

WORLD HISTORY GREEKS AND ROMANS

RISE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND CHRISTIANITY

RESULTS OF THE PUNIC WARS

- Many Roman soldiers died
- The homes of most soldiers had been destroyed in the Second Punic War and they could not afford to rebuild their homes
- Most patricians/landowners chose to use slaves for workers rather than hire out of work soldiers because they didn't have to pay slaves anything
- This new class of landless, poor became known as the proletariat

ATTEMPTS AT REFORM

- The Gracchi: Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus tried to convince the Assembly to distribute all land in Rome equally. This way there would not be a huge gap between the patricians and the proletariat. Senators clubbed him to death before his ideas could be passed into law.
- Julius Caesar: 44BC Caesar is named dictator of Rome for 10 years. He made himself the head of the Senate and allowed plebians to serve in the Senate. He forced landowners to use free men for 1/3 of their workers (this meant the proletariat had jobs open to them); he adopted a 365-day calendar; he gave land to the poor; and he created many new public jobs for the poor. In 44 BC, he was murdered by senators who feared that he was taking too much power away from them.
- Octavian Caesar: 27BC he is named Augustus or the exalted one and is made sole ruler of Rome. His rule is known as the Pax Romana or the period of peace and prosperity. Augustus encouraged trade, created a single currency (the denarius) for the entire Roman empire, built aqueducts to bring water into Rome, built roads and structures out of concrete so that they would last for centuries, and he created a civil service where anyone could apply to work in a government/political position.

ROME AND CHRISTIANITY

In AD 6, Rome conquered Israel and took the Jews under their control. Within 24 years, the teachings of Jesus began to spread throughout this region. Jesus taught that God was the one true ruler and that people should follow the Ten Commandments in their lives as their laws. He also taught that wealth was not important or impressive and it didn't say anything about a person's status in the world. Many Roman leaders feared Jesus because they believed that the Roman people would revolt and want him to become their new leader. Jesus was crucified in AD 30. Christianity continued to spread throughout Rome after Jesus' death. In AD 313, the ruler Constantine welcomed Christians in the Roman empire and allowed all people to choose their own religion.