

## 2020-02-03 - Lecture 12

### 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**
- 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 750-550 BCE borrowed heavily from the **Etruscans - legal codes and religion**
  - Romans considered themselves **caput mundi** (head of the world)
- 3) Rome becomes a **Republic in 501 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**
  - An Upper House (Senate) or wealthy landowners and Lower House (Plebs) common men
  - The heart of the Roman City was the **forum** from 500 BCE onward

**elections**  
**worship**  
**public speeches**  
**public meetings**  
**criminal trials**  
**social gatherings**  
**business dealings**  
**education**  
**buying and selling**

- Rome comprised of **seven hills**

*Capitoline*  
*Palatine*  
*Aventine*  
*Caelian*  
*Esquiline*  
*Viminal*  
*Quirinal*

- Between **300-100 BCE** - **Rome establishes sovereignty over Mediterranean** region by defeating Greece and absorbing Etruria (Etruscans)
- 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. Crowned as Dictator.

#### 4) **Roman Cities**

- 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**

The **basilica** is a public building laid out crosswise to forum. Long, double height with a

center aisle and clerestory lighting. The **basilica** (as a *building type*) eventually becomes the form of a Christian church.... many basilicas are 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). c. **100 BCE** Gigantic arenas to watch chariot races and indulge in the spectacles of Roman life. *Maximus* means the *biggest one*.
- **Colosseum** 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.

Various baths of the thermae:

**palaestra** - the field for exercising

**natatorium** - swimming pool

**tepidarium** - warm bath

**caldarium** - hot bath

**frigidarium** - cold bath