HI202: Rome and the Mediterranean: The Emergence of Empire: 10/3/08

The period between the end of the Second Punic War (202 BCE) and the conquest of Greece (146 BCE), Carthage (146 BCE) and Spain (133 BCE) brought a multitude of political, economic and social changes to Rome. Friday’s class will explore those changes against the backdrop of the major events of the time.

You have been assigned to one of five groups. As you prepare for class, focus on the readings relevant to your topic. When we meet in class on Friday, immediately form your groups and spend 15 minutes formulating your responses to the questions for your topic. Appoint a spokesperson, who will receive 5 minutes of class time to provide a succinct, concise answer. At 1.40pm, we will begin to hear from each group.

The topics draw upon the readings in Livy (HAR), in the textbook (RVE) and in the passages drawn from As the Romans Did (ARD). Please make sure you bring the texts to the class that are relevant to your topic in case you need them as a reference.

Group 1. The Macedonian Wars and the conquests of Greece, Spain and North Africa
   • William Dunkling; Nicholas Pierce; William Raucci; Brian Reno; Michael Nosanchuk; Thomas Gruber
   • Questions: how did Rome manage to dominate most of the Mediterranean world by 133 BCE? What did she do, how did she do it, and why? The last two pages of this handout outline the key events.

Group 2. Economic changes in the Roman world
   • Derek Bagley; John Batch; Kelly Bischoff; Douglas Carter; Sarah Elwell; Matthew Czerkowicz
   • Questions: how did the wars of the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE shape the economic environment for Rome? what do we know about the accumulation, distribution and management of wealth? what were attitudes towards work and wealth among the elite?

Group 3. Social changes in the Roman world
   • Alexandra Calder; Erica Kratz; Katherine Kullman; Elliot Steinbach; William Sharry; Camden Walters
   • Questions: what was the stratification of Roman society like in the 2nd century BCE? what were the roles of the aristocratic elite men? the women? the poor? foreigners? slaves? how were power and labor distributed across the Roman social structure?
Group 4. The status quo
- Erik Germani; Laura Hamilton; Hardy McCall; Sabrina Schnabel; Calder Wilson; Carl-Eric Girardin [Carl will be absent tomorrow]
- what threats to the status quo emerged in the 2nd century BCE? why were practices like the worship of Bacchus considered a threat? who had the power to respond, and what was that response like?

Group 5. The future of the Roman world
- Meghan Larabee; Kyle Montour; Saundra Murphy; Sophie Rotter; James Ryan; Sara Schoon
- Questions: given what you’ve learned from the readings, and based on Rome’s behavior in the domestic and international spheres, what would you predict will be Rome’s fate in the near future? is Livy correct in detecting a decline in Roman morals and virtues in this period? is there anything Rome can do to halt that decline?

Note: in addition to the two pages of chronological history below, the website has a link to a Powerpoint file with two images. The first is a “scorecard” of the major wars of the 2nd century that are outlined below, along with the the players and their alliances. The second is a map that captures the extent of Roman domination of the Mediterranean in the 2nd century BCE (and beyond).
Roman Conquest of the Mediterranean, 221-133 BCE

221-205: Philip V of Macedon allies with Achaea and Aetolia in Greece in 221, and with Hannibal and Carthage in 215. 1st Macedonian War 215-205, ending in peace treaty with Rome in 205

201: Roman peace with Carthage, which becomes client state

200: Philip allies with Antiochus III (king 223-187) of the Seleucid Empire vs. Ptolemy V

Rhodes & Pergamum (king Attalus 241-197) appeal to Rome

200-196: 2nd Macedonian War. Consul Publius Sulpicius Galba persuades Comitia Centuriata

197: Battle of Cynoscephalae in Thessaly (Greece):
   - Titus Quinctius Flamininus + Aetolians + Achaeae vs. Philip V
   - Philip evacuates Greece, hands over fleet, son Demetrius as hostage, keeps Macedon
   - Flamininus declares the Greeks "free" (Plut. Life of Flamininus: "first he removed the shackle from the foot of Greece & then he put it round her neck")

197: Rome organizes Hispania Citerior ("Nearer Spain ") & Ulterior ("Farther Spain") into two provinces. Additional praetorships created to provide provincial governors

195: Hannibal exiled from Carthage and joins Antiochus III (king 223-187) in Seleucia

194: Rome grants Asia Minor to Antiochus III (who seized Thrace, Syria from Egypt)

191: Rome + Rhodes + Pergamum (King Eumenes II, rules 197-158) vs. Antiochus III + Aetolia at Thermopylae (Philip V on the sidelines):
   - Antiochus surrenders money, ships, Asia Minor; Pergamum and Rhodes control Asia Minor
   - Aetolia surrenders and swears to preserve Rome's imperium and maiestas ("sovereignty")
179: Perseus, son of Philip, forges alliances with Greece's poor, foments rebellion by abolishing debts, interferes in Greek politics.

172: Eumenes II (king 197-158) of Pergamum persuades Rome to wage war vs. Perseus

172-167: Rome declares war = 3rd Macedonian War.

168: L. Aemilius Paullus (consul) vs. Perseus + Greeks at Pydna in Thessaly

- Rome routs Macedonian phalanx, Perseus dies in captivity in Rome
- Illyria & Epirus seized, besieged, enslaved by L. Aemilius Paullus
- Macedonia split into 4 client states
- 1000 leading Achaean arrested (including Polybius) & hundreds murdered
- Rhodes (guilty of suggesting peace) loses possessions in Asia Minor, weakened, leading to rise in piracy

150-147: Return of Achaean exiles & Roman oppression of Greeks leads to 4th Macedonian War; Andricus, pretender to Macedonian throne and purported son of Perseus, leads revolt; defeated in 147 and Rome turns Macedonia into a province

151: M. Porcius Cato demands Carthago delenda est ("Carthage must be destroyed"); Carthage declares war on Masinissa (king 205-149)


155-139: Viriathus leads revolt vs. Rome: Lusitanian War (western Spain), resulting in Roman conquest of Lusitania

181-179, 153-151, 143-133: Celtiberian War (eastern Spain), resulting in destruction of Numantia by P. Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus