THE EPITOME OF ROME

A Visual History: From Shepherd's Hut to Global Empire (753 BC – 364 AD)

Based on the *Breviarium* of Eutropius and the LacusCurtius Collection. A narrative condensing 1,100 years of history, showing how Rome "had its origin from Romulus" and grew to a scale where "the memory of man can recall scarcely any one smaller in its commencement, or greater in its progress."

THE CHORUS OF HISTORIANS



Myth & Monarchy



Republic & Expansion



Empire



Decline

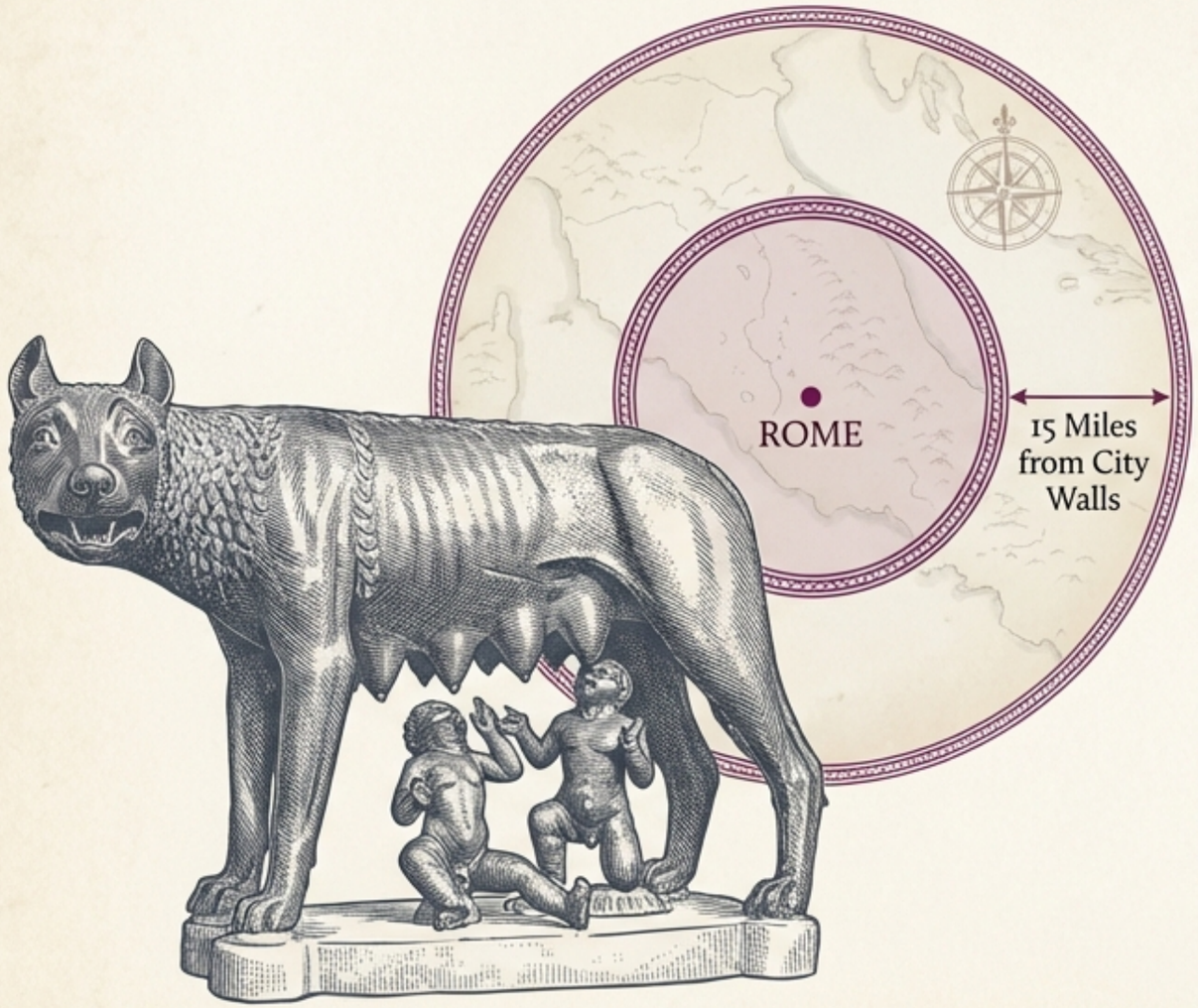
- Dionysius of Halicarnassus
- Livy
- Appian
- Sallust
- Velleius Paterculus
- Suetonius
- Tacitus
- Cassius Dio
- Zosimus
- Procopius

EUTROPIUS

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The Seven Kings (753–509 BC)

Building a City from Violence and Law



Founder: Romulus (April 21, 753 BC).
Origin: Sanctuary for shepherds and bandits.

The Organizer: Numa Pompilius.
Tamed the "semi-barbarians" with religion.

The Administrator: Servius Tullius.
First Census count: 83,000 citizens.

The Tyrant: Tarquin the Proud.
Expelled for arrogance.

EUTROPIUS VERDICT

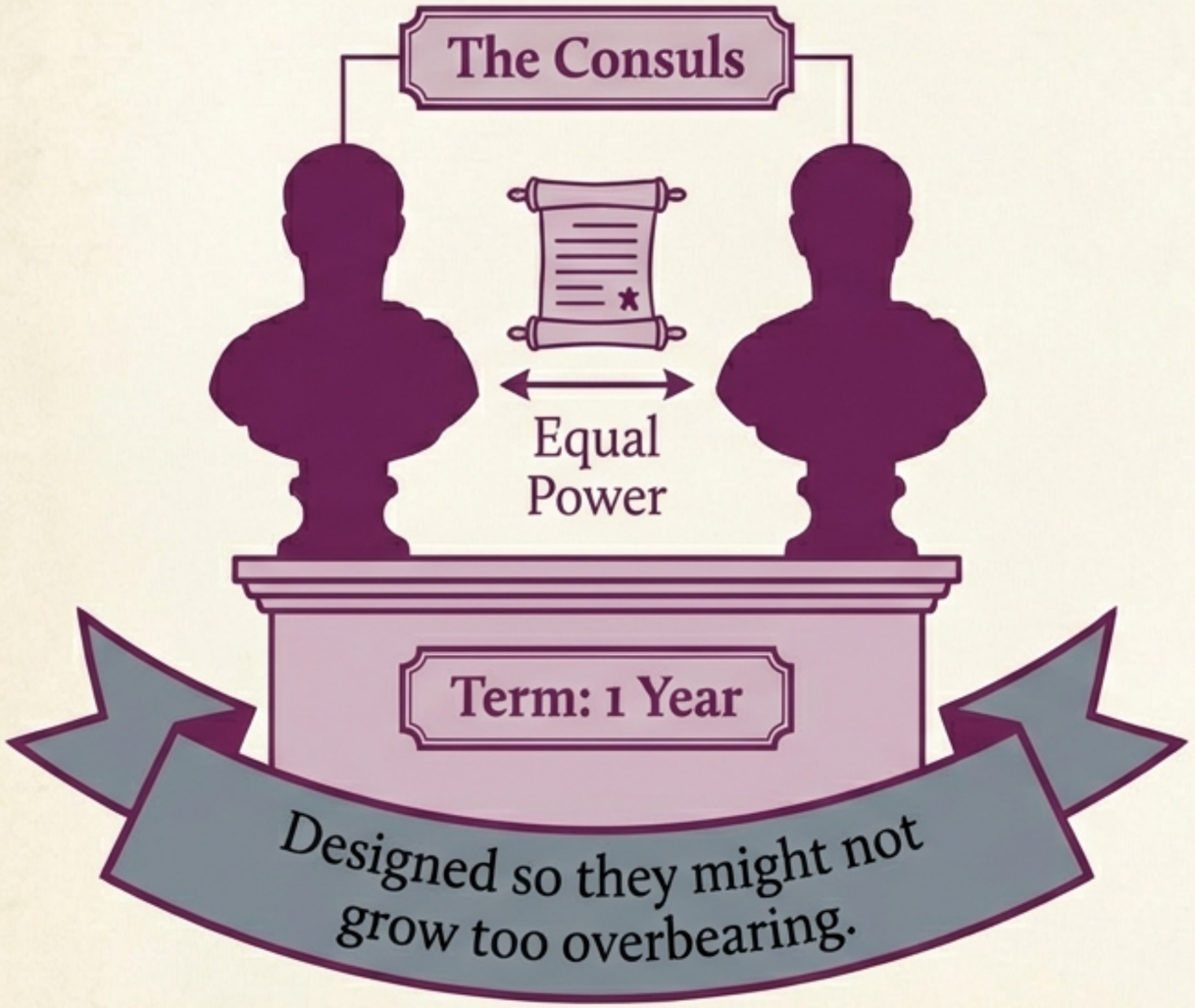
The Kings were necessary builders, but the last was too arrogant.

CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Dionysius of Halicarnassus (*Roman Antiquities*) - Details the
- Details the Aborigines and Greek immigration preceding Romulus.

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The Republic Invented



509 BC: Expulsion of the Tarquins after the rape of Lucretia.

Checks & Balances: Creation of Tribunes of the People and the temporary Dictatorship.

390 BC: The Gallic Sack. Rome destroyed, saved only by the Capitol hill. Camillus hailed as a "Second Romulus".

Context Corner

SOURCE: Livy (via Eutropius) – Notes that in the first year of the Republic, there were five different consuls due to death and expulsion.

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The Forge of Italy

Samnites, Elephants, and the Roman Spirit



- **The Samnite Wars:** 49 years of conflict. A test of Roman valor more than any other.
- **The Pyrrhic War:** Enter Pyrrhus of Epirus and his elephants.
- **Census Data:** 292,334 citizens (despite continuous warfare).

Eutropius Verdict

Pyrrhus: "I might have been master of the whole world, if such soldiers had fallen to my lot."

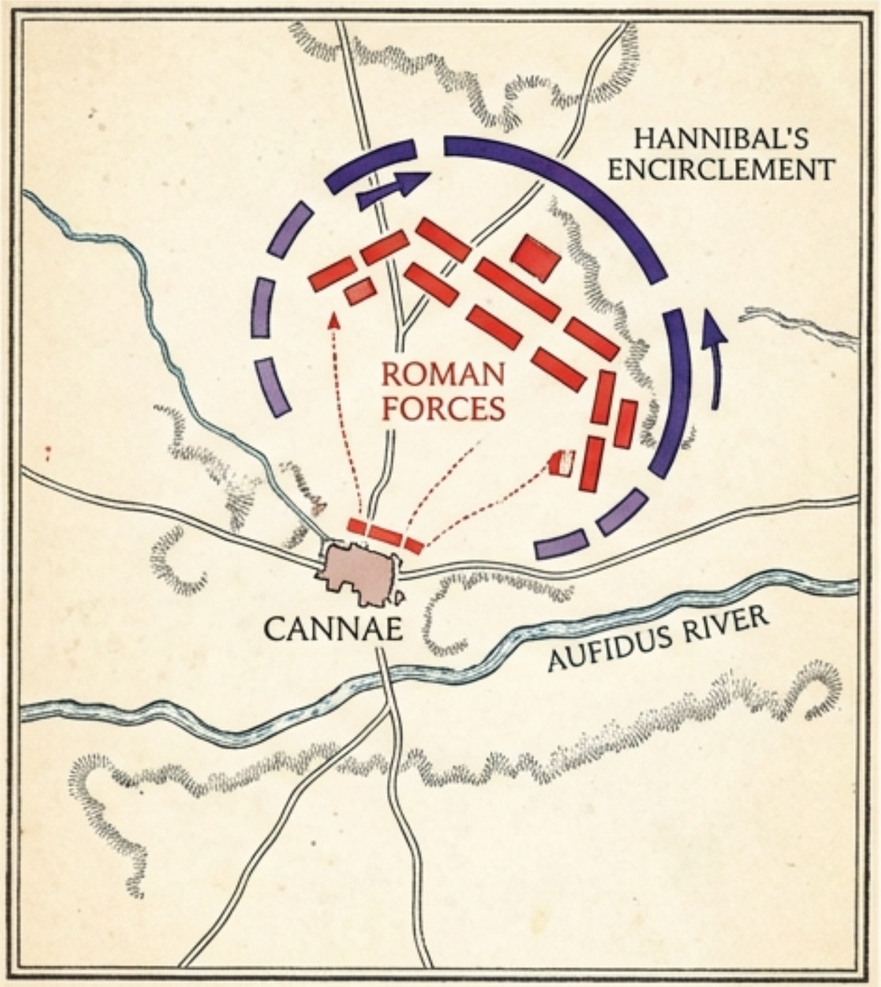
Context Corner

Source: Appian (*Samnite History*) - Details the specific Details the specific betrayals and treaties of the Italian ęns. of the Italian campaigns.

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THE PUNIC WARS (264–146 BC)

A Duel for the World



THE COST OF CANNAE

1 Consul (Aemilius Paulus)
20 Consular/Praetorian Officers
30 Senators
40,000 Foot-Soldiers

First War (23 Years): Rome becomes a naval power.

Second War (17 Years): Hannibal at the gates. Defeated by Scipio Africanus at Zama.

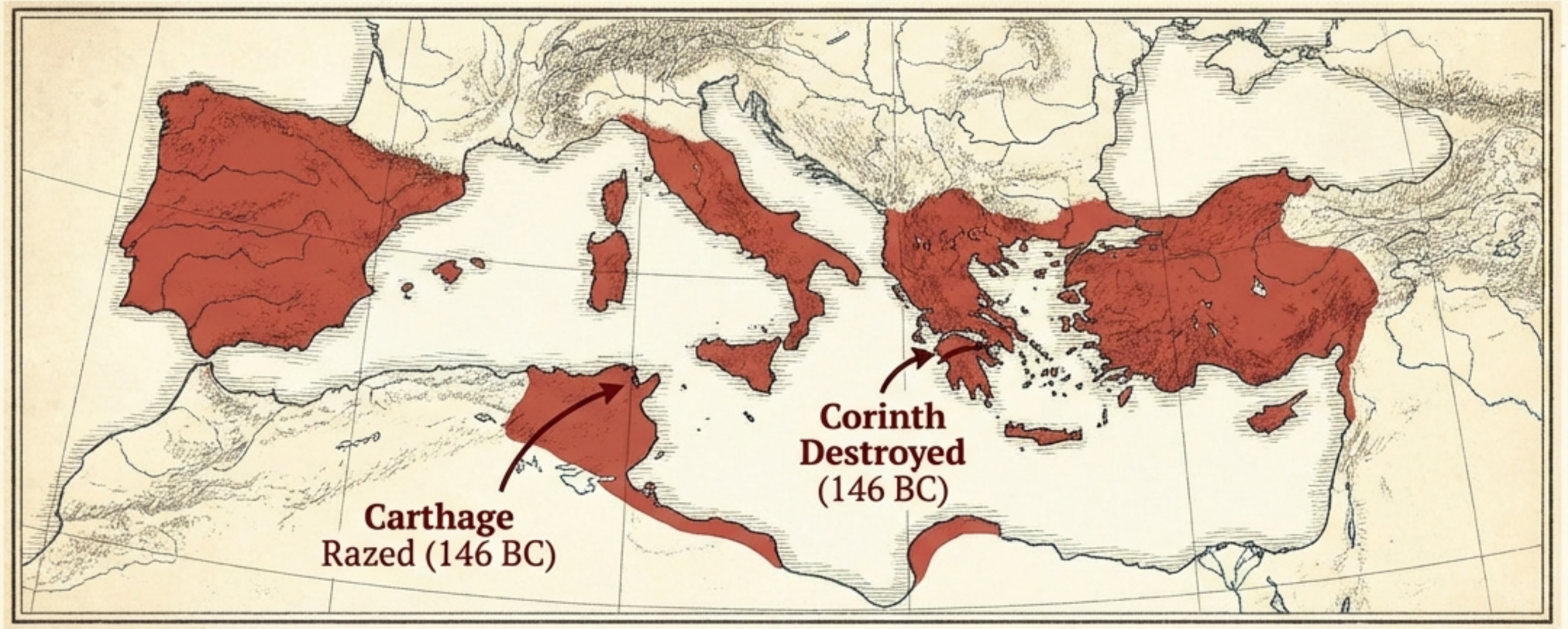
Resilience: After Cannae, "not one of the Romans deigned to speak of peace."

CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Appian (The Punic Wars) & Cassius Dio.

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DOMINION: 146 BC



- **The Domino Effect:** Victory over Carthage removed the last check on aggression.
- **Tribute:** Antiochus of Syria forced to pay 10,000 talents and retreat behind Mount Taurus.

CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Velleius Paterculus - Frames this era as the the moment Rome's external discipline began to crack.

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THE REPUBLIC DEVOURS ITSELF

Marius & Sulla

The Social War: Italian allies demand rights. 150,000 men killed.

Civil War: Marius (The Populist) vs. Sulla (The Aristocrat).

The Precedent: Sulla becomes the first general to enter Rome in arms. Proscriptions begin; 24 consulars and 300 senators dead.



CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Sallust (Jugurthine War) - Outlines the Outlines the corruption and decline of Roman of Roman morality.

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The Rubicon

Caesar, Pompey, and the Death of Liberty



- **The First Triumvirate:** Caesar, Pompey, Crassus.
- **The Conquest:** Caesar spends 9 years subduing Gaul and Britain.
- **The Climax:** The Battle of Pharsalus. Pompey defeated; the Republic effectively ends.

THE EUTROPIUS VERDICT: "Never before had a greater number of Roman forces assembled... forces which would easily have subdued the whole world, had they been led against barbarians."

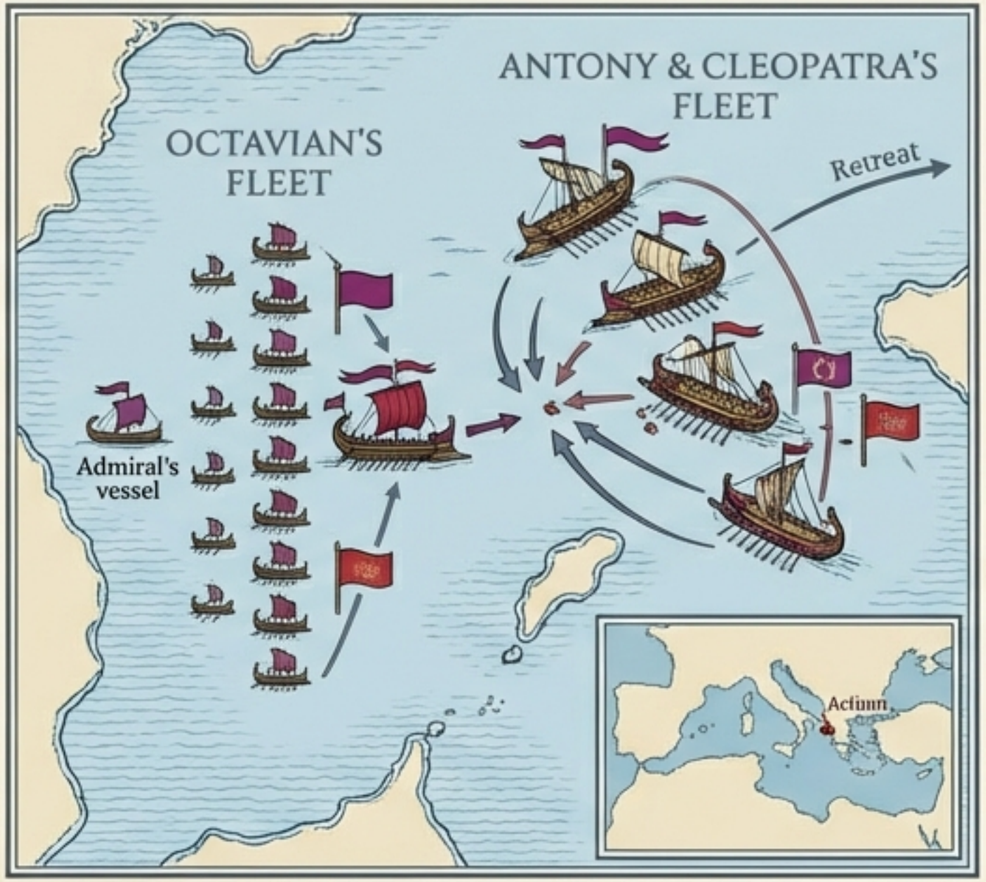
Context Corner

SOURCE: Suetonius (Julius Caesar) - Details Caesar's ambition and the 'illicit connection' with Cleopatra.

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FROM THE IDES OF MARCH TO ACTIUM (44–31 BC)

- **The Assassination:** Caesar acts "contrary to liberty" and falls. War resumes.
- **Second Triumvirate:** Octavian, Antony, Lepidus purge the Senate.



- **The End Game:** Antony, seduced by "womanish ambition" (Eutropius), falls at Actium.
- **Result:** Egypt added to the Empire. Sole rule established.

CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Velleius Paterculus - Describes the tragic end Describes the tragic end of the Rapians at Philippi. Republicans at Philippi.

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AUGUSTUS & THE PAX ROMANA

Monarchy Disguised as Republic



Sole Rule: 44 Years. The state "bloomed".

Expansion: Egypt, Cantabria, Dalmatia, Pannonia, Galatia.

Diplomacy: Recovered the lost standards from the Parthians.

THE EUTROPIUS VERDICT:
"Resembled a divinity... more successful in war, more prudent in peace."

CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Suetonius (Augustus) - Details the - Details the administrativi reforms and the 'marble city'. and the 'marble city'.

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Madness vs. Merit

The Tyrants



Caligula & Nero. Matricide.
The burning of Rome. “Bathed in cold perfumes.” The line of Augustus extinct in disgrace.

The Builders



Vespasian & Titus (The Flavians).
Jerusalem taken. Order restored.

“My friends, I have lost a day” (upon realizing he granted no favors that day). - Titus

Context Corner

SOURCE: Tacitus (Histories/Annals) - Primary source for the
- Primary source for the grim psychological portraits.

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THE ZENITH: TRAJAN

The Maximum Empire



THE EUTROPIUS VERDICT:

"The Senate's Acclamation for centuries to come: 'Felicior Augusto, melior Traiano' (Luckier than Augustus, better than Trajan)."

CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Cassius Dio - Records Hadrian's immediate immediate contraction of these borders for stability.

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THE CRISIS OF THE THIRD CENTURY

Barracks Emperors and Broken Borders



Chaos: After Commodus, the throne is auctioned. Short reigns, violent deaths.
The Low Point: Emperor Valerian captured by the Persians; grows old in slavery.
Losses: Dacia lost forever.
The Recovery: Aurelian, "Restorer of the World," stitches the empire back together.

CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Zosimus (New History) -

Attributes decline to the abandonment of the old gods.

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TRANSFORMATION

Diocletian's Robes and Constantine's Cross

Diocletian: Introduces the 'Dominus' style—wearing gold and gems, demanding adoration.

Constantine: Defeats Maxentius. Unites the Empire. Christianizes the state.



The Bureaucratic Turn.



The New Capital.

THE EUTROPIUS VERDICT:
Constantine: In the beginning comparable to the best princes; in later years, only to middling ones.

CONTEXT CORNER

SOURCE: Eutropius Book X.

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The Receding Tide (364 AD)

A Disgrace Never Before Seen

- **Julian the Apostate:** Dies fighting the Persians.



- **Jovian:** Trapped and desperate, cedes Roman territory to save his army.
- **The Historic Low:** "A disgrace that had never occurred since the Roman empire was founded."

The narrative of Eutropius ends here. From a shepherd's hut to a global empire, to a state fighting for survival. Total duration: 1,117 years.

Context Corner

FURTHER READING: LacusCurtius Collection (Procopius, Ammianus).

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