

## **Rise of the Roman Republic (pages 364–369 in textbook)**

- 1) The Geography of Italy (in our other notes)
- 2) Rome's Earliest Days (in our other notes)
- 3) The City Grows
  - a) The Forum
    - Forum = "open area in a city filled with public buildings, temples, and markets"
    - Roman life was centered in forum
    - Activities of the government and religion held in forum
  - b) Natural Advantages
    - Hills were barrier to attack from others
    - Tiber River Valley = natural trade route
- 4) From Monarchy to Republic
  - a) The Roman Kings
    - 1st rulers of Rome
    - Kings had broad powers = head of army, chief priest, supreme judge
    - Senate was made up of older, male aristocrats = they advised the king
    - Senate comes from word "senex" (means "old man")
  - b) The Founding of the Republic
    - 509 BCE → Romans overthrew king who had mistreated people
    - Formed a republic (government in which citizens have the right to vote and elect officials)
    - Republic comes from word "res publica" (means "public thing/business")
- 5) The People of Italy
  - a) Greek Colonies
    - Around 700s BCE, some Greeks settling in southern Italy
    - Romans learned about Greek culture as they took over that section of Italy
    - Romans adopted mythology and stories of the Greeks as their own
  - b) The Etruscans
    - Most powerful people in central Italy
    - Influenced Roman culture
    - Skilled artists, builders, sailors

## 6) Roman Expansion

### a) The Legions

- By late 200s BCE, Rome ruled all of Italy
- Legion = basic unit of Roman army
  - Had 4500 to 5000 soldiers
  - Heavily armed, foot soldiers
- Each legion broken up into maniples
  - Maniple = unit of between 60 and 160 soldiers
  - Used flexible fighting strategies for advantage in battle
  - Skilled builders→ built roads, bridges, and temporary forts

### b) Friends and Allies

- Signed treaties with allies
- Used alliances to defeat enemies
- Rome granted citizenship and right to vote to many of their allies