

5.1 **Ancient Rome - Republican**

- 1) **Ancient Etruscans** - a civilization in the central and west Italian peninsula that may have come from the east - 900-400 BCE. Their language was unique.
 - A sophisticated culture that devised the **arch** and had a columnar system of architecture that included an order called the **Tuscan**, which was the simple, primitive one similar to the Greek **Doric**
 - The Romans would use the **trabeated system of the Greeks** and combine with the **arched system of the Etruscans** to create their type of classical architecture
- 2) **Rome founded 753 BCE**
 - Legend of **Remus** and **Romulus**. They were suckled by a she-wolf. These twins founded Rome but Remus was killed by his brother on *day one* because of a disagreement over territory
 - From 750-509 BCE Rome was a Kingdom - and borrowed heavily from the **Etruscans - legal codes and religion**
 - Romans considered themselves **caput mundi** (head of the world)
 - But the Romans hated kings. In 509 the Senate deposed the last one and ran them out of the city, creating a *republic*.
- 3) Rome becomes a **Republic** in **509 BCE**
 - **Res publica** - meaning *a public affair* (as opposed to a Kingdom which may be owned by a King) is the root word for **republic**
 - If you were descended from the original Senators of 750 BCE you were a **patrician**. Anyone else was classed as a **pleb**.
 - The **Senate** (upper house of wealthy patricians and aristocrats) and **Plebian Assembly**, (lower house composed of plebs, or the common men).
 - The heart of the Roman City was the **forum** from 509 BCE onward
 - **SPQR** - Senatus Populusque Romanus — symbol and slogan of the Roman Republic, meaning literally: *"The Senate and the People of Rome"*
 - Roughly a **republican** form of government exactly parallel the ancient Greek **democracy** at this time
 - Not until Caesar is named Dictator for Life that Rome enters the stage of being an **empire**
 - But just because we use the words republic and democracy, it does not mean it was perfect. Every time the Romans conquered a city, they brought back the subjugated people as slaves. Slaves often took the jobs of poor working class people, causing the poor working class to be even worse off than before — causing even more class division.
 - Rome comprised of **seven hills** - we will be concerned mostly with just two hills Capitoline and Palatine (the Capitol Hill and the Palace Hill broadly speaking)

Capitoline
Palatine
Aventine
Caelian
Esquiline
Viminal
Quirinal

- Between **300-100 BCE** - In 146 BCE, Rome conquers Carthage and Macedon at the same time: **Rome establishes sovereignty over Mediterranean** region
 - First Triumvirate: **Julius Caesar**, Pompey, Crassus. Caesar is a military general and is away for a long time conquering Gaul and Britain.
 - Crassus dies; Caesar betrayed by Pompey; **Caesar crosses the Rubicon**, enters Rome and takes over. Julius Caesar crowned as Dictator for Life. **End of the Republic**.
 - The idiom *"Crossing the Rubicon"* has come down through history meaning "making an important decision which cannot be rescinded."
- 4) **Roman Cities**
 - **The Roman Forum** - the principal public space of Rome running SE/NW on a linear axis between the location of the Colosseum and Capitol Hill (Capitoline Hill) wedged beside the Palatine Hill.
 - **The Roman Forum** - the Roman equivalent of the Greek *Agora*. It accommodated these civic functions:
 - elections**
 - worship**
 - public speeches**
 - public meetings**
 - criminal trials**

social gatherings
business dealings
education
buying and selling (marketplace)

- Romans used cities in conquered territory to (1) **impose** the power of the republic (later an empire), and (2) **provide a template** for a formal Roman existence and lifestyle
- The new cities in the conquered lands had a north/south axis established, as well as an east/west axis for the grid.
- N/S axis was the **cardo**. E/W axis was the **decumanus**.
- The Roman grid contained *institutional buildings* such as: **forum, temple, basilica, thermae** (aka baths), and a market called **macellum**
- Roman city could respond to topography as well
- **Pompeii was destroyed in 79 CE** and covered deeply in volcanic ash, thus beautifully preserved example of a Roman City. South edge of the Bay of Naples.

See images for Pompeii's reconstructed **forum**, the **plan of its city center**, and its **basilica**

basilica — is a public building laid out crosswise to forum. It is a long, double height center aisle with clerestory lighting and two flanking side aisles. The chief magistrate or political judge or leader would sit on a dais and mete out justice and other legal aspects of society. It was a formidable axis of power.

When Rome became Christian under Constantine, the **basilica form or building type** eventually became the form of a **Christian church**.... many basilicas were converted to churches.

- **Bread and Circuses**. With a grain allowance for bread (welfare) available to citizens, and lots of entertainment and holidays, spectacles and diversions... the population of one million was likely to not revolt against the prevailing tyranny if they had their **bread and circuses**...

5) **Features of a Roman City**

- **Roman Theater** - similar to Greek but not carved into landscape - **freestanding** instead
- **Circus Maximus** (and other circuses). (100 BCE) Gigantic arenas to watch chariot races and indulge in the spectacles of Roman life. *Maximus* means the *biggest one*.
- **Roman Colosseum** (70 CE) largest building in the empire. For public spectacles, gladiators, lions, Christian prosecution. A combination of trabeated system (columns and beams), arching, vaulting, concrete and brick construction covered w travertine
- **thermae** - (a.k.a. **baths**) Public place for bathing. The men's and women's areas were separated. Followed a certain sequence. Thermae architecture was very large in scale and employed brick vaulting. The brick vaults formed huge arched windows to allow light to get in called **thermal windows**. These windows revived in the Renaissance.
- Examples:
 - Stabian Baths (Pompeii)** (200 BCE)
 - Baths of Bath England** (70 CE)
 - Baths of Caracalla** (215 CE)
 - Baths of Diocletian** (300 CE)

Various baths of the thermae:

palaestra - the field for wrestling (exercising)
natatorium - swimming pool
caldarium - hot bath (one would start here in the hot water...)
tepidarium - warm bath (... then proceed to warm water...)
frigidarium - cold bath (... and end up in the cold water to close the pores)

- The Baths of Diocletian (its ruins) was turned into a Church in 1564 by Michelangelo called St. Mary of the Angels and Martyrs