



# CHAPTER I : ROMA

Roman history spans 1000 years in the west and even longer in the east. It is, in itself, a formidable setting for any fantasy adventure. There are endless intrigues, exotic lands and conflict of all manner as the Republic and later, the Empire, expanded and took more lands and subjects. To restrict an adventure setting only to Roma seems a shame when so many events were happening around the world.

The Romans were considered a conservative people who tended towards simple, modest lives during the Republic. This was reflected in the Twelve Tables, the basic laws of the Republic, where the wealthy patricians were treated better than the plebeians, who were treated better than the slaves. However, these laws were the first of their kind to apply across the social landscape. Punishment varied but a crime was still a crime, no matter what the rank of the criminal. The nature of the laws, though, reinforced the status quo and nurtured a simple view of the world.

During the Imperial age the Romans began to enjoy excesses made famous through Emperors like Nero and Caligula. Still, they had a conservative outlook towards other cultures and took time to assimilate the ideas present in these cultures.

Roman expansion emerged early in their story as they began to control and conquer the Latinium and Tuscan areas of the Italian peninsula. This set them on a road that made them a major factor in world history and culture.

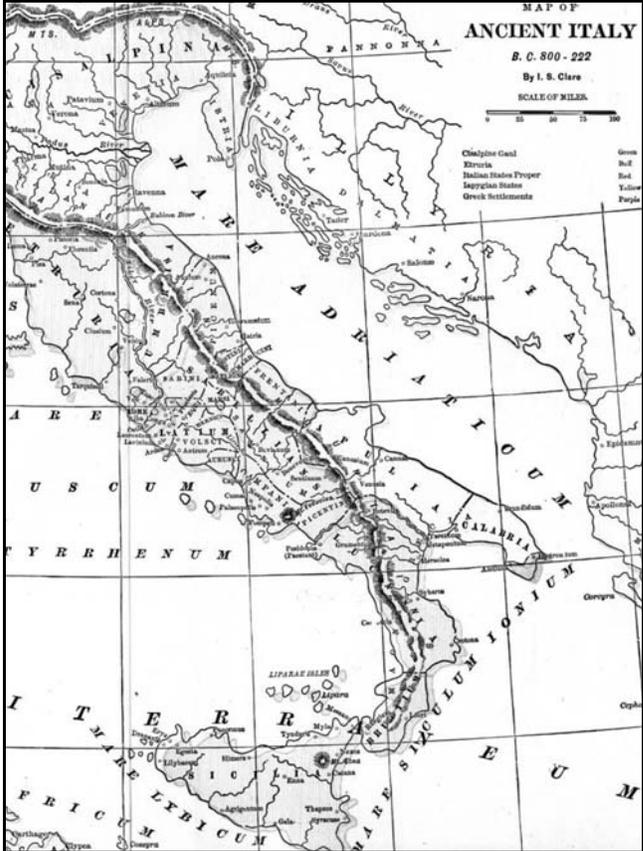
## Alternate Roma

The western Roman Empire of history ended in a cloud of conjecture. The precise date is not whole-heartedly agreed on, but for the sake of simplicity this book considers the abdication of the last acknowledged western Roman emperor, Romulus Augustus in 476 AD, the end of the historical Roman Empire.

The alternate western Roman Empire does not decline or fall but expands to become a single entity again. This happens due to many factors that will be detailed in this book, from the profound discovery and fostering of magic by Constantine to the subtly planned social assimilation of Germania by Julius Caesar to more subtle reasons of key social points of the citizenry.

In this book dates will be given based on Ab Urbe Condita (A.U.C.), the founding of Roma in 753 B.C. This means that the date 753 A.U.C. is actually 0 A.D.

## Republic History



The history of the Empire is founded in the Republic. The roots of what will found the views and beliefs of the Roman people comes from their belief in the Republic. To the modern day, some Romans still refuse to think of the Empire as anything but a republic. The Emperor is viewed as a form of Dictator for life. The modern Empire, though, is not the Republic of old no matter how much the citizens may want it to be.

## The Founding of Rome

There are two myths of the founding of Rome. The first is of Romulus and Remus, two brothers who were borne to the daughter of a deposed king. Their father was Mars, god of war, who had come to Rhea Silvia while she was a Vestal Virgin. King Amulius, who had deposed Rhea's father, drowned her in the Tiber River and set the brothers adrift. The basket they floated in was caught far down river by a fig tree. They were found by a she-wolf, sacred to Mars, who cared for them until a shepherd found them and gave the boys to his wife to raise.

An alternate version, written in Virgil's Aeneid in the seventh century A.U.C, has Aeneas, a hero of Troy, setting the basis of the city. Aeneas fled the destruction of Troy with his aged father on his back and leading his son by the hand. He loses his wife as he flees but is able to lead many to

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safety. After a long journey they arrive in Latium where he became the progenitor of the Roman people through his son Ascanios. A more popular legend had Aeneas as the founder of Rome. Yet another version made Aeneas the forefather of Romulus and Remus and had Romulus founding Rome.

As Romulus and Remus grew to manhood they were told their true origin. King Amulius was slain in battle and Numitor, Romulus and Remus' grandfather, was restored to the throne. The brothers decided to found a city near where they came ashore. They followed the omen of a flight of geese and founded the city on Palatine Hill, where Romulus would be king. During the founding of the city, Romulus marked the borders of the city by plowing with a white bull and cow; these sacred animals represented the blessing of Jupiter and Juno, the leaders of the gods. Jestng with his brother, Remus jumped across the furrows. This impious act so infuriated Romulus that he slew his brother in a fit of rage.

The Rape of the Sabine women is also a tale of Romulus. When the village of Rome was founded its population consisted mostly of men. Romulus devised a plan and invited the neighboring tribe of the Sabines to a harvest festival. When the Sabines arrived it was not a festival but the abduction of 600 daughters of Sabine at sword point.

### The Mythic Kings

There is little historical information about the seven kings of Rome, and they are often referred to as the legendary kings of Rome. After the city's founding, Romulus ruled until 37 A.U.C. for a total of 37 years. He founded the city and was responsible for the Rape of the Sabine Women.

Name	Ruled
Romulus	753-716 B.C.
Numa Pompilius	715-674 B.C.
Tullius Hostilius	673-642 B.C.
Ancus Marcius	642-617 B.C.
Tarquinius Priscus	616-579 B.C.
Severus Tullius	578-535 B.C.
Tarquinius Superbus	535-510 B.C.

During the rule of these kings, Rome laid the foundation for the constitution of the Republic. A number of monuments were built during this period, including the Temple of Jupiter on the Capitoline Hill. Ostia was founded during this time to serve Rome as a seaport. The first sewer, the Cloaca Maxima, was built by Tarquinius Priscus as well as the foundations for the Circus Maximus. Servius Tullius set up divisions based on class, setting the foundations for a constitution based on wealth. During all this time the walls and domain of Rome were extended.

The end of the kings came when Sextus, the son of Tarquinius Superbus, raped the wife of a patrician, Lucretia. This was the final straw as Tarquinius had burdened the people by using the lower classes in the construction of monuments instead of allowing them arms to fight in the war with the Etruscans and Latins. He also recruited his army from amongst his retainers and from foreign allies. His reign was fraught with bloodshed. In the end, Lucius Junius Brutus led a revolt against the Tarquins and abolished the Roman monarchy.

The effect of the revolution was to create a republic, a government by the patricians for the patricians. Certain concessions were made to the plebeians but merely as a propagandist movement to get the buy-in of the masses. In the end, Lucius was killed by the son of Tarquinius, but not before he set the Republic on its path.

### Slave Revolts

In 619 A.U.C. one of the most horrifying things that the Romans could imagine occurred. Their prolonged military successes had generated a great abundance of slaves, and in Sicily a revolt of these slaves resulted in atrocities committed on their former masters. By its suppression in 621 A.U.C. by Fluvius Flacchus, a consul had gone so far as to crucify twenty thousand slaves. In 650 A.U.C. the slaves of Sicily revolted again, even in the face of the horrible consequences. It took another three years to put down the revolt. Considering the horrible punishment dealt to the slaves in the first revolt, it indicates the terrible conditions of the slaves of Sicily. These revolts, though harshly dealt with, began the movement in Roman law towards slave reforms and better forms of slave management.

### The First Triumvirate

The events leading up to the Triumvirate's bid for power are many. To summarize, Gnaeus Pompeius (known as Pompey) was a favored general of Sulla, a tyrant and despotic ruler who maintained power through fear. Pompey made a powerful name for himself as a general who could solve the problems the Romans faced. Crassus was by most accounts the wealthiest senator of his time. During the slave revolts of 682 A.U.C. he faced and defeated the gladiator Spartacus but was robbed of the triumph by Pompey returning from campaigning in the east. Crassus stood aside and allowed Pompey the triumph and an alliance was forged. Julius Caesar entered the picture as an aspiring politician. He was charismatic and garnered a great deal of support in the Senate. With his aid, Pompey was able to gain more and more power over the navy and the military in general.

The Triumvirate of Pompey (the military man), Crassus (the money man) and Caesar (the politician) came into being in 693 A.U.C. It lasted for seven years until the death of Crassus in the battle of Carrhae against the Parthians.