

REGES ROMAE

DIVISIONS OF ROMAN HISTORY

Roman Kingdom (*Regnum Romanum*):

one king ruled, usually until death

753 - 509 BCE

Roman Republic (*Res Publica Romana*):

two consuls ruled for a period of one year

509 - 27 BCE

Roman Empire (*Imperium Romanum*):

one emperor (typically) ruled until death

27 BCE - 476 CE

REX PRIMUS: ROMULUS



Date of Reign: 753 - 715 BCE

Notable Moments:

- We learned the myth of Romulus and Remus when we learned about Aeneas
Romulus killed Remus and established Rome, which he named for himself, on the Palatine Hill in Italy
 - He invited anyone seeking a new territory, including criminals, to settle in his land. He established laws and the Senate to govern his people
 - The Senate originally consisted of 100 men from the best Roman families
 - Realizing that most of his citizens were men, he invited the neighboring Sabines to a party, where he stole all of their women. At first the Sabines fought back, but later they joined the race of new Romans.
Romulus continued to successfully expand the walls of Rome by warring with neighboring tribes
 - While standing in the Campus Martius one day, Romulus disappeared
Legend has it that he ascended to dwell among the gods, to be known as Quirinus
 - It is more likely, however, that he was murdered by the group of Romans who were sick of his war-mongering ways

REX SECUNDUS: NUMA POMPILIUS



Date of Reign: 715 - 673 BCE

Notable Moments:

- Numa was known for being pious, peaceful and wise
- His goal was to establish peace among the neighboring tribes
- Numa further organized and solidified some distinctly Roman cultural items:
 - Numa set up a lunar calendar, dividing the year into 12 months
 - Numa built the Temple of Janus
 - Janus was the Roman god of doorways and passages of time; thus the symbol of changes, beginnings and endings
 - The doors were to be open during wartime and closed during times of peace
 - They were closed through the duration of Numa's reign
 - He established religious reforms, including his foundation of the college of priests and Rome's own cult of Vestal Virgins, who devoted themselves to Vesta, the goddess of the hearth and home; she would be the patron goddess of Rome
- Numa ended his reign by dying of natural causes during his 43rd ruling year

REX TERTIUS: TULLUS HOSTILIUS



Date of Reign: 673 - 642 BCE

Notable Moments:

- Tullus was a fan of war and believed the Romans had grown weak under Numa's reign. To rectify this, he aimed to improve Rome in many ways:
 - Tullus and his armies destroyed Alba Longa, the original town of Romulus
 - Two sets of triplets fought, the Hostii (Roman) and the Curiatii (enemy). The home city of the losing side would be destroyed. The Curiatii lost.
 - He invited the citizens to join Rome's population and demolished their city; to avoid any overthrow by their former king, he divided the king's body by tying his legs to two chariots and ripping his body in half.
 - To accommodate its new citizens, Rome expanded its walls beyond the Palatine Hill to include the Caelian Hill
 - Tullus built the first senate house, the *curia hostilia*
- Unfortunately, he neglected the religious duties of a ruler and Rome fell under many "plagues"
 - Tullus tried to perform the sacred rites but legend has it that he erred and Jupiter struck him down by thunderbolt, and he died in his 32nd year
 - However, it is more likely that he died in a house fire

REX QUATERNUS: ANCUS MARTIUS



Date of Reign: 642 - 617 BCE

Notable Moments:

- Ancus Martius was Numa's grandson and held steadfastly to the same religious beliefs as his grandfather
 - However, neighboring tribes mistook this for the same weakness and tried (and failed) to take over Rome
- Ancus is credited with many major building projects and expansions:
 - Ancus expanded the empire to include the Janiculum Hill
 - Ancus built the first bridge across the Tiber River for easy access to this hill
 - Ancus built the first prison, the *carcer*, which would hold inmates until they were to be executed
 - Ancus also built Rome's first port city, Ostia, which is located at the mouth of the Tiber River
- Ancus died of old age after 24 years of ruling

REX QUINTUS: L. TARQUINIUS PRISCUS



Date of Reign: 616 - 579 BCE

Notable Moments:

- During the reign of Ancus Martius, the Romans were defeated by the Etruscans. Lucius Tarquinius Priscus, also known as Tarquin the Elder, hailed from this Etruscan tribe.
 - Tarquin's wife, Tanaquil, foresaw his reign via an omen of an eagle placing a cap on his head. She took this as a sign that he was destined for greatness
 - Tarquin gained the trust of Ancus, who entrusted him with caring for his sons. Upon the death of Ancus, he sent the sons away from the city and campaigned for the throne
- Tarquin the Elder is credited with many achievements, including:
 - He doubled the number of senators from 100 to 200
 - He constructed the *Cloaca Maxima*, which was the first open sewer in Rome
 - He organized the first Roman Games, which led to the construction of the Circus Maximus
- Late in his life, Ancus' sons ordered an assassination attempt on Tarquinius. Unfortunately, they succeeded. In the last moments of his life, Tanaquil ordered his son-in-law Servius Tullius to pretend that he was only acting as king until his health improved. The sons of Ancus fled, assuming their attempt unsuccessful. Tarquin died, and Servius assumed the role of king.

REX SEXTUS: SERVIUS TULLIUS



Date of Reign: 578 - 535 BCE

Notable Moments:

- Servius was originally the son of a slave in the house of Tarquinius who came to power under unusual circumstances.
- Servius was renowned for many structure-inducing concepts:
 - He introduced a class system, organizing the population by wealth. This removed the burden felt by poorer citizens but provided more power to the wealthy.
 - This division of classes also provided a division of government
 - He built the walls that encircled the seven hills of Rome
 - He took the first census, which was a count of the Roman citizens
- Unfortunately, his plan to secure his reign by marrying his daughters to the sons of his predecessor backfired when he was assassinated by Tarquinius Priscus' son, Tarquinius Superbus, thus bringing his 44 year reign to an end.

REX SEPTIMUS: TARQUINIUS SUPERBUS



Date of Reign: 534 - 510 BCE

Notable Moments:

- Tarquinius Superbus was why Rome couldn't have nice kings
 - He overthrew Servius and refused to bury his body; he also sentenced to death any of the senators who supported Servius, or anyone he suspected to be treasonous.
 - He built many original city features and improved upon those that were put up by other kings
 - He picked fights with neighboring tribes, especially if it meant procuring funds for his lavish building projects.
 - He was offered the nine Sybillene texts that foretold the future of Rome
 - The saleswoman burned three, then three more before he bought the last three, fearing what would happen if the works were totally lost.
- The Romans decided they had had enough when Tarquinius' son Sextus, in the name of competition with his cousin Collatinus, raped the wife (Lucretia) of said cousin.
 - Lucretia reported the attack to her father, her husband Collatinus, and their friend Julius Brutus, and made them swear to avenge it. She then stabbed herself in the heart.
 - Brutus, a man of his word, organized a group of men to overthrow the king and put an end to the monarchy for good.
- Tarquin fled and Brutus and Collatinus became the first consuls of the Roman Republic

A MNEMONIC TO REMEMBER THE KINGS (IN ORDER!):

Roman	=	Romulus
Noodles	=	Numa Pompilius
Toss	=	Tullus Hostilius
And	=	Ancus Marcius
Turn;	=	Tarquinius Priscus
Serve	=	Servius Tullius
Them!	=	Tarquinius Superbus

A MNEMONIC TO REMEMBER THE SEVEN HILLS OF ROME:

Can	=	Capitoline
Queen	=	Quirinal
Victoria	=	Viminal
Eat	=	Esquiline
Cold	=	Caelian
Apple	=	Aventine
Pie?	=	Palatine

