Julius Caesar. Octavian Augustus and the Julio Claudian Succession
Julius Caesar as dictator for life: end of the Roman Republic
Augustus of Prima Porta
ROME AFTER CAESAR AND AUGUSTUS

SECOND EMPIRE: term given to rule of Emperors who follow Augustus

FIRST EMPIRE: territories acquired by the Republic through conquests of Julius Caesar

Historians of the Empire: both hostile to most Emperors

Tacitus’ *Annals* (Friday reading)

Suetonius *The Twelve Caesars*
Problem of Succession in Roman Empire

Republic: from Lucius Junius Brutus to Caesar = elected Consuls
Dictators appointed in emergencies = Sulla, Caesar

End of the Republic: Civil Wars of 1st C BC as cause
army’s loyalty is to individual commanders: Marius, Sulla, Pompey

60BC Triumvirate rule of three men: Caesar, Pompey and Crassus
informal political arrangement directed against Senate

Caesar as conqueror of Gaul 59-50 BC, invades Britain 55-54 BC
49 BC crosses into central Italy with army (Rubicon)

47BC Dictator for life

44 BC Ides of March Assassinated by supporters of Republic
Marcus Junius Brutus
Octavian Augustus:

44-31 BC wars against Republicans, Marc Anthony

Battle of Actium: pax romana is established

(the Roman peace)

Victory: combination of 1) inheritance from Caesar’s will &
2) military power

Principate: Augustus as Princeps = first among equals
not rex (king) or dictator, accommodates Senate

DIARCHY: joint rule of Augustus and Senate

Succession after Augustus = hereditary Julio Claudians

Empire: Emperors rule autocratically (autocrat: rule by oneself)
powers of Senate diminished

PRAETORIAN GUARD:
personal guard for Octavian & later Emperors
Augustus as Pontifex Maximus veiled for act of sacrificing to gods
Livia
wife of Augustus
Livia as the goddess Ceres
Livia or Julia on the Ara Pacis
**JULIO-CLAUDIAN DYNASTY:** 14-68 CE

**AUGUSTUS' HEIRS:**
- one daughter **JULIA** by former wife Scribonia
- one sister, **OCTAVIA**, hopes for heir through her line

**LIVIA** (wife of Augustus): sons by prior marriage
  1) **TIBERIUS**
  2) Drusus (died 9BC in Germany)

**JULIA** (daughter of Augustus): arranged serial marriages to potential adoptive heirs
Marcellus
d. 23 BC
nephew of
Augustus
married to
his daughter
Julia
Theater of Marcellus built 13 BC by Augustus
**JULIO-CLAUDIAN DYNASTY:** 14-68 AD/CE

**JULIA** (daughter of Augustus): three marriages
Augustus arranged serial marriages to potential adoptive heirs

**MARCELLUS** nephew of Augustus, Theater of Marcellus
son of Octavia, Augustus’ sister
died young 23 BC

**MARCUS AGRIPPA** Augustus' closest advisor & general
five children: 3 boys, two die young
**Agrippa Postumus** killed after Augustus death
daughter: **Agrippina**, mother of **Caligula**

**TIBERIUS** Augustus' stepson, son of Livia
Marcus Agrippa
General

married to Julia after death of Marcellus

5 children
died 12 BC
Cameo of Roman eagle
Gemma Augusteae (7.5” x 9”)
illustrates one moment in the Julio Claudian succession
Upper tier The throned figure #1 is Augustus Caesar (Octavius). In his right hand he holds a *lituus* – his augury stick in which he reads the signs and declares wars to be just. He sits equal to Roma, personifying a god. Figure #2 seated next to figure #1 is Roma, the goddess with helmet. Both their feet are resting upon the armor of the conquered; she resembles Livia, Augustus’ wife and mother of Tiberius. Figure #3 is *Oikoumene* – the personification of the inhabited world. She is crowning figure #1 with oak leaves. Figure #5 is *Oceanus* or *Neptune* represents the realm of water. Figure #6 Below him is a reclined personification of either Italia or *Gaia* (the Earth) with the *cornucopia* and the children surrounding her, who might represent seasons. Figure #10 is the eagle of *Jupiter* the highest of the gods. Figure #4 is *Victoria* (Victory). Figure #7 Tiberius steps down from the chariot, acknowledging Augustus. Figure #8 could still be one of two persons, *Drusus* (brother of Tiiberius) or Drusus’ son *Germanicus*. Tiberius, Augustus’ adopted nephew, recently having fought in the north, is urged by Victoria to fight new battles. 

Lower tier
At the left, figures combined in #11 are either *Celts* or Germans, as seen by their brutal fierceness. The seated man and woman depict prisoners of war, symbolizing the Roman victory. Figure #19 is a *tropaion*, a trophy displayed after a winning battle, made of wood to look like a human. Figure #15 is often identified as a personification of *Mars* with his armor and flowing cape.
Roman soldiers raising a trophy over defeated German barbarians
Gemma Augustus with Rome
Tiberius and Germanicus as successors to Augustus
AUGUSTUS

Julia, daughter
Marcellus, nephew
Agrippa, general & friend

Lucius Caesar, grandson
Gaius Caesar, grandson

Agrippa Postumus, grandson
Tiberius, stepson

Germanicus, great-nephew
Drusus, son of Tiberius

Gaius (Caligula), great-grandson
GAIUS
TIBERIUS

GAIUS
TIBERIUS (14-37 AD): adopted by Augustus
son of Livia by prior marriage

GERMANICUS:
nephew of Tiberius, son of his brother Drusus
popular general on German frontier
adopted by Augustus as Tiberius’ successor

grandson of OCTAVIA, Augustus’ sister,
wife is AGRIPPINA (the elder)
daughter of Agrippa & Julia
The House of the Caesars

Julius Caesar

Julia = Atius Balbus
   Atia = C. Octavius

Marcellus = Octavia = Antony

Scrbonia = AUGUSTUS = Livia = Ti Claudius Nero

MARCELLUS = Marcella = Agrippa

Antonia 1 = Domitius

Antonia 2 = Drusus 1 = Agrippa

JULIA 1 = TIBERIUS = Vipsania

Drusus 1 = Drusus 2

Domitius 2 = GAIUS = LUCIUS = Julia 2

Agrippina

Agrippa Postumus

Germanicus = Livilla = CLAUDIUS

Agrippina = CALIGULA

NERO
Tiberius
CALIGULA:
Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus
Reign 37-41 AD
CALIGULA (37-41): “Little Boots” - chosen as heir by Tiberius popular at first because son of Germanicus persecutes Senatorial class: makes his horse Senator assassinated by Praetorian Guard

CLAUDIUS (41-54): uncle of Caligula, Germanicus’ brother poisoned by wife AGRIPPINA, (the younger) who has son by previous marriage, NERO

NERO (54-68): last of Julio Claudian dynasty biography in TACITUS’ ANNALS (section reading for Friday) (See Sbragia lecture on Nero this Thursday)

FILM: 1960’S made for TV series, I, Claudius tells story of succession from Augustus to Nero; Livia portrayed as schemer
Caligula
Claudius
Claudius as deity
NERO (54-68) : last of Julio Claudian dynasty

Prof. Sbragia lecture Thursday

biography in TACITUS’ ANNALS

(reading for Friday)
69 AD Year of the four Emperors: Civil war
between Otho, Galba, Vitellius, Vespasian
final victor is Vespasian, founder of the
FLAVIAN DYNASTY 69-96 AD

VESPAlian (69-79) takes power by military force

Colosseum on site of Nero's lake; gladiatorial games
FLAVIAN DYNASTY late 1st C AD

Sons of Vespasian

1) TITUS (reign 79-81)
   conqueror of Judea: siege of Jerusalem
   70 AD destroyed Temple
   74 siege of Masada
   start of Jewish Diaspora

   ARCH OF TITUS in Roman Forum

2) DOMITIAN (reign 81-96)
Fortress of Masada north of Jerusalem
Roman siege of Masada 74 AD
FLAVIAN DYNASTY late 1st C AD

VESPASIAN (69-79) his sons:

1) TITUS

2) DOMITIAN – autocratic, executes enemies
   Stadium of Domitian (now Piazza Navona)
   Palace of Domitian on Palatine Hill
   after assassination, Senate decrees "erasure of memory"

**DAMNATIO MEMORIAE:** damnation of memory
   of Domitian due his many crimes

**TACITUS:** historian of Empire; lives under Domitian
   hostile to imperial power & court
Palace of Domitian on Palatine Hill
Palace of Domitian drawing
Palatine Hill overlooking Circus Maximus
Stadium of Domitian
Piazza Navona
site of Stadium of Domitian
ADOPTIVE OR “GOOD” EMPERORS of 2cd C AD

NERVA 96-98
  elected by Senate after assassination of Domitian
  Tacitus’ favorite Emperor
  theme of libertas, adopts his successor based on merit

TRAJAN 98-117: social welfare programs, public works
  title of “Optimus” = “best” granted by Senate

113 TRAJAN’S COLUMN depicting Dacian wars

112 FORUM OF TRAJAN - marketplace, shops
  includes BASILICA ULPIA

BASILICA: public building for law cases, commercial transactions
  later adapted by Christians as places of worship
Forum of Trajan
Trajan's Forum
Rome, Italy
(site plan)

Temple of Trajan

Trajan's Column

West (Greek) Library

East (Latin) Library

Basilica Ulpia

Equestrian Statue

Main Entrance / Triumphal Arch

Trajan's Market
Forum of Trajan model
Column of Trajan

Illustrating his wars in Dacia
Scene from Trajan’s column
Trajan’s Basilica Ulpia
HADRIAN 117-38 building projects include

Pantheon

Hadrian’s Villa

Mausoleum of Hadrian
(later Castel Sant'Angelo)

HADRIAN’S WALL - Britain 122
Policy of peace within fixed frontiers:
• Hadrian’s Wall across north of England
Mausoleum of Hadrian  (across Tiber from Tomb of Augustus)
Castel Sant’Angelo (Hadrian’s Tomb)
MARCUS AURELIUS  161-180

Last of the “good Emperors”

German frontier: military commander

Stoic philosopher: The Meditations

succeeded by son Commodus:
  [evil Emperor in movie Gladiator]
Equestrian Statue of Marcus Aurelius

Now on Capitoline Hill
Marcus Aurelius
Marcus Aurelius as Good Emperor

18th C painting
Commodus as Hercules
SEVERAN DYNASTY:

SEPTIMUS SEVERUS (193-211)
founder of North African Severan dynasty

Arch of Septimus Severus 203
at north end of Forum

CARACALLA:
212 Edict of Caracalla
citizenship extended to all free citizens
of Roman Empire