

ANCIENT ROME

I. Geography

A. Center of Rome: the Italian **peninsula**

1. *City* of Rome located here
2. Like Greece, very rocky & mountainous
 - a. Alps, in the North
 - b. Apennines, in center of peninsula
3. Peninsula has 2 important river valleys
 - a. Tiber River
 - b. Po River

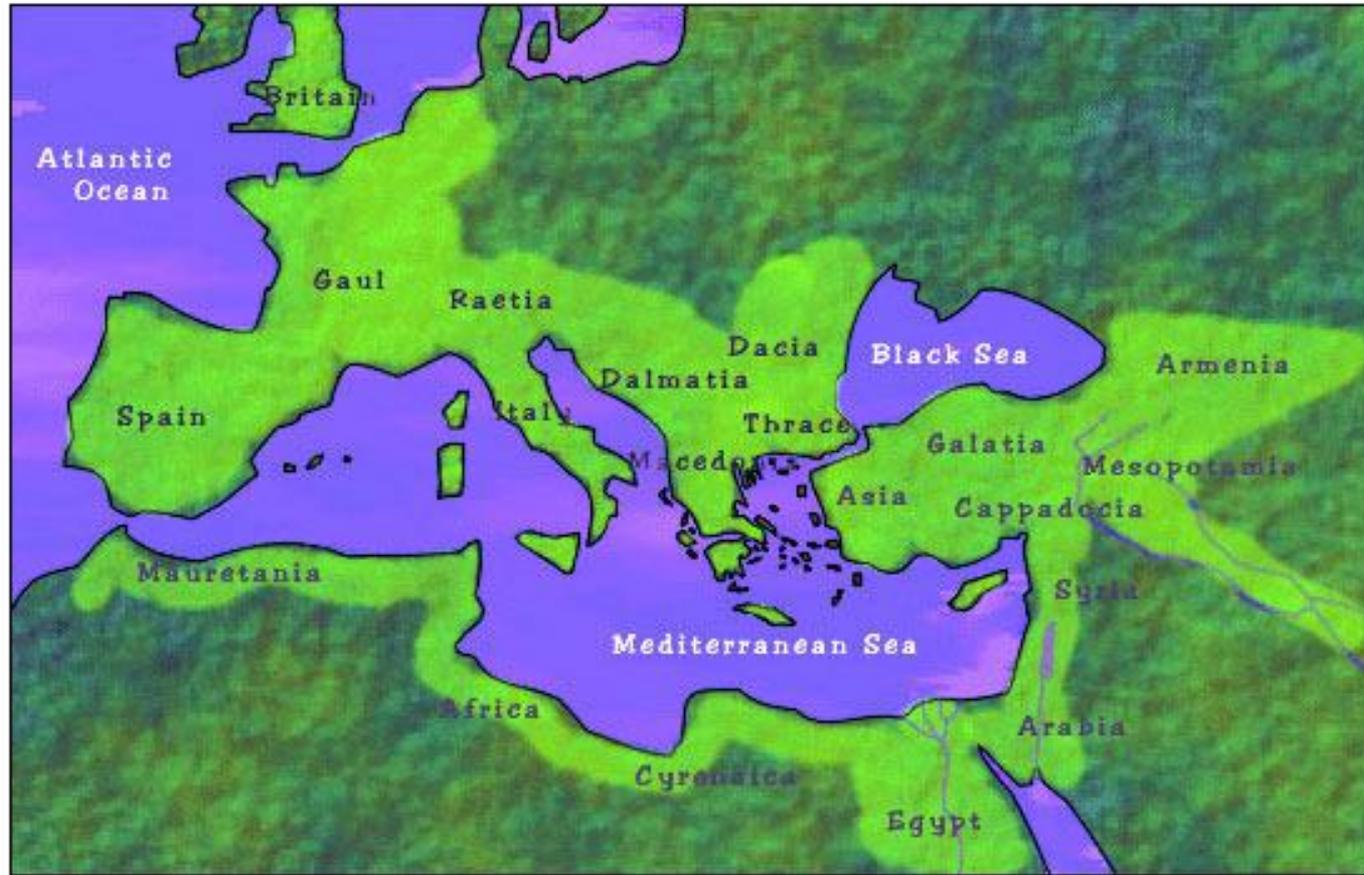
ITALY FROM SPACE



B. Rome eventually included much of the
“known-world”

1. Land all around Mediterranean & Black Seas
2. Most of the Middle-East
3. Most of Europe

EXTENT OF ROMAN CIVILIZATION



II. History

A. The Latins: The First “Romans”

1. Just 1 group on Italian **peninsula**
 - a. Lived along Tiber River
 - b. Founded city of Rome in 753 **BCE**
2. Ruled by Etruscan **dictators** for 250 years
 - a. Etruscans: powerful group of N Italy
 - b. Ruled most of Italy

ITALIAN POWERS



B. Roman Independence

1. Etruscan King Tarquin dethroned in 509 BCE
 - a. Romans vowed to never have another king
 - b. Founded the Roman **Republic**

2. Soon Rome made war with neighbors
 - a. Etruscans defeated in 396 BCE
 - b. Samnites defeated in 290 BCE
 - c. Greeks forced off Italy by 275 BCE
3. In 264 BCE war broke out with Carthage
 - a. Carthage finally defeated in 146 BCE
 - b. Rome became the master of the Mediterranean world

C. **Civil War** Period (83-82 **BCE** & 49-45 **BCE**)

1. Rome's success brought problems
 - a. Rich got richer & poor got poorer due to too many slaves
 - b. Strong generals began to gain *political* power

2. In 60 BCE, 1st Roman **Triumvirate** (Crassus, Pompey & Caesar) formed
 - a. Crassus killed in battle in 53 BCE
 - b. Caesar & Pompey battle for control of Rome; Pompey is defeated
 - c. Caesar declares himself “**Dictator** for Life”
 - d. March 15, 44 BCE: Caesar killed by members of the **Senate**

**D. Republic fell & Roman Empire formed
in 27 BCE**

1. Augustus: Rome's 1st **emperor**
2. Beginning of 200-year **Pax Romana**
3. Rome reached its most advanced level &
its greatest size during this time

E. Fall of Rome

1. Internal Problems

- a. Economic problems: high taxes & no jobs
- b. Poor leadership in gov't
- c. Population decline due to disease & wars

2. **Barbarian** invasions

- a. Weakened Rome is now easy target for invasion
- b. To try to save Rome, it is split into 2 separate states in 395 **CE**
 1. Western Rome fell in 476 CE
 2. Eastern Rome would survive almost another 1000 years

ROME THROUGH THE YEARS



G. Religion

1. Roman **Mythology**

a. Romans borrowed ideas from many religions

1. Greek **deities** were adopted & given new names
2. Deities from Egypt, Persia, Turkey & Etruria also adopted

- b. Like the Greeks, believed you went to Hades after death
 1. Elysian Fields: place for heroes
 2. Tartarus: place for evil people
 3. Everyone else became “shades” in Asphodel Fields

2. Judaism within Rome

a. Jewish kingdom is part of Roman **Empire**

b. Judaism is **monotheistic**; did not worship Roman **deities**

1. Jews allowed to worship in Rome

2. Jews believe God will send a **Messiah** to save them

c. Jesus of Nazareth

1. Born c. 5 **BCE** in Bethlehem
2. From 30 to 33 **CE**, traveled & preached using **parables**
3. Some Jews believed he was the Messiah; became known as Christians

3. Rise of Christianity

a. Early Christians in Rome

1. Most were **persecuted**

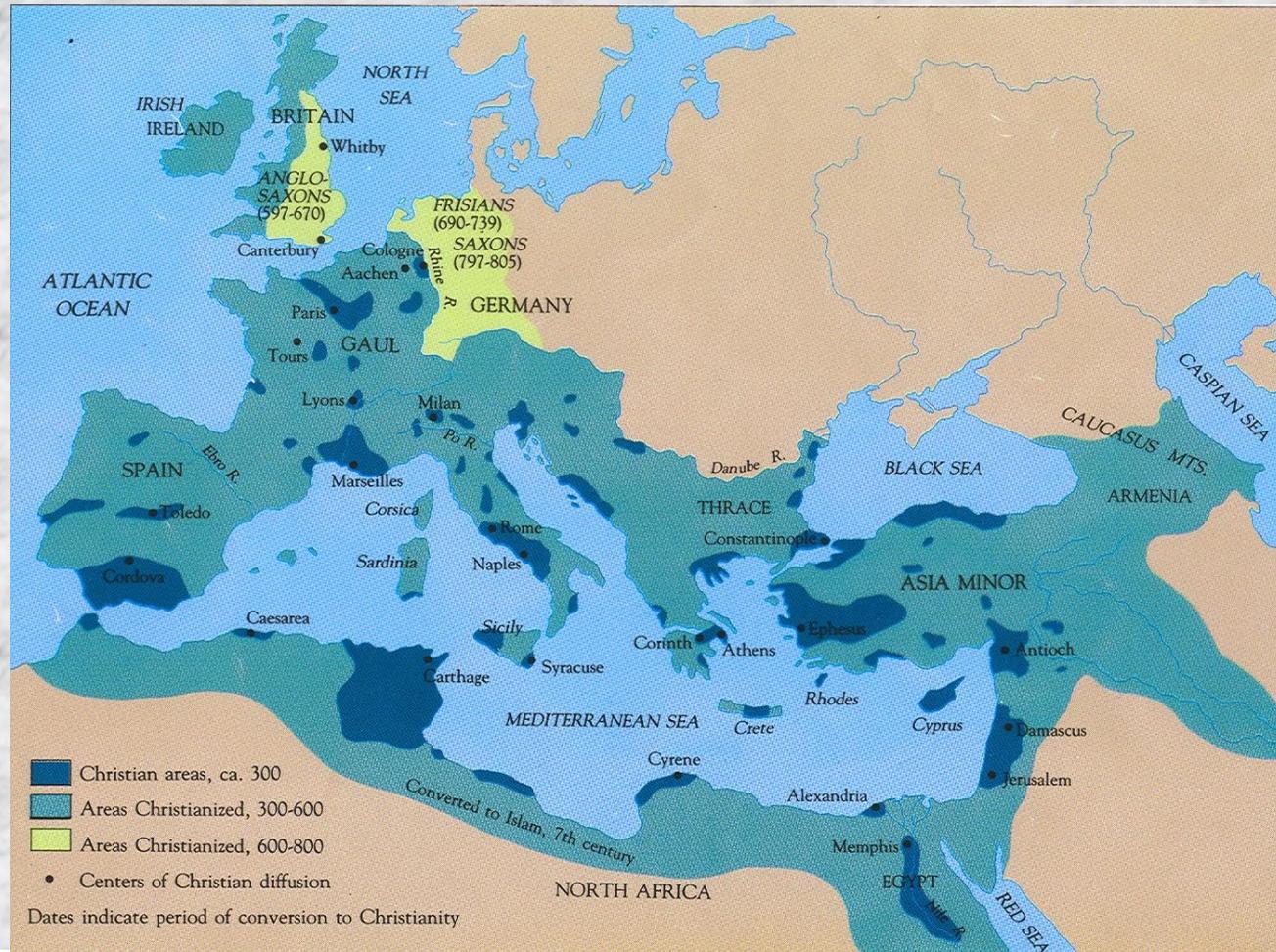
2. Many became **martyrs**

b. After Jesus' death, **apostles** spread religion

c. As religion gained popularity, it was tolerated more

- d. In 312 **CE**, **Emperor** Constantine converted to Christianity & proclaimed religious freedom
- e. In 392 CE, Emperor Theodosius made Christianity Rome's official religion

SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY



H. Gov't

1. Under Etruscans, Rome was a **dictatorship**
2. Rome then became a **republic**
 - a. **Plebeians & patricians** could vote, but only patricians could hold office
 - b. **Consuls** elected to rule for 1 year
 - c. **Senate** elected to make laws
 - d. **Praetors** served as judges

3. After the fall of the republic, Rome became an **empire**
 - a. Augustus restored senate, but gave it almost no power
 - b. **Emperor**-appointed **proconsuls** ruled provinces on emperor's behalf

IV. Written Language

A. Language of Rome: Latin

1. Everyone in Rome was expected to learn Latin
2. Today, it is a “dead” language

B. Latin is one of the most important languages in history

1. It is the basis for **Romance Languages**
2. It also influenced *many* other languages
 - a. Roman alphabet used in most languages
 - b. Many English words & prefixes originate in Latin