



# Ancient Rome

Examining the Roman  
Republic

# Roman Republic

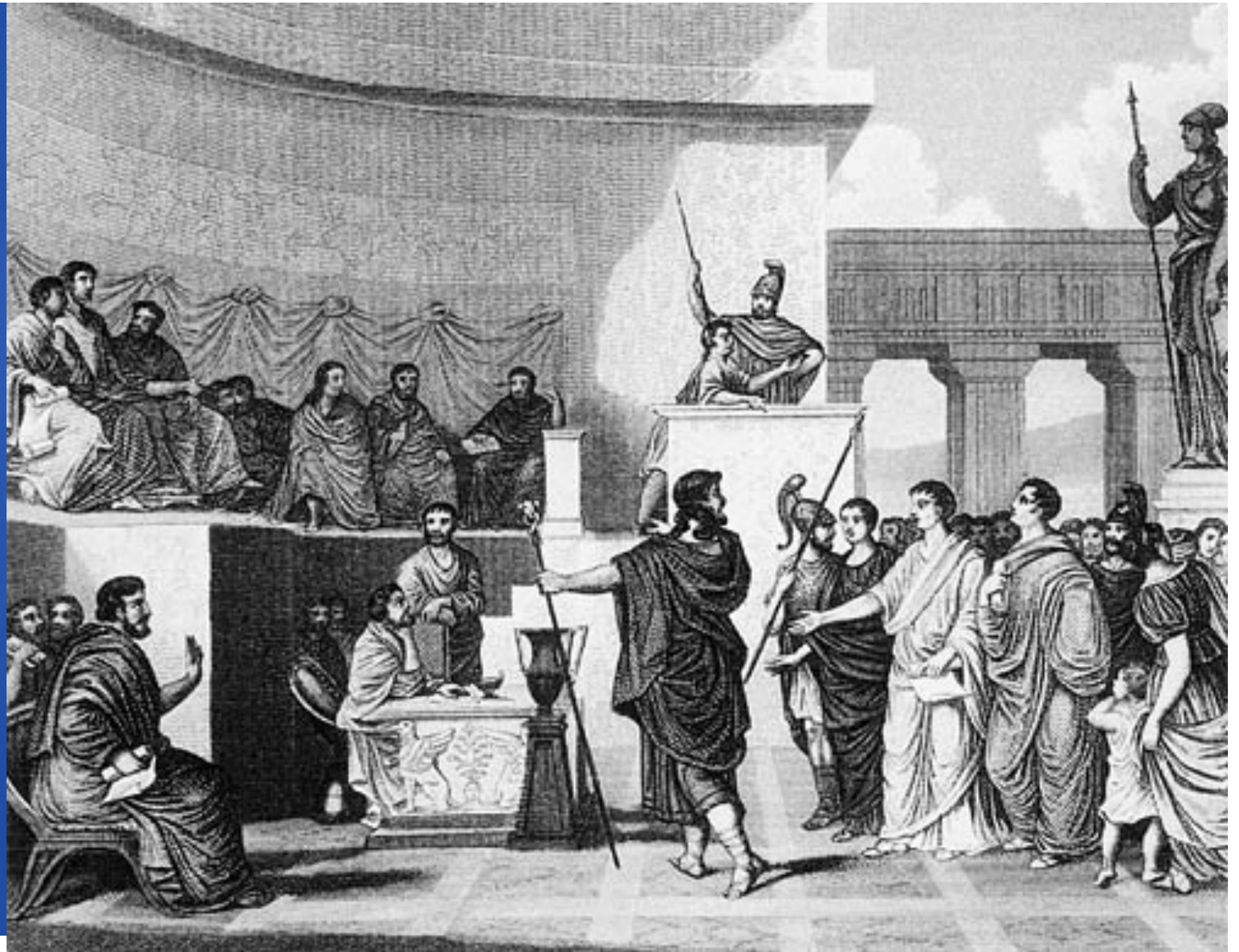
- Based on the following image and pictures, list **FIVE** characteristics or themes that would describe the Roman Republic



*J. B. Meyer del. et sculp.*

**FONDATION DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE.**  
An de Rome 244.

*Lagar. sculp.*















**Share: What  
were the  
common  
themes in the  
images?**

## What is a republic?

*Noun: A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.*



*Res Publica*  
= Roman  
Republic  
(public  
matter)

# Roman Republic (509 BCE)

- **Roman Republic** = *Res Publica* (public matter)
- **SPQR** = *Senatus Populusque Romanus* or the Senate and the People of Rome
- Resulted from discontent of tyrannical Etruscan monarchy
- A combination of aristocracy, oligarchy and democracy



**What would be the difference  
between the Senate and the  
People (Assembly)?**

# Senate and the People of Rome

*The internal history of the Roman Republic consisted of constant tension and feuds between the patricians and the plebeians*

## Patricians

- Senatorial aristocracy
- Landowning aristocracy
- From Latin word 'patres' which means father



## Plebeians

- People
- Landless poor
- From Latin word 'plebs' which means common people

# The Constitution of the Roman Republic

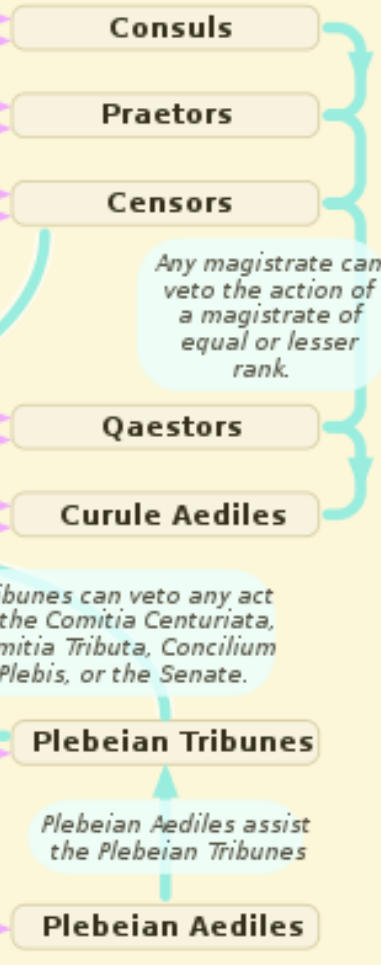
**Comitia Centuriata (Century Assembly)**  
 Assembly of soldiers divided into blocs called . Eachcenturies century gets one vote before the assembly. Each soldier is assigned to a century according to how much property he owns. Since the wealthiest soldiers are grouped into a majority of centuries, the assembly is very aristocratic.

**Senate**  
 In practice, plays the central role in the day-to-day functionality of the constitution. It is a board of the most experienced politicians. It makes foreign and military policy, and directs domestic policy.

**Comitia Tributa (Tribal Assembly)**  
 Assembly of citizens divided into blocs called . Each tribe getstribes one vote before the assembly. Both patricians and plebeians vote in this assembly. Since each citizen is assigned to a tribe according to their geographical location, rather than property classification, this assembly is less aristocratic than the Comitia Centuriata.

**Concilium Plebis (Plebeian Council)**  
 Council almost identical to the .Comitia Tributa The only differences are that it is presided over by a Plebeian Tribune, and its tribes are only composed of plebeians. After 287BC, any act passed by this council would apply to all of the Senate and People of Rome.

## Executive Magistrates



Comitia Centuriata elects higher magistrates

Senate issues instructions to all magistrates other than tribunes.

As part of the census, Censors can add new members to the Senate. They can also expel members.

Comitia Tributa elects lower magistrates

Concilium Plebis elects plebeian magistrates

Any magistrate can veto the action of a magistrate of equal or lesser rank.

Tribunes can veto any act of the Comitia Centuriata, Comitia Tributa, Concilium Plebis, or the Senate.

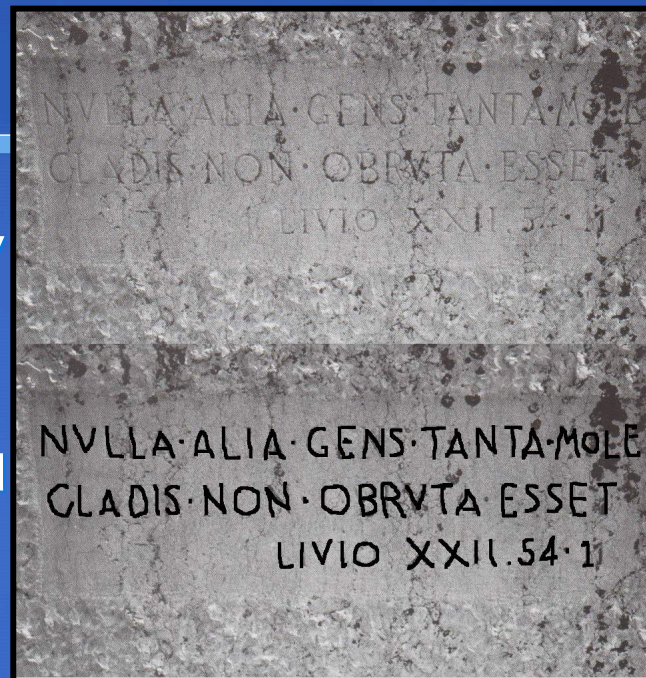
Plebeian Aediles assist the Plebeian Tribunes

# Roles in Roman Republic

- Magistrates: most powerful magistrates were the two consuls, or Chief Magistrates of State; both had the power to veto (Latin for "I forbid") each other in important decisions (elected by patricians)
- Assemblies (Comitia): four assemblies (organized by wealth / classes) of male citizens elected officials as magistrates annually to pass and enforce laws
- Senate: council of men who controlled Rome (state budget and foreign affairs); controlled most land and chosen for life
- Plebian Tribal Council & Tribunes: membership restricted to non-senatorial males; 2 plebeian tribunes elected and could veto decisions made by consuls; eventually increased to 10 tribunes; the establishment of Tribunes became powerful interpreters of the peoples' wishes

# Roman Law: The Twelve Tables

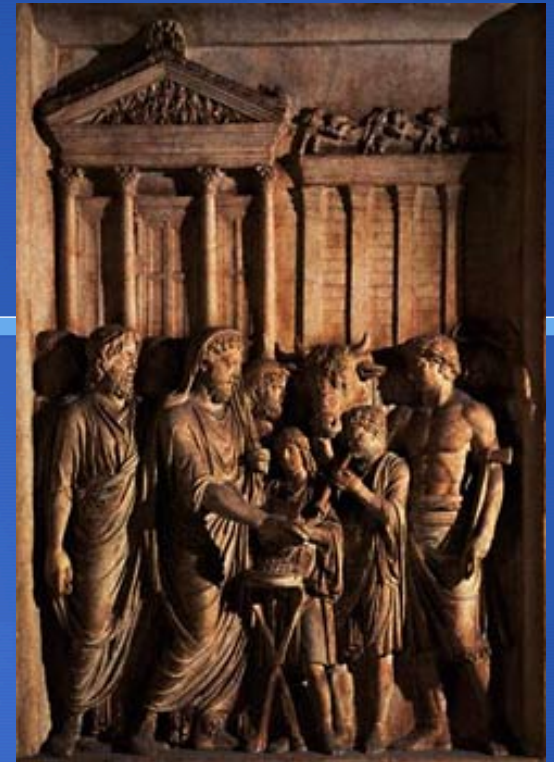
- Rome was among few societies that developed laws that were **codified** (written down) and fully analyzed by jurists
- pressure by the ordinary people to break the monopolization of the law by the patricians and upper class
- **Twelve Tables**: written 450 BCE in Latin
- Most laws related to **civil matters**
- Formed basic legal procedures and appropriate punishments
- But Roman law still distinguished between rich and poor, freemen and slaves





# Daily Life in the Republic

- Very religious and superstitious tendencies
- Lavish dinner parties
- All actions (political and military) were made with omens of nature which would signal approval from the gods
- inheritance of property was very important
- practice of adoption of males (ie. Caesar adopted Octavian, the son of his niece)
- arranged marriages (girls around age of 15)
- Patriarchal society
- Education: read and write Latin and Greek
- Boys studied art of rhetoric; girls taught to sing dance, spin, weave



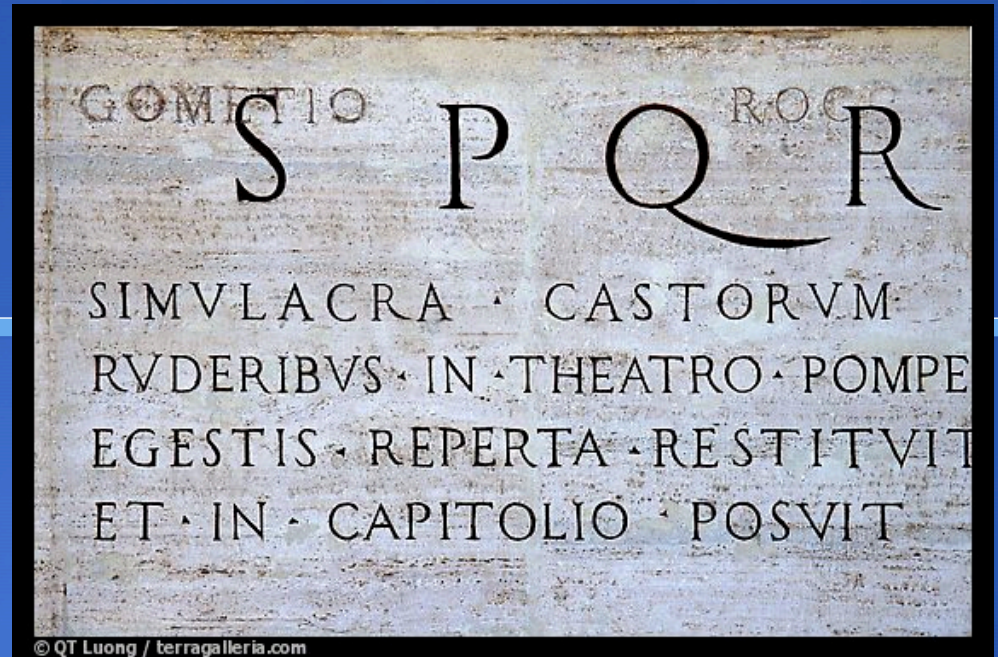
# Art and Architecture

- Art was influenced by Etruscans and even more by the Greeks (sculptures, paintings) with expansion and conquests (ie. Corinth)
- Greek architecture (columns) was fused into Roman culture
- Romans alone gave the world **CONCRETE**



# Latin

- Romans spoke Latin, which spread throughout the Mediterranean (only Greek survived)
- For next thousand years, Latin was the language of Roman government, legal system and became the international language of the Christian church, education and scholarship
- Latin still to this day has a strong presence in language of medicine and law



# Examples of Latin

- Veni, vidi, vici
- "I came, I saw, I conquered"
- Alter ego
- "another I"
- Veto
- "I forbid"
- Et cetera
- "and other"
- Exit or exenut
- "He / she / they go out"
- Habeas corpus
- "you must have the fact / body of the crime"
- Via
- "by way of"
- VICE VERSA
- "the other way around"