mother of Nero.”*
- Concluding Sentence:
 - *“Thus, Agrippina played an important role as the mother of Nero.”*

Paper III

Topic Sentences and Concluding Sentences

Agrippina played an important role in the reign of three emperors.

- Topic Sentence:
 - *“Agrippina had an unhealthy relationship with her brother, the emperor Caligula.”*
- Topic Sentence:
 - *“As empress, Agrippina had great influence over her husband, the emperor Claudius.”*
- Topic Sentence:
 - *“As mother of Nero, Agrippina controlled the young emperor.”*

Questions?

Happy New Year!

2769 AUC



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Commodus

Caesar Marcus Aurelius

Commodus Antoninus Augustus

Commodus

177 - December 31, 192

Commodus

- Reigned 15 years
- Started to fear for his life
- Paranoia
- Planned a massacre of noblemen for New Year's Eve 192.
- Instead, he was murdered.

Year of the Five Emperors

193

Year of the Five Emperors

193

Commodus

- Assassinated on December 31, 192

Pertinax

- 66-year old senator
- Named emperor by Senate
- 3 months
- Assassinated by Praetorian Guard

Didius Julianus

- Won auction held by Praetorian Guard, ratified by Senate

Septimus Severus

- Declared emperor by his troops in the north

Pescennius Niger

- Declared emperor by his troops in Syria

Clodius Albinus

- Declared emperor by his troops in Britain

Septimus Severus

April 9, 193 - February 4, 211

Succession

- Severus declared Albinus “Caesar” over Britain, Gaul, and Spain
- When loyalty to Didius Julianus faded, the Senate sentenced him to death
- Severus marched against Pescennius Niger
- Severus eliminated Albinus
- That left only Septimus Severus

Severan Dynasty

April 193 - March 18, 235

Septimus Severus

April 9, 193 - February 4, 211

As Emperor

- Now sole emperor
- Adopted by Marcus Aurelius in 198
- Renamed his eleven-year old son “Marcus Aurelius Antoninus”
 - *Caracalla*
- Named him co-emperor
 - *From 198 until Severus' death in 211*

Septimus Severus

April 9, 193 - February 4, 211

Army

- Increased number of legions to 33
- Allowed soldiers to marry

Septimus Severus

April 9, 193 - February 4, 211

Arches

- Arch of Septimus Severus in Rome
- Arch in Libya at Leptis Magna



Arch of Septimus Severus, Rome

Arch of Septimus Severus, Leptis Magna



Septimus Severus

April 9, 193 - February 4, 211

Britain

- Strengthened Hadrian's Wall
- Planned to conquer Scotland

Septimus Severus

April 9, 193 - February 4, 211

Death and Aftermath

- Died: February 4, 211 in Eboracum (modern-day York, England)
- Sons were proclaimed co-emperors:
 - *Caracalla*
 - *Geta*

Caracalla

198 - April 8, 217

Caracalla

- Assassinated his brother, Geta
- Constitutio Antoniniana
 - *Roman citizenship to all inhabitants of the empire*
- Baths of Caracalla



Baths of Caracalla, Rome



Baths of Caracalla, Rome

Caracalla

198 - April 8, 217

Caracalla

- Assassinated by his troops at Carrhae in 217
 - *Disgruntled by endless campaigns in the desert*

Macrinus

April 11, 217 - June 8, 218

Macrinus

- First emperor without senatorial rank
- Reigned 1 year
- Julia Maesa, the sister of Septimus Severus's wife, claimed that Caracalla was the father of her fourteen-year-old grandson, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (Caracalla's cousin).
- Macrinus was assassinated
- Marcus Aurelius Antoninus was proclaimed emperor

Elagabalus

June 8, 218 - March 11, 222

Succession

- Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus
- Born: 203 in Syria
- Priest of Elagabal, the Syrian sun-god
- Rise to emperor was due to his grandmother and mother
- Became emperor at 14
- Brought the worship of the sun-god to Rome
 - *Elah-Gabal, sun god of Emesa (Homs, Syria)*
 - *Deus Invictus Sol Elagabalus*
 - the unconquerable God, the Sun Elagabalus





Sanct Deo Soli Elagabal (To the Holy Sun God Elagabal)

Elagabalus

June 8, 218 - March 11, 222

Personal Life

- Married 5 times
- Three women, including one vestal virgin
- Hierocles, a charioteer
- Prostituted himself
- Transgender

Elagabalus

June 8, 218 - March 11, 222

Death

- Reigned 4 years
- His grandmother forced him to adopt his cousin, Gessius Alexianus Bassianus, as Caesar
- His aunt bribed the Praetorian Guard to murder him and his mother
- His cousin then became emperor

Severus Alexander

March 11, 222 - March 19, 235

Severus Alexander

- Born: October 1, 208
- Became emperor at 14
- Marcus Aurelius Severus Alexander
- Influenced by his mother, Julia Mamaea
 - *Consors Imperii*
 - *“Mother of Augustus, and of the camps, and of the senate, and of the fatherland”*



Coin, Julia Mamaea

Severus Alexander

March 11, 222 - March 19, 235

Severus Alexander

- Reigned 13 years
- Murdered, along with his mother, by the army
- Died: March 18, 235

Crisis of the Third Century

March 18, 235 - November 20, 284

50 Years of Civil War, Foreign Invasion, Economic Collapse

Crisis of the Third Century

Soldier Emperors: March 18, 235 - November 20, 284

Emperor	Reign	Death
Maximinus I	3 Years	Assassinated by Praetorian Guard
Gordian I	21 Days	Suicide
Gordian II	21 Days	Killed in Civil War
Pupienus	3 Months	Assassinated by Praetorian Guard
Balbinus	3 Months	Assassinated by Praetorian Guard
Gordian III	6 Years	Murder (?)
Philip I	5 Years	Killed in Civil War
Trajan Decius	2 Years	Killed in battle by a foreign enemy (1)
Hostilian	5 Months	Natural Causes
Trebonianus Gallus	2 Years	Assassinated by his own troops
Aemilian	2 Months	Assassinated by his own troops
Valerian	7 Years	Died in captivity in Persia
Gallienus	15 years	Assassinated by his own troops
Claudius Gothicus	1 Year	Natural Causes
Quintillus	Unknown	Murder or Suicide
Aurelian	5 Years	Assassinated by Praetorian Guard
Tacitus	9 Months	Natural Causes (or assassination)
Florian	3 Months	Assassinated by his own troops
Probus	6 Years	Assassinated by his own troops
Carus	10 Months	Natural Causes (poss. lightning)
Numerian	1 Year	Murder (?)
Carinus	2 Years	Killed in Battle

Crisis of the Third Century

Key Dates and Events

Philip

- Celebrated Rome's 1,000th birthday

Decius

- First Roman Emperor to die in battle against a foreign enemy

Valerian

- Died in Captivity
- Footstool to Persian King—literally



The Humiliation of Emperor Valerian by Shapur I, Hans Holbein the Younger,
1521

Crisis of the Third Century

Key Dates and Events

Philip

- Celebrated Rome's 1,000th birthday

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Aurelian

- Temple to Sol Invictus
- Abandoned province of Dacia
- Built a defensive wall around Rome



Invasions, 250-271

Crisis of the Third Century

March 18, 235 - November 20, 284

What is the greatest threat facing the Roman Empire, ca. 270-280?

- Instability at Emperor
- Foreign Enemies
- Size/Division of the Empire
- Economic Issues
- Christianity
- Other

Diocletian

November 20, 284 - May 1, 305

Rise to Power

- Born: December 2, 244 in Spalatum (Split, Croatia)
- Emperor on November 20, 284
- The Dominate (fr. Dominus)

The Dominate

Starting with Diocletian

The Dominate

Starting with Diocletian

Principate to Dominate

- Imperator to Dominus
- No longer concerned with any illusions of a republic
- Dominus as divine
 - *Proskynesis*
- Luxury palaces
 - *Diocletian's Palace*



Diocletian's Palace, Split, Croatia

Diocletian

November 20, 284 - May 1, 305

Tetrarchy

- Knew empire was too big to manage effectively
- In 286, named Maximian co-emperor

Tetrarchy

Caesares and Augusti

Tetrarchy

March 1, 293

Empire was too big to manage, even with two emperors

- Tetrarchy = tetra + archy (cf. monarchy)
- East
 - *Augustus: Diocletian*
 - *Caesar: Galerius*
- West
 - *Augustus: Maximian*
 - *Caesar: Constantius*



The Tetrarchy

Confusing Tetrarchy

Caesares and Augusti

	East	West
Augustus	<div>Diocletian</div> <div>Abdicated: May 1, 305</div> <div>↑</div>	<div>Maximian</div> <div>Abdicated: May 1, 305</div> <div>↑</div>
Caesar	<div>Galerius</div>	<div>Constantius</div>

Confusing Tetrarchy

Caesares and Augusti

	East	West
Augustus	Galerius	Constantius <div>Died July 25, 306</div> <div>↑</div>
Caesar	Maximinus Daia	Severus

Confusing Tetrarchy

Caesares and Augusti

	East	West
Augustus	Galerius	Severus
Caesar	Maximinus Daia	Constantine (son of Constantius) Maxentius (son of Maximian) Maximian

Rome and Christianity

An Early History

When did Christianity begin?

Rome and Christianity

An Early History

Judaism

Dionysus

- Eastern god, accepted into Greek pantheon
- Parallels

Plato

- Body: Physical Senses and Desires
- Soul: Goodness and Truth
- “The purpose of the philosophical life is to free the soul from the needs of the body.”
- Theory of the Forms

Rome and Christianity

An Early History

Alexander the Great

- Greek is the common language of the eastern Mediterranean

Ministry of Jesus of Nazareth

- (7-2 BCE – 30-33 CE)

Nero

- Blames Christians for the Great Fire of Rome in 64
- Martyrdom of Paul the Apostle in Rome, ca. 65
- Martyrdom of St. Peter in Rome (upside-down crucifixion), ca. 65
- Death of “church leaders” lead to desire to write down accounts of Jesus

Rome and Christianity

An Early History

Titus

- Destruction of Jerusalem, 70

Four Gospels

- Mark, ca. 65-70
- Matthew, ca. 80-85
- Luke, ca. 80-85
- John, ca. 100

Elagabalus and Aurelian

- Introduction of single sun-god worship

Rome and Christianity

An Early History

Matthew 16:18

- Written in Greek
- Jesus: “καὶ γὰρ σοὶ λέγω ὅτι σὺ εἶ Πέτρος, καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ οἰκοδομήσω μου τὴν ἐκκλησίαν.”



ΙΧΘΥΣ

Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, Θεοῦ Υἱός, Σωτήρ





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IXΘΥC· ZWNTΩN



LICINIAE AMATIBE
NEMERENTI VIXIT

Rome and Christianity

Persecution and Martyrdom

Persecution

- Decius, c. 250
 - *Persecution of Christians throughout the empire*
 - *Commissions enforced sacrifices*
- Valerian, c. 257
 - *Execution of Christian leaders*

Martyrdom

- Reverse effect: Inspired growth of Christianity



The Christian Martyrs' Last Prayer, Jean-Léon Gérôme, 1883

Diocletianic Persecution

A series of edicts rescinding the rights of Christians to practice their faith and demanding that they comply with traditional Roman beliefs.

“Great Persecution” of Christians

- Mysterious fire at Diocletian’s palace in Nicomedia (Turkey)
- First Edict against the Christians (February 24, 303):
 - *Destruction of scriptures, places of worship*
 - *Prohibition from worship*
 - *Loss from civil rights*
- Second Edict against the Christians (Summer, 303)
 - *Imprisonment of bishops and priests*
- Third Edict against the Christians (November 20, 303)
 - *General Amnesty for those who sacrificed to Rome*
- Fourth Edict against the Christians (January / February, 304)
 - *Execution of all who refused to worship Roman gods*

Rome and Christianity

An Early History

The Rise of Christianity

- What were the major conditions or events that opened the door to the rise of Christianity?
- In what ways is Christianity compatible with the Roman Empire and vice versa?

Constantine

Next Time...