

Roman Society

Ch. 12/Sec. 3





Men Rock!

- Rome divided by gender class and status in society.
- Patriarchal Society= men were in charge
 - Head of the family
 - Traced their origins through male ancestors

Paterfamilias

- Oldest man in a Roman family= Paterfamilias
 - a.k.a.= the male head of the household
 - Owned all the property
 - He had absolute and unlimited power over wife, children, slaves, younger siblings.
 - He had the right to sell his children into slavery.
 - He had the right to kill his children.



A woman in a white Roman-style dress stands in a sunlit ancient Roman street. The street is paved with cobblestones and lined with classical buildings, including a temple with columns in the distance. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The woman is looking to the right, and her dress is simple and elegant. The overall atmosphere is historical and serene.

Women Rule!

- Roman women had more freedom than Greek women.
 - they could own property
 - Went to parties, enjoyed theater, and religious rituals.
- Roman women could not:
 - Vote, attend assemblies, or hold public office
- Most important role:
 - To have children and raise them to follow Roman traditions

Rich & Poor

- Majority of Roman population:
 - Poor and free
 - Slaves
 - Worked farms controlled by the wealthy
- Minority of Roman population:
 - Wealthy
 - Earned money from agriculture
 - They owned huge farms worked by the poor/slaves.
 - Women supervised the slaves



The Good Life

- Upper-class Romans lived in 1 to 2 story houses
 - As large as a city block
 - Courtyards, gardens, private baths, and running water.
- Villas
 - Large country homes



The Common Folk

- Most poor people lived in cramped apartments in the city
 - No running water
 - Crime, disease, fire were prevalent
 - Apartments poorly built and often collapsed.
- Occupations
 - Many were farmers who rented land from wealthy landowners.
 - Constructions
 - Ran stores, taverns, or restaurants.



Slavery

- More slaves=more power
 - 40% of people in Rome were slaves
 - They could be beaten, killed, and sold for any reason.
 - Children born to slaves were also slaves
 - Many slaves worked in the mines or on large farms (treated brutally)
 - Slaves that worked in wealthy homes had it easier
 - Some educated slaves worked as secretaries or teachers.
- Freedom
 - Slaves who were loyal could be freed as a reward.
 - They could also save up to buy their freedom.
 - Freed slaves could become citizens and vote.



"I am Spartacus!"

- Slaves fought back against their masters.
- Spartacus: led an army of rebel slaves in the 70s B.C.
 - Fought against the Roman army and threatened to capture Rome before the Romans defeated them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8h_v_011r_n

Early Roman Religion

- Important part of everyday life
- Romans worshipped hundreds of gods *(in chapter 13 we will learn about the shift to Christianity)*
 - Adapted from the Greek gods
- The government and religion were not separated
 - Government officials also served as priests
 - Believed it was the governments job to maintain good relationship with the gods
- Romans tried to keep their gods happy
 - Believed that gods wouldn't answer prayers if they didn't do certain things
 - Romans prayed, worshipped at home, built temples, offered animal sacrificed, and held games in honor of the gods.

