

CHAPTER
5
SECTION 1

Section Summary
THE ROMAN WORLD TAKES SHAPE

Rome's location on the Italian peninsula, centrally located in the Mediterranean Sea, benefited the Romans as they expanded. In addition, Italy had wide, fertile plains, which supported a growing population. Rome began on seven hills near the Tiber River.

Romans shared the Italian peninsula with Greek colonists and the **Etruscans**—a people who ruled most of central Italy for a time. The Romans learned from the Etruscans, studying their engineering techniques and adapting their alphabet.

In 509 B.C., the Romans drove out the Etruscans and founded the state of Rome. They put in place a new form of government called a **republic**. To keep any individual from obtaining too much power, the republic was run by officials who represented the people. The most powerful governing body was the senate. Its 300 members were all **patricians**, or members of the landholding upper class. Each year, the senators nominated two **consuls** from the patrician class to supervise the administration and command the armies. Also, in the event of war, the senate might choose a temporary **dictator**, or ruler with complete control over the government.

Initially, all government officials were patricians. **Plebeians**, or common people, had little influence. However, the plebeians fought for the right to elect their own officials, called **tribunes**. The tribunes could **veto**, or block, laws that they felt harmed the plebeians. Although the senate still dominated the government, the plebeians had gained access to power and their rights were protected.

The family was the basic unit of Roman society. Although women could own property and, in later Roman times, run businesses, men had absolute power over the family. Romans also believed in education for all children. Religion, too, was a significant part of Roman society.

By 270 B.C., Rome controlled most of the Italian peninsula. This was due mainly to a well-trained army. The basic military unit was the **legion**. Each legion included about 5,000 citizen-soldiers. As Rome occupied new territories, they treated their defeated enemies well. As long as conquered peoples accepted Roman rule and obeyed certain laws, the Romans allowed them to maintain their own customs and governments.

Review Questions

1. What governing body in the republic had the greatest power?

2. What were the consuls' responsibilities?

READING CHECK

What were the two main social classes in the Roman republic?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *dominated* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *dominate* originates from the Latin word *dominus* which means "master." Use this word-origins clue to help you figure out the meaning of *dominated*.

READING SKILL

Identify Causes and Effects

What was the cause and what was the effect of the establishment of the office of tribune?

CHAPTER
5
SECTION 2

Section Summary
FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE

As Rome extended its territory, it encountered Carthage, an empire that stretched across North Africa and the western Mediterranean. These two powers battled in three wars. These Punic Wars lasted from 264 B.C. to 146 B.C., when Rome finally destroyed Carthage.

Rome was committed to a policy of **imperialism**—establishing control over foreign lands. Roman power soon spread from Spain to Egypt. Rome soon controlled busy trade routes that brought tremendous riches. Wealthy families purchased large estates, called **latifundia**, and forced war captives to work as their slaves. The gap between rich and poor grew, leading to corruption and riots.

Rome was in need of social and political reform. Young patrician tribunes **Tiberius** and **Gaius Gracchus** were among the first to attempt it. However, the senate felt threatened by their reforms, and in a series of riots, the two brothers and their followers were killed. This power struggle led to a period of civil war.

Out of the chaos emerged **Julius Caesar**, a brilliant military commander. With Caesar's rising fame, a rivalry erupted between him and another general, Pompey. Caesar eventually defeated Pompey and his soldiers and swept around the Mediterranean, suppressing rebellions. Victorious, Caesar returned to Rome and forced the senate to make him dictator for life.

Caesar pushed through a number of reforms to help solve Rome's many problems. Fearing that Caesar would make himself king, however, his enemies killed him in 44 B.C. His friend, Marc Antony, and his nephew, Octavian, joined forces to avenge Caesar. However, they soon battled one another for power, and Octavian defeated Antony.

With this triumph, the senate gave Octavian the title of **Augustus**, or "Exalted One." He was the first emperor of Rome and ruled from 27 B.C. to A.D. 14. Augustus built a stable government for the empire. He also undertook economic reforms. To make the tax system fair, he ordered a **census**, or population count, of the empire. Another influential Roman emperor was **Hadrian**. He codified Roman law, making it the same for all provinces.

During the *Pax Romana*, Roman rule brought peace, prosperity, and order to the lands it controlled. Spectacular entertainments were popular across the empire. However, social and economic problems hid beneath the general prosperity.

Review Questions

1. Who was Julius Caesar?

2. Who was Octavian?

READING CHECK

What did Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus attempt in Rome?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *suppressing* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *suppress* comes from a Latin word that means "to press under." Use this word-origins clue to help you figure out the meaning of *suppressing*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Multiple Causes
How did Augustus come to power?

CHAPTER 5
SECTION 3
Section Summary
THE ROMAN ACHIEVEMENT

Greek art, literature, philosophy, and scientific developments made a significant impact on Rome. Still, the greatest Roman authors wrote in Latin. In his epic poem the *Aeneid*, the Roman poet **Virgil** tried to show that Rome was as heroic as Greece. Others used poetry to **satirize**, or make fun of, Roman society. Roman historians pursued their own theme, recalling Rome's triumphant past in an attempt to renew patriotism. In philosophy, Roman thinkers were impressed with the Hellenistic philosophy of Stoicism.

Like their Greek predecessors, Roman sculptors realistically portrayed their subjects, focusing on every detail. However, the Romans distinguished themselves by also focusing on individual character. Art, too, was an important aspect of Roman culture. Artists depicted scenes from Roman literature and daily life in frescoes and **mosaics**—pictures made from chips of colored stone or glass.

Another distinction that set the Romans apart from the Greeks was their architecture. Unlike the Greeks, the Romans emphasized grandeur. They built immense palaces, temples, and stadiums, which stood as impressive monuments to Roman power. The Romans also improved structures such as columns and arches. Utilizing concrete as a building material, they developed the arched dome as a roof for large spaces.

In addition, the Romans excelled in **engineering**, which is the application of science and mathematics to develop useful structures and machines. Roman engineers built roads, bridges, and harbors throughout the empire. They built many **aqueducts**, or bridge-like stone structures that carried water from the hills into Roman cities.

In general, the Romans entrusted the Greeks, who were by that time citizens of the empire, with scientific research. **Ptolemy**, the astronomer-mathematician, proposed his theory that Earth was at the center of the universe. This mistaken idea was accepted in the Western world for nearly 1,500 years.

Rome was committed to regulating laws and to serving justice. To protect the empire and its citizens, Rome developed the civil law. As Rome expanded, the law of nations was established. This law was applied to both citizens and non-citizens of Rome. When Rome extended citizenship across the empire, the two systems merged.

Review Questions

1. What did Virgil wish to accomplish with his poem the *Aeneid*?

2. What theory did Ptolemy propose?

READING CHECK

How were Greek and Roman architecture different?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *utilizing* mean in the underlined sentence? Use any prior knowledge you might have about the word and a related word, *utility*, to figure out the meaning of *utilizing*.

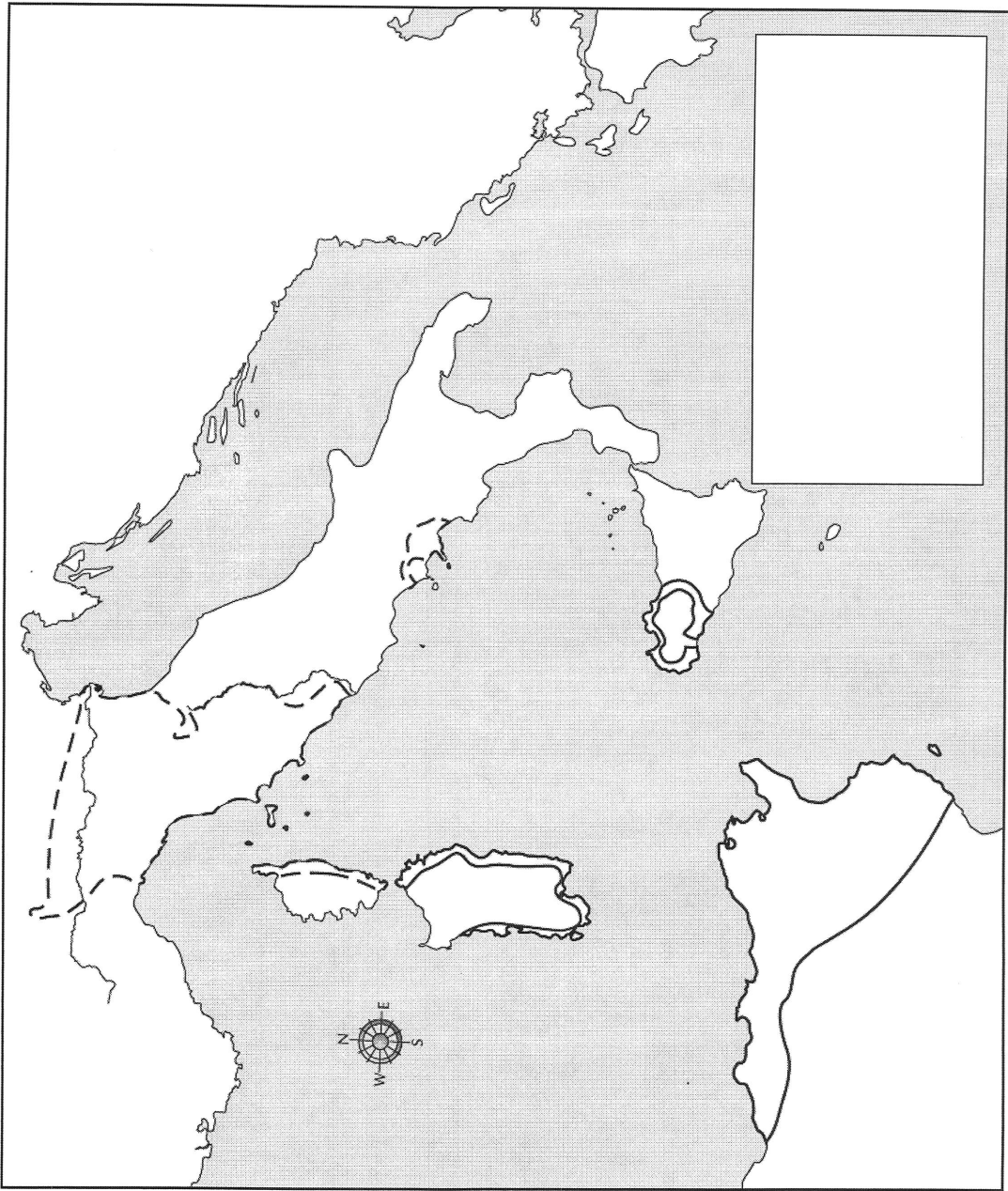
READING SKILL

Understand Effects What effects did Greek culture have on Roman culture?

ANCIENT ROME AND THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY
Outline Map

Ancient Italy

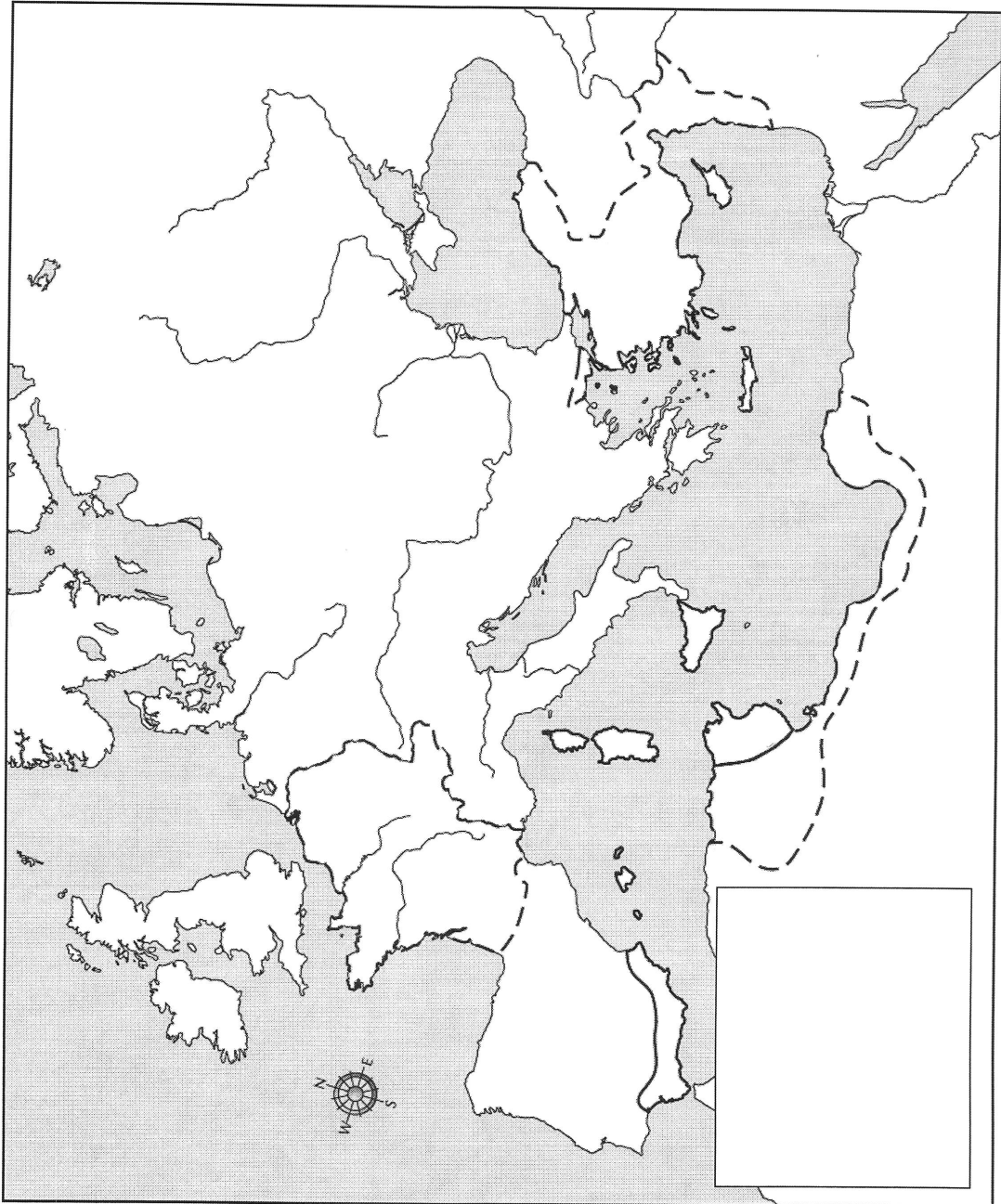
Directions: Locate and label the following: the Apennine Mountains, the Tiber River, the Po River, the Alps, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Rome, Carthage, and Syracuse. Use different colors to shade the map to show regions controlled by the Etruscans and the Carthaginians. In the blank box, create a key for your finished map. You may use any map in the textbook chapter, unit opener, or Atlas for reference.



ANCIENT ROME AND THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY
Outline Map

The Roman World

Directions: Locate and label the following: Spain, Britain, Gaul, Numidia, Egypt, Syria, Asia Minor, Macedonia, Constantinople, and Rome. Shade the map to show territory Rome won from Carthage in the Punic Wars. In the blank box, create a key for your finished map. You may use any map in the textbook chapter, unit opener, or Atlas for reference.



CHAPTER
5
SECTION 5

Section Summary
THE LONG DECLINE

In about the A.D. 200s, the Roman empire began to weaken. The golden age of the *Pax Romana* had ended. Rome faced political and economic problems. A decline in traditional values and frequent invasions were threatening the empire.

Corrupt government added to Rome's troubles. Political violence grew. Over and over, emperors were overthrown or assassinated by ambitious generals. Instability was the norm.

In 284, the emperor **Diocletian** set out to restore order. He divided the empire into two parts. He controlled the eastern part. A co-emperor, Maximian, ruled the western part. To help strengthen the weak economy, Diocletian slowed **inflation**, or a rapid rise of prices. He did this by establishing fixed prices on many goods and services.

When the emperor Constantine came into power, he continued Diocletian's reforms. He also granted religious freedom to Christians and founded a new capital, **Constantinople**. This made the eastern empire the center of power.

Although these reforms helped temporarily, they did not stop Rome's long-term decline. In the late 300s, a nomadic people from Asia, called **Huns**, began a savage campaign across much of Europe. This pushed other nomadic tribes into Roman territory. Fierce battles resulted. Soon, Rome itself was under attack. By then, the empire had already lost many of its territories. Roman power in the West was fading.

The main cause for Rome's decline was constant invasion. To fight back, Rome hired **mercenaries**, or foreign soldiers serving for pay, to defend its borders. However, many of these paid soldiers felt no loyalty to Rome. In addition, heavier and heavier taxes were needed to support Rome's military.

As Roman citizens worried about the consequences of a declining empire, patriotism diminished. The upper class, which had once provided leaders, now devoted itself to luxury and to gaining prestige. In 476, Germanic warriors captured Rome and removed the emperor. The Roman empire had ended.

Review Questions

1. What is inflation?

2. Who were the Huns?

READING CHECK

How did Diocletian try to restore order in the Roman empire?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *prestige* in the underlined sentence. What does it mean? Think about how you may have heard the word used. If a job gives a person a lot of *prestige*, what does it give him or her? Use the answer to this question and your prior knowledge to figure out the meaning of the word *prestige*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Multiple Causes

Circle two causes below that contributed to Rome's decline.

1. invasions
2. corruption
3. Christianity