

Part III: Roman Preliminary Doctoral Examination

Roman History

Fall, 1989

You need not repeat material present in Part I, but indicate it by cross-references. A discussion of ancient sources and modern bibliography is essential to all answers. Primary attention should be focused upon the historical problems and interpretations surrounding any given question.

Part I: Identify, evaluate, and briefly discuss the historical importance of the following:

Servius Tullius	Praetor
Twelve Table Laws	Cicero
Sulla	<u>Senatus Consultum Ultimum</u>
Roman Annalists	Domitian
Hadrian	Livy
Constantine	<u>Res Gestae</u>

Part II: Answer two of the following:

a. Write an essay on the Roman Republican aristocracy presenting both ancient and modern characterizations. How did the aristocracy function politically? What role did patricians and plebeians play in the "struggle of the orders?" Explain populus, leges, and plebiscita and their function within the system.

b. Before 200 B.C. Rome fought great battles and won small wars. After 200 B.C. she fought small battles and won great wars. Outline the differences and similarities in the two periods. Pay particular attention to the motivation, consequence, and the domestic political background associated with the various stages of expansion.

c. The period from 133 to 31 B.C. has been called "revolutionary." Whether you agree or disagree, defend your position in an essay in which you identify the most important individuals, events, and historical "trends" which characterize this period. Which individuals and events contributed most to the the "collapse" of the Republic?

Part III: Answer two of the following:

a. Consider the reorganization of the Roman government by Augustus, showing what he changed and what he "restored" and illuminating why his political system continued to work for the next two centuries. In general, describe how and why the governmental system and imperial policy changed from Augustus to Diocletian/Constantine. Include in your assessment a discussion of the difficulties created by the problem of succession, by the growth of absolutism, and by the development of the imperial bureaucracy.

b. Write an essay in which you fully explain the following quotations: "In the beginning the emperor ruled through the army, but in the end the army ruled through the emperor." And, "The fatal secret of the empire was out! Emperors could be elsewhere than in Rome."

c. In an essay on the "decline and fall" of the Roman Empire, what emerged as the main problems facing the Roman empire (and emperors) in the third and fourth centuries? How did Diocletian and Constantine attempt to solve these problems? Was the reorganization an "ancient" or a "medieval" solution? When and why did the Empire come to an "end?"

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c. The period from 133 to 31 B.C. has been called "revolutionary." Whether you agree or disagree, defend your position in an essay in which you identify the most important individuals, events, and historical "problems" which characterized this period. Which individuals or events do you think led to the final "collapse" of the Roman Republic?

