



GLORY
of the
ROMAN
EMPIRE

ROMAN EMPERORS

The Good, the Bad,
the Mad!!!!

"ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME"

Central "hub" of culture, architecture, technology, literature, etc...



OCTAVIAN BECOMES AUGUSTUS (27 BC – 14 AD)

- 2nd Triumvirate
- Appt. heir by
- adopted by C
- the name Cae
- Given the name **Augustus** by the Senate
- 1st Emperor
- Took title = **FIRST PRINCEPS**
- Est. Praetorian Guard
- Began "**PAX ROMANA**"
- *"I found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble"*

On the side of Augustus' foot is baby cupid riding on a dolphin. The dolphin is meant to represent Augustus' naval victories and the cupid is meant to symbolize that he is descended from the gods.



AUGUSTUS' Reforms

- “Augustinian Code”
 - Roman Law was rewritten and solidified
 - Basis of western laws today
 - Equality
- Transportation system
 - 53,000 miles of paved roads
- Postal system
- Standard currency system
- Improved harbors

- Military - reduced the size, but created a permanent army
- Territorial expansion
 - Purpose: to consolidate boundaries, ensure peace
- Died 14 AD - after death made a god
- **Appointed** Tiberius (Nephew) to replace him

Tiberius – (14 – 37)

took title of **EMPEROR**
and all successors did
the same

→ Tiberius killed by Caligula

CALIGULA (37 – 41)

- “LITTLE BOOTS”
- Became ill – after illness – went insane
- Murdered his adopted son, Gemellus (rival?)
- Had people tortured while he dined
- Opened a “brothel” in his palace
- Considered appt his horse, **Incitatus**, as Consul
- Wanted to be **Zeus** – attempted to have Zeus’ statue brought to Rome – (workers heard laughter coming from inside statue and fled)
- AD 41 Caligula was killed and any surviving relatives in the palace – his fourth wife Caesonia was stabbed to death and her baby daughter's skull smashed against a wall
- Zeus’ revenge against Caligula for trying to take statue?

CLAUDIUS (41 - 54)

- After Caligula was assassinated, Claudius hid behind the curtains where he was discovered by the Praetorian Guard
- Appointed emperor by Praetorian Guard
- Drooled, nose ran, stuttered, limped
- **POISONED** (mushrooms) by his wife, Agrippina, so her son, Nero, could rule

NERO (54 – 68)

- Too young to rule – mother ruled for him
- 21 – wanted to rule – had “mom” murdered
 - From poisoning, to rigging the ceiling over her bed to collapse, to sinking her boat, but she managed to swim ashore, SO FINALLY
 - Sent someone to club and stab her to death (AD 59)
 - Agrippina said “strike here 1st (womb) this bore Nero”
- Executed 1st wife, Octavia (Nero said adultery, but she actually opposed his concubine, Poppaea)
- Murdered 2nd wife, Poppaea and his child in womb) by kicking her in stomach because according to Seutonius “she complained of him coming home late from the races”
- 64 AD FIRE in Rome

NERO

- Nero blamed the CHRISTIANS (scapegoat)
 - 1st to persecute Christians (animals / night lights)
 - Refused to worship Emperor as deity (Treason)
 - Did not worship Roman gods (gods were punishing Romans)
 - Secrecy of meetings
- Began executing Senators / generals – labeled an “Enemy of the State”
- 68 AD committed suicide – *“What an artist the world loses in me”*

YEAR OF THE FOUR ARMY EMPERORS

- 68-79 AD
- appt by different parts of military

1. Galba (68 – 69)
2. Otho (69)
3. Vitellius (69)
4. Vespasian (69 – 79)

TITUS (79-81)

Mt. Vesuvius
erupted covering
Pompey



COLOSSEUM opened

DOMITIAN (81-96)

- ❑ PARANOID (pillars covered with white marble to see reflections)
 - ❑ Caught flies and pulled out their wings
 - ❑ Loved to watch women/dwarfs in gladiator fights
 - ❑ Hacked to death by his court

5 GOOD EMPERORS

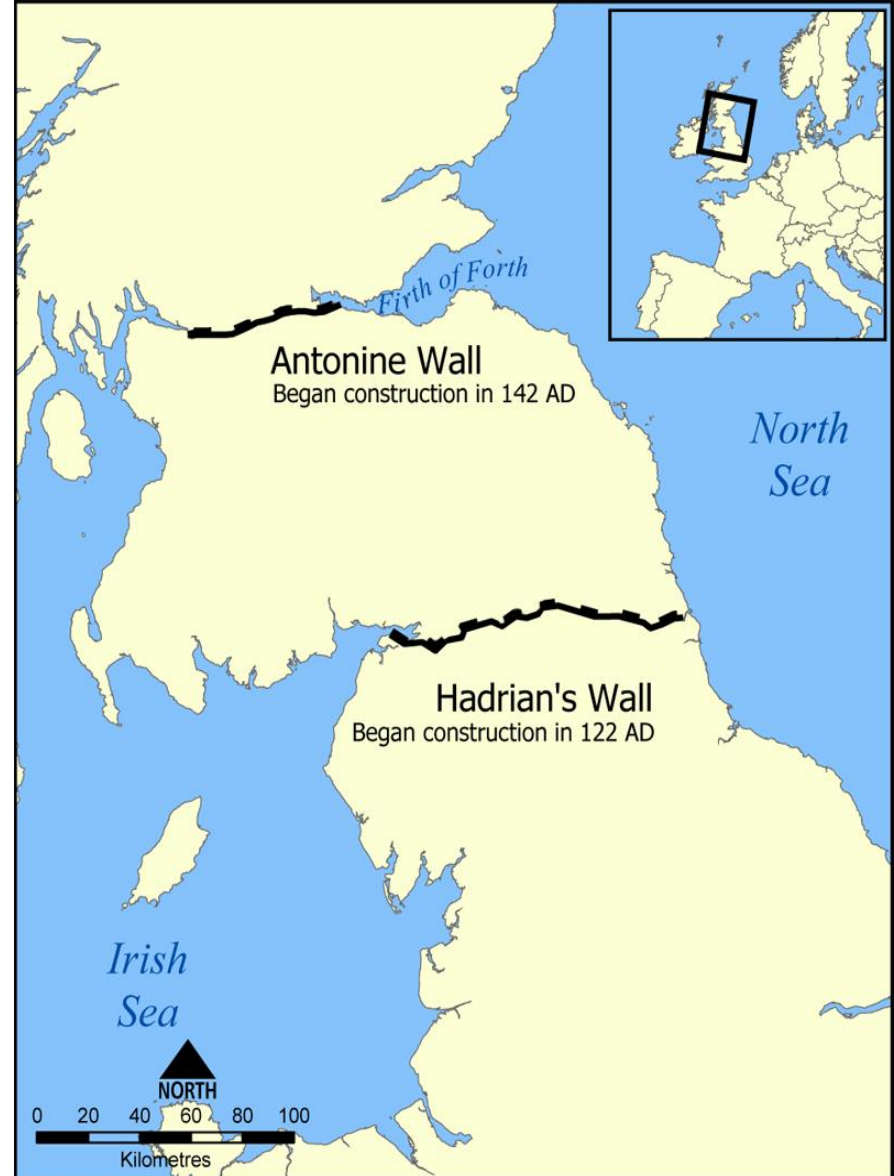
Tacitus *“Emperors are like weather. We just have to wait for bad ones to pass and hope for good one’s to appear.”*

- No one killed
- Government expanded
- Trade / agriculture increased
- Public works
- Got along with Senate

5 GOOD EMPERORS

- Nerva (96-98) – appt by Senate
- Trajan (98-117) – 1st born from provinces
 - ruled at peak of Roman Empire
- Hadrian (117-138) – secured borders
 - “Hadrian’s Wall” – [BRITAIN](#)
 - **Pantheon** – temple to Roman gods
- Antonius Pius (138-161)
- Marcus Aurelius (161-180)
 - “**PHILOSOPHER KING**”
 - Last ruler of “Pax Romana”

HADRIAN'S WALL



PANTHEON



COMMODUS (180 – 192)

- Son of Marcus Aurelius
- Fought +700 times as gladiator (“Lionskin Robe” – “**Roman Hercules**”)
- Demanded \$\$ to fight in gladiator battles (1 million sesterces)
- Expensive lifestyle could have bankrupted treasury, but he replenished it by accusing senators of treason then seizing their land
- 191 fire in Rome – rebuilt area – wanted to rename Rome the “**City of Commodus**”
- “**Enough is Enough**” – poisoned – didn’t work, so he was strangled by a wrestler/gladiator, “Narcissus” in his bathroom on New Years’ Eve 192 AD
- Dio Cassius – “*Commodus was a greater curse to the Romans than any pestilence or any crime.*”