

	Culture	Political Organization	Social Structure
<p>Rome (about 500 BCE to 476 CE, although eastern half continued for another thousand years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perfection of military techniques: conquer but don't oppress; division of army into legions, emphasizing organization and rewarding military talent • Art, literature, philosophy, science derivative from Greece • Superb engineering and architecture techniques; extensive road, sanitation systems; monumental architecture -buildings, aqueducts, bridges • Polytheism, derivative from Greeks, but religion not particularly important to the average Roman; • Christianity developed during Empire period, but not dominant until very late on. • Great city of Rome - buildings, arenas, design copied in smaller cities. 	<p>Two eras:</p> <p>Republic - rule by aristocrats, with some power shared with assemblies; Senate most powerful, with two consuls chosen to rule, generally selected from the military</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire - non-hereditary emperor; <i>technically</i> chosen by Senate, but generally chosen by predecessor. • Extensive colonization and military conquest during both eras • Development of an overarching set of laws, restrictions that all had to obey; Roman law sets in place principle of rule of law, not rule by whim of the political leader. (Twelve Tables) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic division between patricians (aristocrats) and plebeians (free farmers), although a middle class of merchants grew during the empire; wealth based on land ownership; gap between rich and poor grew with time • Paterfamilias - male dominated family structure • Inequality increased during the empire, with great dependence on slavery during the late empire; slaves used in households, mines, large estates, all kinds of manual labor

