

## Geography

- Italian Peninsula centrally located in Mediterranean Basin
- Protected by Alps
- Sea provides protection and access to sea-borne trade.

## Representative Democracy

### Res Publica – a “Republic”

- Overthrow of Etruscan Rulers
- Power divided among **3 branches**
  1. Executive
    - a. Consuls
  2. Judicial
    - a. Praetors
  3. Legislative
    - a. **Senate**
      - i. **REAL POWER**
    - b. Assemblies

### Law Code – The Twelve Tables



Roman Forum

### Patricians

- Noble Class

### Plebeians

- Merchants, Artisans, Farmers
- Demand Changes

## Social Structure

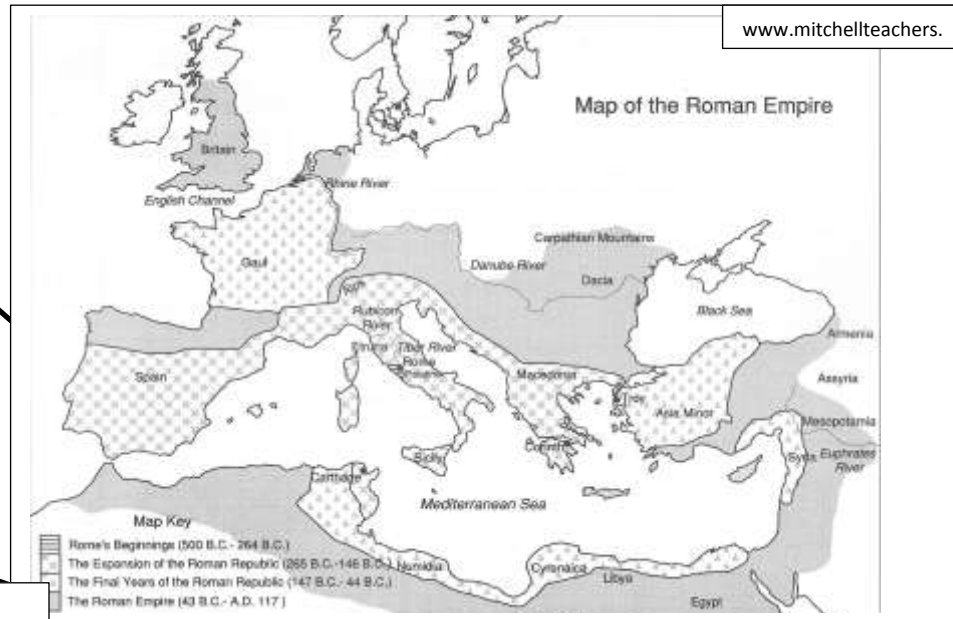
# The Roman Republic

## The First Triumvirate

- Julius Caesar, Crassus, & Pompey
- Caesar conquers Gaul; attempts seizure of power.
- Caesar assassinated- March 15, 44 BCE
- Civil War follows

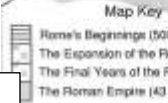


Caesar Crossing the Rubicon  
from "Figures de l'histoire de la République Romaine"  
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Map of the Roman Empire



Map Key  
 Rome's Beginnings (500 B.C. - 264 B.C.)  
 The Expansion of the Roman Republic (265 B.C. - 146 B.C.)  
 The Final Years of the Roman Republic (147 B.C. - 44 B.C.)  
 The Roman Empire (43 B.C. - A.D. 117)

## Punic Wars

- Fought against Carthage for control of Med. Sea Trade.
- Hannibal – led Carthage in 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War – invaded Italian Peninsula
- 3 Wars end with Roman victory & destruction of Carthage

## Roman Mythology

- Based on Greek mythology
- Integral to Culture, Politics, & Art
- Explained natural phenomena, human qualities, life events



Roman Pantheon

## Decline of the Republic

1. Spread of Slavery into Agricultural System
2. Migration of farmers into cities; unemployment (Proletariat)
3. Civil War over power of Julius Caesar
4. Devaluation of Roman Currency; Inflation