

Birth of a Republic

All roads lead to Rome.





Roman Republic

There was a dream that was Rome.

508 BCE to 44 BCE

Roman Republic

- **How it works:**

- Rome and its tribute states were controlled by two consuls, a Senate, and Assemblies.

Consuls:

- were elected by the Senate to serve a ONE YEAR TERM. Consuls could be elected to serve up to TEN YEARS.
- could appoint a DICTATOR, someone who would hold absolute control of Rome for up to six months, in times of emergency



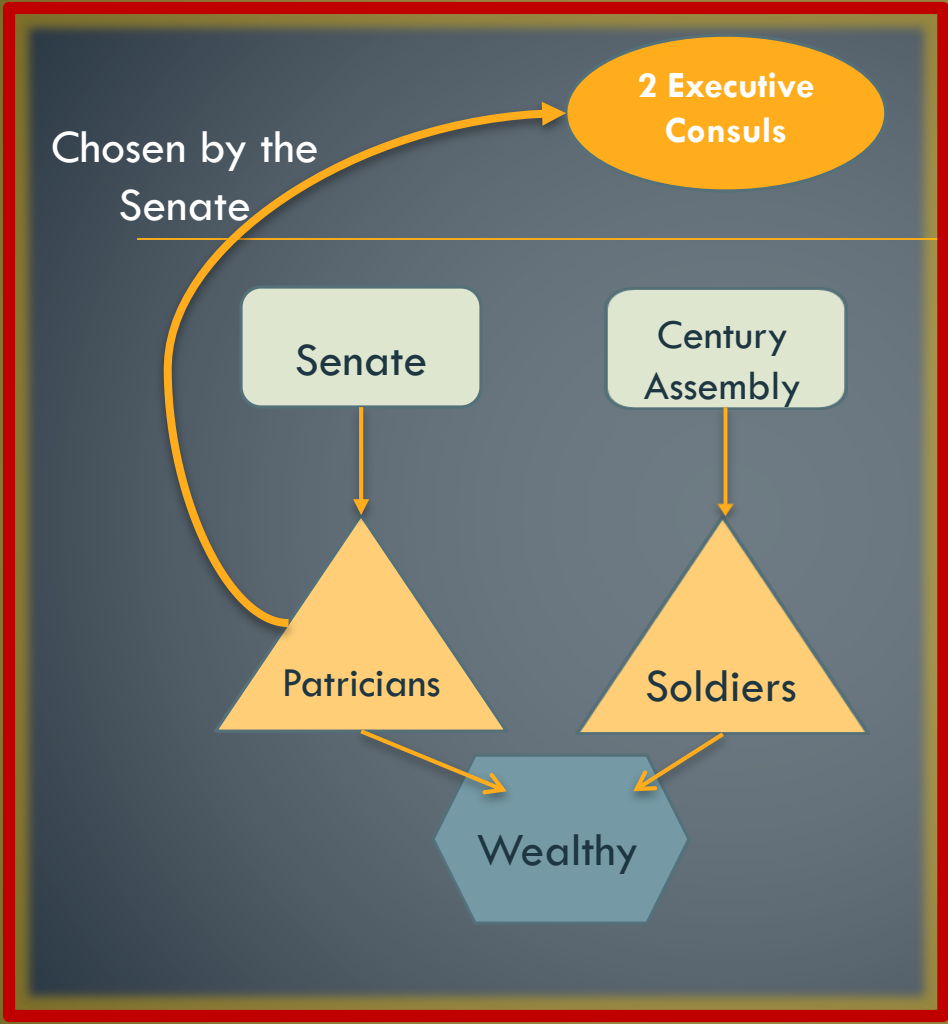
The Roman Republic: How it Works

- The Senate:

1. consisted of **300 members**
2. chosen from the **aristocracy**, for life
3. could make and administer laws

- Assemblies:

1. The People's Assembly consisted of elected representatives called "tribunes," and was associated with the **plebeians** (non- aristocrats)
2. The Century Assembly consisted of **soldier-citizens**. Because representation in the Century Assembly was based on property ownership, this assembly was **very aristocratic**.



Executive Branch

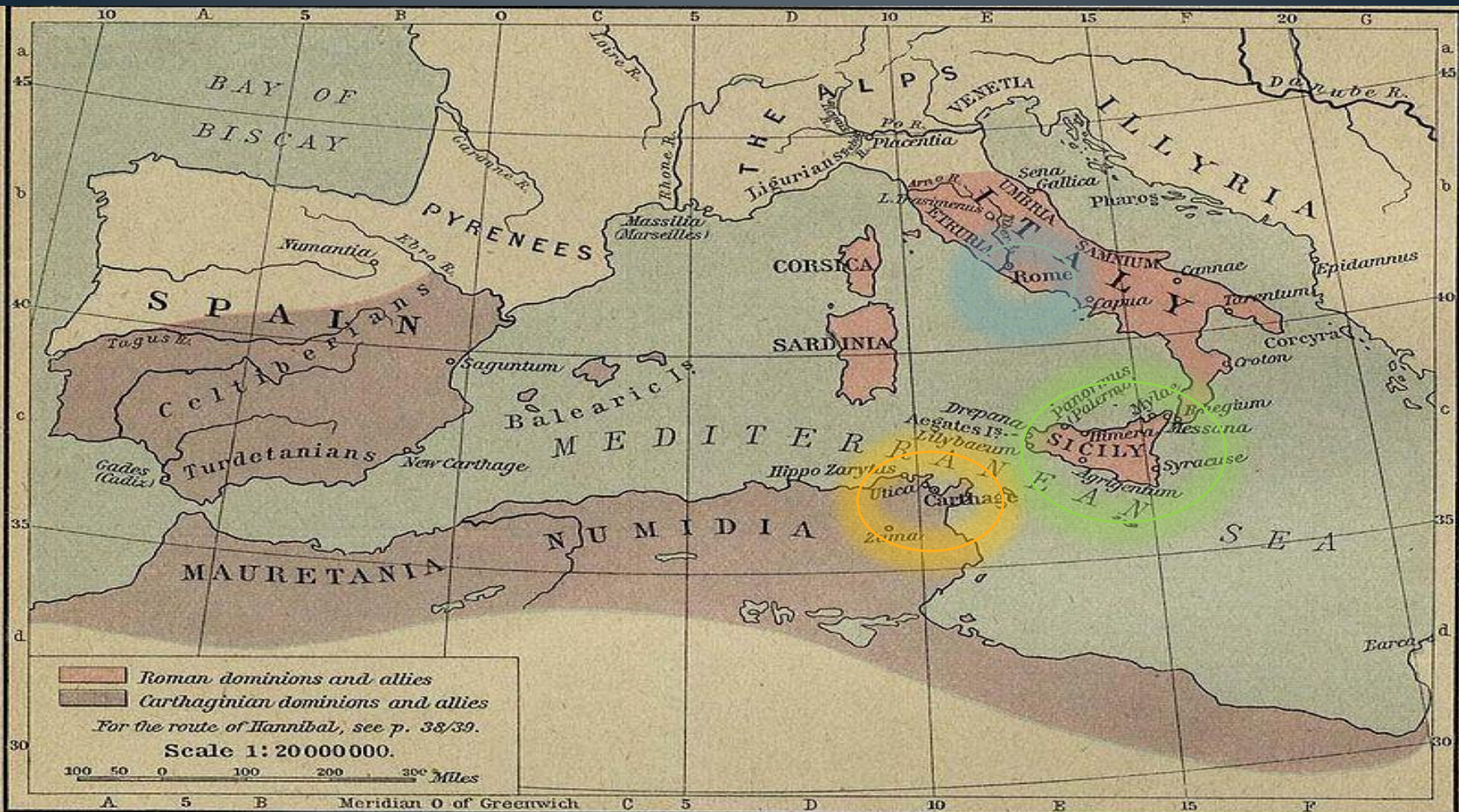
Legislative Branch

Results of Republic System

- Separation of powers with a system of checks and balances
- Term limits prevented one individual gaining too much power—
for a time.

Expansion and Conquest

- By the early 300s BCE, Rome had expanded its territory and influence throughout the **Italian peninsula**, and moving into **Gaul (modern-day France)**
- Rome's increasing power was a threat to Carthage, a city-state established by the Phoenicians in north Africa
 - * Rome and Carthage would become involved in **three separate wars for dominance in the Mediterranean**, known collectively as the Punic Wars



Punic Wars (264 to 146 BCE)

- Three wars fought between Rome and Carthage:
 1. **First Punic War** (264 to 241 BCE): Carthage and Rome go to war for control of the island of Sicily. The war is mostly fought at sea, and Rome ultimately won.
 2. **Second Punic War** (218 to 201 BCE): Fought to avenge Carthage's defeat in the First Punic War. Hannibal leads an invading force overland to attempt to take Rome. Ultimately, this conflict was a draw for both sides.
 3. **Third Punic War** (149 to 146 BCE): Rome lays siege to Carthage, and is victorious.



Key
 Roman Republic in 201 B.C. ■
 Additions by 100 B.C. ■

EXPANSION OF ROME
 about 2nd Century B.C.

SCALE OF MILES
 0 100 200 300 400 500 600





Crisis in the Roman Republic

Benefits of Punic Wars

- Added massive amounts of territory to the Roman Republic
- Brought many new people and cultures under Roman control

Costs of Punic Wars

- Extended years of warfare forced many farmers to leave their farms to fight for years on end, leading to bankruptcy
- Poor, landless farmers begin to flood into Rome

....When Rome had grown great through hard work and justice. When Carthage, Rome's rival, had been toppled and every land sea had been opened to us, then Fortune turned against us and brought confusion to all we did. Those who had found it easy to bear hard work and danger now discovered that leisure and wealth which most men find so desirable were a burden and a curse to them. Lust for money grew among them, then the hunger for power, and these two gave rise to every other kind of evil. Greed destroyed honor, honesty, and every other virtue, and taught men to be arrogant and cruel. In the end, when the disease had spread like a plague, Rome changed: a government which had once surpassed all other in justice and excellence now became cruel and unbearable.

Quieting the Mob

- Between 134 and 44 BCE, **civil unrest and revolts** were commonplace throughout the Roman republic. Some of the major problems were:
 1. **Economic depression**, particularly for small-scale farmers.
 2. **Frequent slave revolts**.
 3. Too much power in the hands of too few.

End of the Republic

- **Triumvirate**: an informal political alliance with three members.
- In 60 BCE, Julius Caesar joins forces with two other politicians, **Pompey** and **Crassus**, to form a triumvirate which will control Rome. However, Crassus is murdered in 53 BCE, and the two remaining members of the triumvirate fight a bloody civil war.
- In 49 BCE, Julius Caesar leads a legion of loyal men across the Rubicon into Rome, defeats Pompey, and becomes dictator.
(“Crossing the Rubicon” = passing the point of no return)



Veni, vidi, vici.

- Caesar pursued the defeated Pompey into Egypt, where Pompey was murdered—beheaded the moment he stepped onto Egyptian sand.
- His one real political rival thus neutralized, Caesar involved himself with Egyptian politics and installed Cleopatra VII on the throne of Egypt.

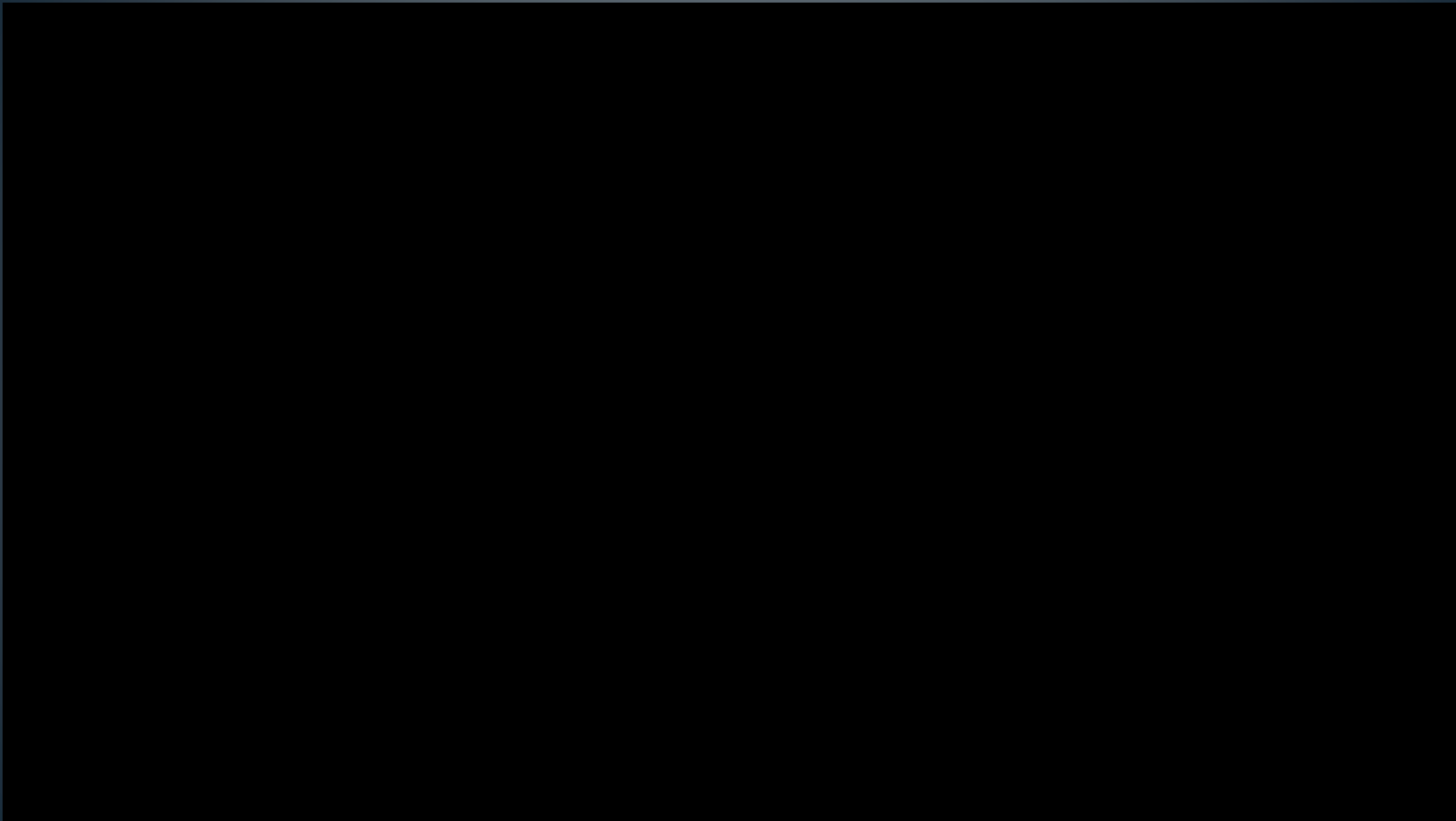
Absolute Power (Corrupts Absolutely).

- During his reign as first consul and dictator, Caesar:
 1. strengthened the **central government**
 2. established a policy of **land redistribution for veterans**
 3. adopted the **Egyptian solar calendar** (more accurate)
- While the average citizen revered Caesar, his colleagues in the Senate feared that Julius Caesar planned to install himself as king.
 1. Caesar had begun to wear **crimson and purple** robes.
 2. He declared himself to be the **son of Venus**.
 3. He insisted that people **bow before him**.

Et tu, Brute?

- On March 15, 44 BCE, Julius Caesar came to speak on the floor of the Senate. Upon his arrival, he was set upon by a group of Senators and stabbed twenty-three times.
- Following Caesar's death, there was a thirteen year period of civil unrest and war— the commoners, who had revered Caesar, rioted, and the Senate engaged in a lengthy power struggle that would extend all the way to Egypt.
- Ultimately, Caesar's adopted son, his grand-nephew Octavian Augustus, would take power.





IDES OF MARCH



CAESAR! YOU MUSN'T GO TODAY! I HAD A DREAM THAT YOU DIED

WHAT - THAT'S AMAZING CALPURNIA



I HAD A DREAM! I WAS WEARING A ROBE MADE ENTIRELY OUT OF HOT DOGS



HOT DOGS CALPURNIA

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE HOT DOG DREAM AGAIN