

Ch 12, Sec 1

The Rise of the Roman
Republic

Pg. 364-369

Key Terms

Forum- an open area in a city filled with public buildings

Republic- a gov't in which citizens have the right to vote and elect officials

Legion- basic unit of Roman army. 4,500-5,000 soldiers

Maniple- a smaller unit of soldiers, 60-160 soldiers

Geography

- Rome is located on the Italian Peninsula, along the Tiber River
- Mountains:
 - Alps- Northern border
 - Appenines- run down through peninsula
- Important surrounding islands: Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica
- The land was easier to move around than Greece (helped unite Italy)
- There were rivers for transportation & flat plains good for farming
- Volcanoes made good soil but were threatening
- Regions of Latium and Etruria:
 - Rome was in **Latium**, that's where the language **Latin** came from

Rome's Earliest Days

- Roman legend of origin:
 - Two twins, Romulus and Remus, founded the city.
 - Romulus killed Remus, so he named the city Rome
 - Their father was the God, Mars
- They built a city on the 7 hills overlooking the Tiber River

The City Grows

- The Roman Forum was the center of Rome's govt, economy, and religion
- Natural Advantages:
 - The hills of Rome helped protect from attack
 - Nearby port
 - Tiber River was too dangerous for large seagoing ships, but small boats could use it
 - Rome was on important trade routes

Monarchy to Republic

- In early days, Roman Kings held the most power
 - However, they were allowed to rule by the consent of the aristocrats
 - Eventually, old aristocrats formed a group of advisors called the senate
- 509 BC- Romans overthrew Tarquin the Proud , who mistreated his people
- Formed a republic where all free adult male citizens could play a role in gov't
- *Res publica*- “public business”

People of Italy

- Many Greeks settled in Italy around 700s BC, so they greatly influenced Roman culture
- Romans made Greek mythology their own by renaming many gods
 - Believed Aeneas was an ancestor of Roman people
- Etruscans also influenced Romans
 - Powerful when Rome was founded
 - They lived in the region of Etruria
 - Influenced architecture and alphabet

Roman Expansion

- Romans conquered many neighboring countries and used diplomacy
 - By late 200s BC, Rome ruled all of Italy
- Roman military was made up of legions, usually infantry, which were further broken into maniples.
- On flat plains, the maniples formed one solid battle line, but on rough ground they could split into their maniples to fight
 - This was more flexible than phalanxes
- Roman soldiers built roads and bridges to help the legions move faster.