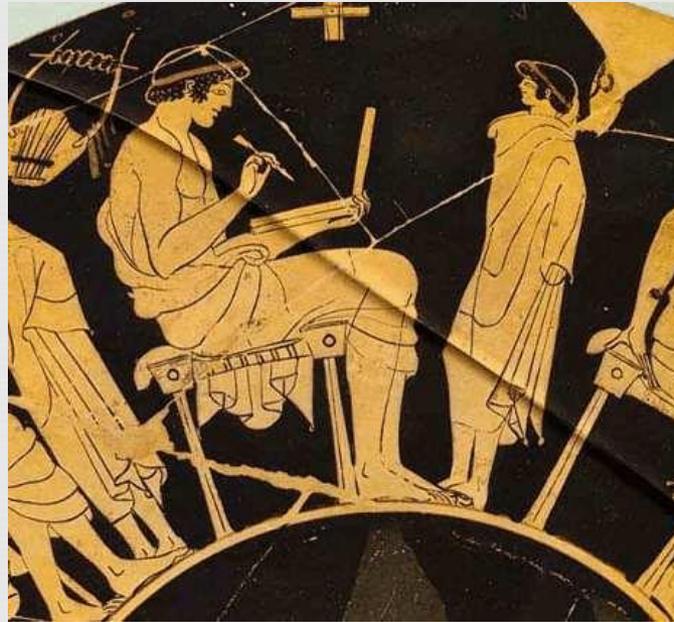


# Chapter Four: Classical Greece and Rome

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Ms. Sheets  
University High School

# Persian Empire

## 550 BCE – 331 BCE

- After decline of Egypt (664 BCE), powerful regions emerge in SW Asia
- Significantly influences Mediterranean societies
- 550 BCE: founder Cyrus the Great established the Persian Empire.
- Advanced iron technology
- Zoroastrianism (monotheistic religion, system of rewards and punishments, Last Judgment, belief in afterlife).
- Trade that connected them to India, Egypt, Greece
- Persian Royal Road
- Conquered by Alexander the Great in 331 BCE.



# Persian War

## 500 BCE - 449 BCE

- 
- ❧ Persian ruler Darius invades Ionia (in Turkey), but faces revolts which are supported by Athens. After crushing these revolts, Darius wanted revenge against Athens for helping these revolts.
  - ❧ Invaded Greece but was defeated at the Battle of Marathon.
  - ❧ Darius' son Xerxes leads the second Persian invasion of Greece and wins at the Battle of Thermopylae, leading to the torching of Athens.
  - ❧ Delian League (478 BCE): group of Greek city-states under Athenian leadership, goal is to defeat the Persians; ultimately successful with the Athenian navy at the Battle of Salamis.

# Ancient Greece



# Greek Precursors

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## ∞ Minoan culture - island of Crete

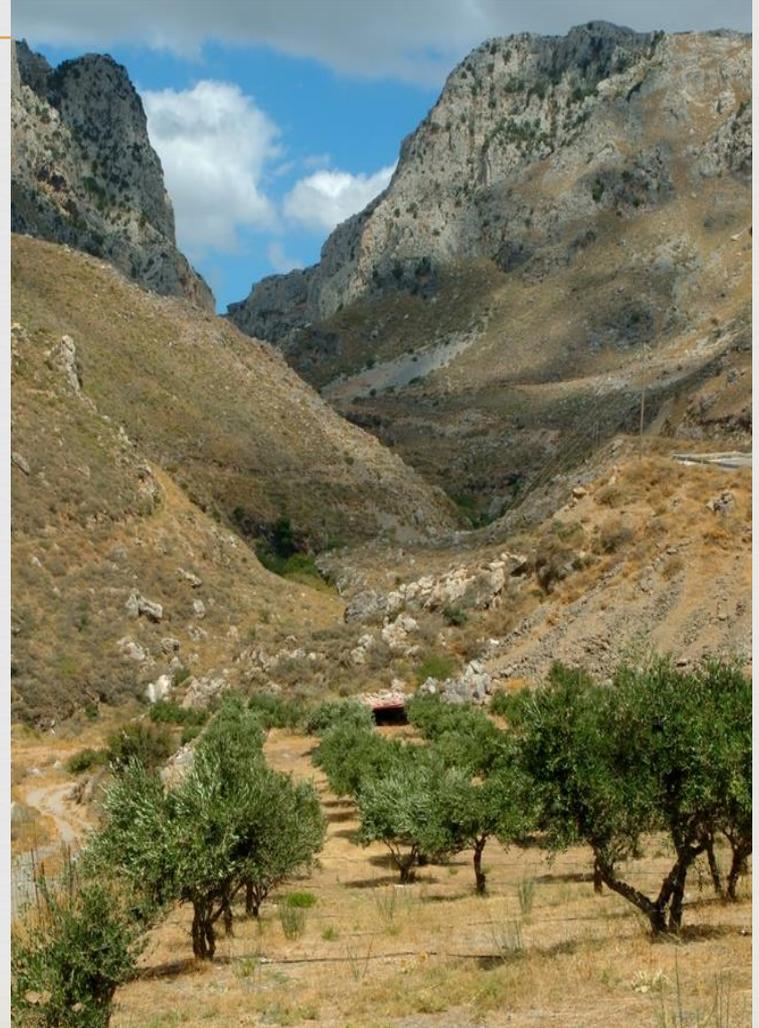
- Traded with other civilizations (Egypt, Asia Minor, Greece) by 2000 BCE
- Few things are known (script can't be deciphered)
- Very peaceful seafaring society
- Worship primarily goddesses

## ∞ Mycenaean culture – Peloponnesus, 1400 BCE

- Spread cities across Greece
- Left behind many artifacts
- Society advanced through conquest
- Defeated the Minoans

# Landscapes

- Mountainous, hilly, and rugged, which made communication and centralization of communities and government difficult
- Thrived as several strong city-states, not a unified political unit
- Very little available farmland
- On the other hand, jagged coastlines provided easy access to the sea (fishing and sea trading become important)



# Political Institutions: --- Greece



- *Polis*: a city-state
  - Society who lived in the city and cultivated the surrounding countryside
  - Under the influence of a single government
  - City center: the acropolis and the agora
  - Political, religious, cultural center
  - Community of citizens; active participation in political life
  - Athens; Sparta; Corinth; Megara; Argos; Olympia; Thebes

# Athens vs. Sparta



- Athens

- Golden Age under Pericles: science, philosophy, arts
- Reliant on sea trade
- Initially an aristocracy, but gradually morphs into democracy

- Sparta

- Military oligarchy; all boys in military training
- Aristocratic government focuses on strong military state
- Large slave population
- Heavily agricultural

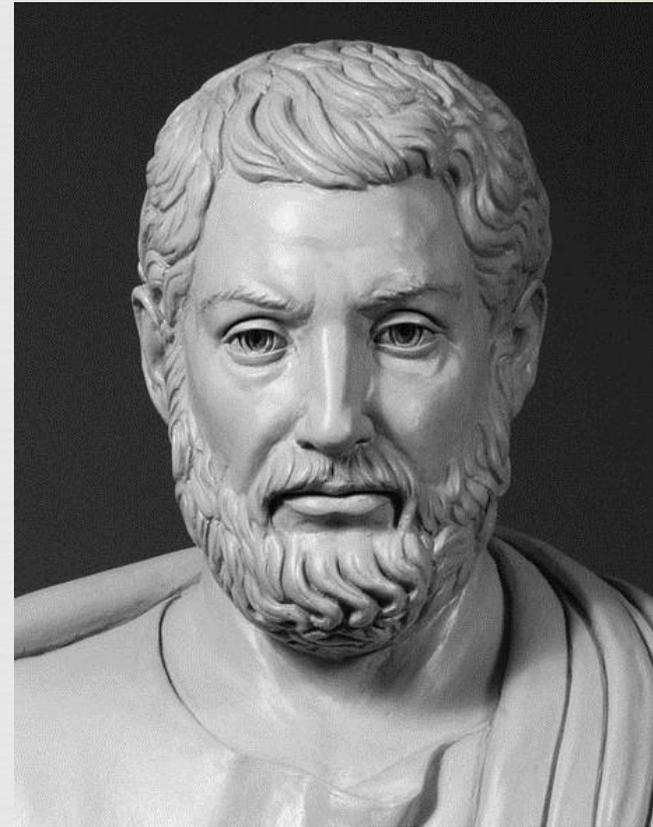
# Government Types in Greece

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- ❧ Monarchy: rule by a king (Mycenaean period)
- ❧ Democracy: power by the people (. . . actually power by the citizens)
  - All citizens administered the workings of government
  - Citizens: free adult men (10-20% of population)
- ❧ Oligarchy: “rule of the few”
  - A government by a small group of wealthy citizens
  - Social mobility allowed people to join the oligarchy

# Athenian Democracy

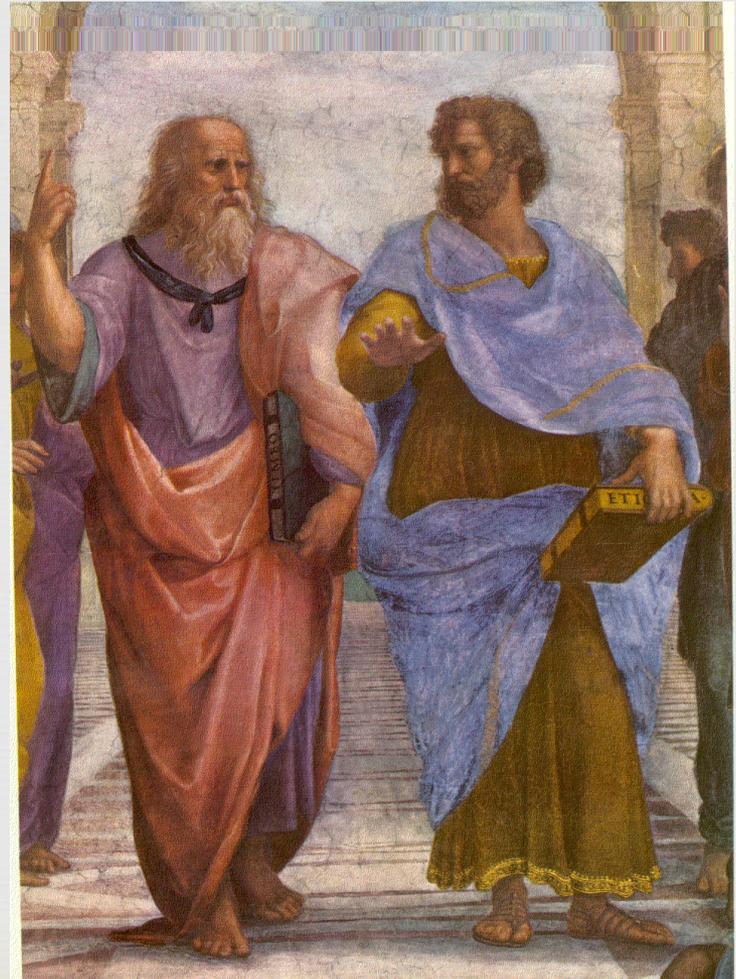
- Height of Athenian democracy reached under aristocrat Pericles (443-429 BCE)
- Golden Age in Athens (science, philosophy, arts)
- Direct democracy: not ruled through elected representatives. Assemblies, created by Cleisthenes, were formed by adult male citizens and were venues by which citizens could shape policies.



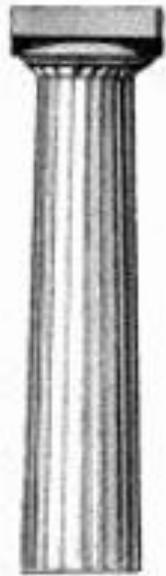
Cleisthenes, "father of Athenian democracy"

# Greek Philosophy

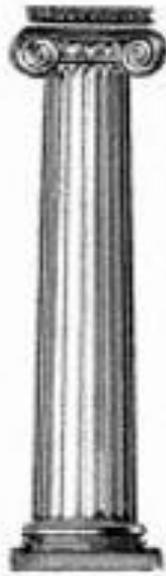
- ☞ Emphasized the power of human reason
- ☞ Socrates (470-399 BCE): Teacher, questioned Athenian values, religion, customs and laws, put to death
- ☞ Plato (437-347 BCE)- founded the Academy, school of philosophy, is utopia achievable?
- ☞ Aristotle- (384-322 BCE)- attended the Academy, taught Alexander the Great; constructs arguments through use of logic



# Greek Architecture



Doric



Ionic



Corinthian



- Monumental construction, square or rectangular in shape, columns, use of marble

# Peloponnesian War (431-404 BCE)

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- Athens had grown from a *polis* to an empire, and angered other city-states, mainly Sparta.
  - Pericles had taken money from Delian League treasury to pay for the rebuilding of the Athenian Acropolis, after destruction by Persians
- Athens and Sparta fought for control over Greece.
  - Sparta receives Persian aid (Persia upset over Athenian victory in Persian War)
  - Athens had a superior navy to control Aegean Sea; Sparta had a superior military.
- Athens suffered a devastating plague during the course of the war while Athens' navy was defeated. Athens surrendered.



Spartan Strategy:  
 Offensive on land

Athenian Strategy:  
 Defend on land  
 Offensive on sea

# Philip II of Macedon and the Macedonian Empire

- With discord between all of the city-states in Greece during the Peloponnesian War, it was very easy for Philip II of Macedon to take over Greece.
- Dies before he can conquer Greek city-states
- Turns empire over to Alexander the Great, his son



# Alexander the Great



- ☞ Philip II's son, Alexander the Great, finishes his father's ambitions.
- ☞ Reigns 336-323 BCE
- ☞ Alexander extended the Macedonian Empire throughout the Middle East, towards India, and into Egypt.

# Hellenistic Age



- ❧ Term for the period of Alexander's rule and that of his generals.
- ❧ Characterized by the spread of Greek culture and a hybrid blend of Greek and Middle Eastern cultures.
- ❧ Long-distance trade flourished
- ❧ Greek philosophies; Euclidean geometry; studies of human anatomy and physiology by Galen; Eratosthenes calculates circumference of Earth
  - ❧ Error promoted during this era: astronomer Ptolemy expounded geocentric theory of universe (earth as center). This is accepted as truth until the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- ❧ Ends 146 BCE, with conquest of Greek peninsula by Rome.

# The Roman Republic (509– 45 BCE)



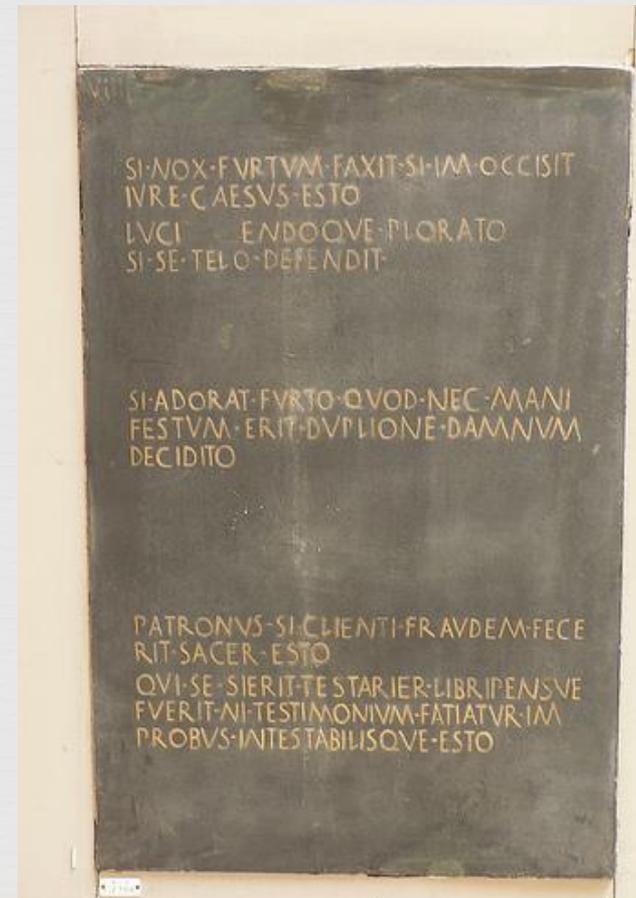
- 800 BCE: Rome begins as a kingdom
- 509 BCE: Roman monarch deposed by Roman aristocracy; Roman Republic is created.
  - The Senate (members of the aristocracy) comprised the government. Senators held all executive offices in Rome.
  - Two Consuls shared executive power and controlled the army. If a problem arose, the Senate could appoint a dictator to hold emergency power for 6 months.
- 450 BCE: laws were codified (written down) in the Twelve Tables.
- Roman Republic begins a period of expansion in Mediterranean.



On the eve of the collapse of the Roman Republic,  
45 BCE

# Twelve Tables (450 BCE)

- Significant Roman Republic contribution on later Roman empire and Western legal traditions
- Allowed Rome to expand its laws and system of justice throughout the empire
  - In actuality, difficult to enforce
- Assorted principles:
  - A defendant is innocent unless proven guilty by a court of law
  - Defendants have the right to confront their accusers in a court of law
  - Judges may set aside laws they feel are unjust



# Punic Wars

## (264 – 146 BCE)

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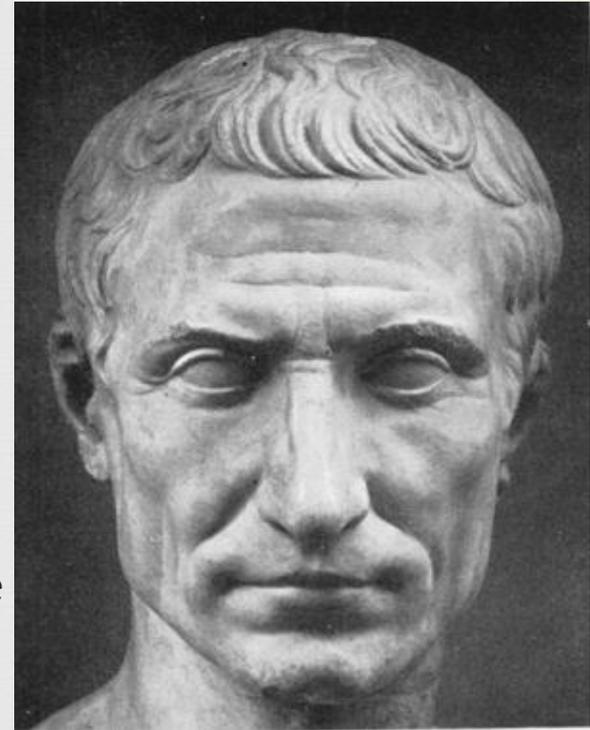
- Series of three wars between the Roman Republic and the Carthaginian Empire of North Africa.
  - First Punic War (264-241 BCE): fought in Sicily and northern coast in Africa; Rome won and Carthage pays tribute to Rome
  - Second Punic War (218-201 BCE): Hannibal (military commander) invaded Italy from the north via the Alps with elephants, but Rome fought back in Italy and in Carthage; Carthaginian Empire then exists only as the city of Carthage
  - Third Punic War (149-146 BCE): Rome invades and takes Carthage, thoroughly destroying the city.
- Success in these wars makes Rome the controller of the Mediterranean Sea.

# Roman Empire

## (27 BCE - 476 CE)

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- 45 BCE: Power struggles between Roman generals emerged, civil war, and one of them, Julius Caesar, came to power
  - Caesar declares himself “dictator in perpetuity”
- March 15<sup>th</sup>, 44 BCE: Roman Republic dissolves, Caesar assassinated by senators
- Roman Republic → Roman Empire
  - Octavian, later Augustus Caesar, became the first Roman emperor.
  - Emperor has primary executive power; power of Senate decreases
  - Conquered peoples were allowed a good amount of self-rule providing they did not rebel against the emperor’s will.
  - Those in conquered regions were granted citizenship.
  - Beginning of the Pax Romana
    - Ends with death of Marcus Aurelius

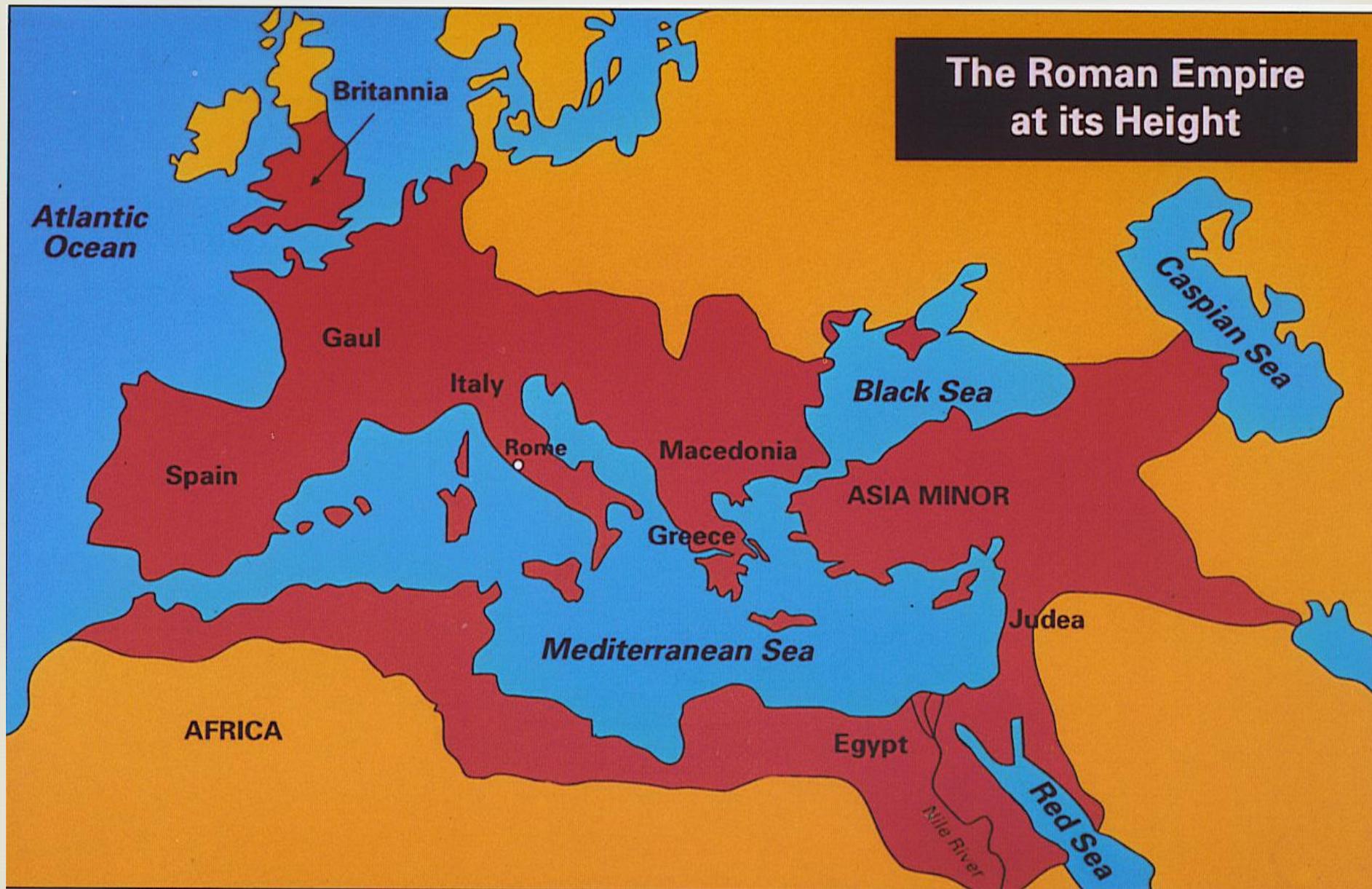


# Pax Romana (27 BCE – 180 CE)

## ✧ Era of peace and prosperity

- System of public works (bridges, aqueducts, roads) that connect to Silk Roads
- Latin promoted unity in empire
- Common coinage facilitated trade
- Stadiums built for entertainment for citizens (bread and circuses)
- Highway danger decreased
- 7-2 BCE (?): Jesus is born in Roman province of Judea
  - Jewish rabbi in Galilee
- 30-33 CE (?): Jesus is crucified; Christianity spreads quickly and easily because of Roman roads and trade routes





117 CE

# Roman Architecture

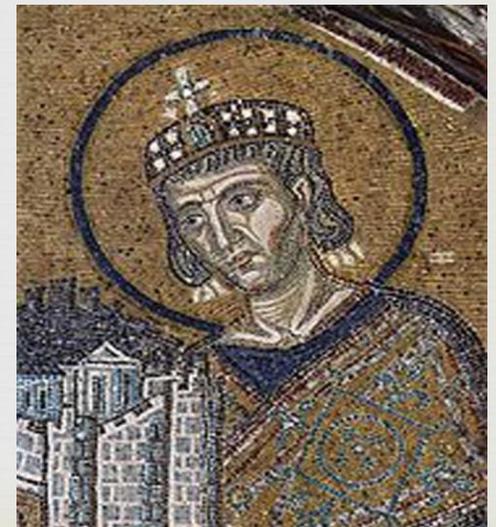
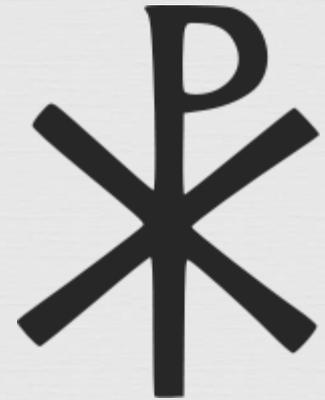


- Used Greek themes in architecture but expanded upon those ideas (cultural diffusion).
- Built larger and more elaborate buildings, with domes and arches
- Aqueducts: convey water long-distances
- Stadiums: gladiator contests, entertainment
- Roman baths; public function



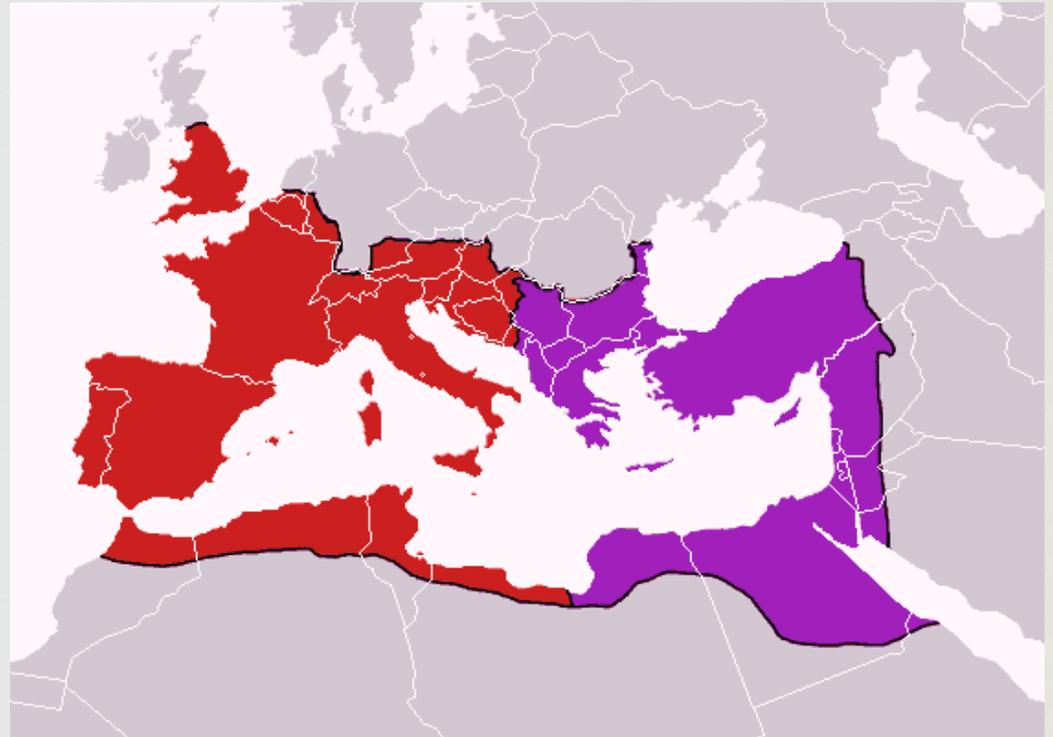
# Constantine and Christianity in Rome

- Battle of Milvian Bridge (312 CE): Emperor Constantine receives vision to mark Chi-Rho on all shields
- 313 CE: Constantine adopted Christianity.
  - Issues Edict of Milan (313 CE): made Christianity an officially recognized and tolerated religion in the Roman Empire
- Establishes a second capital at Constantinople (originally Byzantium)



# Division of the Empire

- Empire divided multiple times by multiple leaders to help stabilize a quickly-weakening Empire.
- 235 CE: Split into three parts
- 293 CE: Diocletian declares “Tetrarchy”; rule of four
- Ultimately divided in two
- Western Empire begins to decline, while Eastern Empire (later Byzantine Empire) begins to thrive
  - West collapses in 476 CE



# Decline of Roman Empire

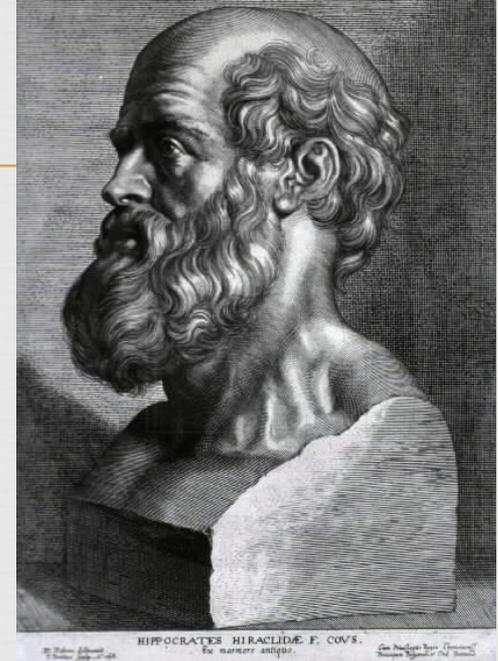
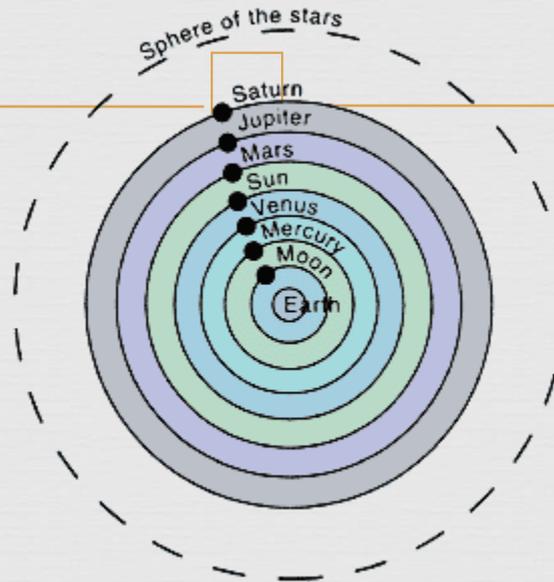
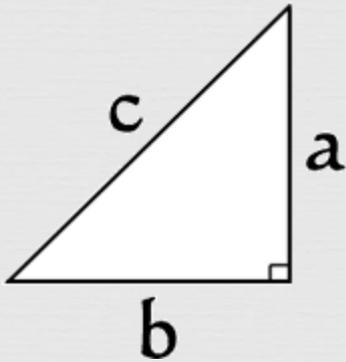


☞ Decline caused by several different problems:

- High taxes and inflation → decline in trade
- Decreased money flow into empire as expansion slows
- Decline of agriculture and poor harvests
- Invasions from the Barbarians (Goths, Vandals, Franks, Huns and Ostrogoths)
- Interference by military generals in government
- Difficulty of ruling such a large empire
- Ineffective emperors more concerned with pleasurable lives than ruling wisely
- Epidemic diseases (malaria)

# Greek and Roman Cultural Advancements

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

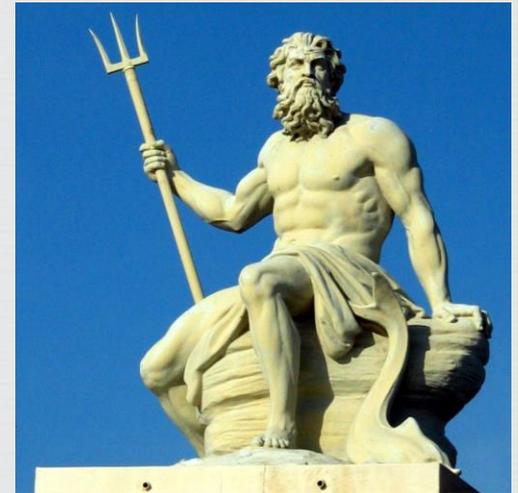


- Pythagoras: develops Pythagorean Theorem
- Ptolemy: proposed sun's motion around stationary earth (incorrect)
- Homer: *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
- Hippocrates: Hippocratic Oath
- Drama: tragedies explored limitations of humans and expectations of gods, while comedies satirized public officials

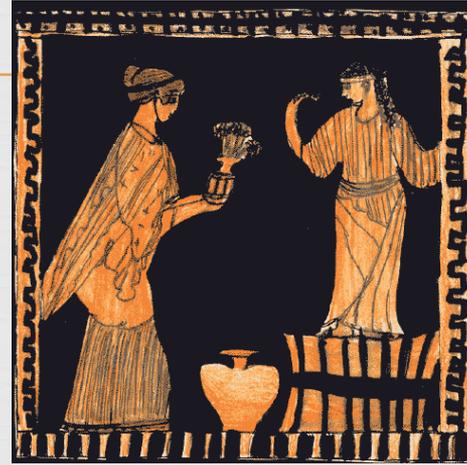
# Religion in Ancient Greece and Rome



- Polytheistic religions: gods represent natural phenomena but have human forms
- Olympics, first held in 776 BCE, were to honor the gods
- Romans build their system of religion off of the Greeks' pantheon.
- People believed what they did for the gods directly impacted their daily lives.
- Gods are imperfect.
- Patron gods, ceremonies, festivals
- Does not generate a long-lasting global religion



# Society in Greece and Rome



- Patriarchy: Husband and father in control of women
  - Women active in small artisan businesses, farming and could own property.
- Women had fewer legal rights than men; remain indoors
- Slaves are 1/3 of Roman population; believed to be natural by Aristotle

# Economy in Greece and Rome

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- Greek and Roman economies based on commercial agriculture, trade, and slavery.
  - Commercial agriculture: established colonies for agricultural production (large peasantry class)
  - Trade: sea trade networks, extensive land trade routes (grapes, olive oil, fish, grains, honey)
  - Slavery: work as household servants, and in agriculture (Sparta) and silver mining (Athens).
    - Because slave labor was so widely used in Greece and Rome, neither developed technological advancements as labor-saving devices. As a result, Greece and Rome fall behind China and India.