

Ch 13, Sec 1: The Roman Empire

Pg. 390-395

Key Terms

Deify- to worship and officially declare a god

Pax Romana- a long period of peace and prosperity; “Roman Peace”

Concrete- a building material made by mixing stones and sand with limestone, clay, and water

Aqueduct- a channel that moves water over land

Greco-Roman- Greek and Roman influenced

Emperors and Roman Peace

- Augustus (Octavian)- first Roman Emperor
 - Shrank size of army, raised soldiers' pay
 - Fought corruption
 - Brought peace & prosperity
- Tiberius succeeded as emperor, the republic was over
- Other emperors:
 - Trajan- new territory
 - Hadrian- travelled, built walls
 - Marcus Aurelius- famous philosopher
 - Nero- known for cruelty
- Augustus began the Pax Romana from 30 BC - AD 180
 - No major wars, relatively peaceful era

Rome's Practical Achievements

- Major roads extended from Rome to connect Italy
 - Soldiers could march quickly
 - Hard-paved and well-drained
 - Faster communication and transport of goods
 - Better trade and efficient gov't
- Architects used concrete b/c it was lighter and easier to shape
 - Built large domes, sturdy bridges, and rounded arches
- Aqueducts supplied towns with clean water
 - Water flowed to fountains, public baths, and some wealthy homes
- Public baths were a place to bathe, exercise, socialize, or conduct business

Roman Economy

- Navy cleared pirates out so that trade by sea was safer
 - Ships were also faster and cheaper than other transportation
 - Roman ships traded their grain, wine, olive oil, and pottery
- Farming was the base of Roman economy
 - Grains, like wheat, were shipped to Rome to feed its large population
 - Provincial farmers grew wealthy from this trade and built up their provinces or became part of the elite class
- Skilled craftworkers made cloth, glass, pottery, metalwork, ships
- Others made marble, terracotta tiles, and lead pipes for construction
- A stable currency also helped the economy

Greco-Roman Culture

- A mix of Greek and Roman cultures happened in the Roman empire
 - Visiting public baths
 - Worshipping emperors
 - Seeing plays
 - Studying philosophy
 - Mythology
 - Having a forum
 - Increasing citizenship
- These elements spread because:
 - Roads made it easier to travel and spread ideas
 - Soldiers often settled where they served
 - Gov't set up colonies