Pax Romana

Fallout from Caesar’s death
- Second Triumvirate formed
  o Mark Antony, Lepidus, and Octavian
- Leads to Civil War for control
  o Triumvirate vs Brutus and Cassius
  o Then war between members of Triumvirate
  o Caesar’s Nephew, Octavian, is eventual victor
    ▪ Lepidus forced to retire
    ▪ Antony and Cleopatra defeated at battle of Actium

Julio-Claudian Dynasty (27 B.C.E. – 14 C.E.)

Augustus Caesar (27 B.C.E. – 14 C.E.)
- AKA. Caesar Augustus, Augustus, Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus, Gaius Octavius, Octavian
- Took throne by beating or killing all political opponents
- Used Sister and Daughter as political tool
  o Forced divorces and marriages
    ▪ Daughter Julio exiled for unfaithfulness
- Once Augustus takes throne begins period of Pax Romana
  o Roman Peace
- FIRST EMPEROR
  o Consolidation of Empire under the rule of one person
  o Princeps
    ▪ “First Citizen” – Full Imperator power for life (27 B.C.E.)
      ▪ Makes sure that his heir is granted the same power
  - Expansion of Empire under Augustus
    o Fought battles along borders to protect Roman frontiers
      ▪ Teutoburger
        • Losing three legions in Germania
        • Publius Varus leading legions and auxiliaries into forest
        • Ambushed by Germanic warriors
        • All killed or Enslaved

Tiberius (14 C.E. – 37 C.E.)
- Stepson of Augustus
  o Adopted by Augustus
- Celebrated General
  o Conquering northern Adriatic territories
- Seemed to hate power but want more of it
- Consolidated Rule
  o Killing off anyone else who might have claim (Verge of paranoia)

Caligula (37 C.E. – 41 C.E.)
- Great nephew of Tiberius
  o Picked by Tiberius to succeed
- Son of Roman General Germanicus
  o “little Boots”
- First two years ruled well
- After that power goes to his head and becomes obsessed with himself
- Abuses of power
  o Exhausted State Treasury
  o Incest
  o Killed for the fun of it
  o Considered himself a god
  o Made horse a priest
  o Sexual Fiend
  o Looting trip to Egypt
- Good uses of power
  o Aqua Claudia and Aqua Novus
  o Added Mauretania to empire
    ▪ Modern day Morocco
- Assassinated by Praetorian guard as part of Senate plot
  o Attempt to restore republic
  o Instead proclaim Claudius emperor

**Claudius (41-54 C.E)**
- Rise to Power by bribery
- Described as being a good emperor
  o Invaded Britain
  o Public Works (Aqueducts)
  o Interest in law
    ▪ Personally presided over court cases
  o Expanded empire
    ▪ Thrace
    ▪ Judea
- Heavily influenced by others
  o Senators influenced him heavily
  o Convinced by wife to name her son Nero as heir
    ▪ Poisoned by wife
      ▪ Wife was also his niece

**Nero (54-68 C.E.)**
- Direct descendant of Augustus
- First part of rule he was just a puppet
  o Had puppet masters killed
- Thought of himself as an actor
  o Had many theaters made
- Burning of Rome in 64 C.E.
  o Third of Rome burned down
  o Nero suspected of starting fire
  o Seen on a tower playing his lyre
  o Built massive pleasure palace on site
  o Blames fire on Christians
    ▪ Begins persecution of Christians
- Problems of Nero
  o 65 C.E. – Senatorial Conspiracy
    ▪ Complained they had no power
    ▪ Wanted to restore republic
      ▪ Conspirators killed
  o 66-67 C.E. – Jewish Rebellion
- Vespasian dispatched
  - Destruction of second Solomon’s Temple
    - 67 C.E. – Rebellion in Gaul
      - Complained about taxes
      - Governor of Hispania joins
        - Galba
  - Death of Nero
    - Committed suicide in 68 C.E.
      - “What an actor dies in me”

Roman Civil War
- Nero dies without clear heir to throne
- Roman Generals vie for power
- Rapid transitions of power
- Year of the Four Emperors
  - 69 C.E.
    - Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian
- Vespasian overall victor
  - Powerful support base in Eastern Roman Empire
  - Establishes new Dynasty
    - With military backing

The Flavian Dynasty (69 C.E. – 96 C.E.)

Emperors of the Flavian Dynasty
- Vespasian 69-79 C.E.
- Titus 79-81 C.E.
- Domitian 81-96 C.E.

Accomplishments of the Flavians
- Set out to re-establish people’s faith in Emperor
- Re-Stabilized Army
- Fixed Treasury
- Improved Social Conditions
- Building of the Colosseum
  - “Flavian’s Ampitheatre”
  - Started by emperor Vespasian but completed by Titus

Last Days of Pompeii
- 79 C.E. Mount Versuvis Erupts, burying town of Pompeii in 4-6m of ash
- City discovered again in 1749 C.E.
  - Offered a mostly intact look at a Roman city

The Nerva Antonine Dynasty
- Nerva Emperors
  - Nerva (96-98 C.E.) – Established Dynasty and tried to involve senate more
  - Trajan (98-117 C.E.) – Added Armenia and Mesopotamia to Empire, massive public works projects (Forum)
Hadrian (117-138 C.E.) – Extended Empire in Britain, built many temples. Revived Rome and Greece
  - Between years 147-150 Rome Reached its greatest extent
  - Build Hadrians wall to establish northern border
  - Except for 20 yr span
  - Meant to prevent Celtic warriors from attacking Roman Settlements

- Reasons for success of Emperors
  - Emperors of dynasty adopted acceptable heirs
  - Passed over biological sons
  - Allowed them to choose strong emperors

The Antonine Dynasty
- Antoninus Pius (138-161 C.E.)
  - Strictly followed Roman traditions
  - Shared power with Senate
- Marcus Aurelius (161-180 C.E.) / Lucius Verus (161-169 C.E.)
  - Stoic Philosophers
  - Defeated Parthian Empire but major German problems
  - Overall moral and just rule.
  - Last of the “5 good emperors”
- Commodus 180-192
  - De-valued Roman money
  - Increasing political instability
  - Wanted the perks but not responsibility
  - Corruption
  - Let power get a hold of him
  - *End of Pax Romana*
    - Beginning of Decline of Empire