

ROME: SOCIETY AND CULTURE  
Lecture Guide # 15

- I. ROMAN SOCIETY: INTRODUCTION
- A Hierarchical
  - B Paternalistic
  - C AGRARIAN: Agriculture, but also VALUES associated with Land-holding
  - D Traditional: *Traditio* = "handing on / over" → US "Traditions handed down" and Be-TRAY-al as "handing over"
  - E Legalistic: Law & Government
  - F Some Flexibility: they BEND rather than break; but slowly!
- II. ROMAN RELIGION: Cicero: "Rome rules the world because she knows that the gods control everything."
- A. CHARACTERISTICS: Polytheistic, contractual, ritualistic
    - 1 *Do ut des*: Do the rituals, be sure you meet the contract, gods will reward you (Ethics not important)
    - 2 Eclectic = Syncretistic: "Borrowed & blended" (Hellenistic) allowed *almost* any religion that did not compete with Rome
    - 3 3 Chief early gods: Jupiter Optimus Maximus, Juno & Minerva = worshiped on Capitolium in 3-part temple
    - 4 DOZENS of others & added foreign gods – first from Etruscans, Later from Greeks, then from East
  - B HOME & HEARTH IMPORTANT
    - 1 Basis of Religion = HOME, Father = Priest; gods = *lares & penates*: Keeps Home fires burning, guarantees good luck
    - 2 *Lares & Penates* Protect Hearth – Protected Doorway – Hence Carry Bride Across
    - 3 Crossings troublesome (e.g., Crossroads / *Compitum* → *Compitalia* for Lares of X-roads)
  - C PUBLIC CULTS: Jupiter IOM, Juna, et al. And Greek gods (Apollo, Dionysos)
    - 1 Some More Important than Others = VESTA (Greek Hestia) = goddess of hearth of City → VESTAL VIRGINS
    - 2 TRUEST RELIGION OF ROME = ROMA herself = whatever was good for Rome was right
- III. EDUCATION
- A Ancient, Early Republic to ca. 150 BC = Private & Familial – BOTH Sexes Learn LATIN LETTERS, Hence, READ~
    - 1 BOYS: Political & Military – 1<sup>st</sup> at father's knee, then under tutelage of father's friends
    - 2 GIRLS: by mothers, by husband's family
  - B By Late Republic – Hellenistic Influences : Horace: "Captive Greece took captive her rude [crude, uneducated] conqueror"
    - 1 Boys & Girls: Latin letters & some literature
    - 2 then Separate Education
      - a Boys of Means
        - 1) Early Education in Political & military by fathers & father's friends as mentors
        - 2) Greek Rhetoric, literature etc.
        - 3) Often spent time in Eastern Mediterranean soaking up Greek culture
      - b Girls, generally by mothers: *But*, Elite girls might be well educated (Julia, da. Julius Caesar; Tullia, Cicero's daughter)
- IV. THE ROMAN FAMILY – WHOLE ROMAN SOCIETY = a Paternalistic Family
- A *Paterfamilias*: PATERNALISTIC Society
    - 1. Originally, Father had power of life & death over whole family, including married sons
    - 2. Lessens over time
  - B MARRIAGE = *MATRIMONIUM* – *MATRI-monium* (Motherhood seems to be Object)
    - 1 MARRIAGE CUSTOMS Varied but ALWAYS MONOGAMOUS
      - a Marriage at any age possible: First marriage likely to be early (13-15) for girls
      - b 3 TYPES OF MARRIAGE (Some Variation of These Occurred)
        - a *CONFARREATIO* = ("with grain" due to cake made of spelt *far* or *panis farreus*). ) = Religious Ceremony
          - 1) Many rituals priests (including *Pontifex maximus*) hence practically restricted to Rich
          - 2) daughter was *in manu* of father → passed into hand of husband or his father (*in manu*)
        - b *USUS* = Informal marriage by common consent with evidence of Cohabitation
          - 1) → Marriage cum *Manu* (from father's hand to new husband)
          - 2) "Wife" became a sort of "daughter" in family for a year
          - 3) meanwhile, cohabited with husband
        - c *COEMPTO* = symbolic "purchase" from father by husband; Wife not a slave, but total control (tended to be used by Plebeians)
    - 2 STEREOTYPE = ALWAYS ARRANGED, NEVER FOR LOVE
      - a Sometimes one or the other or BOTH: Pompey + Julia = Political Alliance & Love-Match (Agrippa + Julia)
      - b IDEAL: Marriage made for solid reasons (mutual advantage, respect), then calm, non-disturbing love came later
    - 3 DIVORCE Relatively Easy: Husband "announced" (?certificate?), sent her home; Late Republic Easier for Women as Well
  - C WOMEN = Citizens but not participating ones
    - 1 NEVER "EQUAL" but somewhat Freer in Late Republic, then More restricted by Augustan legislation
      - a Married early; children early: Life Expectancy 25 to 35 – Childbirth DEADLY
      - b MULTIPLE Marriages Common; Children by More than One; Blended Families
    - 2 RICH: managed home, estates, slaves, taught children or arranged tutors
    - 3 POOR Worked: on farm, in shop, baking, selling bread
    - 4 PUBLIC (vs. Greeks): Shopped, went to visit, etc. Covered Heads but not faces; Ate with husbands in common *Triclinium*
    - 5 FEW = POWERFUL: Fulvia (Cicero's source), Fulvia (wife of Clodius & Antony), Octavia (Augustus' sister), Livia (Aug. Wife)
  - D CHILDREN: Belong to FATHER (Not to State as in Sparta)
    - 1 FATHER DETERMINES: Class, Clan, Family, Legitimacy (lifts child), Life-or-death (Infanticide by Exposure)
    - 2 REPRODUCTIVE PRACTICES: Birth Control, Abortion, Infanticide ("Exposing")
    - 3 SENTIMENTALITY? Depends on Above (Proverb: "Do not weep for a child in its cradle.")
    - 4 FEW = BELOVED: Tullia daughter of Marcus Tullius Cicero
  - E HOME LIFE: Like Most PRE-Industrial
    - 1 CITIES Mean Trade, Imports – Large Cities of Italy DEPEND on GRAIN IMPORTS by 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC
    - 2 PUBLIC FACILITIES For Some things: Streets, Roads, Baths, Toilets, Theaters; NO Fire- or Police until Augustus (d. AD 14)
    - 3 ROME, by Jesus birth, LAWS re: TRAFFIC: NO Chariot or Cart Traffic in DAYTIME → NOISY NIGHTS!
    - 4 POOR Catch-as-Catch-can in all things: *Regiones* of *Insulae* (Apartment blocks) of *Tenementes* (Holdings / Rentals)
    - 5 WEALTHY & MIDDLING APARTMENTS: Indoor Cooking, Indoor Toilet Facilities, Sewage, WATER!

- V EVOLUTION OF ROMAN LAW: *ROMA* herself= Highest Good and Highest Law
- A TERMS: *IUS, iuris* (Right) → Jurisdiction, Jurisprudence, Jury, vs. *LEX, legis* (Law, statute law) → Legislate, legislation; *FORUM*
- B *AD HOC* NATURE – Passed on AS-NEEDED Basis; *EX POST FACTO* Laws Allowed
- 1 TWELVE TABLES, 451-50 BC: Custom to Law (Envoy to Athens know of; ? Influenced XII Tables?)
  - 2 No Other Codifications til 6th C. AD – under Justinian the Great: *Corpus iuris civile* (Body of Civil Law)
  - 3 Some codifications of Sub-sets of Law – E.g., PRAETOR’s Decisions
- C ROMAN LAW based on LEGAL STATUS (Rights / *IUS*) and on PRECEDENT – NOT on Theory
- D ROMAN SOCIETY = a Legal Society
- 1 GOOD at Law and Government
  - 2 FIRST Professional LAWYERS, e.g., Cicero
  - 3 COURTS: Originally Centuriate Assembly; Later *Quaestiones perpetuae* for specific jurisdictions; Assembly for capital cases
- VI THE GROWTH OF SLAVERY
- A Rome = Equal Opportunity Enslaver: Slave Population Grew After Conquests, with Empire
- B HOW MANY? *A LOT!*
- 1 Few Direct References to “Institution” so little information
  - 2 Ranges from High Estimate of 33% to ca. 20%; One reliable statistic is for Egypt = 7% & we know Rome & Italy = More
- C WHOLE Society Dependent upon Slavery: by ca. 200 BC *ff.*
- 1 AGRICULTURAL SLAVERY: esp. *Latifundia* or great Sheep ranches in peninsula after ca. 200 BC
  - 2 URBAN SLAVERY: Private slaves might be 1 or 2 or a host (hard work to tutoring); Used in business, hard work, whatever
  - 3 MINES: Major use of Slaves in Mines – worst conditions in history – no effort o care for them or keep alive
  - 4 GALLEYS of NAVY: Empire especially employed Slaves as Rowers
- VII ARTISTIC LIFE: ART, ARCHITECTURE, LITERATURE
- A PERIODIZATION
- 1 DIVIDED INTO 2 PERIODS: Republic & Empire (sometimes 27 BC *ff* sometimes 31 BC *ff*)
    - a Subdivisions under these two periods vary according to Events, Rulers, Dynasties, etc.
    - b As Rome expands, Subdivisions must consider locale (East vs. West, North vs. South), etc.
  - 2 Related Issue: What is “ROMAN Art”
    - a At Founding of Republic, “Roman Art” generally means the Art of City of Rome – heavily influence by Etruscans
    - b With Geographical Expansion, At least 2 Processes
      - 1) “foreign” styles influence Style of CITY
      - 2) Roman or Greco-Roman Styles influence various Localities
  - 3 Ca. 200 *ff* Distinctive Roman Style Emerged in Architecture, Sculpture, Painting
    - a Etruscan Traces Still There, But now heavily influence by Greeks
    - b Adapted to Roman Preferences & Values
- B ART & ARCHITECTURE: “GRECO-ROMAN” Only Partially Correct
- 1 ETRUSCANS = 1<sup>st</sup> Influence → Etruscan Tripartite Temple to which Greek elements were added
  - 2 Later: GRECO-ROMAN: ca. 200 BC *ff* (More Every Century), Romans IMPORTED: Greek ART, Artists, Sculptors, Architects
  - 3 OUTRIGHT THEFT (“APPROPRIATION”) *COMMON* (Petronius: Asia Minor, *unde luxuria*, whence the luxury)
    - a Publius Cornelius SULLA is said to have “appropriated” Aristotle’s Library (Strabo: but questionable!)
    - b Roman THEFT of Greek Art (Sicily, Greece, Asia Minor) by boat-load + COPIES
  - 4 COPIED: Romans tended to COPY pleasing Greek Statuary – except in MARBLE instead of Bronze
  - 5 DISTINCTIVE “Roman” Characteristics & *Tendencies* Discernible – vis-à-vis Greeks
    - a More Secular (Civic) Purposes: *Fora* for Meetings, business; Baths; Amphitheatres; Triumphal arches, columns, etc.
    - b More Practical: Aqueducts, highways, bridges
    - c More Realistic: Portrait Sculpture = “warts-n-all” realistic, less idealistic
    - d Larger, Grander – “Bigger is better” “More is better”
    - e Syncretistic / Synthetic (Never “pure”): Etrusco-Greco-Latin Temple Style
- C *LATIN LITERATURE: [Lecture will Cover This ONLY in BRIEF]*
- 1 EARLIEST LATIN: GREAT GREEK CONTRIBUTION = LATIN ALPHABET
    - a ALPHABET: Simplification of GREEK, *either* taken directly from Greeks *or* from Greeks via Etruscans
    - b DUENOS INSCRIPTION on sides of KERNOS (3-Pot Unit made by adding clay struts)
      - 1) Dates from 6<sup>th</sup> C.: Found 1880 on Quirinal Hill by Germany, Heinrich Dressel
      - 2) OLD Latin: read RIGHT-to-Left, All Caps, unbroken letters – No accepted translation (but like Nestor Cup)
      - 3) Duenos = Old Latin for Bonus (good) as Duellus is OL for Bellum (war) [Perduellos endures as Treason!]
      - 4) A. Degrassi, *Inscriptiones Latinae liberae rei publicae, imagines*. Berlin 1965, S. 260 bzw. *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Auctarium*
  - 2 *DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN LITERATURE*
    - a *EARLIEST ROMAN LITERATURE*
      - 1) *Just a few HYMNS & INSCRIPTIONS survive before 300 BC*
      - 2) *GREEK INFLUENCE BEGAN EARLY: (Imported Styles, Literature, Writers)*
        - a) *Literary Genres: Epic, Comedy, Tragedy*
        - b) *Latin Prose: CATO THE ELDER First important Latin Prose Pieces*
    - b *GREAT AGE OF REPUBLICAN LATIN LETTERS*
      - 1) *LUCRETIUS, De rerum natura - Latin Materialist philosophy*
      - 2) *CATULLUS, Romantic lyric poetry*
      - 3) *CICERO, 106 - 41 BC: Set “bar” for Latin prose: orations, philosophical essays, letters*
      - 4) *CAESAR, 100 - 44 BC: Commentaries & “Histories”*
      - 5) *OTHERS: Cornelius Nepos, Sallust, Marcus Ternetius Varro*
    - c *AUGUSTAN AGE - GOLDEN AGE Finest Period of Latin Literature – See Outline 17-A for more Detail!*
      - 1) *POETRY: Virgil (Epic) & Horace (Lyric & Satire) = Patriotic; Ovid Tibullus, Propertius (erotic poets)*
        - a) *VIRGIL: Aeneid = Epic of first rank + Augustan propaganda = PEAK of Roman Literature*
        - b) *OVID, erotica → Exiled (by Augustus who legislated morals, exiled daughter for adultery)*
      - 2) *HISTORY: Livy*
      - 3) *TRAGEDY: Asinius Pollio (76 BC - AD5), Varius Rufus (74-14 BC), & Augustus himself*

- d* SILVER AGE, ca. 18 - 130 AD
- 1) PHILOSOPHY: Seneca
  - 2) EPIC: Lucian, Pharsalis
  - 3) POETRY: Persius (satire), Petronius (satire), Juvenal (satire); Statius
  - 4) HISTORY: Tacitus (Annals, Histories), CLAUDIUS, History of Etruscans (now lost)
  - 5) OTHER: Martial (epigrammatist), Pliny the Elder (science), Pliny the Younger (letters), Quintilian (critic), Suetonius (history)
- e* 2<sup>ND</sup> THRU 5<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES: Demonstrate the Stagnation & Decline
- 1) ONLY one important Pagan: APULEIUS (picaresque Metamorphosis [Asinus aureus or Golden Ass])
  - 3) Creativity & Talent = New and CHRISTIAN: Tertullian, Cyprian, Lactantius (d. 327)
  - 3) 4<sup>TH</sup> C: Poetic Revival: Pagans like Ausonius, Claudian; Christians like Prudentius & St. Ambrose
  - 4) 5<sup>th</sup> C Bridges Classical & Medieval.: St. Augustine (d. 430) City of God; St. Jerome Vulgate (Latin translation of Bible)
- 3 MIDDLE AGES: Latin = language of Church: its liturgy & literature: apologies, theology, philosophy, histories, poetry, hymns, etc
- 4 LIBRARIES: 1<sup>st</sup> Public Library Caesar (& Varro) failed but 39 BC, Gaius Asinius Pollio est.d 1<sup>st</sup>. Augustus, 2 (Greek & Latin)
- VIII VALUES & ATTITUDES: this is very important in understanding Romans
- A. THEY ARE CONSERVATIVE & TRADITIONALIST
- B. SOME ROMAN VALUES
- 1 Mores (singular = mos) maiorum (Ways of Ancients)
  - 2 Traditio = Tradition, "way we've always done it!"
  - 3 Pietas (gives US Pity & Piety): Duty; Religious piety closely related to Duty to Father / Fathers / Rome
  - 4 Gravitas = Seriousness, Gravity
  - 5 Dignitas = "Dignity," but more like Pride (& pretty prickly Pride, at that!)
  - 6 Auctoritas = Authority, Influence, based on
    - a Birth
    - b Money
    - c Holding Office (higher the better)
    - d Military Commands (more important & lucrative the better)
    - e Age
    - f Dignity & Pride
- C GREEK INDIVIDUALISM Enters When Romans Move into Eastern Mediterranean: 200 - 150 BC
- 1 Greek INDIVIDUALISM: emphasizes Individual's need for / right to Glory
  - 2 In time, destroys Roman GROUP VALUES & sense of duty
  - 3 Contributes to "War Lords" (Caesar, Pompey, etc.) and to Fall of Republic
- IX SOCIETY:
- A SOCIAL CHANGE, 150 TO 100 BC ff: THREE CLASSES BECOMING POLITICALLY IMPORTANT
- 1 EQUITES ("Horseman" - ? Non-governing part of OLD Officer Class) - LIKELY History of Development (Details are Sketchy)
    - a Ca. Servian Classes: FIRST Class designated by AMOUNT of PROPERTY
      - 1) They ARE Mounted Officer Class = Equites
      - 2) with EQUO PUBLICO (Horse at Public Expense)
    - b Men of 1<sup>st</sup> Class (Mounted Cavalry Leadership) -> -> PATRICIANS when they Created Res Publica in 509 BC
      - 1) ALSO in Equites Class for Military Purposes
      - 2) But Became the GOVERNING CLASS by Excluding Plebs from Rights, Citizenship & Rulership
    - c "Struggle of Orders" -> POLITICALLY ACTIVE PLEBS from THIS CLASS which is Divided Further
      - 1) Politically ACTIVE Plebs-Equites:
        - a) transform into NON-Commercial Pleb-Equites
        - b) And, become Part of NEW GROUP of Ruling Senators Called NOBILES
      - 2) NON-Politically Active Plebs-Equites REMAIN COMMERCIAL and NON-Political
    - d SLOWLY, NON-Governing Equites -> POLITICIZED Class & OPPOSED to Governing NOBILES (Equites-Patricians)
      - 1) 218 BC: Lex Claudia forbade Senators to Own Ships of Certain Size
      - 2) 215 BC: First Mention of Equites PUBLICANI (Publicans) - Hannibalic War FRAUD Case
      - 3) 129 BC: Upon Entry to Senate, MUST Surrender "PUBLIC HORSE"
      - 4) 123-2 BC: Given Control of EMBEZZLEMENT Juries (res repetundae)
        - a) That is: to JUDGE Returned Provincial Commanders - who are SENATORIAL Class
        - b) MEANS: NON-Political Class -> JUDGING Political Class
      - 5) So that in LATE Republic: They Become Political Pressure Group
    - e By 133 BC EQUITES = NON-Governing RICH Are an Important, Troublesome Class
      - 1) In Practice =COMMERCIAL Class of Rome
        - a) Patricians & Those of Senatorial Rank forbidden to engage in commerce
        - b) Senatorial Class (Governing Class) = Lived from Land ONLY (Did they "cheat?" Absolutely!)
      - 2) Thus, Many Equites became VERY Rich!
        - a) BIG business - hauling trade, etc.
        - b) Took PUBLIC Contracts -> PUBLICANI
          - i) Bought slaves & worked public mines, Public Works & Construction Projects
          - ii) Providing Goods to Armies, Cities, etc.
          - iii) Collecting Taxes ("tax farming")
        - c) Thus, functioned as "bureaucracy" or "civil service" which Republican Rome never developed
      - 3) Rising Class with economic Power -> Political Active as Pressure Group at ca. 121
        - a) SOME ARE Part of Ruling Class
        - b) ALL sensitized to Difference in Interests from Ruling Class
      - 4) SOME New Plebs Family Still being admitted to Consulship:
        - a) NEW MAN (Novus Homo) = 1<sup>st</sup> Consul from his family
        - b) After CURILE MAGISTRACY, enter Senate
        - c) Examples: Marcus Tullius CICERO, Gaius MARIUS, father of Augustus Caesar
- e Thus, NEW SENATORIAL CLASS: Nobiles (Known / Notable Ones) / NOBLES (obscure Pleb-Patrician dichotomy)

- 2 URBAN *PLEBS*: Why “Politically Important?”
  - a Roman Citizens (no matter how poor) *COULD* Vote
  - b Slowly after 287 BC, Lex Hortensia, Senate Encouraged Law-making in *Concilium Plebis* given that
    - 1) Close Relationship between Rich-Political Plebs & Patriciate in *NOBILES*
    - 2) Plebeian Tribunes could be counted on to carry out Senate’s wishes as much as Consuls
    - 3) BUT, What about RENEGADE Tribunes?
  - c Urban Pleb-Mobs RIOTED to get what they wanted: Cheap (or FREE) Grain; Entertainments (Games)
- 3 ARMY VETERANS
  - a Growing Empire -> Growing numbers of Legions
    - 1) Early Group: Ruined by Hannibalic War -> Urban Mobs
    - 2) Later Group: ca. 100 BC, Gaius Marius: *Proletarii* dependent upon generals for Pay (\$\$\$ & Land to farm)
  - b “Hung Around” Rome: Formed a pool of discontent for private armies
- B POLITICS-SOCIETY- HOW IT WORKED
  - 1 FAMILIAL GROUPS: CLASSES – CLANS – FAMILIES
  - 2 SOCIO-POLITICAL NETWORKS:
    - a *AMICITIAE* (“Friendships = ALLIANCES”)
    - b *CLIENTELAE* (*Cliens, clientes Patronus, patroni*)
  - 3 POLITICAL SYSTEM: KINGDOM – REPUBLIC – EMPIRE
- C ROMAN MATERIAL LIFE: BUILDERS & GOVERNORS: Built for *Roma Aeterna*
  - 1 Public Spaces: Temples, Fora, Theatra, Amphitheatra, Roads, Streets, Aqueducts, Sewers, Water Systems
  - 2 Private Spaces: Town houses, Rural Villas, *Insula, -ae* (Apartment Blocks)