Challenges to the Principate
69-193 C.E

- Next 4 emperors all came to throne based on family ties to Augustus
- Showed how concept of first citizen wasn’t enforced
- Rulers lacked moral stature of Augustus and the traditional republican virtues
- Historian Suetonius talked about the rumors about the successors
  - Sexual extravaganzas
  - Executed people for insulting Augustus memory through coinage
- Caligula- wanted to be worshipped as a God. Insane. Later assassinated by guards.
- Claudius was regarded by many Romans as unduly subject to the whims of his wives. Power of the connection to the family of Augustus prevailed to solidify his rule
- Nero was most extreme murderer. Killed family. Most hated
- (A new dynasty) Vespasian took power in 69 C.E. and restored order to empire. Each dynasty eventually ended due to weakness or corruption through the rule
- Marcus Aurelius was highest expression of a ruler. Moral philosophy shaped his life. Self containment through Stoic philosophy
- City of Rome changed from center of republican power to glorification of imperial power.
  - Baths, entertainment, and games began to dominate the city and temples
  - (Provincial defense) Armies fought in east and west
  - Military caused many to be away from families for many years and periods of time
  - Commodus brought everything to an end. Simpleminded man who loved the games. Fought as gladiator. Civil war broke out

A Vibrant, Far-Flung Empire

- Credit to Augustus for politics and stability of Roman administrators
- Information moved slower than goods did due to sailing taking at least 3 weeks to get to the other end.
- (Colonies) many recruited auxiliary troops from the noncitizen population all through empire. Roman culture was brought to the edge of the empire. Showed longstanding influence of Roman Empire.
- Colonies all had theatres, baths, coliseum, and townhouses.