

A photograph of a cobblestone path leading up a hill. On the left is a dark metal railing. In the background, there is a large, dark green tree and a multi-story building with many windows. The sky is clear and blue.

The Romans

SLT 2016

Course No. 4.41478

On our **menu** today:

- **A look back on**
 - Non-Western & Ancient Greek thought on Language
 - Echoes of the **Nomos/ Phusis** & **Analogy/Anomaly** debates throughout the Middle Ages and beyond
 - Later Greek Thought (Dionysius Thrax / Alexandrians)
- **A glimpse of the Roman Empire**, providing some context to later developments in Greek and Roman thought:
 - Varro (1st c. BC)
 - Aelius Donatus (4th century AD)
 - Priscian (6th c. AD)

Reminder:

- The **nomos/phusis** debate gave rise to two divergent views:
 - The “***analogists***,” who looked on language as possessing an essential regularity as a result of convention, and
 - The “***anomalists***,” who explained the lack of linguistic regularity by the inherent irregularities of nature.
- The **Alexandrians** (***analogists***) standardized Greek grammar (orthos).
- The **Stoics** (***anomalists***): the study of dialectics begins with the study of language
- **Dionysius Thrax** (2nd century BC) wrote ***The Art of Grammar*** – the first systematic grammar of Greek in which he analyzed literary texts in terms of letters, syllables, and eight parts of speech.

Roman Republic

In late 6th c. BC, the small city-state of **Rome** became a **Republic**, which (in theory) represented all of its citizens.

From this basis, Rome went on to conquer all of the Italian peninsula and beyond.

The Republic endured for 5 centuries, until, wrecked by civil wars, it transformed into a **Principate** ruled by **emperors**.



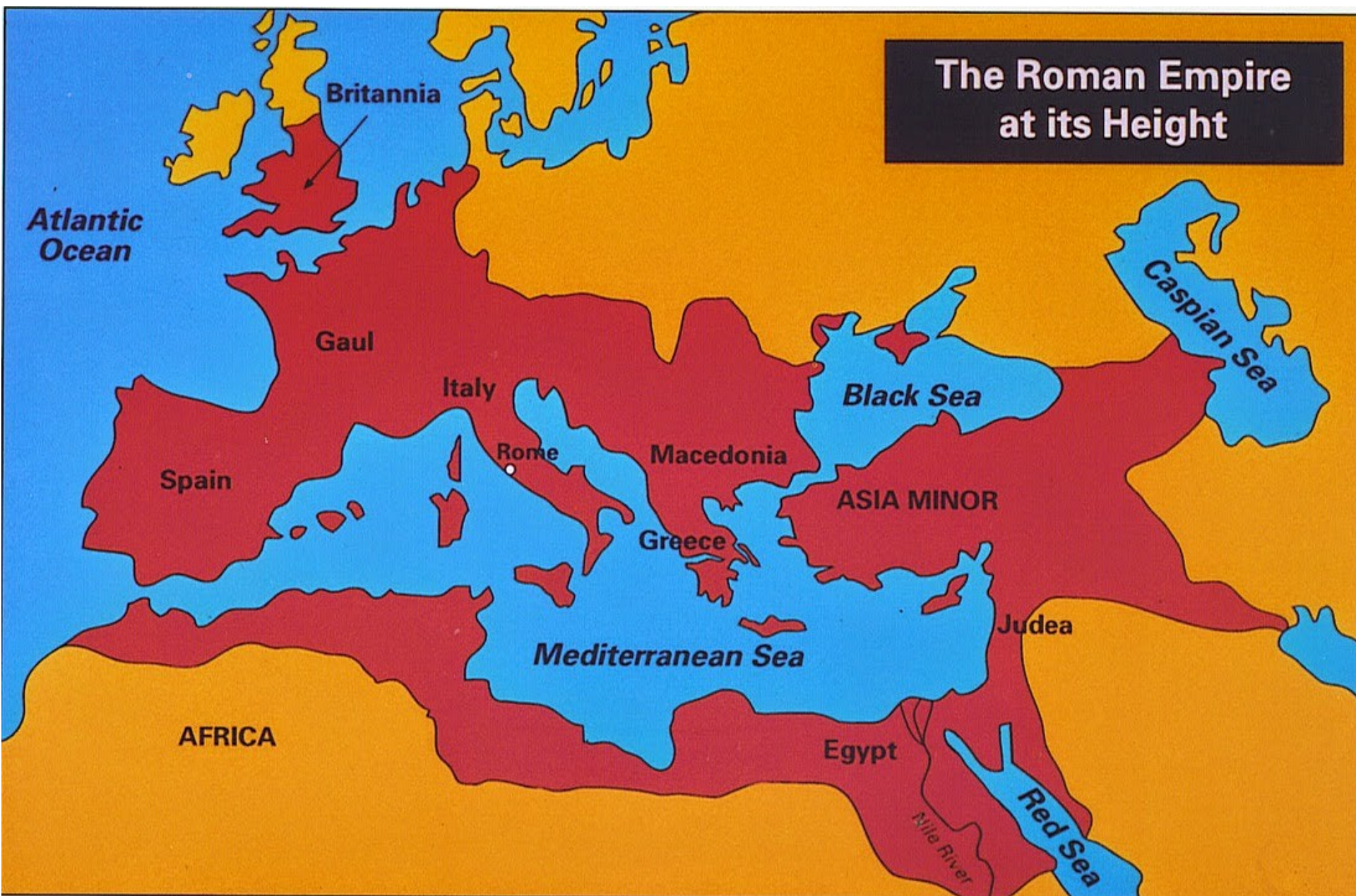


Roman Expansion in the Republican Period. Red = original area of Rome.



The Roman Empire
130 B.C.
Hodges

The Roman Empire at its Height





HIBERNIA

Hadrian's Wall

BRITAIN

London

ATLANTIC OCEAN

BELGICA

LUGDUNENSIS

GERMANIA

GAUL

NORICUM

RHAETIA

PANNONIA

DACIA

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

AQUITANIA

NARBONENSIS

ITALY

Rome

Tarentum

ILLYRIA

DALMATIA

THRACE

Byzantium

PONTUS

ARMENIA

PARTHIAN EMPIRE

LUSITANIA

TARRACONENSIS

BAETICA

Corsica

Sardinia

Sicily

Syracuse

MACEDONIA

Athens

ACHAEA

Crete

Pergamum

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

MESOPOTAMIA

Babylon

SYRIA

Cyprus

JUDAEA

Jerusalem

MAURITANIA

NUMIDIA

AFRICA

Cyrene

CYRENE

Alexandria

EGYPT

ARABIA

Roman Empire, c.E. 117

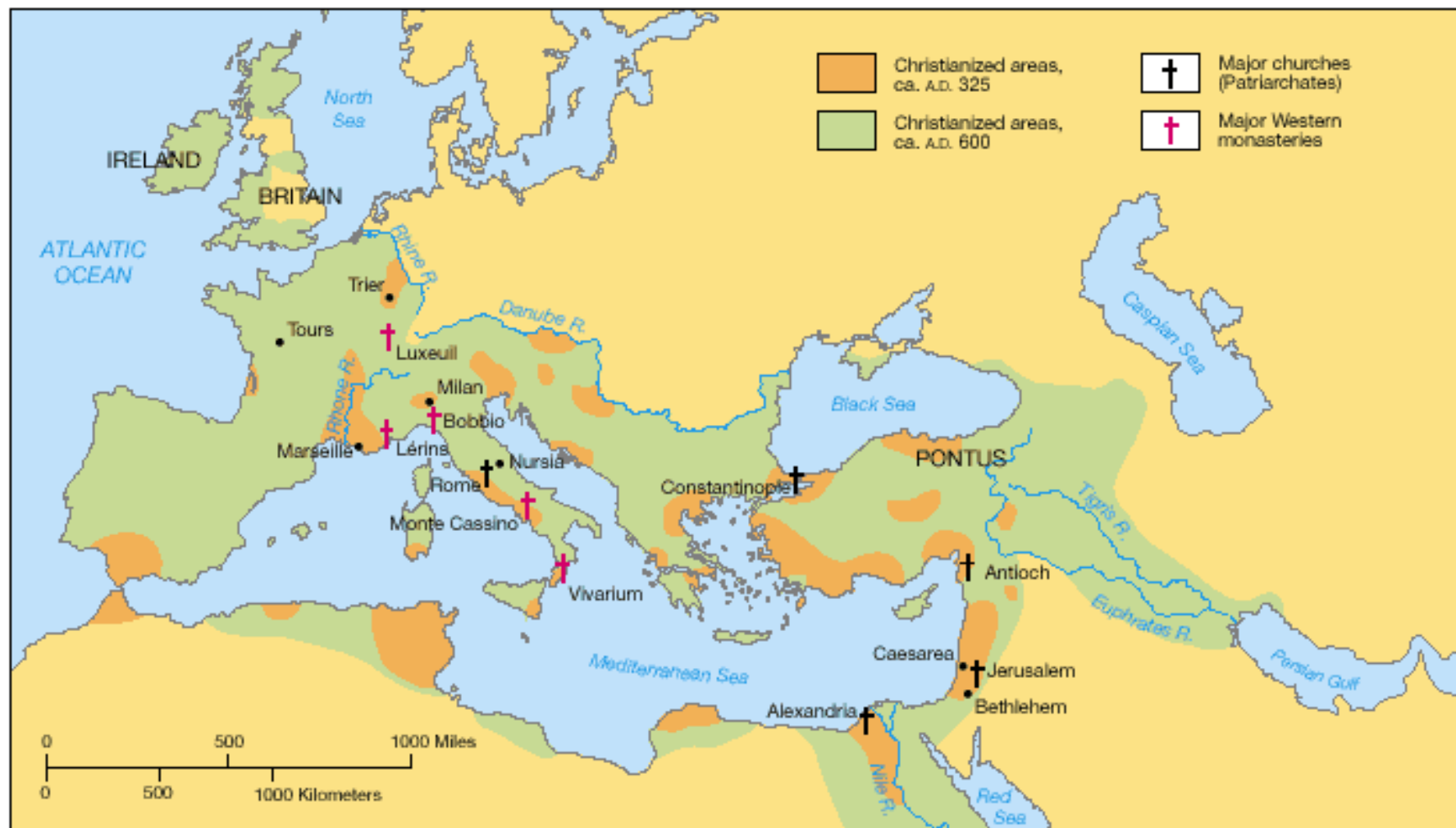
0 500 Miles
0 500 Kilometers




Roman World
urbanization in 2nd Cent. CE



ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT



 *The Spread of Christianity. Christian churches appeared first in the major cities of the Empire and spread only gradually into the countryside, in part due to the establishment of monasteries.*



The Byzantine Empire



Limits in 1032, under Conrad II



Myth & Legend

B/4 the overthrow of the last king, **Tarquinius Superbus** (Tarquin the Proud) in 510 BC, the history of the city is shrouded in myth.

For years Rome had admired the culture of the Greeks, and so it easily embraced the story of **Aeneas** and the founding of Rome (Virgil's **Aeneid**).

This story gave the Romans a link to an ancient, albeit **Greek**, culture. This mythical tale is about Aeneas and his followers who, with the assistance of the goddess **Venus**, escaped the city of **Troy** as it fell to the Greeks in the **Trojan War**. **Jupiter's** wife **Juno** constantly interfered with the story's hero Aeneas throughout the tale. After a brief stay in **Carthage**, Aeneas eventually made his way to Italy, fulfilling his destiny.

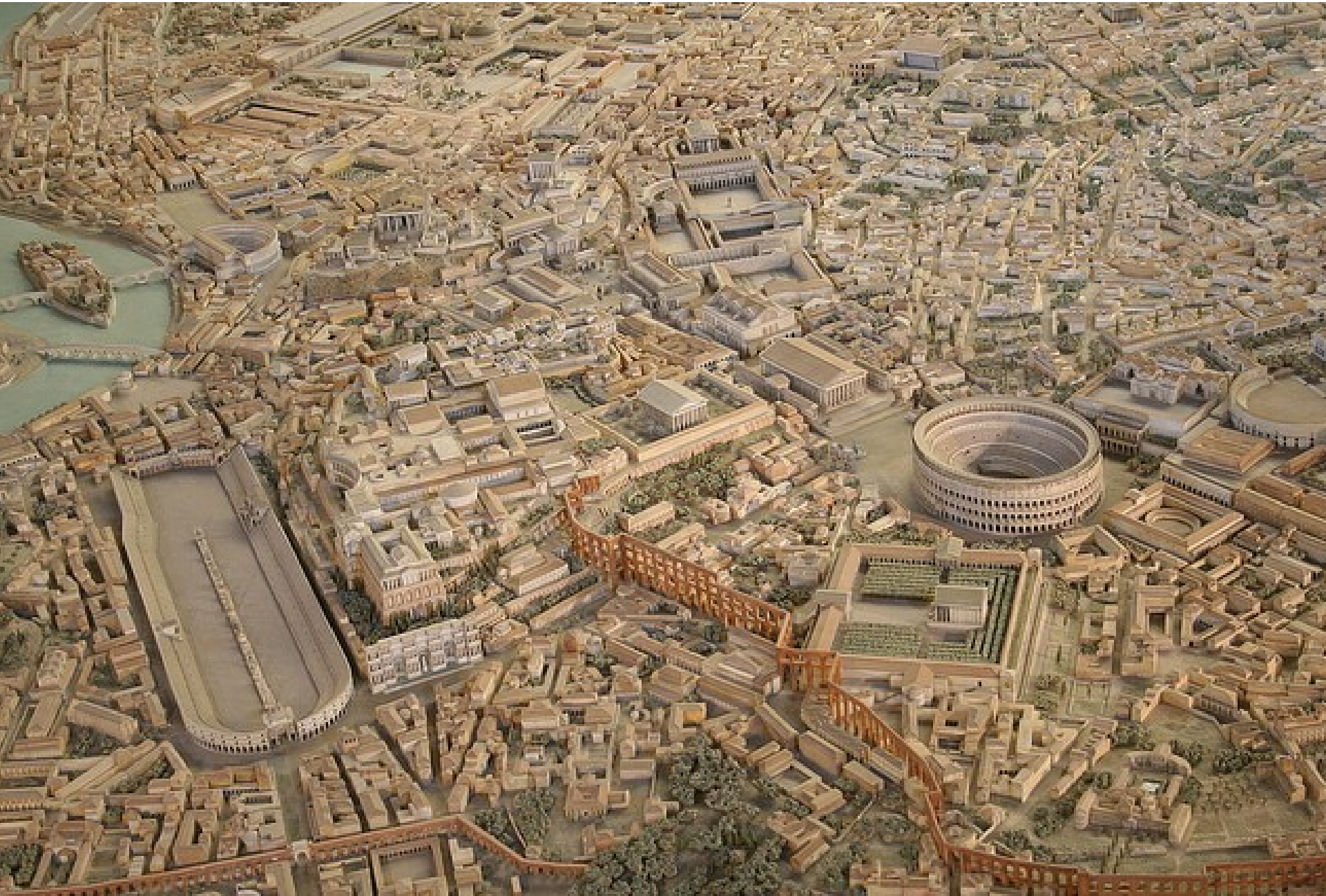
His descendants were the twins **Romulus and Remus** - the illegitimate sons of **Mars**, the god of war, and the princess Rhea Silvia, the daughter of the true king of Alba Longa. Rescued from drowning by a she-wolf and raised by a shepherd, Romulus eventually defeated his brother in battle and founded the city of Rome, becoming its first king. So the legend goes.



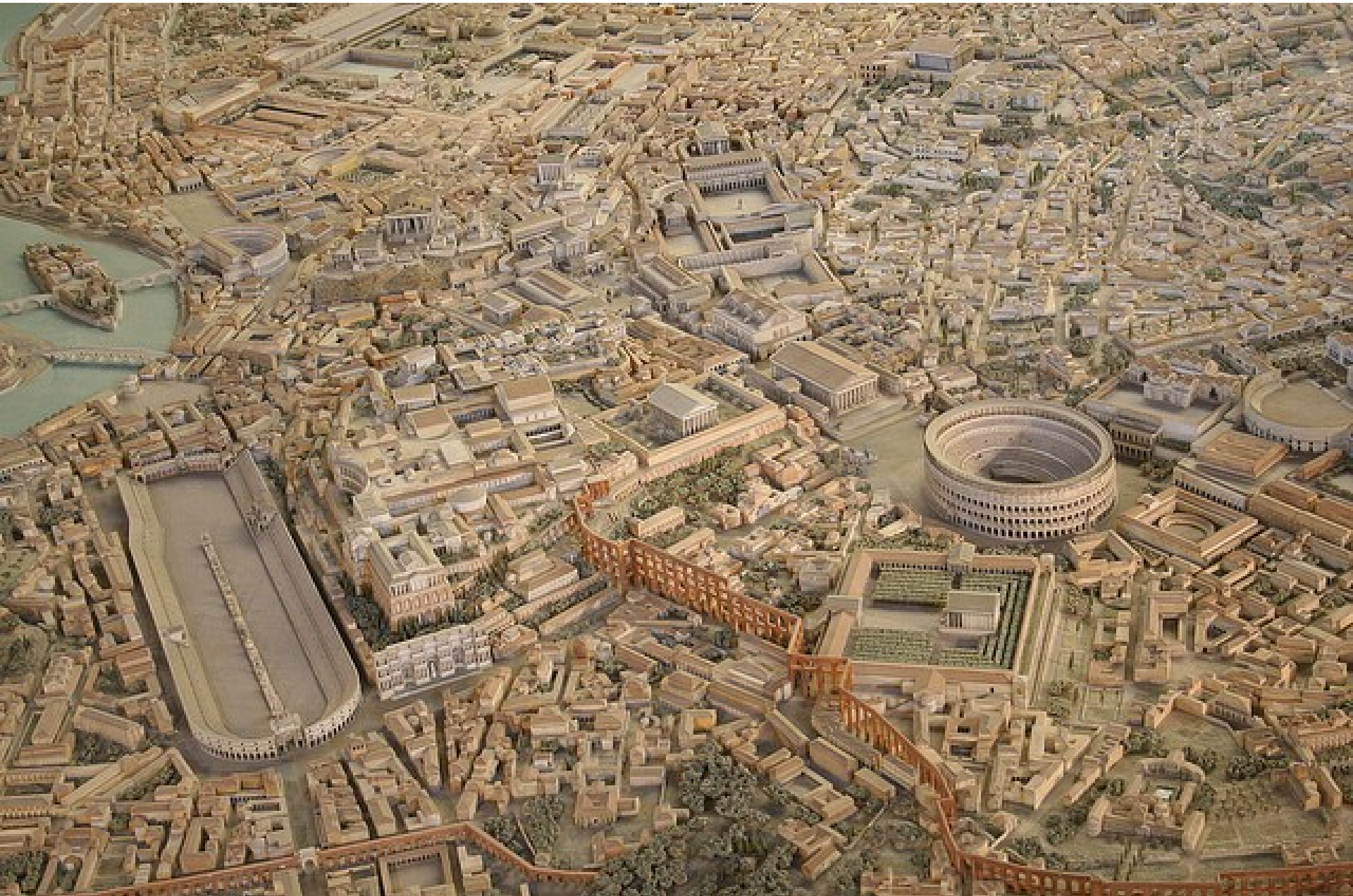
With nearly 3,000 years of rich history, Rome is often called the “Eternal City.” Though Rome dates back to possibly **625 B.C.**, the oldest continuously populated city in the world is widely to be considered Byblos in present-day Lebanon dating back to 5000 B.C.



Rome's population of > a million was not matched by any other European city until London finally overtook it in the 19th century



Population of Ancient Rome > 1 million



The city of Rome (Italy) got its first Roman aqueduct in **312 BC**: the Aqua Appia. Although aqueducts were not their invention, Romans were very good engineers and brought the design and construction of aqueducts to an all time high.



Aqueducts

Most Roman aqueducts were over **55 feet high**. Their great height not only controlled the flow of water but also made it more difficult for someone to steal water and for enemies to put poison in it.

The Roman Aqueduct of Segovia was built of stones **with no mortar** and is still used to carry water today!

By the early 4th century, the Romans had built a road network of 53,000 miles throughout the empire. Each Roman mile was about 1,000 paces (about 4,800 feet) and was marked by a milestone.



On the day the **Colosseum** officially opened, 5,000 animals were killed. During its history, it has been estimated that over 700,000 people and over a million animals were killed there



The Colosseum



gladiator

-15c., "Roman swordsman" < Latin gladiator (fem. gladiatrix) "fighter in the public games; swordsman"

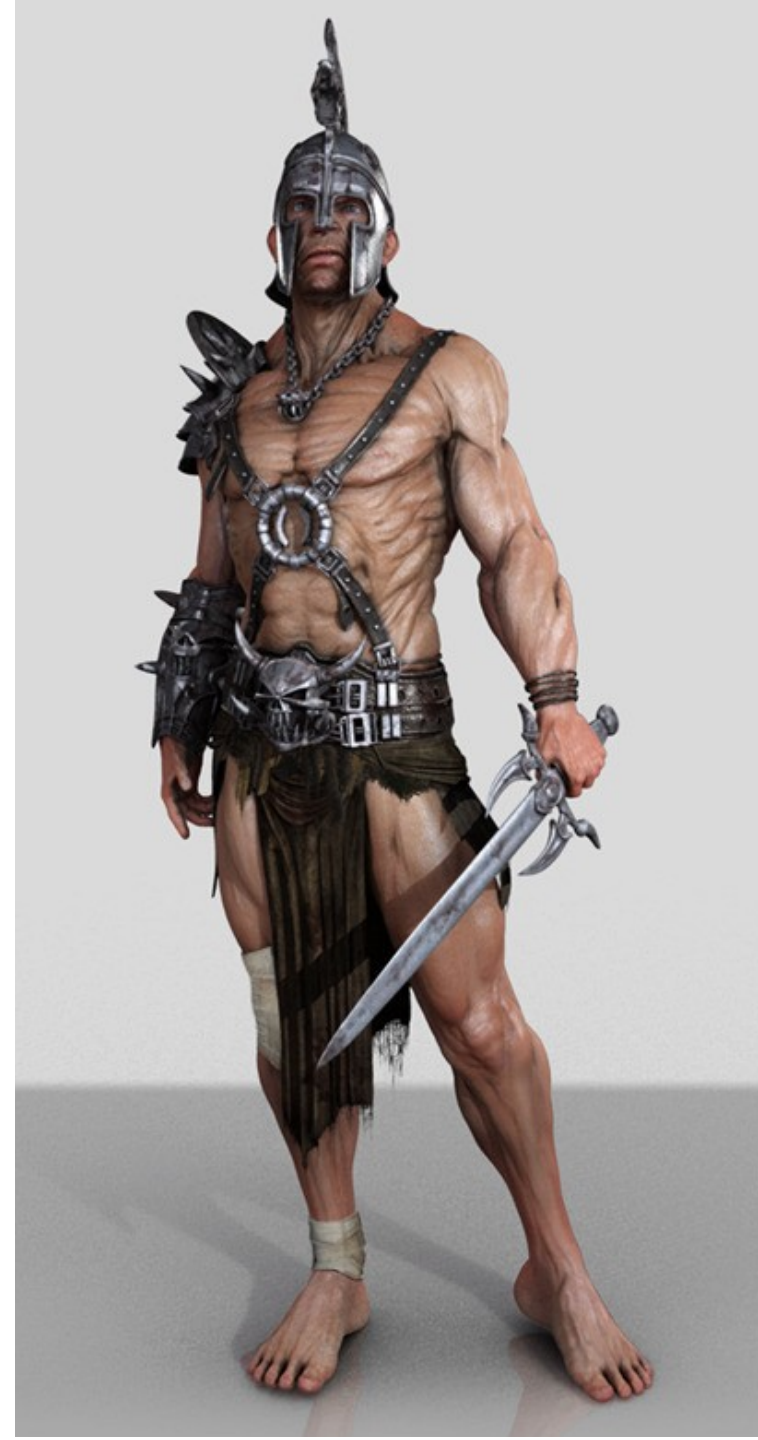
<**gladius** "sword"; probably from Gaulish

Cf.

- Welsh **clddyf** [≡] Old Irish **claideb**
- Cornish **clethe**
- Breton **kleze** "sword"

The close resemblance to Celtic words for 'sword', and the semantic field of weaponry;

□ Latin borrowed a form *gladio- or *kladio- from Proto-Celtic.

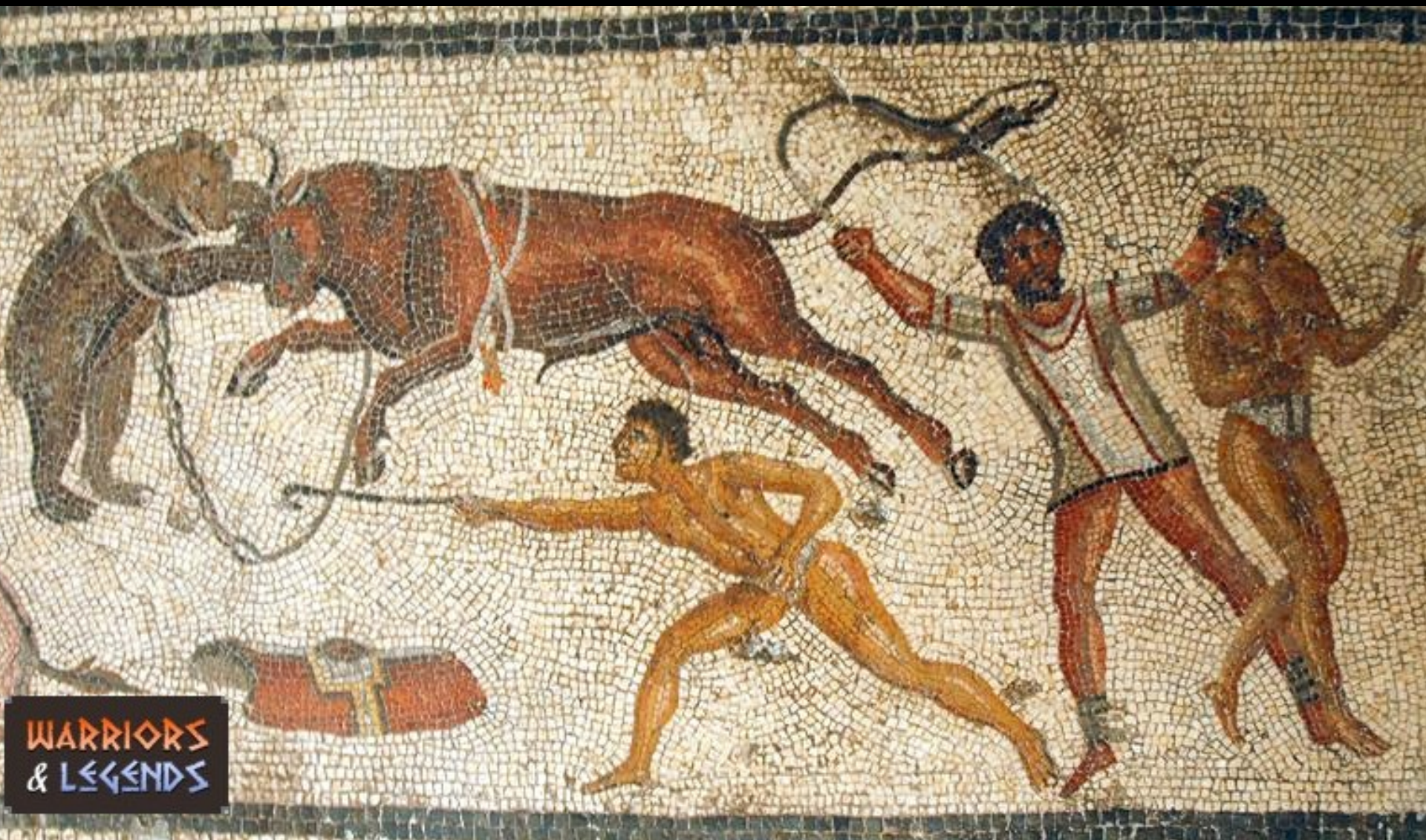




Bestiarii

- fought wild beasts (no swords)
- were often criminals or POWs





WARRIORS
& LEGENDS



They were found during building work on the Grade II-listed Newington Hotel, which overlooks the Knavesmire and is being converted into housing.





The 1,800-year-old skeletons were found beneath the hotel's pool.

It is also close to the Driffeld Terrace burial ground, where the graves of 30 decapitated Roman men were found in 2005.

They are thought to have been gladiators who had lost their lives in arena combat.

The Colosseum

The **Colosseum** had a large sun roof that could be stretched over the crowd to keep the spectators in the shade. The Colosseum took 12 years to build, and the exit time for all **70,000** spectators was only three minutes.



Circus Maximus

The **Circus Maximus** could seat nearly **250,000** fans. In its passageways and arches under the seats, cooks and prostitutes catered to the fans' other needs.

For the Romans, a “circus” was a **chariot racetrack**, not the tented entertainment venue of today





Public amenities

Roman towns were provided with *forica*, or public lavatories. In lieu of toilet paper, Romans would use a wet sponge. Running water carried the waste to the main drains.



‘Glittering forest of marble columns’



Lex XII Tabularum

- After the Romans deposed the last of their kings in 509 B.C., they created the Law of Twelve Tables in 450 B.C., a rule of law that remained in force for 800 years until the end of the western empire.
- **Law of the Twelve Tables** is the earliest written legislation of ancient Roman law

Ruthless Imperial Rule

After criticizing Rome's transition from a republic to an empire, the famous philosopher/rhetorician **Cicero** was murdered and had his head and hands displayed on the Rostra in the Forum Romanum.

It is rumoured that Fulvia, the wife of the influential Roman politician, Antony, pulled out Cicero's tongue and stabbed it repeatedly with her hairpin

Cicero (106-43 BC)

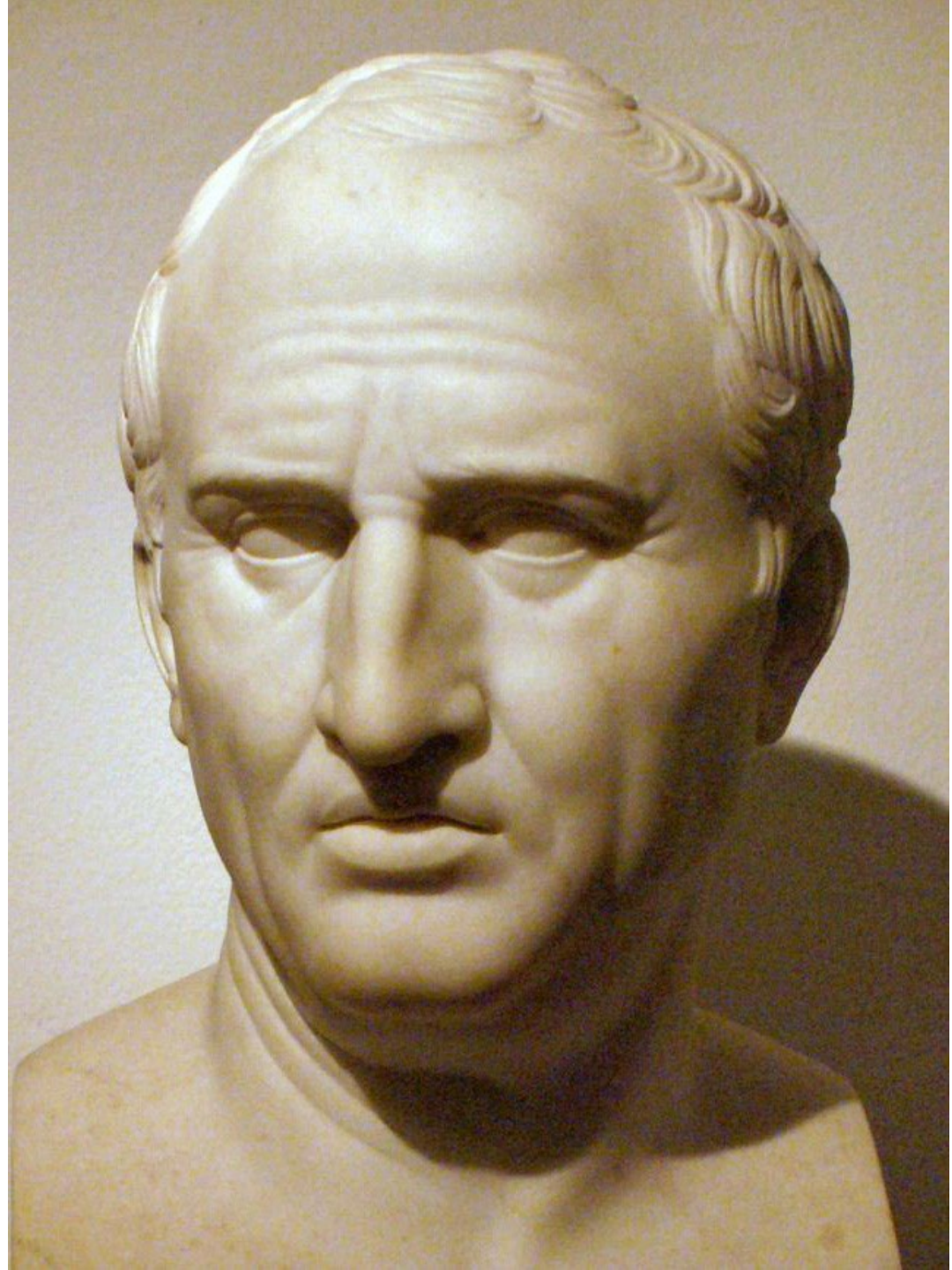
*'A room without books is like
a body without a soul'*

Roman

- philosopher,
- politician,
- lawyer, &
- orator

Influenced by:

- Aristotle,
- Plato,
- Chrysippus



Random facts:

- In response to a 73 B.C. revolt against Rome by Spartacus the gladiator, 6,000 slaves were crucified
- The Romans were the first civilization to use **concrete** and the **arch** with any notable skill
- Rome's first university, La Sapienza (est. A.D. 1303), is the largest in Europe and the second largest in the world
- The Romans did not use soap. To get rid of sweat and grime, they would cover themselves with oil and then scrape off the oil with special a scraper made of metal, wood, or bone called a *strigil*.
- Romans invented central heating and would warm rooms from under the floor using what was called a *hypocaust*, literally “heat from below.” Homes of some rich people had both running water and central heating

Random facts:

- Most Roman aqueducts were over 55 feet high. Their great height not only controlled the flow of water but also made it more difficult for someone to steal water and for enemies to put poison in it. The Roman Aqueduct of Segovia was built of stones with no mortar and is still used to carry water today
- In A.D. 64, a huge fire destroyed half of Rome. Some claim **Nero** (37-68 AD) purposely set it so he could rebuild the city how he wanted it. The saying “Fiddling while Rome burns” comes from the story that Nero played his lyre while Rome burned.

Roman ambivalence to philosophy

The empire produced eminent philosophers such as **Seneca** and **Marcus Aurelius**.

Yet many Romans had mixed feelings about philosophy:

- it was a Greek invention, and the Greeks were a conquered race (Roman attitudes to the Greeks were very mixed)
- philosophy, with its hair-splitting definitions and its focus on the inner man, was considered to be unfit for an active man's life that would serve the state.

Galen, the doctor to the imperial court, remarked that the Romans regarded philosophy to be of no more use than drilling holes in millet seeds.

The Romans adopted the grammar of the Greeks

The Romans adopted the grammatical system of the Greeks and applied it to Latin. Most Latin grammarians did not attempt to alter the Greek system and also sought to protect their language from decay.

Exception:

Varro, of the **1st century BC**, who believed that grammarians should discover structures, and not prescribe them.

Highlights:

So the Romans are important not as originators but as *transmitters* of knowledge attained by the Greeks. Exceptions:

- **Aelius Donatus** [doo'neitəs] (4th century AD) was slightly more systematic than Greeks
- **Priscian**, an African of the **6th century AD**, distinguished between inflectional and derivational morphemes; Priscian Grammar – still living in schools! ʘ
- Up to this point, *ars grammatica* (or ‘the Art of Grammar’) was a mix of investigations in general philosophy, logic, and rhetoric.

**Priscianus
Caesariensis (500),**
commonly known
as **Priscian**, was
a Latin grammarian and
the author of
the *Institutes of
Grammar* which was the
standard textbook for
the study of Latin during
the Middle Ages. It also
provided the raw
material for the field
of **speculative grammar**.



Re-cap:

- The Romans, skilful engineers & warriors, had **mixed feelings about philosophy** (Greek invention)
- *'Transmitters'* of Greek knowledge
- Highlights:
 - **Varro** (1st century BC) – 'grammarians should **discover** structures'
 - **Donatus** (4th century AD) – more systematic in approach
 - **Priscian** (6th century AD) – innovation in morphology; Priscian Grammar