

Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 2 Rome As a Republic

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do governments change?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did conflict between classes change Rome's government?*
2. *How did Rome conquer the Mediterranean region?*

Terms to Know

patrician a member of the ruling class

plebeian an ordinary citizen

consul head of government

veto to reject or say no to

praetors government officials who interpret the law and serve as judges

tribune an elected official who protects the rights of ordinary citizen

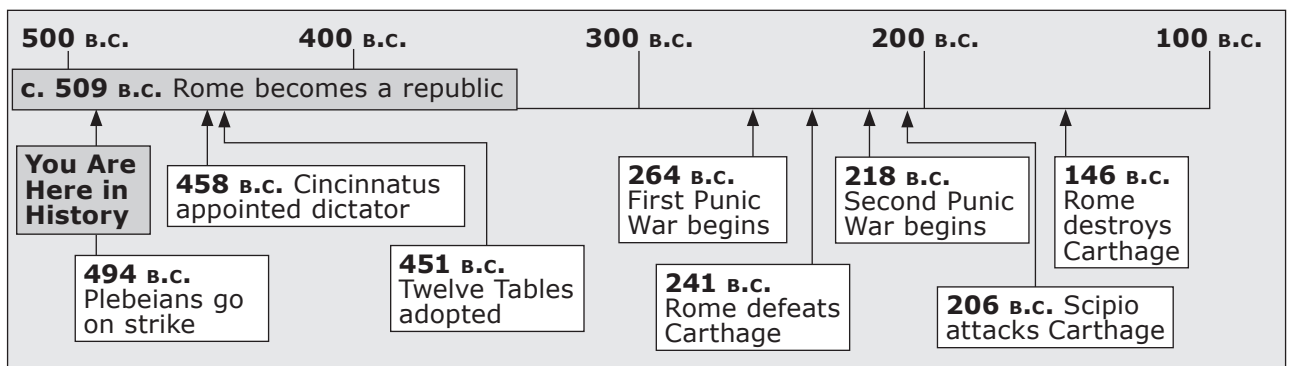
dictator a person given total power

civic duty the idea that citizens have a duty to help their country

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 2 Rome As a Republic, *Continued*

Governing Rome

There were two main social classes in early Rome: **patrician** and **plebeian**. Patricians were wealthy landowners who held government offices. Most people were plebeians—shopkeepers, artisans, and small farmers. Patricians and plebeians could not marry each other.

All patrician and plebeian men were citizens and had the right to vote. They had to pay taxes and join the army, but only patricians could be in the government.

The Roman government had three parts. This was to stop any one part from getting too strong. The top leaders were two **consuls** who served for one year. One consul headed the army. The other headed the rest of the government. Each consul could **veto**, or reject, the other consul's decision.

The Republican Government

Consul	Senate	Assembly of Centuries	Praetors
Head of military	Made laws	Made laws	Judges
Head of government	Advised consuls	Elected consuls	Interpreted laws
	Planned buildings		Led armies

Rome had two legislative bodies, or groups that made laws. The Senate was made up of 300 patrician men. They were senators for life. They passed laws and approved building projects. The second group that made laws was the Assembly of Centuries. It also elected consuls and **praetors** (or judges). Roman praetors could lead armies and help run the government.

Over time, the plebians got mad. They had the duties of citizens, but they could not be a part of government. They wanted equal rights. As a result, in 494 B.C., the plebeians went on strike. The patricians were scared. To prevent the collapse of the republic, plebeians were allowed to set up the Council of Plebs. It elected **tribunes**. The tribunes told the government what the plebeians thought about issues. The tribunes could also veto government decisions. A few wealthy families, however, still held most of the real power.

? Making Connections

- How is the structure of the Roman government similar to that of the U.S.?

FOLDABLES®

Comparing and Contrasting

- Place a three-tab Venn diagram Foldable along the dotted line. Label the top tab *Patrician*, the middle *Both*, and the bottom *Plebeian*. On the top and bottom tabs, write facts about the patricians and plebeians that are different. On the *Both* tab, write what the two groups have in common.

Explaining

- How did the Council of Plebs change life for the plebeians?

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Summarizing

4. What was the job of the dictators in the early Roman Republic?



Drawing Conclusions

5. How do you think poor Romans felt about the rule of law?



Reading Check

6. What was the emergency that caused Cincinnatus to be appointed dictator?

The Roman Republic included **dictators**. Today, a dictator is a cruel ruler who controls everything. In early Rome, dictators were chosen by the Senate to rule during an emergency. As soon as the emergency ended, the dictator quit.

Tribunes

- elected by the Council of Plebs
- told leaders what plebeians thought about issues
- could veto government decisions

Dictators

- chosen by the Senate
- ruled during an emergency
- quit when the emergency was over

In 458 B.C. the Roman army was attacked. The Senators chose a farmer named Cincinnatus to be dictator. He had been a respected Roman consul. Cincinnatus gathered an army, which easily defeated the enemy. Afterward, he went home to his farm. Cincinnatus was famous for doing his **civic duty** by serving his government when he was needed.

Plebeians demanded that Rome's laws be written down. That way, everyone could know the laws and make sure the judges followed them. In 451 B.C. Rome adopted its first written laws, known as the Twelve Tables. They were carved on bronze tablets and placed in the marketplace where everyone could see them. The Twelve Tables were based on the idea that all citizens should be treated equally under the law.

When Rome began taking over other nations, they made a new set of laws called the Law of Nations. The Law of Nations listed principles, or ideas, for justice. We still use some of these ideas today. For example, American law says that people are innocent until they are proven guilty.

Rome's legal system treated everyone equally. This is called "the rule of law." Many rich people did not like the rule of law. They were used to having special privileges. In fact, many rich people were not used to obeying the law at all. The rule of law changed that.

The Punic Wars

Rome continued to grow. It wanted to control the entire Mediterranean world, but so did an empire named Carthage. Carthage was a trading empire on the coast of North Africa.

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It was the largest and richest city in the western Mediterranean. Carthage was built around 800 B.C. by the Phoenicians, who were skilled sailors and traders.

In 264 B.C. Rome and Carthage both wanted to rule the island of Sicily. The First Punic War was fought between Rome and Carthage. This war lasted 20 years until Rome won in 241 B.C. Carthage had to leave Sicily and pay a huge fine to the Romans.

Carthage then conquered southern Spain. The Romans helped the Spanish people rebel. In 218 B.C. Carthage sent their great general, Hannibal, to attack Rome. This started the Second Punic War.

Hannibal sailed his army from Carthage to Spain. His men rode horses and elephants across the Alps and into Italy. Hannibal's army beat the Romans at Cannae and began raiding Italy. In response, the Roman general Scipio captured Spain and attacked Carthage. Hannibal and his army had to return home to defend his people. Finally, Scipio's army defeated Hannibal's forces. Carthage was forced to give up its navy and give its Spanish territory to Rome. Rome now ruled the western Mediterranean region.

Carthage was no longer a military power, but it was still a rich trading center. In 146 B.C. during the Third Punic War, Roman soldiers burned Carthage to stop it from getting stronger. Many people in Carthage were enslaved.

In the 140s B.C., Rome conquered all of Greece. Twenty years later, it took its first province in Asia. Romans began to call the Mediterranean Sea *mare nostrum*, which means "our sea."

//////////Glue Foldable here//////////

Check for Understanding

Explain the role or importance of each group of people in Rome.

1. consuls _____
2. dictators _____
3. patricians _____
4. plebeians _____
5. praetors _____
6. tribunes _____

**Identifying**

7. What happened to Carthage after the Third Punic War?

**Reading Check**

8. How did Hannibal lose the Second Punic War?



9. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Conflict Between Classes*. Write *Changes in Government* at the top of the tab. Draw three arrows from the title and list three changes that were the result of conflict between different classes in Rome.