

The Early History of Rome: Books I-V Study Guide

The Early History of Rome: Books I-V by Livy

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Plot Summary

This is a work on the history of the city of Rome. This location had become the heart of the Empire named for it. Due to its import in the preservation of knowledge through time, it's role is that of a classic work. The length of the Roman Empire assured that by the time of the author, there was a great deal of history to write about already.

The author was a man of the age: Titus Livius's date of birth is not precisely known. There are two closest estimations: one is 59 BC, the other is 64 BC. He was not born in the city of Rome, but did move there. After his relocation he lived there for the rest of his life. He passed away in 17AD in his home town of Padua.

Titus Livius's history was recognized immediately by his contemporaries as far superior to any previous work of its kind. Much later, in 369AD, a Roman Senator had the works re-published. Readers are informed that it is thanks to this action that the books are available today. There is only one other point to emerge from the introductory material. The work was produced when Rome was in her prime.

There is much of value for readers, as so many aspects of Rome's history are included. In that regard it is a fairly thorough work. Political elements of the history are covered. There are mythical parts of the history. The author takes care in many cases where it is difficult to distinguish the facts from the fiction to clarify. This is quite helpful to the reader. The development of the physical situation of the city is provided. It is full of surprises, at least to those who are novices when it comes to the subject of history. One of the keys to this book is that it shows readers the main forces that created the city as a whole. How the culture of it grew and how that related to events and forces is also shown. Along with of course is also an explanation of the military campaigns led from Rome.

There is no question about it: Rome was founded by creative, and aggressive people. It may not have survived had it not been assertive, but it chose of its own free will to be one of the most or thee most aggressive urban site in the entire area. For readers of today, these show the seeds that enabled the powers that grew into an entire Empire which blazed for a long time before receding back to the condition of being a powerful city.

Titus Livy provides readers with precisely what he has promised. He has written an in depth, accurate presentation of the first four to five generations of Roman history.



Book 1, Earliest Rome: Chapter 1, Introductory & Rome Under Kings

Book 1, Earliest Rome: Chapter 1, Introductory & Rome Under Kings Summary and Analysis

There are three pieces of introductory material preceding the main text itself. This section covers all of the 'preambles' and the first half of what in the main body of the books is 'book 1'. The first of the set of books is named 'Rome Under the Kings'.

One of the difficulties for every historian is that of origins. The author clues people into the truth of the beginning of Rome. He refers to the first people that anyone is mostly certain of.

He clearly expresses that from his perspective, it was rather the rule than the exception for their to be a mingling of human and divine beings in the ancestry of a noble lineage.

Before even Titus Livius has begun the scholars tell readers that there was no known

Etruscan or 'inherently Roman' religion. The Romans adopted this from outsiders in the same manner that one group might take up another's technology or other 'good idea' from beyond their own borders. It is well known that the Roman religion was taken in from the Greeks.

Eventually, there comes a name of someone who has a discernible burial mound who is matched by recorded history. Here is the boundary between pre-history and history for the peoples of the region. It was only two generations later, that the land upon which Rome was to be built began to foster a direct lineage. The twins who became the symbol of the sign gemini were Romulus & Remus. They were together for decades. In history and mythology the story has been told that they are blood twins, but fraternal rather than identical. It has also been claimed that they had no natural blood ties but became such inseparable friends that they came to be called 'the twins'. In the end, Romulus proved to be the more powerful of the two. This was shown over the course of two major events. The two turned against one another as competitors after that.

Romulus was the foundation of Rome. It was apparent that he was well admired and respected as a leader. The creation and establishment of the city required years of effort. Surrounding political locations disliked it. Romulus was forced into strange behavior, such as arranging a big party, inviting people from all the surrounding villages and then having the men just 'take' the women. This was required for their population to enable Rome to survive into the future. The women were assured that they would receive all the rights proper to Roman wives, and asked them to cast off their resentment towards the men with whom they found themselves. The men were urged by their leader to treat the women with fondness and respect. Eventually, a new deal



was made wherein the parents and other relatives could move into Rome to be nearer to their daughters. Later on, there was a war. This time, the women ended it by acting together en masse. They literally placed themselves between the opposing armies and urged them to cease warring upon one another based upon real blood ties caused by their pregnancies and child births. It worked: the men were astonished that the women came out and intervened upon the battlefield in this manner but it worked.

There were more battles in the defense of Rome during the reign of King Romulus. This included strong retaliation against a raiding party that had been sent from a neighboring city. Romulus did not destroy the city, but he not only reclaimed all the ground in between he had his troops assure the opponent that they were capable of a full siege or onslaught. A peace was discovered - one that involved the open submission of the other city. They started it, the Romans finished it. This was the final set of battles that took place during the years when Rome was governed by those who founded it. Romulus does not appear to have been destroyed but rather to have died of natural causes. Upon his death, there was mourning and the growing belief that their leader really was a divine man just as his mother had claimed.



Book 1, Earliest Rome: Chapter 2, Rome Under the Kings

Book 1, Earliest Rome: Chapter 2, Rome Under the Kings Summary and Analysis

With the death of the founding father King Romulus, there was an obvious need to address the political situation. Vulnerability did not make them safer, especially given the reality that effective use of force against the others went into what had made them successful at Rome in the first place. He ruled for 37 years.

There was a group of legislators who formed a senate. The second King of Rome focused on peacetime and civilizing the city's culture. This was the reign of King Numa Pompilius who was unanimously elected by the people. He encouraged the obedient common people to attend to religion and so they did. Numa ruled for 43 years and had transformed the perception of Rome into one of a peaceful, well disciplined location.

Numa was followed by Tullus Hostilius, whose grandfather had set the precedent for the very meaning of the word 'hostile'. He was zealous and quickly did away with aspects of Numa's 'boring unexpansive culture'. Soon enough, the 3rd King of Rome had found a justification for starting a war. Despite his military zeal, Tullus Hostilius supported a deal between the Albans and those of the city of Rome, being the Romans. They arranged to use just 3 champions on each side with the victor accepting submission to the other side. This worked: the Romans won with only 5 people dead. Of course, only 3 dead might have been preferable. This event was followed almost immediately by a tragedy. The one young Roman- after having witnessed his two comrades being killed by the Albans, turned the tide and secured victory for all of Rome by killing all three of the Albans himself. This was greatly facilitated by the fact that the others had wounded them before they were killed. Much too soon after something like this, the victor came across his sister. There was an intense problem here in that he had just won for Rome by killing her lover and two other men, and two of his friends were killed by her lover and two others. When the man's sister saw the enemy's cloak over his shoulder and cried out the name of her lover-the enemy instead of simply welcoming her brother, her brother just killed her, literally, on the spot. Everyone was horrified, but when his father begged the courts for mercy, that he might not lose both of his children Horatius was granted a reprieve from the death penalty for the crime of murdering his sister. In contemporary language we would say that he was still much too close to his recent battle to be able to emotionally cope with his his sister's longing for an enemy he just vanquished to be viewed as an equally or more desirable living presence as himself. This seems to be corroborated by the fact that there is no reference to him ever behaving in such a bizarre fashion ever again.

The next King, Ancus was forced to operate with a 'middle of the road' or 'doubled' mentality so that he could manage both warlike and peaceful conditions.



This was not entirely his fault, as surrounding cities began to 'try stuff' from the moment he entered office. During his reign he effectively re-instituted the formal procedure for declarations of war. During his reign the Latins were a separate people with their own city. Politorium, a Latin town was conquered and then her people were literally taken in living body to become part of the city of Rome. This was another application of a policy that Rome used to increase her population. They took everyone, this wasn't just a raid to get women. The empty Latin city was refilled, then reconquered. This time, the Romans had learned their lesson so they razed Politorium to the ground to prevent a recurrence of the problem.

Also during the reign of Ancus, the swelling population seemed to cause an upsurge in crime within Rome. Part of the solution to this problem was the erection of the first prison ever built in Rome. He was followed by a foreign settler who, encouraged by his wife re-settled in Rome. He succeeded in becoming the King of Rome. During his reign Rome continued to expand, empowered by a cavalry and a knight system that had doubled in size to over 1800 men. They captured Collatia managing to obtain complete surrender. Then they just kept picking away at the Latins town by town almost as though it had developed into a habit or a hobby. This was effective.

The two kings that followed actually attained successive rule; in the era this was a real possibility but not a consistent norm. In this case, the strength of the younger combined with the wisdom and cleverness of his mother that an attempt to take the Kingship was foiled and a woman was able to ensure her son the opportunity to prove himself to the people. This was Servius; he was already popular amongst the people and fully able. Once given the chance to prove himself, he did so. As such, the people approved him for the Kingship of Rome. He organized the socio-economic classes, and instituted the census. Only the wealthy were forced to pay but they also held all the political power except for the built-in understanding that they held all such power with the approval of all of the people.

Servius's son-in-law usurped the throne after substantial ferocious and lethal plotting and encouragement by one of Servius's daughters. Tarquin was viewed as ineligible to be king. He was the first King of Rome who was not really approved by the people en masse and also by the Senate. This, combined with the way he [and his wife] had come to power forced him into a grim and violent method of rule. Tarquin the Proud was the first despot King of Rome. It turned out that Tarquin was adept as a military leader. The editor expresses a change in the interpretation of events: what used to simply be violence and struggle for power here begins to be viewed as criminal, perhaps because this occurred after the first prison was built. Tarquin and his wife instead of being heralded as victorious are shown by the author to be seen as treacherous and evil. She killed her sister and her first husband then married her sister's husband Tarquin with whom she had her father killed thereby landing them the throne of Rome. Decades later, Tarquin's son Gabii was sent to the enemy by his father to orchestrate a war with Rome. Sextus just ruled Gabii in cahoots with his father in Rome.

During Tarquin's reign the Circus Maximus- a large public stadium, and the city's first massive municipal sewer drainage system were built.



Sextus, the son of Tarquin turned out to be the downfall of his family by being a rapist. He committed this atrocity against a woman he had met because she was the winner of a 'best of the wives' casual contest that he and two male relatives had pursued. He approached her much as he had with the city of Gabii- meaning, under the pretense of friendship. Once safely located in her home as a guest he launched his attack. She survived, but almost immediately after she shared the dreadful news with other trusted male relatives she committed suicide from the horror of it. Before she died she asked the other trusted me to kill the perpetrator for her, remarking with 'zeitgeist' 'If you are men, you will [kill him to avenge me].' They united in a grief stricken and genuine alliance and set out against Sextus, his father Tarquin and their relatives. Lucius Junius Brutus turned from a low profile knight of Rome into her Liberator. He was part of a tri-city alliance to remove Tarquin, Tullia and Sextus at least. It worked, with such unity. From then on the city of Rome had no Kings. They retained the Senate and replaced the King with 2 Consuls. Lucius Junius Brutus was one of the first of these.



Book 2, The Republic: Chapter 1, Rome as a Republic, Part 1

Book 2, The Republic: Chapter 1, Rome as a Republic, Part 1 Summary and Analysis

This chapter begins with the drama surrounding the institution of the government of the Republic of Rome [rather than a Grecian republic]. During it there is yet another aspect of the culture which emerges. This involves the story of how a slave earns his freedom and Roman citizenship. He does so by informing on a conspiracy of young aristocrats amidst the brand new consular government. He just happens to work for/belong to one of the conspirators.

The slave waits for the right time and then turns in the information to the consuls. They in turn, solve the problem and in reward, grant the slave not only the status of being a 'free man' but of being an actual Roman Citizen. So much for first ditch efforts to re-enact the monarchy. Brutus, who became known as Brutus the Liberator at the end of the previous chapter has demanded an oath from the populace that there will be no more Kings. Out of respect for his authority, which has popular support, they agree.

Banished, Tarquin rallied amongst the Etruscans. It worked. He was able to find soldiers in at least two towns and together, they headed back to Rome to re-take the city and to re-instate Tarquin as the King. He managed to make another successful appeal for additional assistance, from Porsena. Again, he was effective. Ultimately, Tarquin was turned back. This was in part by the local Romans' adherence to their oath to Brutus the consul to reject any further attempts at monarchy.

There is a short true story about a heroine. The judgments made take into account how gender influences behavior and expectations. A young Roman woman was taken hostage. Her name was Cloelia. She led a river -crossing escape of a group of female hostages under missile fire. Everyone was delighted and impressed. Strangely, she was returned to the Porsena side of the battle by the Romans but on the agreement that she would be well treated. She was then given a choice of other Roman hostages to watch over and she chose to oversee a group of boys. She then played along with the live version of 'war- how its played' and was not released again until victory had been secured for her by the Roman soldiers. She was apparently inspired at least in part by the incredibly courageous Caius Mucius. People were so impressed that there was a statue made to honor her bravery.

It is well worthy of note that the time period here under consideration is 506 - 502 BC. As a simple reminder that this was occurring 120 years or so prior to the success of democratic city-states on the other Mediterranean peninsular region- Grecians. The city of Rome became a republic before places such as Athens and Sparta became famous for so being.



During this chapter, the author recounts the sequence of the pair of consuls. Each pair of these was given only one year to rule, but re-election was allowed in some cases. Titus Livius informs readers of some of the major land acquisitions, regional conflicts and the shifting of the political and cultural alliances. A group called the Aurunci grew to consist of more than just one town.

There was one case of a civilian driven defensive-offensive strategy that worked. The Roman military attacked a less powerful opposing town named Pometia after it had left one alliance and had taken up another with the Aurunci. The account reads that a desperate and angry populace ran out to face the Roman forces that had besieged the town, many armed with firebrands and other domestic yet powerful devices. While it is amusing and pathetic on some level that day it also worked. Even one of the consuls was badly wounded. The trouble was, that the relative meek townsfolk may have hoped it was over when all it did was cause the Roman military to take them more seriously and therefore to become much more aggressive. The town was taken on the attack by the Romans that followed but this time, no quarter was given. It is difficult to gauge in this case whether the Pometians had any alternative: did they just need to rally again or should they have surrendered the first time instead of fighting back? It is not clear. Perhaps what they did do was best given the circumstances.

A group of pacifists emerged, who called themselves 'the peace party'. They fled to the most militarily powerful Rome and were chased there by forces more powerful and more aggressive than themselves but weaker than Rome. Rome cheerfully received them and they settled near a river called Anio. They enjoyed citizen rights and their leader of peace became a Roman Senator.

Two new legal positions were established. Readers must be aware that one of the titles has become so colored with derogatory interpretation within our cultures that it might seem like madness at first glance. This is the Dictator and the Master of the Horse. This was designed so that even without the monarchy certain regulations better suited to handling warfare could be brought into play.

The author notes that there is nothing that can be done to overcome the truth that some details have been lost to time. At the same time, thanks to the author and to all the sources that he used, those details that were available are accessible to readers today despite the 2500 year time differential.

A temple to the deity now known as a day of the week and as a planet of the solar system: Saturn was built. This is the god of time. There is a famous festival that goes along with this, called Saturnalia. On a simplistic note: even this was initiated.

Tarquin died in exile. The author explains however, that for some reason this relaxation of anxieties related to Tarquin's continued efforts to restore Rome's monarchy caused the ruling class's powerful consideration of the wishes and needs of all of the people of Rome to wane.



Book 2, The Republic: Chapter 2, Rome as a Republic, Part 2

Book 2, The Republic: Chapter 2, Rome as a Republic, Part 2 Summary and Analysis

This is a continuation of what in the main text is the second book. There is no break in chapters within the original book at this location. There is a change in topic at this time. Early on, the rulers established, with the help of the people the physical existence of the city. Efforts to make Rome more sophisticated continued as did her preservation through military protection. The military was used for more than pure preservation, including expansion and alternative means of acquiring resources as in raids and the like. Peace and war were both part of the lifestyle for the city in the region but not necessarily for every individual citizen.

Shortly after Tarquin's death a new matter came to the fore. This was distinctively 'civil' and social. The problem was debt, and the relationship between debtors and creditors. Once brought to the fore, it became clear that the difference in socio-economic classes was a major obstacle. The situation was brought to light by the sorry state of an elderly man who had been a highly reputable soldier and had held some wealth at times in his life. His case opened the proverbial floodgates. This issue was brought to such a head that open public meetings on the subject were held.

Senators, Titus Livius tells readers, being more on the so-called right hand side, were frightened by the surging awareness and the crowds. Many stayed away precisely because of this. The people, however, as their intent focused with the energy of the somewhat spontaneous mass movement, took the delay not as fear but as reflective of a bad attitude towards them. This worsened conditions until at last, the Senators mustered together the metal to meet the challenge. Interest rates and fees were hurting debtors. Creditors had become out-of-hand in the aggressiveness with which they sought repayment and /or punishment. There were debtors who had been sent to prison for being in debt. There were others who had been quite literally enslaved or pressed into servitude to creditors in the hope that this would somehow enable them to repay their debts. Once they had the so-called upper hand, too many creditors were simply abusing their debtors rather than being happy to be paid off as it was possible. Fair exchange had turned into exploitation and something had to be done to correct this. Readers might feel a combined sense of spooky familiarity with the current conditions and great relief as there are many legal methods for protecting debtors from excessively severe recriminations from angry creditors.

The debtors were then offered release from their creditors especially if they would please serve in the Roman military service as the Volscians had grown into a real threat. Debtors poured forth, upon word of the edict- this public policy was very popular and a large military force manifested from the pool of many Roman men who had been



suffering from debt bondage. They were happy to pour out their pent up rage during the enslavement to their creditors upon the Volscians. The consul positioned himself/themselves near enough to the battle that the men felt a bit better, but perhaps not as good as they feel when the leaders actively participate in the fighting itself. The Romans won, chasing the aggressors all the way back to their camp.

The Sabine peoples who dwelled in more than one of the surrounding cities continued to be a recurrent opponent but their people and that of the Romans had mixed more than once through the need to create future generations. They come again during this chapter.

Readers may wish to keep in mind one small fact that may seem a bit odd within their current daily context. During the times written of herein, every city was 'out for itself'. Rome, once it had grown through Romulus and a few of his successors had embraced '21 tribes' within its whole. The competitors in the region against and with whom they make war are really the neighboring cities. Many may find this 'not strange' others 'almost mind numbingly bizarre'.

However it seems from their current positions in daily life, readers can rest assured, at this time in history Rome had asserted itself and 'she' fought with her neighbors.

The average Roman citizen was far more prone to be political at this time. Servilius and Appius were the most prominent men in the city. However, they became exceedingly unpopular when, after the success against the Volscians, the consuls failed to keep their word to the soldiers in defence against creditors. Where government failed, the people stepped in on this matter. Often enough when creditors attempted to take a debtor to the courts, a small angry mob in the form of a local gang would protect them from the courts, shouting down any effort to enforce the local unwanted public policy. In this way, there was some control of the situation in accord with what had been promised rather than with what was being done. Through this action, the consul lost the faith of the citizens. The next time they came before the people and asked for a military Titus Livius tells readers that literally, no one would do it.

Rome succeeded during the next decade to only use the Dictator as needed. The consular office continued to function. Strife between the oligarchs and the common people grew again. Volero, recognized as the greatest Roman warrior of his lifetime, went into politics where he did the common people an excellent service. He protected the political system so that people of the lower economic classes continued to hold the kind of power that they had always held in the old days under the elected monarchic forms of governance. This and the continuance of successful military campaigns against their enemies were main factors in Roman politics.

This ends with another Roman victory, but only because the commander successfully prevented his frightened and demoralized troops from backing down. They had to force themselves up a hill into an enemy that took the opportunity to hurl stones down upon them, but once they made it to the top they turned into the victors.

This was just one more stage in the growth of Rome. The time at the end of this section of the text, referred to as a 'book', is 468 BC.. Little did they know, that in a hundred years, the world was going to be greeted with a succession of phenomenal Greek thinkers and Rome would be growing in power and size all the while.



Book 3, The Patricians at Bay: Chapter 1, Rome and the Patricians, Part 1

Book 3, The Patricians at Bay: Chapter 1, Rome and the Patricians, Part 1 Summary and Analysis

This next book covers the time beginning in 467BC. Rome is continuing to use the two consul system. They a Senate which has elected officials. The people who actually hold the political positions are typically oligarchs- in part because they can afford to put the amount of time and energy into being the governing officials that is really needed. Most working people don't have the time to really 'do it right'. They have the arrangement to enable them to use a Dictator; this provision is made predominantly for war time but is not always needed. This role is set aside rather efficiently. There has been an issue concerning socioeconomic class struggle that has recurred since the time of Tarquin, the despot. Prior to then, there were variations in societal 'class'. The way they related was not the same for a variety of reasons. One reason was that early on there really wasn't that much of a difference between being rich and being poor in terms of actual lifestyle and possessions. At least, this is what Titus Livius tells the readers. Another reason was that during the time of the Kings, the peoples' support was understood as being an absolute necessity for every leader. A King is such because everyone wants him to be, not even though they don't. This is worth pointing out since in a modern democracy it runs counter to the ideological framework of the people. Another reason is that certain conditions lent themselves towards the oligarchic rulers being more considerate and attentive of the needs of the common people whereas other circumstances did not. The culture, Titus has explained during the preceding book, showed this in Rome quickly and unmistakably.

This book opens with yet another military maneuver on the part of the Romans. In this case, both of the consuls have a significant body of soldiers under them. They are helping to keep the troops happy by going to the front lines with the soldiers. At this time, readers deserve a brief synopsis of this aspect of military psychology and leadership. The old fashioned way is that leaders often become so by proving themselves in battle amongst other actions. It is now known that successful leadership is a blend of people skills with other abilities. Now matter how adept at other tasks if a person lacks people skills then he or she will not be an effective leader. At the same time people skills alone isn't always enough. Therefore, most politicians especially in the rather common situations in which physical fighting was a necessity, showed others just such a blend. It is also the sense of 'fair fighting' along with the need for other abilities that gave men such an advantage towards ruling whenever violence was a major part of the societal conditions. Such situations are often very emotional for men, of whom the vast majority of soldiers have been and often enough they develop a genuine dependency upon their leaders. This is only more true in the battlefield than off of it. More than once during Rome's early history, the presence or absence of the leader



really could make the difference between victory or failure for the troops as their morale was so severely effected. Therefore, the separation of the commanders from the rest of the troops in times of warfare has been a serious and rather delicate issue. In the time of the two consuls of Rome, the separation of the modes of statesman and warrior had begun and the decision-makers were not consistently on the battlefield with the men. Titus Livius, also called Livy provides numerous accounts during the book including during this chapter where the need for higher morale was one justification for why the consuls personally went to the front lines with a large body of men under each. The Volscians are one of the main opponents again in this chapter. The author also tells of 'mass hysteria' triggered by real fighting, amongst people's living outside of town who fled into the greater protection of th city of Rome spreading fear with their exaggerated accounts of real events. A people called the Aequians were the main other opposition at this time. One of the consuls, named Quinctius, led the military manœuvres against them.

The author includes another belief during the opening pages of this chapter. The idea is that there is human nature and that this does not change. On the surface the idea may seem rather 'off - hand' but in truth it is highly significant. This is completely counter to the idea that throughout history, humanity has been evolving and one sign of the progress are changes in human nature and those so-called breeds or stock, ergo, types of people do better under different conditions. In an era when brute force is frowned upon more than relied upon, then those of a brutish nature will be less successful or far less popular even when they succeed. This is simply one example to give readers the idea. However, from the view that human nature is a reliable constant, people can draw all manner of truths, predictions and insights based on an accurate awareness of human nature in general and of individual variations within humanity regardless of their location in time.

The population of Rome was now known, thanks to the census which had been initiated by Servilius prior to his being killed by one of his daughters and sons-in-law. In 467BC, Rome had grown to having a citizen population of 104, 714. There were more people than this living in the city and the surrounding environs. This was particularly big given the era.

The campaign between the Aequians and Rome led to victory for Rome but with heavy losses on both sides. Thousands died, in this case, the total number killed on both sides amounted to between 9,000 and 10,000 men. One of the consuls was seriously injured. His brother, who fought under him, was killed and his literally severed head used as an empowerment by the Aequians. The campaign finally ended with a decisive victory for Rome. For those who do not know, decisive in military strategy means gains in territory or influence or whatever that are apt to endure. The author points out that something really weird happened at the conclusion of the military campaign. There were lights in the sky of an extraordinary and inexplicable nature. There were other odd phenomenon. Livy makes it clear, or he has been translated as having admitted that such things were perceived. There was the recognition that it may have been peoples' perception, due to the change in the intense levels of fear, pain, sorrow etc.. The author explains that the supporting troops from allied cities were thanked and dismissed. There was a special



agreement made, wherein three days were 'taken off' by the entire city and devoted to time spent in the local temples to address the humans' relation to the gods or whatever it was that was causing the strange lights in the sky and all that. This clearly indicates that the perception of these things was that widespread and that in this way, en masse, the city of Rome addressed this legitimate concern about the events.

By 463BC, an ill temporary fate had befallen the Romans. The country folk mingled with the urban, and a few months later a plague struck the city and it wiped out a frighteningly vast portion of the populace. Many who did not die were so sickened that they were dysfunctional. That year, something occurred that normally would have been met with hearty military resistance and probably would have led to yet another Roman victory derived from superior strength. Instead, to her own horror, with only one of the two elected consuls even still alive, it turned out that Rome had not the strength to piece together her own army. This time, the cause did not appear to be the problem between debtors and creditors, but was the plague. To her own horror, Rome was not able to

handle this crisis in the desired manner. There was a public call to turn to religion to help to solve this problem. The truth is that it seems to have worked.

After extensive time spent with packed Temples, people survived the disease; it left them. Either the gods responded, or 'nature took her course' or else the prayerful attitude induced a tremendous amount of successful healing powers within people or any combination of the above.

As soon as they were able, the military nature of Rome, like the other traits, resumed. There were both enemy and ally in the region. Rome sent out offensive troops to effect the enemy.

There was one more 'adversity' which presented itself. This time it was that the auguries themselves went against proposed Roman legislation to check the powers of the consul. One of the city's politicians was so offended by this that he spoke out against the value of these forms of interpreting nature- the auguries for use in prophecy-prediction of future events. Opponents were offended that a tribune would attempt to place in new legislation while the consuls were out of town in active service as Rome's military leaders. Augery was looking for indications of how situations will go by the combination of mental activity- thinking, along with heightened sensitivity and broader awareness of the conditions, reflected in part by nature. Augery included what they called consultation with the birds. Understanding bird language was viewed as sign of spiritual development in various cultures.

Livy explains that the following year there were ominous signs, including more fire in the sky, and both volcanic eruption and earthquake and even a speaking cow. In Rome the rift within the city over the tribunal power and the desire by some to have 5 city commissioners to set out the laws of what the consuls may and may not legally do incited some within the Senate to turn Rome upon a new enemy and send much of the difficulty off to war again. In this instance, the situation was so bad that an allied city was



falsely accused of treachery and attacked as an enemy based upon these trumped up 'charges' that they had done something to make them be viewed as an enemy. The author tells readers that this is the first time in the history of the growing city of Rome that anything like this took place. In fact, so far in this book, the nearest thing to it, was when Sextus Tarquinis went off to Gabii to infiltrate and then to take over.



Book 3, The Patricians at Bay: Chapter 2, Rome and the Patricians, Part 2

Book 3, The Patricians at Bay: Chapter 2, Rome and the Patricians, Part 2 Summary and Analysis

This section begins with more inner strife than had been the case during most of the times of the Kings. There was an established tradition of enmity between the Aequins, Volscians: both tended to set against Rome just as a hundred years earlier the enemy was normally the Etruscans and the Sabines.

Caeso Quinctius was a young nobleman who grew into great prominence in Rome surrounded by this particular controversy. He defended the present status and rights of the consuls in the face of the tribunes. He became a political enemy of the public with respect to the need for representation of the common people and lawful containment of the consuls. It might be aptly said that the situation accurately represented a shift in Rome's culture towards the sovereignty of the law over that of the individuals- most particularly those at the top end rather than only those in the middle and at the bottom.

The situation worsened, with the tribunes coming against the Senate in union with the consul. As the oligarchy, they were also known as the patricians of Rome. Somehow, there was suddenly a slave revolt within Rome and they appeared to be working in conjunction with other forces. This dramatized the crisis, threatened civil war and left the leaders with mixed feelings regarding arming the populace.

At this time Rome had risen to thinking of itself as a nation, rather than strictly as being a city, or what the Greeks would later call a city-state. The drama of the civil strife was managed. A military commander was able to secure the support of troops who had in general been following the tribune. The re-entry of Rome's exiles and slaves was put down. The Capitol where it took place was publicly purified.

A man was elected in part by virtue of his reputation for excellence as a soldier. Most the citizen-soldiers of Rome had experience as the military was typically not a standing professional army but was pulled together for campaigns and in response to threats. This was another case where he was also known for not having much money; he was an infantry champion because he could not afford a horse. His name was Lucius Tarquinius. A century later in the Greek city-state of Athens, Plato would advocate the idea of the women doing their own version of some of the same things. Political organizing including developing their own armed militia to secure and protect their freedom was a goal that he felt was well worthy of their pursuit. True as that is, during this time of Rome, the women were, like children mainly fortunate that they were generally left out of the violence that raged amongst the men.



A Laws of the Ten Tables was produced and displayed before the commons. The idea being that the laws of Rome were being written but also that the people must willingly accept them as a general consensus. This arrangement echoes the Judaic episode of having come into the Ten Commandments which were behavioral statutes for the tribes of the Jews as the purpose was similar and the form constitutes a resemblance. These Laws are still viewed as having supplied the precedent for public legislation throughout the known world. This is presented with a definite bias: mainly that of the planet's North.

Strangely enough, at the same time that these Laws were accepted, the political condition of Rome altered. The oligarchy was split and divided against the common people. The common folk and their tribunes had done away with the consuls. However, this had turned the Senate mainly against them. Meanwhile, a plot nearly as cruel as that of Tarquin's had been nursed and hatched successfully. Ten men, with axes and royal rods together now governed Rome. The poor were dismayed and the Senate they had alienated no longer wished to help them.



Book 3, The Patricians at Bay: Chapter 3, Rome and the Patricians, Part 3

Book 3, The Patricians at Bay: Chapter 3, Rome and the Patricians, Part 3 Summary and Analysis

The decemvirs faced a crisis at the beginning of this section of the book. The collapsed state of politics within Rome was brought to a head by a threat from beyond the borders. They had to request a meeting with the Senate twice. The first time, all that became apparent was that there was hardly a Senator around Rome. Their appeal to the other politicians exposed a terrible gap. The Senators had fled to their country estates. The decemvirs sent for them. Then when they did arrive, they frequently openly protested and objected to the illegal nature of the decemvirs political position.

Ultimately, the real problem was that the decemvirs were not properly supported or prepared for holding the amount of power that they had. This is why they became so shaken when they were confronted with the circumstances of outside enemies. Those opponents revealed to them that their inability to unify and to consolidate power and political will within and amongst their own people was the real source of the trouble.

Something came up later. This involved the request of two allies of Rome to be included for the purposes of mediating a dispute over territory. The two sides were worn down from fighting against one another and each had won and lost so frequently that they began to seek an alternative solution. When they arrived, a third party made a claim to the land. In the end, Rome showed her teeth by declaring the land to become public property of Rome's. This was viewed with as much cynicism by the Romans as it was by those they were supposed to have 'helped'.



Book 4, War & Politics: Chapter 1, War & Politics, Part 1

Book 4, War & Politics: Chapter 1, War & Politics, Part 1 Summary and Analysis

This is the next 'book' within the entire work. It begins with coverage of the year 445BC. The decemvirs had been overcome. The populace had been chastised for their attitudes towards their politicians. This was limited to the important task of showing them how it was that they had contributed to the problems that Rome had faced in politics during the recent years.

The author continues with the same tone. The book is presented rich with facts and in an accessible manner. The narration is informative and clear. The author has the gift of writing in a manner that is colorful, yet after the manner of a bright cheerful day in real life rather than the style of a novel. The impression is that what the ancient author is sharing is unadulterated. The quality of the translator is normally one of invisibility.

The translator, Aubrey Selincourt, has in some rare instances referred to God which reveals a difference in world view and religious belief that in reality was not in existence within the realm of the Titus Livius's life. This is a well known phenomenon amongst translation, the awareness of which helps.

The year began with a new socio-political issue. There was new legislation in Rome to allow people of the different classes that Servilius had set forth to marry. It was viewed as a type of intermarriage. There were both advocates and opponents. The opposition feared ruining the quality and character of the people through cross breeding with the lower classes. The advocates were most likely thinking in terms of love and many may well have also hoped that they might be able to improve themselves through such cross-breeds. The current argument in favor of this policy in the contemporary societies are essentially the same. There is one semi-scientific argument in favor of it and that is that it can strengthen the over all stock of the population and reduce shortcomings that have been known to emerge with pure breeds. In humans the prevalence of hemophilia is one of these 'shortcomings'.

Rome also faced something of a restoration in politics. The decemvirs were gone. Once again, there was a new pair of consuls. This time they were Marcus Genucius and

Gaius Curtius. The five classes listed by Servilius- the second to last King of Rome, were divided into two basic classes. The patricians were effectively the oligarchs of Rome. Wealth power and leadership were all qualities of character which they were supposed to exhibit to great degree. Whether in battle or to come up with plans for implementing the improvement of public works or making laws, patricians were supposed to be, were hoped to be superior in their design and in their social behavior.



The rest were termed plebians. The poor were included by this category as were more of the classes in the middle. Rome at this stage did have slaves within the society. Slaves are not part of the plebian class as they did not hold any voting rights. Women and children in general did not fall into this category either in part because they were not considered justly able to render military service. There were also free men, who, much like women and children, including wives, who were not citizens in terms of voting or any such matters but who were also certainly not slaves.

There were further declarations to justify the freedom to intermarry. One was the open acknowledgment of the historical greats of Rome. Underlying all it, the advocates clarified, was ability. There was also the review of Roman policy. Defeated enemies had been brought in and included in Roman life at every level. Other cities had been robbed of their women so that their children could be Roman. All of this seemed to indicate that acceptance and intermarriage was to be viewed as a means of improving Rome rather than as a method to be denounced.

Something changed. The Volscians came to the aid of one party of Romans over a matrimonial dispute. This was quite a feat as they had served as the traditional enemy for over a hundred years. [century is a technical term within this book and therefore the usual contemporary use of it has not been applied].

The people of Ardea were satisfied at last. The reason for this was that the decision made by Rome earlier had caused Ardea to give up land to Rome. That choice was later deemed to have been nefarious, even amongst the Romans. In truth, Rome had gone through a so-called 'bad patch' wherein she was beset by troubles of substantial magnitude.

In the year 440BC a build up of armaments within a dwelling place, along with sets of clandestine meetings gave rise to a suspicion that there was a conspiracy developing. What was suspected was that there was a plot to restore monarchy in Rome.

There was another military campaign. During this, the freshly elected Dictator turned out to be as able bodied as one would hope. He impressed the other men with his prowess and dignity in battle. One of the new consuls is also specifically mentioned at this time by the author. The reason for this is that they were abiding by the ancient tradition that war leaders and political leaders were very often the same person. Further, men felt far more secure and confident in following a leader who they could rely upon under the hardships of warfare. Also, they had greater confidence in the compassion of

anyone who would go right into war with them.

During the years 423 - 421 BC Rome continued to have regular military conflicts with some of her neighbors. The regularity of such events meant that the ruling consuls, who typically served one year at a time were often away at war. It also meant that those men who tried the soldierly life only to find themselves well suited to it, would have been able to serve repeatedly. Apparently, they could have done this 'off and on' or consecutively dependent upon their own health, reactions of relatives and other factors.



The people of Rome chose their style of leadership and the leaders for these years. They selected two consuls, and a military tribune along with the usual Senate. The tribune had become well established. The extent to which it was military varied, and it was the part of government with the most direct plebian ties and representations.



Book 4, War & Politics: Chapter 1, War & Politics, Part 2

Book 4, War & Politics: Chapter 1, War & Politics, Part 2 Summary and Analysis

The edition used to generate this summary is the Penguin Classic. There is no chapter break within the text itself, where there has been such a change in the summary. The Penguin 2002 published form of this work has the change on page 338; this is during the section on 423 - 421 BC. During this time period the Volscians continue to be Rome's 'loyal enemies' as ironic as that sounds. The other main enemy at this time are the Aequians.

Postumia, a Vestal Virgin of Rome raised a stir in the city. She was both outspoken and dressed attractively. At least part of her assertiveness was made under the guise of humor. She was publicly 'remanded'. She was accused of committing sexual crimes; the author through the translator assures readers that she was innocent but that a large portion of the public or else powerful opposition was offended by the way that she adorned herself. It seemed out of place for a Vestal Virgin. To understand the situation, ask yourself how you would feel if there was a prominent Nun about town who remained a Nun and yet dressed, well, you know, professionally or as though she were going to a party or a date...The mental shock: what if the pop star Madonna still dressed that way but was a Nun- just as now she is a real married mother. That was the kind of issue it was. Postumia was tried and although acquitted there was a strong sense that she had been publicly reprimanded and urged to be more submissive to expectations of her behavior as a woman.

Political strife remained in Rome. The author does not directly suggest that the size of the city may have had some role in the difficulties. The government was now consistently made of the two consuls, the Senate and the tribunes. The consuls and the Senate were patricians. The tribunes were predominantly patrician but were closest to the plebians. There was often a strong military contingent amongst the tribunes. Also, the tribunes were elected from 'tribes' who held group membership in the city's population.

Conflict between top military leadership created trouble in the field and for the first time in a long time, the Roman military was in danger of defeat as a direct consequence of their leaders' dissension. Those in the middle, officers, complained righteously and vociferously, which led not to a real solution but to an abatement of the problem. This caused an agreement between the heads to take turns wielding supreme power in a day-on, day-off manner to reduce the danger and frustration this caused the men. This alleviated the difficulty but the lack of cooperation between the two 'heads' continued to pose a real threat to the safety of the men and their mission.



One of the military leaders was named Postumius. The truth of the matter was that he was of 'mixed character', meaning that while he did have some definitive virtues he also suffered from or simply was also in part a 'bad man' rather than a good one. The whole truth of this showed, but the author describes this having been revealed more in sequence than throughout, as if some of his worse characteristics were successfully hidden for some time then exposed. His military leadership in and of itself was mostly good and strong. He had difficulty cooperating with another of equal rank at times which was trouble. He deceived his own men, either intentionally or inadvertently during a campaign by promising loot. He later was not able to keep his part of the bargain. Back in Rome he shocked the rest of the political and social body by explicitly and directly threatening his own men to harbor a secret. The author and translator view this as having been the real turning point for Postumius. He was successfully baited into arguments with others. The men who had served under him grew in their rage and resentment towards him until, Postumius met his end by being literally stoned to death in the streets of Rome by his own soldiers. The people, including politicians, seriously considered trying those who did that as criminals but this was met with controversy seeing as it smelled of justice more than murder. Murder here meaning the killing of someone who had done nothing to justify the action. An investigation was actively prevented for a year and an interim government was forced. The following year, normal political conditions reemerged. The matter was brought up, and responsibility went to the top leaders, the consuls. There was an investigation and trials but over all the matter was handled with great leniency. There were some convictions, and a few of the soldiers who had killed their offensive commanding officer were killed, but the author tells readers that even these were suspected of having committed suicide. The populace was still angry that the consul had been so harsh.

There were two years during which pestilence and illness had a powerful effect upon Rome. The city cleared. Unlike in the present cultural atmosphere when only the severest of natural disasters will empty a city, Titus Livius explains to readers that a prevalent sickness and one bad year of crops was enough to nearly empty Rome of her residents. Signs of such events have appeared in Southern America where there are remains of huge cities but archeologists have concluded, "It looks like everyone just left at some point." Something like this being possible is corroborated by Livy's assurance that this is exactly what happened in Rome for two years. Then huge portions of the populace came back.

In the section for years 408-406BC there was another change. For the first time in decades, there was public objection to a foreign military campaign. The civilian military suggested that the government's motive might be to divert the attention of the common populace from problems they faced at home. Livy has informed readers that while this had only been the reason once so far during Roman history, the common people were not purely paranoid in their suspicious fear that this might really have been the reason why.

In 405BC there was another innovation in Roman politics. For the first time, there was a decree that from now on the men in the military would be paid from public funds. Up to this time they had just kept going on whatever food they came across with their leaders

and the only monies received was taken at those times when they 'sacked' or 'plundered' an enemy's town.



Book 5, The Capture of Rome: Chapter 1, Rome's Capture, Part 1

Book 5, The Capture of Rome: Chapter 1, Rome's Capture, Part 1 Summary and Analysis

The author begins with an update of the over all situation. The Etruscans continued to be a significant political and cultural power. They had been known for decades as having been the most advanced in matters of religion. Any time there were questions that needed augury or prophecy to be answered, the superior knowledge of the Etruscans was consistently sought. This area of superiority was granted even though they had been forced into a kind of distanced submission by Rome, once the latter had grown strong enough to cause this. At the same tie, Veii became the 'enemy of the year'. They had appointed a King due the condition of their own internal politics. Due to the new military campaign huge portions of the men were away on military service. Having learned from the past, however, this time the military men left a particular individual with the responsibility to go to task for them at Rome with respect to popular politics. Appius Claudius represented the absent men.

There was another change. For the very first time the Romans decided to perpetuate a siege against the city of Veii throughout the winter. There were objections amongst the tribunal to which Appius Claudius responded. He pointed out that the real trouble was the tendency for the tribunes to sow strife and sedition between the classes constantly criticizing the patricians and attempting to blind himself and others to their genuine benevolence. Instead of recognizing the need for a balanced relationship between them; he offered strife without solutions. For this reason, Appius Claudius was set against him in support of the military men who did follow their leaders. He explained that it was the most efficient of achieving this with respect to the purely military attributes of the situation. The author quotes a lengthy speech from Appius Claudius to those assembled in Rome. He beseeches them to consider the actual soldiers. He reminds them to think of the reputation of the entire Roman army- to take into account what others think of them.

The tone of the work has remained consistent throughout. There is a mild mannered objectivity that pervades it. The style is readable and includes enough complex vocabulary to please the more erudite without overwhelming less experienced readers.

The work is made of these five books and they are set out quite neatly as the nonfiction that they are. It is pleasurable, and the author succeeds where many others might have failed at making it a true story rich with facts rather than a dry recounting of boring old events.

Near the end of the first half of this book a few more details are set forth regarding the military. The citizens were duty-bound to be willing to serve. The reputation of the



Roman military was great, and for the first time there was great shame as there was a defeat outside of the city-nation. The troops begin to get paid, and a tax is levied upon the people in order to fund them. Winter campaigning begins. The author describes the search for soldiers overflows the usual bounds. There is a desire to have enough troops to serve seven simultaneous campaigns; this results in a willingness to accept both older and younger soldiers than before.



Book 5, The Capture of Rome: Chapter 1, Rome's Capture, Part 2

Book 5, The Capture of Rome: Chapter 1, Rome's Capture, Part 2 Summary and Analysis

This final section of the text begins with a consultation of The Sybilline Books. These seem to harbor especial knowledge and offer solutions to exceptionally trying circumstances. Who wrote them is not clarified. This one of the few times that their wisdom is sought and typically the solution involves massive ritual behavior for days at a time. This time, there is a rite that calls for setting out couches, releasing prisoners, honoring several deities and people opening the doors of their homes and fraternizing with everyone and anyone.

One of the great public figures of this section is a man named Camillus. He grows prominent in Rome. He was another of those leaders who was able to live as part of the tradition of military excellence in Rome. Through victory at war, he developed a reputation as an honored and beloved man.

Rome was spared the united front of Etruscans because they so disapproved that Veii had failed to consult the omens through Etruscan experts prior to engaging Rome in battle. The Etruscan response was, 'They didn't have the sense to ask us for advice before hand then they don't deserve our help now.'

There was a 'quest'. It was the simple matter of the delivery of a golden cup to the Apollonian Temple at Delphi, home of the world's most famous Oracle. Camillus went to deliver it personally but during the journey he and his crew were seized by Sicilian pirates. Apparently, the local people committed piracy the same way that a village might band together to go after big game. Fortunately for Camillus they were able to communicate well enough, and instead of being killed, they were escorted the rest of the way and this Sicilian became an honored friend of Rome.

There was another alteration in the way that military campaigns were conducted. Some troops began to fight into the night; this is obviously best achieved when the Moon is fuller and the sky clear.

The Galls, to their own surprise made an easy victory over a giant portion of the Roman military. The reason given, was the weakness- the low quality of the troops or the poor remnants of their morale. They lacked courage, which is a vital ingredient to fighting troops. Life over courage rather than courage and often enough, life will also continue...the Galls scattered the Romans. By this time, the Romans had vanquished Veii and united with it, so that many of the fleeing troops went there rather than to Rome.



Many of the deaths occurred as men fled in retreat.

Camillus took revenge upon them by savagely attacking the Gauls by surprise, even in their sleep as he brought troops out from Rome. Fewer things suggest fodder for the scariest of nightmares than the idea of being attacked while sleeping.

Nevertheless, the Gauls were able to lay siege to Rome and it worked. Rome was offered a surrender in which the city could pay off the Gauls in exchange for their departure. The damage done during the battle furthered an idea which takes place as the conclusion of the The Early History of Rome. The remaining population migrated to a city they had conquered and united with; that of Veii.

Something so incredibly intense happened that women were asked for and permitted to give financial donations in order to pay off the Gauls after the latest war without having to take gold away from the shrines that went up at the end of it. As a consequence, those women were granted thanks and an additional privilege. This was the right to have a speech at their funeral.

The entire set of volumes up to this point concludes with a public speech made by Camillus which has been preserved. At this time, the leader implores the people of Rome to stay and to rebuild instead of abandoning the city and migrating to Veii. He speaks at some length about the significance of the religious rites. He openly admits and observes that there appears to be a direct correlation to victory when they heed the signs from the gods and failure when they ignore the signs, strange as those signs might at times be. The speech was effective but not decisive in and of itself. The Senate was debating the matter when the final omen came.

Here was the final divine sign. A small group of soldiers was marching by. One of them said, "We might as well stop here." They halted. Inside one of the nearest buildings, the senators heard them. They came out to look. From this they concluded with certainty that the Romans should stay in Rome.

Livy concludes his exposition on the history of a city that in his own lifetime had been established for a few hundred years. He is able to explain to readers that the reconstruction of the city of Rome during the following year is the real underlying cause for the misalignment of the city's sewage system. He describes the rebuilding as having been done hastily - the city authorities asked the construction crews to get their projects done in a year. The usual limits on certain things were gone. The order was obeyed but the results were a 'rushed job'. One of the side effects was that some of the buildings were misaligned with what had gone before.

With this the author has completed his presentation on the early history of the Roman Empire. Readers can expect to feel satisfied with this. Coming at it, from so far after the fall of the Roman Empire it is refreshing and surprising to read of it when it was just getting started as a city. For the time being readers can admit: Rome began as a city, and is a vibrant city today. Admittedly, no one can forget the nearly thousand years during which is the capital city of an Empire of its own name, but even given the entire

collapse of that; tourists go to Rome and people live there. It is hoped that with this readers will have a deeper feeling towards the city than they had before.



Characters

Titus Livius

This is the book's author. The exact year of his birth is not certain. There are two 'most probable' options. One of these is 64BC, the other 59 BC. This man is known to have been a native of the settlement of Patavia, which later came to be known as Padua.

Scholars have determined that most information about his life has been lost through the centuries. They are able to supply some details. Amongst these is that he was both fortunate and typical enough to be amongst the educated people during his adulthood. While this is true, it is also the case that, he remains famous for his literary work on the history of Rome. Scholars share, during the introductory material, that he was criticized for his provincial manners, particularly of speech. In life he was very much like everyone else in that he met with supporters and experienced interpersonal conflict with all the proverbial ruffled feathers that that implies. It is further well known that Titus Livius wrote works of philosophy, modeled most likely from the dialog tradition of Plato, who's works had already been known for three centuries. Of all of his literary efforts, there are currently only 35 of his books of Roman history remaining.

As such, Titus Livius, who apparently died in 17AD in his home town of Padua, enshrined himself in the human memory by making a contribution to classical historical literature.

Romulus

This was the founding leader of the city of Rome. He was only able to do this because his followers supported his role as leader. He began his life as an orphaned twin. There are at least two different stories about the birth and childhood of Romulus and Remus. This pair became the very symbol for the sign of Gemini. They were either actual twins or not. In this book, the tale is that they were both twins but there was a very real threat from them or of them to their uncle, so he had them cast out. They were rescued by a wolf or other wild animal and then adopted by a merciful human who may have known whose babies they really were. Their uncle has usurped the throne. They were born to their mother who was the princess. She had been made a Vestal to prevent her from giving birth to heirs. Titus tells readers that she was a rape victim and that she was impregnated from this event. The boys Romulus and Remus were born as a result. Their uncle snatched them because they were legitimate heirs. Probably in view of the circumstances- this allowed her to have children anyways but did not remove the injustice of getting raped instead of just having a lover. However, as this was also not her fault there was no need or place to blame her for having broken both the vows and king's wishes. Her awareness of all this resulted in her telling others that Ares the god of War was their real father.



Romulus and Remus were allied and intimate for decades. There were two events which heralded which of the two was dominant, and it happened to be Romulus.

Still united, the twins won a battle and became heir to their grandfather. In the end, however, they turned against one another. Romulus destroyed his weaker brother and moved on to found Rome.

After much effort Rome began to blossom and it was a well guarded city. Romulus was so deeply admired for his wisdom and excellence that by the time he died there were many who had concluded that he was divine and descended of some other divine being. Titus does not say that Romulus, the founder of the city of Rome ever claimed this, but he does show that the leader's mother did assert this.

Robert Ogilvie

This is another scholar closely associated with this history of Rome. The people at the Penguin publishing company, who have retained a tremendous amount of control of works of classical literature chose to commission this scholar to write an introduction to the Early History of Rome 1-5 remnants of the books by Titus Livius.

This was viewed as a very high honor. Further, it assured Ogilvie's reputation as a modern scholar of great stature. This commentary is included in the latest editions of the work.

Evander

This man comes up very early in the book, prior to the establishment of the city of Romulus. He was a powerful individual, more so by virtue of his personal influence than by direct political sovereignty.

This man introduced a magnificent innovation to the region. It was in fact: a set of letters; an 'alphabet' which clearly set a precedent and held great potential. By doing so, he was in some sense the very creation of what it means to be a scholar.

Aubrey Selincort

This is a scholar who closely associated with the work because he translated it from the Latin into English. He performed this work during the first half of the 20th century. His primary work and source of income was as a professional instructor.

His personality, is and should be 'invisible' in relation to the great work of dedication to the furtherance and preservation of traditions of human knowledge that readers find herein.



Tullia

Though notorious, this woman showed the same kind of ambition as her grandmother but perhaps a bit less nobly. Her grandmother had secured the succession of the highly competent and socially popular Servius. Tullia was one of Servius's two daughters. Not able to inherit the throne directly, and behind her sister in the line for it she fell into conspiracy with Tarquin, who began as her sister's husband. She and Tarquin murdered the other two, married each other and succeeded at a plot to get the throne of Rome for themselves. They had it 'tough' because they lacked the full popular support they would have liked which led to a rather bloody reign for Romans themselves. Even so, they ruled and at least one of their two children Sextus turned out to be an able leader and a loyal son. Tarquin sent his son to the enemy, with the advice to just pretend to be his father's disgruntled enemy. The young man ended up with the entire city in his hands, so to speak. His father even gave the city of Gabii the false impression that Sextus had beat Rome at war by not going after them full bore.

Sextus

Sextus was the son of Tarquin and Tullia or of Tarquin and Tullia's sister. He was a Prince of Rome. King Servius was his grandfather. He appears in the first chapter of the main book in the second chapter of the book's summary. He grew up and his father came up with a great plan to make the best of him and send him far enough away to prevent trouble at home. Tarquin sent Sextus to Gabii, to take over. He advised his son to just pretend he was the enemy of his own father to the people of Gabii. This worked, and Sextus grew to become a popular leader of Gabii. Even so, he did execute some of his political rivals as his father had done in Rome.

Publius Valerius

He was both an excellent statesman and combat soldier; a leader through and through during the first decades of Rome after the Kings. He was also known for being relatively or actually financially poorer rather than wealthier. This was so much the case, apparently, that when he died others had to help to pay for his funeral. He was so esteemed that people didn't really mind so much other than to just feel weirded out that such prominence and lack of money could occur together in a society that had been a kind oligarchic monarchy with an untallied grassroots democratic popular approval into an oligarchy that continued to rely upon public approval. He is mentioned early in the second 'book of the greater book' entitled The Beginnings of the Republic.

Horatius

This man is mentioned in book 3. He is described as one of the leaders who helped to ensure that public policies would be accurately described to the plebian peoples. This



was done by announcing them at the Temple of Ceres. This protected the plebians from dishonesty and lack of care by the consuls.

Horatius was also a leader of troops. As with most of the others, he was good enough that he was admired amongst his men. He provided them with some training and sent them out on expeditions.

Marcus Genucius & Gaius Curtius

These two men were consuls together during the period of Roman history when this was the norm. This became the case after the reign of the kings had ended. This was in the year 445BC. They are located at the beginning of Book 4: War & Politics.

Servius Tullias

This is one of the Kings of Rome. He is referred to in Book 4. He was from Corniculum and was welcome in Rome despite this. He is described in a speech in which it is being shown that men of ability rise in the ranks amongst the people of Rome. It is being argued that this is the real justification for their success rather than their socioeconomic status.

Numa Pompilius

This was one of the Kings of Early Rome. He appears in the first Book of the entire work of 5 volumes. He is then mentioned much later in Book 4, during a speech by a Roman leader of another era who refers to him as a great example of how ability is what transformed men into Roman leaders.



Objects/Places

Patavia

This is a city also called Padua. It is located rather nearer to Rome than distant from it, relatively speaking. It is the birthplace of the author Titus Livius.

Etrusca

At it's peak, this socio-political region reached from the Alps to the edge of Italy. This was a pre-Roman culture. They had metal working and were expansive and pro-active about trading with others. During the book no one mentions the superior metals science and technology but everyone admits that they are superior at augery and all manner of spiritual and religious matters.

This may indicated an older culture.

Rome

This city was founded by a leader named Romulus. He is the dominant of the two men who were viewed as or actually were the twins Remus & Romulus. The entire 'book of books' is based on the city and its history.

The city grows during the course of the book. However, the author lived when Rome was an expansive Empire. His writings about the ancient days of Rome's beginnings end long before the city has become an Empire but after it began to think of itself as an entire nation.

Veii

This is a city near to early Rome during the time of Rome's origins. It was of the Etruscan culture and located in Etruria. As a result of interactions with Romulus, there was a treaty between Rome and Veii that lasted for some time.

Near the end of the book, the Romans lay siege to Veii again, and later have a union with it. They nearly abandon Rome and migrate to Veii but decide to stay in Rome after all.

auguries/omens

While no one of these is an object in itself, auguries play a rather important role in Rome's early history. In the chapter devoted to the Kings of Rome they are consulted



repeatedly. There is one instance where a man attempts to refute the entire system of auguries but he gets nowhere. Consultations of the birds is part of the process. The wearing of a sack to hide the face of the soothsayer is also part of it. Apparently it is based upon the awareness of the interconnected nature of 'the energies' of the world, be it the breezes, the rest of the weather, the politics here and there, the age of certain people etc.

combined with thought that would yield accurate prophecies.

Gabii

A city near to Rome that could function as an ally or as an enemy. It was ruled by enemies of Rome until Sextus went there at the behest of his father.

Latins

This was a culture and set of cities that were located near to Rome in more of what is now Italy. They come up mainly during the middle of the book. The reason for mentioning them in this context is due to the reality that Rome and Latin started out as entirely different locations even though to the contemporary mind, Latin is the language of the Romans.

spear

These were a standard military item of the era. They were relied upon for first assaults. They are a thrusting weapon. They can be hurled but are normally used without letting go of the back end.

javelin

The javelin was also a well known military weapon amongst the Romans. It was a missile weapon. It could be retained to hand and still used as a thrusting weapon but was designed to rain down upon the enemy after a nice flight.

This item, long abandoned by Europeans in a functional way still commemorate it by using the javelin as an important item in the field part of track and field athletics. Yes it does matter if someone has great skill at javelin hurling.

shield

This was another standard military item. These are fortunately portable and give soldiers something with which to purely defend themselves from attacks that might otherwise be 'too much' for them. In more good news, these could be applied tactically



by any given soldier. Finally, they also came to represent the cities and leaders with which they could be identified. As such they took on a symbolic as well as functional meaning.

trench

This is a ditch, often dug around the city in the case of places such as Rome. The use of the trench has changed dramatically since the early days of Rome but continues to be a useful war 'item'. Unlike most war objects, this one is an earth work. In the book it is a method of defense rather than of offense.

siege

This is when the enemy is attacked by surrounding them and then not letting them get away. Often enough this includes starving the enemy down through preventing any more supplies from getting through to them. There are a number of successful siege attacks in the book, mostly done by Rome but now and then an opponent attacked Rome in this manner. Often sieges end in direct attacks.

temples

Temples include but are not limited to what modern readers perceive as churches or mosques or synagogues. During the set of 5 books, there are temples to many gods and goddesses built and used. Some of them are large scale buildings with statues and functionary clerics such as the vestal virgins, or the priestesses at the temple of Apollo in Delphi, Greece. Others are there but may not have any clerics, just as modern cities may have a 'war memorial'; although this is not a 'temple' to the modern mind, this kind of thing probably would have been a temple to the god of War in Roman times. Other temples were objects and they may have been much like contemporary public sculptures except that people would leave offerings there with a bit more deference than people use when they toss coins into public fountains or other so-called wishing wells.

Circus Maximus

This was the first public outdoor stadium built in the city of Rome. This was created during the reign of the kings. It comes up in the first and second volume of the book. The author points out to readers that when he wrote the five volumes about early Rome, the Circus Maximus was still the biggest stadium known.

Cloaca Maximus

This comes up early in the book. This was one of the other major civil projects that came up when there was not the preoccupation of a war in Rome. It is a giant sewage

system, which was a breakthrough in modern technology to reduce disease by removing waste more efficiently.



Themes

Cultural history

One of the most noteworthy attributes of the book is that it shows how Rome developed culturally. The first qualities that showed up for the city itself was the physical part and the people. The story of the founder is treated by the author as true. Romulus, then, founded the city of Rome.

Only after Romulus's reign as beloved King of Rome, did the next stage of development begin. While the population grew, this next stage was actually the introduction of religion. In this history, it should be noted that the religious life and the realm of laws are viewed together. In our present society there are many ways in which the 'inner world' of the mind and feelings are well known. As a consequence it may seem a bit peculiar to readers at least at first to see that for them: a law and a god, although different from one another much of the time were rather lumped together as ethereal and possibly confusing but somehow significant.

As the city grew further, large scale projects were undertaken. The rulers began to look to cultivate an ability to govern people in peacetime conditions rather than having to rely on being in battle in order to be well loved, obeyed, and respected by the other men. In a radical departure from such activities, a public stadium, temples and a public sewage system were devised for the entire city. At the time of the author, hundreds of years later, the sewer system was touted as one of the greatest technological advances known. These projects also helped the local leaders to learn peacetime governance.

Social class divisions were observed next. What had gone before remained, indicating that the cultural growth was cumulative. The basics of physical existence, warfare, and religion were all in place. Simple forms of civil society, rules and rights of citizenship were present and active. There was also the introduction of a census.

There were the subdivisions of the ruling class, who had the people's favor, and the ruled who were happy that men they trusted controlled them.

The political system changed. Even during the Kings there had also been a Senate. A King was going to put an end to the monarchy but he was usurped by his son-in-law. The truth is that on some level this was simply as close as his daughter could get to either inheriting or earning or usurping the throne and she went for it. The difficulty was, Tarquin exemplified in many ways, why his father-in-law had been considering ending the monarchy. Tarquin was a despot. He and his wife gained power by force, which was not unusual, but they did so without the quality of popular support that is required for a good King and Queen. After them, Rome was delighted to do away with monarchy. They switched to consuls, and a Senate and a set of tribunals. All appointed positions required public approval and so did all elected positions.



Internal diversity, of tribes and social class intermingled after that. It is highly instructive to readers to learn how these ordered and systematic levels of social structure emerged during the course of history and had remained.

Roman military force

The mother of the founder of Rome, Romulus told others that his real father was Ares, the god of War. Although the author tells readers this; he does not say that this was a commonly held view during the life of Rome's founder. By the end of his life, however, many people whispered and suspected that they had seen the divine form of Romulus; that he was both god and man. Such remarks entirely support his mother's report that Romulus was some kind of demigod, born of a Vestal Virgin Princess & the god of War combined.

Romulus grew into a fantastic military leader. Rome's initial presence was met with a sense of aggravation or foreboding in the surrounding region. During the course of Romulus's reign, there were repeated altercations between them. These conflicts did not cease after Romulus. Various of the other cities served for long periods of time as the enemy or as an ally. In some cases, the roles changed, so that a city that had been an ally was transformed into being the enemy and vice versa.

Military duty was an essential duty commensurate with the rights of citizenship. As time goes on, during the book certain factors become evident. One of these is that the proximity and needs of Rome meant that some conflict between others in the region were apt to occur. Leaders of other cities and towns at times tested Rome to see what they could get away with. Rome established a tradition of being quite aggressive in terms of military activities, and prone to retaliation.

Only once, during the entire book was Rome beaten in a decisive manner. For those unfamiliar with military strategy, the results are described as follows. Just as there are more battles than there are wars, the results of many battles are not decisive. When the war ends in a way that will cause there to be some time before a future war, then the conflict has been decisive. Gains or losses with a time period of peace are signs of decisive conditions. That was something of an embarrassing tragedy.

Rome's military life was a source of tremendous pride amongst the people much of the time. Experienced warriors were admired and citizens generally preferred for the consul and the King at least to be fantastic fighters who could and would lead them on the battle field. They did accept that some of the politicians did not need to also be warriors.

The valor of Rome was destined to grow into something equally or more profound than it was during the city's first hundred years. The author wrote this early history from the time when Rome was at her peak of power. The Roman military has left its imprint on the psyche of everyone. One model of the quintessence of the soldier, is Roman.



The body of classical literature

This work by Livy is put forth as a work of classical literature. Through the work of the translators, this provides an example of the preservation of knowledge through history. While it is easy enough to take for granted, when one thinks about the real matter, it would be frightfully easy to lose such information.

The publisher of the edition used focuses on the preservation of history and of knowledge by making classics a niche for itself in the general field of publishing. Part of the effort here is of course to preserve knowledge through centuries and even millenia.

The author himself was doing just this sort of work when he wrote the Early History of Rome in the first place. During his own lifetime, Rome had expanded to being a powerful empire, the one that most folks living today have heard of. What he did was contribute to the historical knowledge of his own people and culture by writing about the beginnings.

The translators inform readers during an introductory part of the modern presentation of the book that if it had not been for a new published version put out by a politician of Rome in 396 AD/AC then this work would probably have lost forever. The editor points out that Q. Aurelius Symmachus was the man responsible and that he was definitely really pagan even though it was a few hundred years after the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ of the Jews [Judean people].

Readers face what has become a famous challenge with respect to ancient texts. Much of the work of translations available in the English language came from or through Latin and Greek in their ancient forms. As you probably already know, Latin lives only as a scientific and ritualistic language, whereas Greek still lives as a vibrant regularly spoken language. Much of the precious work has been done by Christians; often the only scholars with the education and skills needed along with access to the materials have been dedicated clerics. As such, everyone is most grateful. At the same time, because this is true, the translations have a clear bias to them. At times this may have distorted the original meaning. Even so, contemporary classical scholars, and others who give it enough practice, will learn to be able to see this 'slant' as separate from the original work. Similarly, while it is wise to recognize that something has happened, perhaps something has been lost by the translation process; doubtless more has been preserved and made available to modern readers and thinkers than would have been possible otherwise. Doubtless another 500 years from now, and readers will likely learn, with practice, to recognize the bias of this era in dealing with ancient works and wisdom.

Style

Perspective

The book is written, translated and edited. It is a preservation of historical facts. There is a small amount of uncertainty or myth in it, to which the author or translator clearly points. The information is well over two thousand years old. The work was saved by re-publication, and the politicians of the city of Rome, then later their efforts were added to by foreign as well as native scholars.

The author writes in the third person. The translator gives readers the sense that his prose style was clear and pleasant, not too dry but not distorted by any excess of his individuality. Both the author and the translator have done their work with their personalities muted, which is the normal method for objective works.

The presentation is factual. This has fortunately not made it dreadfully dull. It is actually quite impressive that the author has been able to summarize a few hundred years of history with such clarity and consistency.

Tone

The tone of the work is serious but not foreboding. This means that the author presents facts. Anything that is not factual he indicates clearly as being questionable. This signifies that he was being a conscientious historian when he created the work.

The author is objective. This is a limited term within this discussion. This means that he is a human being and therefore he has some form of subjectivity induced bias. This is not abnormal. What objective means, in this context, is that he writes truthfully and does not express his personality through the work. If he chose to write this Early History of Rome out of love for the subject matter then it that sense it might reflect his personality a bit. The scholarly notes point out to readers that writing history was 'vogue' during the author's lifetime and that may in part account for why he would have been motivated to write on this topic.

The tone is also instructive and informative. It helps to put the entire set of historical situations into a tidy, easier to psychologically grasp framework. Readers will find that it is very clear and will find a great home with either lay folk or academics. Within universities it would do well in a Classics department or an excellent introductory work in the areas of ancient political science, ancient history, Roman history and military history. It could even serve well in the arena of military psychology.

Structure

The book is subdivided into 5 volumes. Each details a phase of Rome's history that is united by some factor. There are no chapters within each of the volumes. However, the author provides a dating system along the top of the pages, that provide at least some of what a chapter title would. The information is ordered in this way by sets of years.

The number of years of each book covers is not the same. The first covers 100 years or so; the second covers a rounded 50 years; the third covers only 20 years; the fourth then covers 40 years whilst the final book of the volumes covers just shy of 14 years.



Quotes

"They then set out for Rome, a shamed and beaten army but they were caught by the Roman consul Algidus and all killed," p. 223

"Lucius Lucretius, however, the City Prefect, held out for the postponement of any measures the tribunes might take until the return of the consuls to Rome," p. 223

"If, the message added, Agrippa had already proved victorious, he was to join him immediately so that all divisions of the army might take possession of what the camp contained. Close to the camp the two victorious commanders met, with mutual congratulations," p. 282

"The roads were packed with refugees...women—and men to—sobbed aloud as they passed the august temples where armed soldiers stood on guard, for it seemed they were leaving even their gods in captivity," p. 66

"Across the border lay Etruria, and the nearest Etruscan town was Veii," p. 67.

"On both sides preparations for war were now in full swing, and it was becoming plain that the advantage would lie with whoever made the first move," p. 66.

"On one of the farms in Sabine country there was a heifer of astonishing size and beauty, a truly remarkable creature remembered subsequently for generations by its horns...which had acquired..a certain numinous value," p. 85.

"This prediction came to the knowledge of the temple priest," p. 85.

"Manlius on the other wing was showing qualities of leadership no less vigorous and effective," p. 166.

"They were cut to pieces, the survivors making off where and how they could," p.167.

"Caeso was by now a notorious character, and was often, in these circumstances, held personally responsible for things done or said—regrettably, in the heat of the moment, by the younger nobles," p. 209.

"Presently the news came that men were laying down their arms and leaving their posts," p. 215.

"It was clear that an appeal to force was imminent....Things had reached an impasse: it was as hopeless for the tribunes to continue their attempt to get the law passed as for the consul to proceed to the capital," p. 215.

"The decemvirs were the following: Appius Claudius, Titus Genucius, Publius Sestius, Lucius Veturius, Gaius Julius, Aulus Manlius, Publius Sulpicius, Publius Curiatius, Titus Romilius, and Spurius Postumius," p. 233.



"Thus it happened that 302 years after the foundation of Rome the form of government was for the second time changed; once power had passed from kings to consuls, now it passed from consuls to decemvirs," p. 233.

"...once a Roman army has laid seige to a city - nothing will move it," p. 374.



Topics for Discussion

At the very beginning of the book, Romulus asks neighboring cities for intermarriage agreements. After he is declined by all of them, he orchestrates a ruse by which to take a large number by force. The trick works.

Agree or disagree: is it okay for someone to take what they need if it is not given when asked for?

Discuss the role of violence in the ascension of Kings of Rome.

Discuss the role of popular support in the ascension of the Kings of Rome.

Were you shocked by some of the policies adopted by the city of Rome in its earliest times? Why or why not.

Relate the significance of military experience to leadership in the book and in the country today. Use examples in the book about Rome's early centuries as a means of expressing why you believe what you believe.

Did you prefer the Kings, the consuls, the Senators or the tribunals as leaders? Choose one or more but support your answer.

Which of the five volumes is your favorite. Explain why.

Give an opinion about Rome's change in policy to perpetuate warfare through the winter months in order to complete a siege.

Give an emotional account of your own feelings about Rome's mandatory military service as a part of citizenship. In other words, do you feel that was okay? Why or why not?