From Republic to Empire

LEQ: What factors led to the decline of the Roman republic and the rise of the Roman Empire?

- **Rome Grows Through Conquest**
  - **Rome Fights Carthage in the Punic Wars**
    - First Punic War: Rome defeats Carthage and won the islands of Sicily, Corsica, and Sardinia
    - Second Punic War: The Carthaginian general, Hannibal, sought revenge
    - For 15 years his army moved across Italy winning battle after battle, but failed to take Rome and was forced to give up all lands outside of Africa
    - Third Punic War: Rome completely destroyed Carthage
    - Survivors were killed or sold into slavery
    - The Romans became the masters of the western Mediterranean
  - **Ruling the Mediterranean**
    - The Romans were committed to a policy of imperialism
    - One by one, Macedonia, Greece, and parts of Asia Minor surrendered
    - By 133 BC, Roman power extended from Spain to Egypt
  - **The Impact at Home**
    - A new class of wealthy Romans emerged
    - They built lavish mansions and huge estates (latifundia)
    - Forced people captured in war to work as slaves on the latifundia
    - The widespread use of slave labor hurt small farmers
    - Grain prices fell because of the huge quantities of grain pouring in from conquering land
    - Farmers were forced to sell their farms and fell deep in debt
    - Landless farmers fled to Rome joining an already restless class of unemployed
    - The gap between the rich and poor grew wider
    - Riots broke out in the cities
    - Corruption grew
  - **Making Attempts at Reform**
    - Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus attempted reform
    - Tiberius (elected a tribune) called on the state to distribute land to farmers
    - Gaius (elected a tribune 10 years later) called on the state to use public funds to buy grain to feed the poor
    - The senate saw their reforms as a threat and the brothers and thousands of their followers were killed in waves of violence set off by the senate and their hired thugs.

- **The Roman Republic Declines**
  - How were the new professional armies different from the Roman legions?
    - Because their commanders gave them more benefits than the state did, these soldiers owed their loyalty to their commanders rather than the state
  - How did these professional armies make Caesar and other generals more willing to engage in power struggles?
    - They had force to back up their efforts to take power

- **Julius Caesar the Dictator**
  - Became a powerful leading figure because of his victories in Gaul and other regions
  - Forced the senate to make him a dictator of Rome

- **Caesar Makes Reforms**
• Launched public works programs to employ the jobless and gave public land to the poor
• Reorganized the government and granted citizenship to more people
• Introduced a new calendar based on the Egyptians

• Caesar Killed, War Followed
  • Caesars enemies were afraid he would make himself king and killed him
  • This led to civil war in Rome with a power struggle between Mark Anthony (Caesar’s chief General) and Octavian (his grandnephew)

• The Age of the Roman Empire Dawns
  • Augustus Builds a Stable Empire
    • Became the first Emperor of the Roman Empire
    • Government Reforms
      • Left the senate in place
      • High level jobs were open to all regardless of class
      • Allowed a large amount of self-government in the cities and provinces
    • The Age of the Roman Empire Dawns
    • Economic Reforms
      • Ordered a census to so there would be records of all who were taxed
      • Set up a postal systems and issued new coins to make trade easier
      • Set up jobs for the jobless

• The Age of the Roman Empire Dawns
  • Central Problem of Rule
    • The death of an emperor led to intrigue and violence
    • There was no clear line of succession

• Emperors Vary
  • Bad emperors
    • Caligula
    • Nero
  • Good Emperors
    • Hadrian; codified Roman law, protected Rome from attackers from the north
    • Marcus Aurelius; philosopher

• The Pax Romana Brings Prosperity
  • Roman Peace
    • Trade flowed freely
    • Ideas and knowledge spread

• The Distraction of Entertainment
  • Chariot Races
  • Gladiators
  • Hidden Problems
    • General prosperity hid social and economic problems
      • These entertainments were a way to pacify the restless mob