The Roman Peace

- Established permanent civil service offices in Rome
  - Equestrian class, the knights, served as lifetime civil servants
    - Prefects held positions deemed too sensitive for senators
    - Procurators supervised tax collection
- Eliminated the variable tithe and replaced it with a fixed tribute
- Instituted a regular census in which all provincials registered their property for fair tax assessment
- Italy had no taxes and no governors
- Egypt became personal property of the emperor and was administered by an equestrian Prefect, since it was a financial base of Antony and could become a source of trouble

Winning the Hearts and Minds of the People

- Standardized coinage system facilitated financial transactions throughout the Roman world
- Construction of elaborate road system was used for personal, commercial, and military traffic
- Augustus did his best to integrate the provinces into Roman civilization
  - Established annual provincial councils, where representatives from cities met to receive and send messages to the emperor
  - Cult of Rome and Augustus was when provincials dropped incense into a fire, renewing their loyalty to the emperor and the state
  - Established methods of obtaining citizenship
    - The local senate, the equestrian, could make a request for citizenship from the emperor
    - Provincials who served in the auxiliary forces for 25 years could get citizenship
    - Children and wives of citizens also became citizens
- Citizenship was a reward, so slowed down the entry of slaves into citizenship
  - Freedman and freedwoman became an intermediate status
    - Could not become knights or senators, and could not hold office
    - Could be the only ones to become priests in an imperial cult
    - Offspring of these people would become citizens
- Plebeians could enlist in legions and work their way up the ranks
- Wealthy citizens could become members of the equestrian class
- Requirement to be a Senator increased, taking people away from the senatorial class
  - Actual membership based on holding a magistracy or direct appointment by the emperor
    - Augustus controlled who was selected to hold magistracies
      - Able to preserve the old form of Republic political institutions

Dealing with the Army
The Roman Peace

- Marcus took to the Stoic philosophy, stressing doing one's duty
  - Wrote *Meditations* about his own personal philosophies
- In 169 CE, Verus died from the plague, leaving Marcus to rule on his own
- Faced Germanic threats on the northern frontier
  - By 180 they had been pushed back and the frontier made secure
- Was about to create two new provinces on the banks of the Danube and Rhine, but died before he could do so

The Evolution of Roman Law

- Emperors assumed a personal role in issuing legislation
  - In the beginning, initiated legislation by presenting a speech to the Senate
  - However, eventually did not use any popular assemblies
    - Right to declare war, elect magistrates, and try cases went to the emperor
    - Council of the Plebs lost the tribunician power to the emperor
  - However powerful the emperor was, he was not above the law
- Private legal cases were streamlined by combining the action and judgement phases
- Saw a rise in jurists who authored commentaries on law or served as legal advisors
  - If they were approved by an emperor, could write legal precedents
- Every citizen had the right to directly appeal to the emperor with petitions
- Imperial legal enactments, or constitutions, included mandates, decrees, rescripts, and edicts that affected the entire empire

The End of the Antonines

- Commodus (180-192 CE) took the throne after his father, Marcus Aurelius
  - Was popular with the army and the provinces
  - Made peace with the Germans and supported the oppressed farmers in North Africa
- Spent too much money on extravagant games and building, and the empire was still recovering from plague and invasion
- Used delators and imperial forages as a secret police to find conspiracies against him
- In 192 CE he was strangled in his bath by a professional athlete by command of his mistress

The World of the Pax Romana

- New opportunities for social advancement, economic prosperity, and religious worship
- Common culture created a sense of unity

Society and Culture

- Roman citizenship was extended and the Senate was much more diverse
- Status of women and slaves improved under Hadrian's rule