

# *Story of Ancient Rome*

By Suzanne Strauss Art

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **TIMELINE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The geography of Italy; the early settlements; a city becomes an empire; Roman concepts of government and law; other Roman innovations; a rich heritage.

## **PART ONE – THE REPUBLIC**

### **CHAPTER I – Early Rome**

The Palatine Hill; the hilltop villages; the burial plots; legends describe the founding of Rome; the villages merge; the advantages of Rome's geographical site; the Etruscans; the Greek colonies; Roman culture is enriched by the Etruscans; advantages in farming; the Roman kings; the Etruscans are driven from Rome.

### **CHAPTER II – The Republican Form of Government**

A new concept of leadership; the role of the Senate; the Assembly; the plight of the plebeians; the political ladder of success; the Roman Code of Laws.

### **CHAPTER III – Rome Begins to Expand**

The Latin Alliance; the Gauls; a new army formation; Rome continues to expand; the Pyrrhic Wars; Rome commands all of Italy.

### **CHAPTER IV – The Punic Wars**

Carthage, an invincible navy; war breaks out in Sicily; Rome builds a navy; the First Punic War; Carthage looks to Spain; Hannibal enters the scene; the long march; the Second Punic War; Hannibal's last days; fighting in Greece; Carthage is destroyed; a Roman lake.

### **CHAPTER V – The Religion of the Romans**

The numina; family gods; early nature gods and goddesses; the Greek pantheon; Vesta and the hearth; other Latin gods; the temples; the priesthood; the Roman way of death; the afterlife; religion and medicine.

## **PART TWO: THE SYSTEM BREAKS DOWN**

### **CHAPTER VI – A New Social Order**

The patricians monopolize the farmland; the effects of slavery upon the economy; the rich get richer; the Greek influence; the client system; the Gracchi; the Optimates and the Populares; the equestrians; the reforms of Marius; the Social Wars; Sulla.

## **CHAPTER VII – Bread and Circuses**

New public programs; the amphitheaters; the gladiators; the chariot races; the Roman baths; the tenements; the homes of the wealthy; the polarity of Roman society in the late Republic.

## **CHAPTER VIII – The Roman Army**

A practical approach; the army of the early Republic; a new formation is adopted; new state of the art weaponry; a professional army; the new legions; the new battle strategy; the standards; the auxiliary troops; the soldier's uniform; training the recruits; the camp; permanent camps; on the march; other duties; siege machines; a military triumph.

## **CHAPTER IX – Caesar!**

Growing civil unrest; Pompey and Crassus become consuls; the young Caesar; the beginning of a political career; the First Triumvirate; governor of Gaul; Vercingetorix; crossing the Rubicon; Dictator; Cleopatra; return to Rome; Caesar's reforms; the senators become alarmed; the conspiracy; Octavian; Cleopatra reenters the scene; Actium.

## **CHAPTER X – Roads and Arches**

Roman technology; a network of straight roads; construction of the roads; the roads traveling public; the use of the arch the invention of concrete; how to build an arch; Roman bridge construction; aqueducts; the underground sewers; the dome.

# **PART THREE – THE EMPIRE**

## **CHAPTER XI – The Government Is Transformed**

Augustus; the state of Roman law; a city of marble; trade; military reforms; the Pax Romana; a sprawling empire; the successors of Augustus; the Flavians; the Five Good Emperors.

## **CHAPTER XII – Arts and Entertainment**

The city; the Colosseum; a day at the Circus; the public baths; the theater; Latin literature; Cicero; the historians; the poets, the volumes, the fine arts.

## **CHAPTER XIII – Daily Life During the Pax Romana**

The social divisions; the idle rich; the cities; the role of women; education; Roman dress; cosmetics and coiffure; dining in Rome; the Roman banquet; meals of the ordinary people; Pompeii and Herculaneum.

## **CHAPTER XIV – The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**

Changes within the military; the problem of succession; financial woes; a decadent society; barbarians on the borders; Diocletian; changes in religion; the life of Jesus; the spread of Christianity; the Roman resistance to Christianity; the persecutions; Constantine; the organization of the Christian Church; the continuing threat at the borders; the sack of Rome; Attila the Hun; more invasions; the end of the western empire; afterwards; writings of the early Church; the Byzantine Empire.

## **THE LEGACY OF ROME**

Our debt to the Romans, the lessons of history.

## **APPENDIX**

## **INDEX**