Roman Republic: 509-44 BCE
Roman Empire: 44 BCE-476 CE

**Early Rome -509 BCE**

Social Structure

- Patricians and Plebeians
  - Patricians = wealthy
    - monopolized political power
    - only ones who could become king or sit in the senate
  - Plebeians = everyone else
    - farmers, merchants, artisans
  - born into it
  - did not allow marriage between different classes

- over time, some patrician families lost money & plebeian families got wealthy but
  - even a poor patrician is still a patrician and can still vote, and a wealthy plebeian

→ social structure led to a social struggle

- Plebeians wanted rights, Patricians said no → looked like a civil war until →
  - reached a compromise that gave birth to the Roman Republic

Social Struggle between Patricians and Plebeians gave birth to the Roman Republic

**Roman Republic 509-44 BCE**

Always at war

- fighting to keep enemies weak

  - big target were the Greek city-states and colonies in Italy
  - Romans saw as threat and took them out in a conquest for security

By 265 BCE, Romans controlled the Italian peninsula

- accidental, not the objective

Defeated Greeks by creating a new Military formation

- Legion
  - like the Greeks, soldiers were highly motivated farmers
  - to protect their city

After conquering all the Italian peninsula, came in contact with the Phoenicians

**Punic Wars (264-202 BCE)**

whether the Romans or Phoenicians would dominate the Mediterranean sea

- Romans called Phoenicians the Punics

Romans won

→ Now control Sicily, Iberia and North Africa, along with all of Italian Peninsula

Greeks sided with Phoenicians during the Punic Wars →

**Macedonian Wars (214-148 BCE)**

Romans conquer all of the Greek empires

- Greek empires were weaker from constantly fighting each other

Romans now have Greece, Asia minor, and the Holy land along with everything else

New struggle in Rome between Rich and Poor
-leave a person and they will always make the right decision
-dont need a law code
Believed in ancestor worship
Nobles of small states followed Confucianism because it allowed Nobles to have power
Legalism “School of Law”
started by a disciple of Confucius
didn't believe in emulating the Shang dynasty
said true peace in China is only possible with a strong government
-best form of government was an authoritarian government
Believed humans were inherently evil and selfish
-man will always choose wrongly left to their own devices
-believes man can learn how to become good
-through education
Only way to keep order is imposing discipline
-in the form of law
-anything that weakens the state is punished, anything that strengthens the state is rewarded
Wasn’t nearly as popular as confucianism
Was adopted by small state known as Qin
-on northern frontier of th Zhou
-became good at fighting bc of barbarians trying to get into China for booty

III. Government
All based on legalist principles
Qin Shi Huang
-mandate of heaven
-Gods chose him to be emperor
-welded all the Zhou states into centralized and culturally unified empire
-abolished old Zhou states → divided empire into districts
-hired bureaucrats to rule each district
-pays bureaucrats
-expensive but keeps empire unified → higher taxes
-builds Great Wall of China to keep barbarians out
-forced labor
-builds roads to further unify
→ higher taxes
Made legalism the official philosophy of China
-actively persecuted Confucianism
-everybody hated Qin Shi Huang

Han Dynasty
likes everything except bureaucrats because too expensive →
brings in nobles
Wu Ti (141-87 BCE)
-went to war with barbarians