



Dear students,

Dear students,

This is an E-module of the Lesson: AN EMPIRE ACROSS THREE CONTINENTS

This is Part II of the lesson .

We will cover the following subtopics

- Types of Roman territories
- Administration of The Roman Empire
- The third Century crisis
- Gender Literacy & Culture

Please also read the lesson from the NCERT Textbook. <http://www.ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/kehs102.pdf>

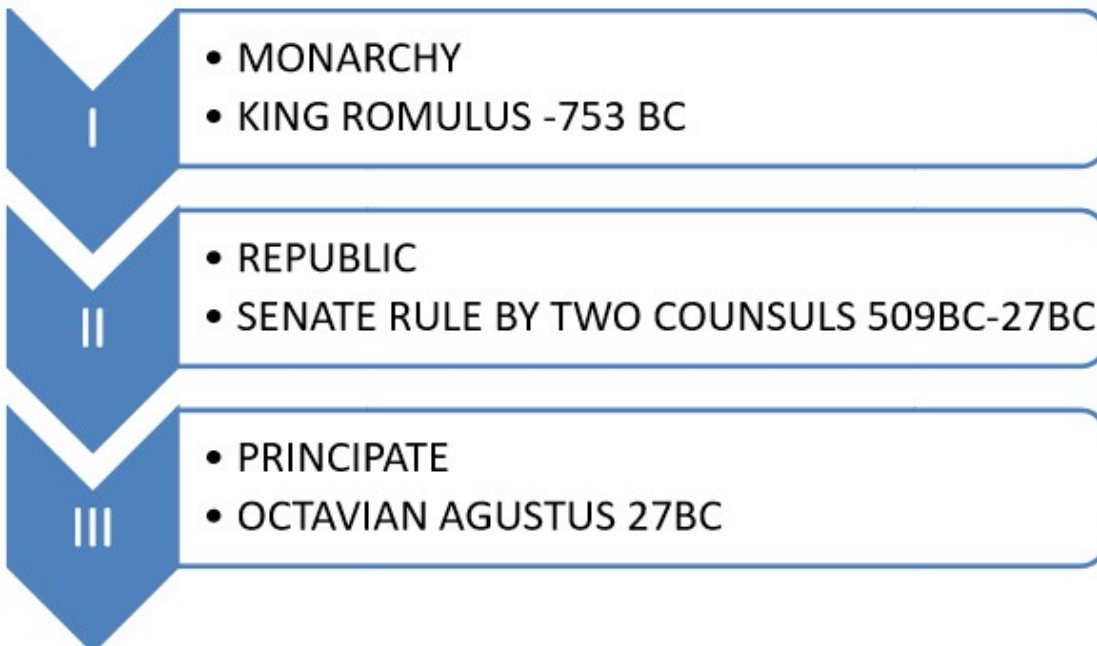
For a better understanding of the concept please watch the You tube video as well.

[https://youtu.be/tClxdOsC\\_JY](https://youtu.be/tClxdOsC_JY)

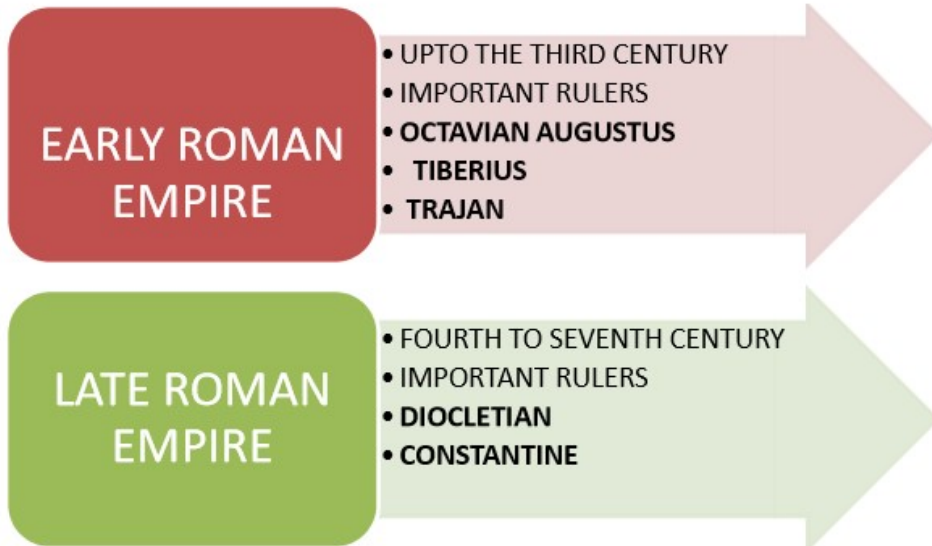
Do the assignment Questions in the History Register

A BRIEF RECAPITULATION OF THE PREVIOUS SUB-TOPICS

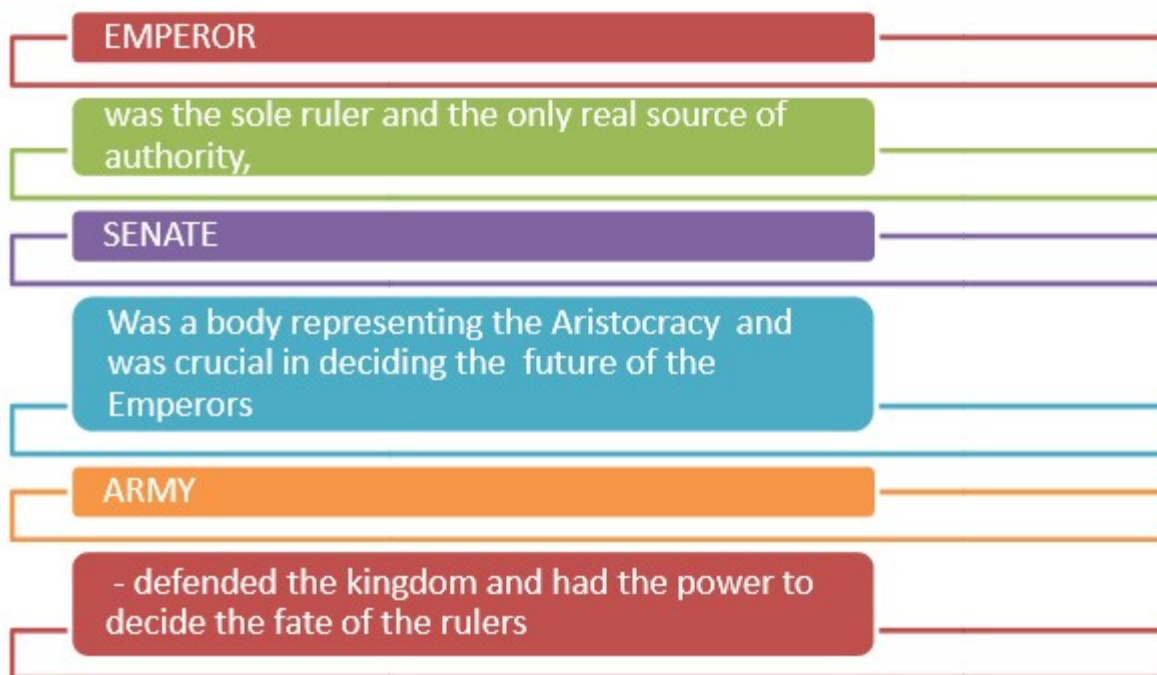
POLITICAL SYSTEM OF ANCIENT ROME



## DIVISION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE



## THREE MAIN PLAYERS IN THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF ROME



## **TYPES OF ROMAN TERRITORIES**

1. Dependent Kingdoms in the Near East
2. Provincial Territory

## **ADMINISTRATION OF THE VAST ROMAN EMPIRE**

The vast Roman Empire was an urban empire and was efficiently administered

1. All all the territories of the empire were organised into provinces and subject to taxation. The great urban centres that lined the shores of the Mediterranean (Carthage, Alexandria, Antioch were the biggest among them) were the true bedrock of the imperial system
2. It was through the cities that 'government' was able to tax the provincial countryside's which generated much of the wealth of the empire. the local upper classes actively collaborated with the Roman state in administering their own territories and raising taxes from them.
3. Throughout the second and third centuries, it was the provincial upper classes who supplied most of the cadre that governed the provinces and commanded the armies.
4. They came to form a new elite of administrators and military commanders who became much more powerful than the senatorial class because they had the backing of the emperors.
5. As this new group emerged, the emperor Gallienus (253-68) consolidated their rise to power by excluding senators from military command.

## **MEANING OF THE ROMAN CITY**

. A city in the Roman sense was an urban centre with its own magistrates, city council and a 'territory' containing villages which were under its jurisdiction. Villages could be upgraded to the status of cities, and vice versa, usually as a mark of imperial favour

Public baths were a striking feature of Roman urban life (when one Iranian ruler tried to introduce them into Iran, he encountered the wrath of the clergy there

## **ADVANTAGE OF LIVING IN THE CITY**

One crucial advantage of living in a city was simply that it might be better provided for during food shortages and even famines than the countryside

## **THE THIRD CENTURY CRISIS**

If the first and second centuries were by and large a period of peace, prosperity and economic expansion, the third century brought the first major signs of internal strain.

1. From the 230s, the empire found itself fighting on several fronts simultaneously. In Iran a new and more aggressive dynasty emerged in 225 (they called themselves the 'Sasanians') and within just 15 years were expanding rapidly in the direction of the Euphrates. In a famous rock inscription cut in three languages, Shapur I, the Iranian ruler, claimed he had annihilated a Roman army of 60,000 and even captured the eastern capital of Antioch.
2. Meanwhile, a whole series of Germanic tribes or rather tribal confederacies (most notably, the Alamanni, the Franks and the Goths) began to move against the Rhine and Danube frontiers, and the whole period from 233 to 280 saw repeated invasions of a whole line of provinces that stretched from the Black Sea to the Alps and southern Germany. The Romans were forced to abandon much of the territory beyond the Danube, while the emperors of this period were constantly in the field against what the Romans called 'barbarians'.
3. The rapid succession of emperors in the third century (25 emperors in 47 years!) is an obvious symptom of the strains faced by the empire in this period.

## **GENDER , LITERACY & CULTURE**

### **STRUCTURE OF FAMILY**

There was widespread prevalence of nuclear family. Adult sons did not live with their parents and it was exceptional for adult brothers to share a common household. Slaves were however included in the family.

### **Status of women**

- The women enjoyed considerable legal rights in owning and managing property.
- They were married off in the late teens or early thirties.
- Arranged marriage was the general norm
- Women were often subject to domination by their husbands
- Wives were often beaten up by their husbands.
- The typical form of marriage was one where the wife did not transfer to her husband's authority but retained full rights in the property of her natal family.
- Women remained a primary heir to father's property after marriage. They could become independent property owners after their father's death.

Divorce was easy for both men as well as women

### **LITERACY**

- The rate of literacy varied greatly between different parts of the empire.
- Literacy was widespread in army officers, estate managers and soldiers
- Casual literacy existed and it varied from place to place.

There was a wall in pompeii which carried advertisements and graffiti, which indicates high level of casual literacy

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

- The cultural diversity was reflected in many ways and at many levels.
- There was a vast diversity of religious cults and local deities, the plurality of languages that were spoken, the styles of dresses that were worn.
- The food the people ate their forms of social organisation and their types of settlement, all reflected cultural diversity.

- Different languages were spoken in different areas. Most of the linguistic cultures were purely oral, at least until a script was invented for them.
- As late as fifth century, Armenian began to be used as written form of language.

In other areas the spread of Latin displaced the other widespread written form of languages

#### ASSIGNMENT

Q1. "The provincial upper classes came to form a new elite of administrators and military commanders who became much more powerful than the senatorial class" Analyse

Q2. Write a short note on the third century crisis .

BBPS, PITAMPURA