

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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





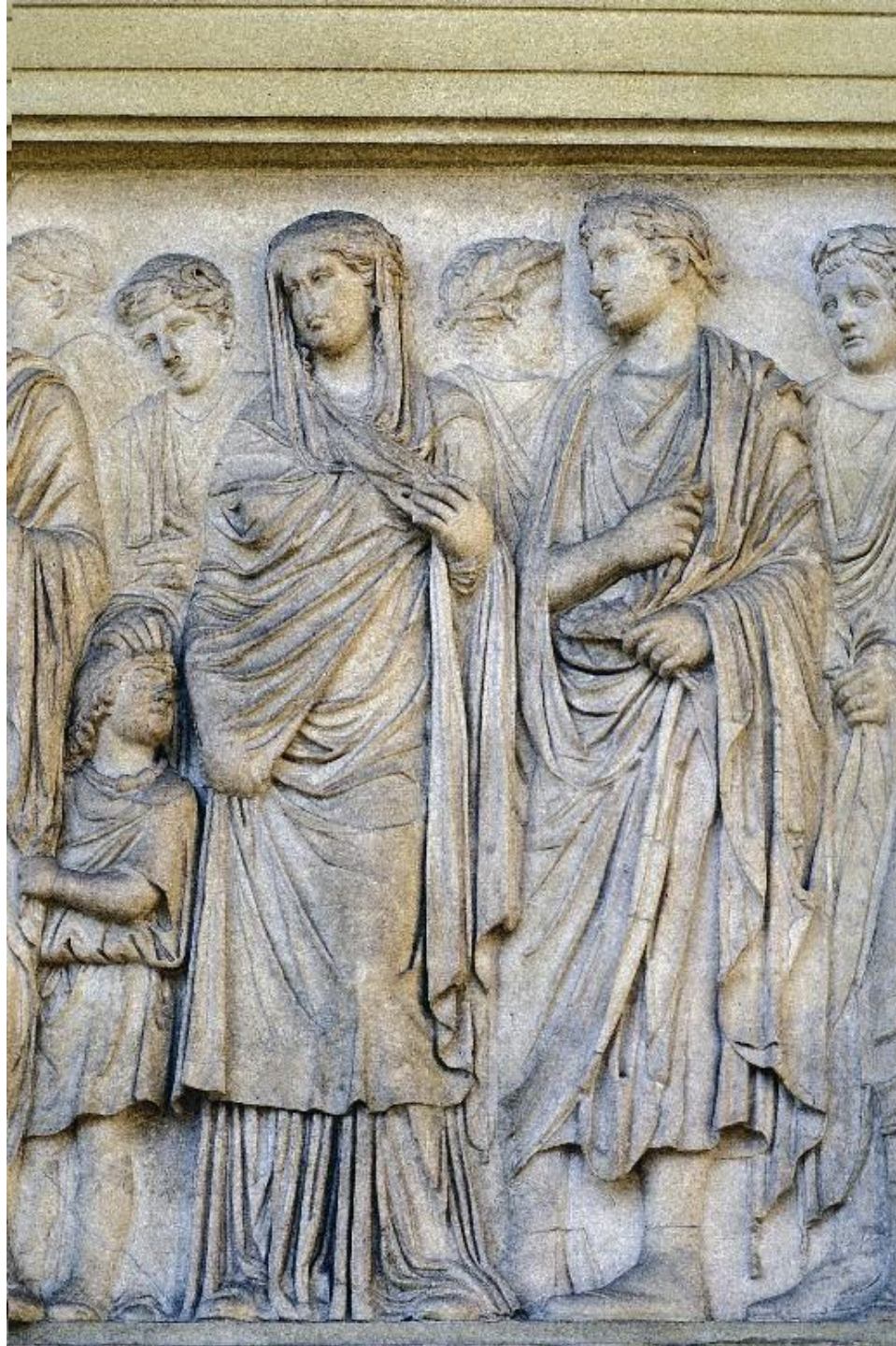
**Livia**

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**

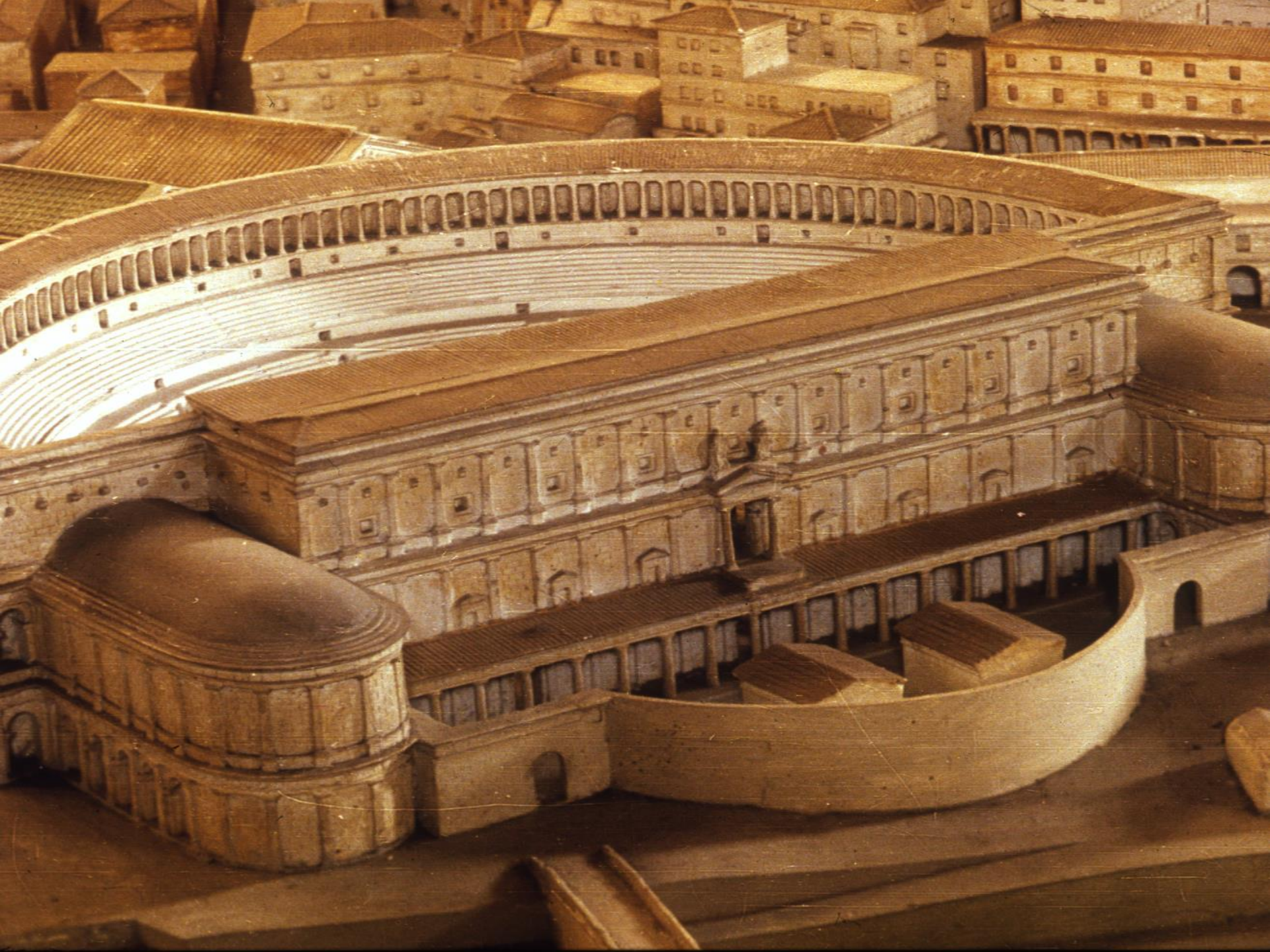
nephew of  
Augustus

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

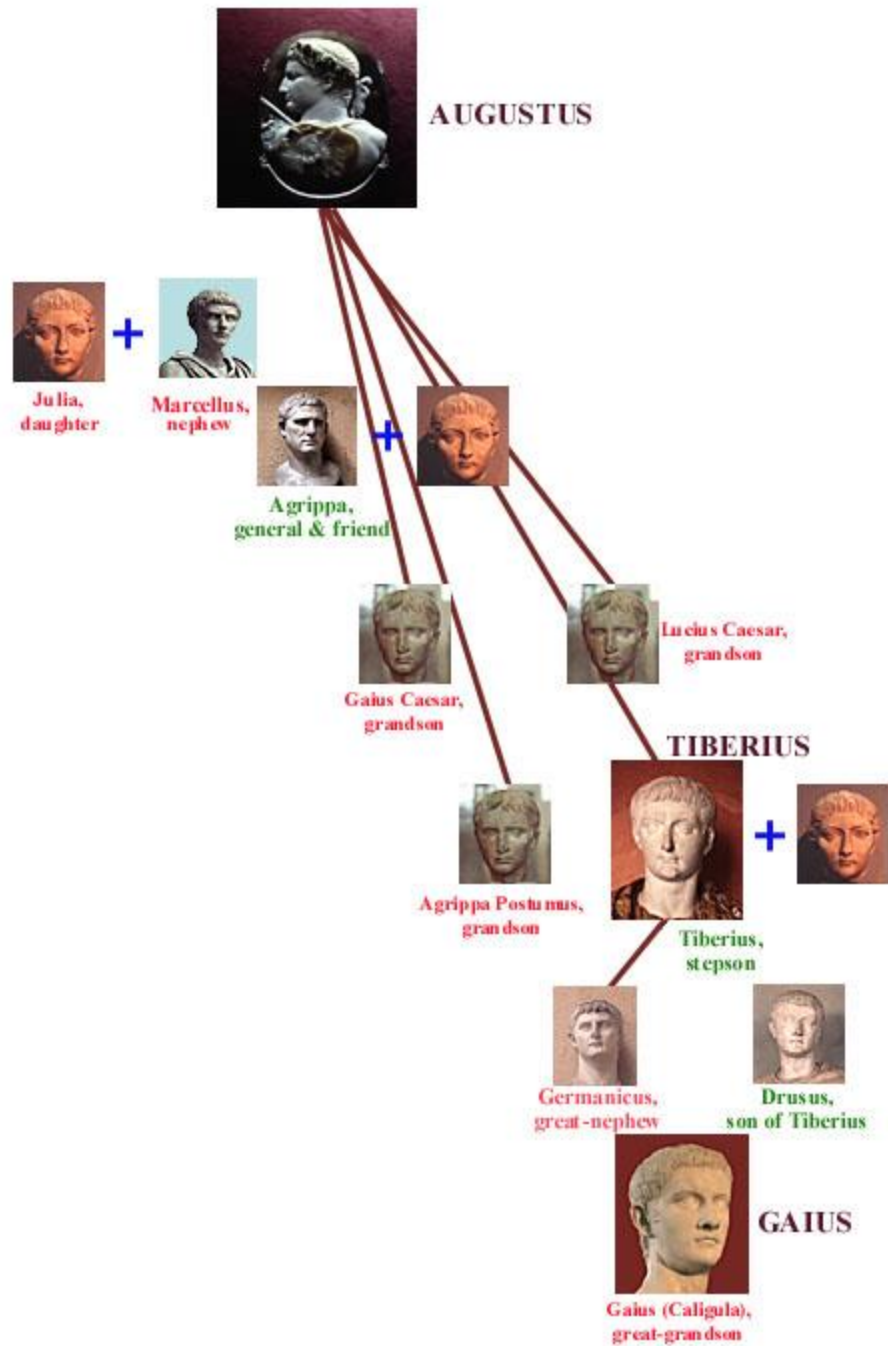


**Marcus  
Agrippa  
General**

married to  
Julia after  
death of  
Marcellus

5 children

died 12 BC







Cameo of Roman eagle





Gemma Augustea (7.5" x 9")  
illustrates one moment in the Julio Claudian succession









1. A central figure, possibly a woman, being carried or supported by others.
2. A figure standing behind the central figure, possibly a deity or a warrior.
3. A figure on the right side of the upper panel, holding a staff or scepter.
4. A figure on the left side of the upper panel, holding a staff or scepter.
5. A figure on the right side of the upper panel, holding a staff or scepter.
6. A figure on the right side of the upper panel, holding a staff or scepter.
7. A figure on the left side of the upper panel, holding a staff or scepter.
8. A figure in the center of the upper panel, holding a staff or scepter.
9. A figure on the right side of the upper panel, holding a staff or scepter.
10. A figure on the right side of the upper panel, holding a staff or scepter.
11. A figure on the left side of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
12. A figure on the right side of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
13. A figure in the center of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
14. A figure on the right side of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
15. A figure in the center of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
16. A figure on the left side of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
17. A figure on the left side of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
18. A figure on the left side of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
19. A figure on the left side of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.
20. A figure on the left side of the lower panel, holding a staff or scepter.

**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 Tiberius) 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



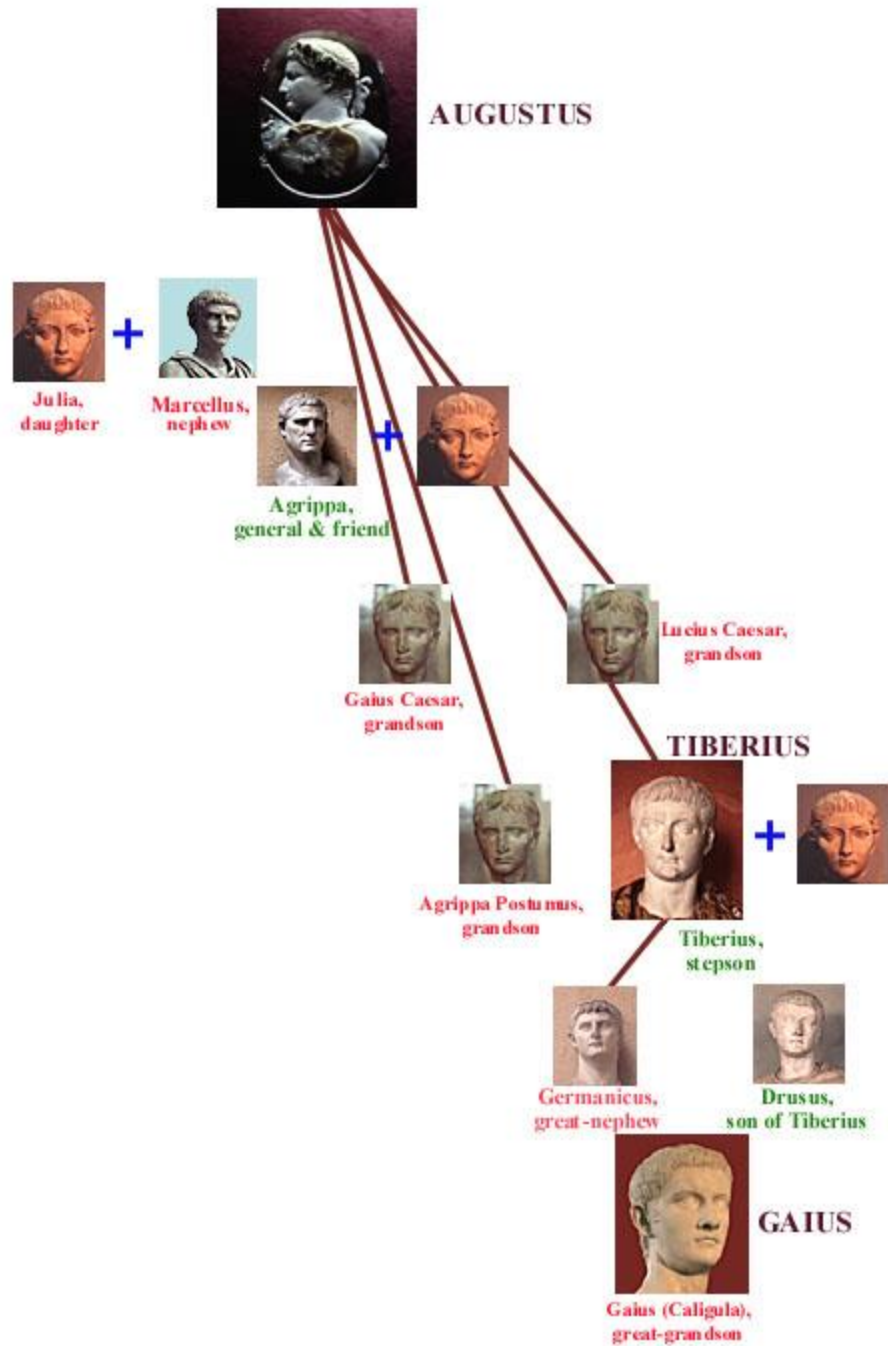


Gemma Augustea





Tiberius and Germanicus as successors to Augustus



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

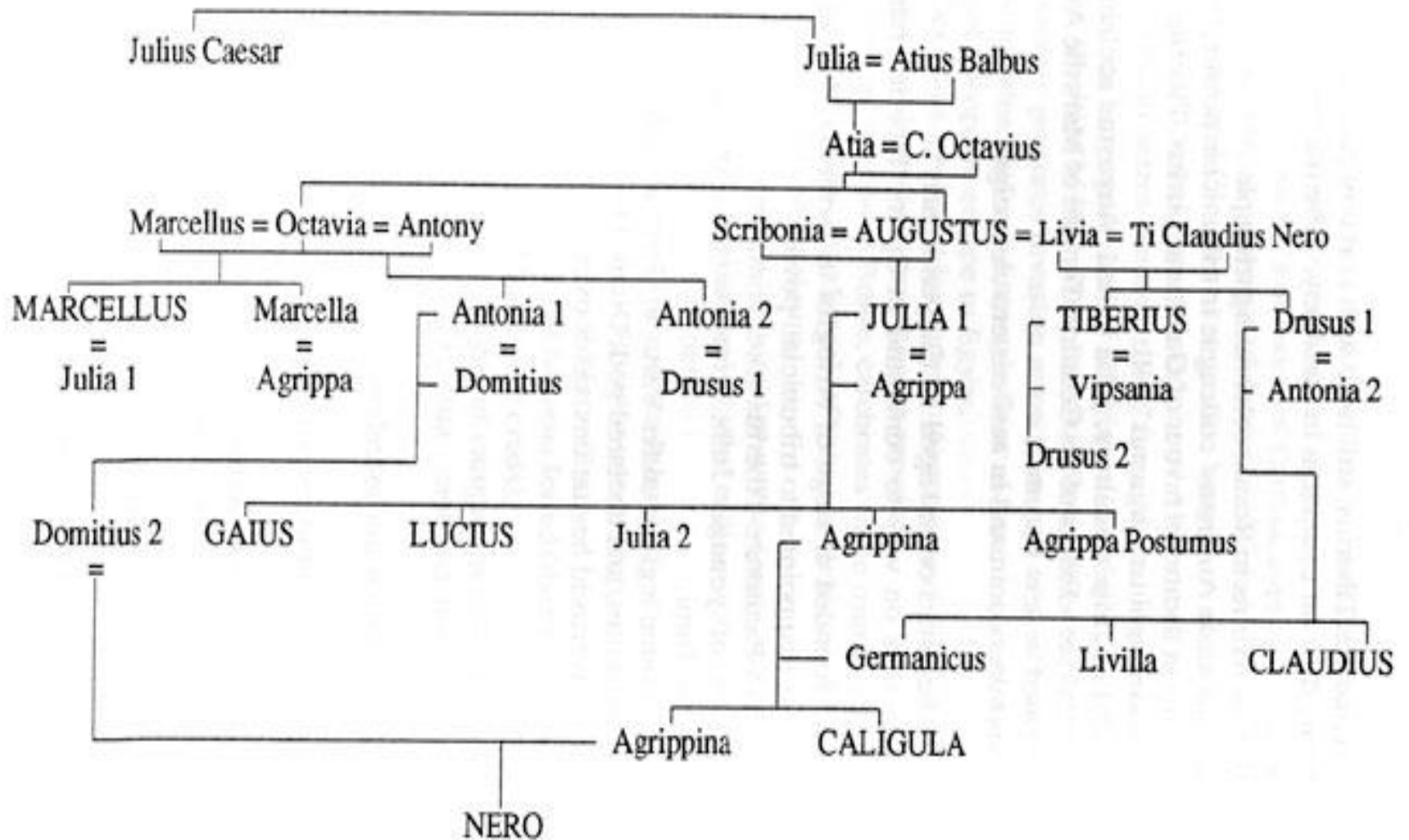
**GERMANICUS :**

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



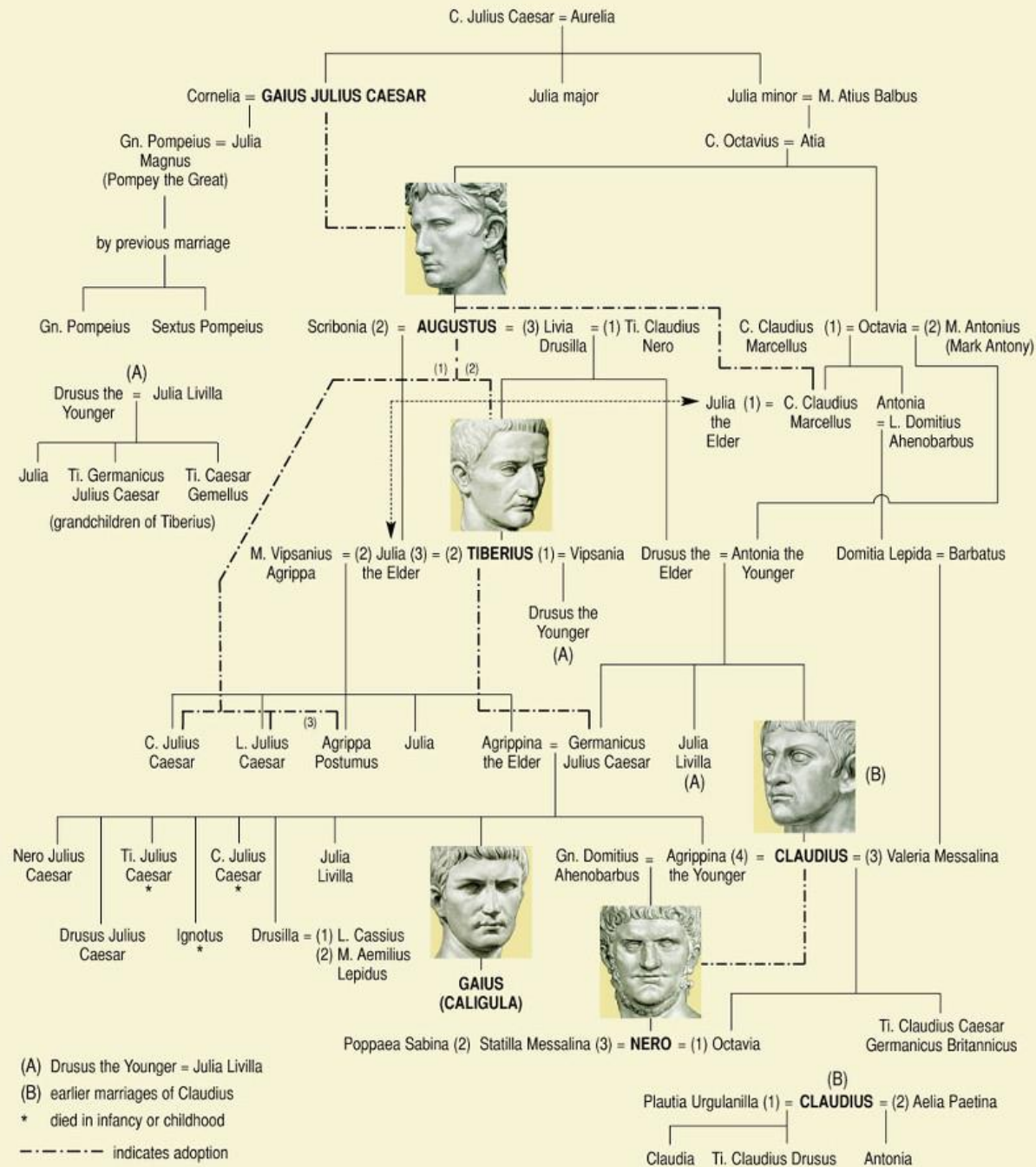


Tiberius

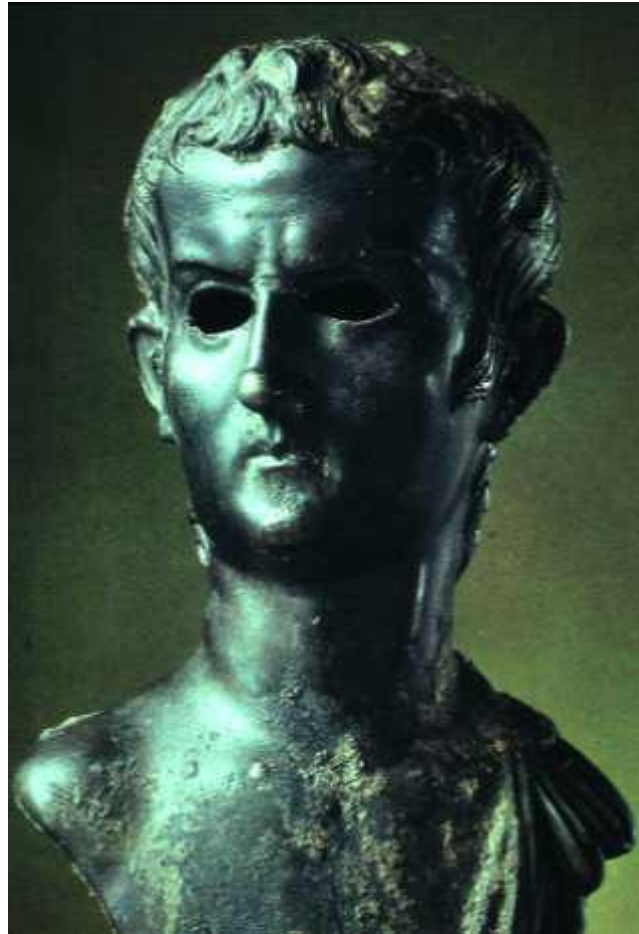




# The Julio-Claudian Dynasty



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

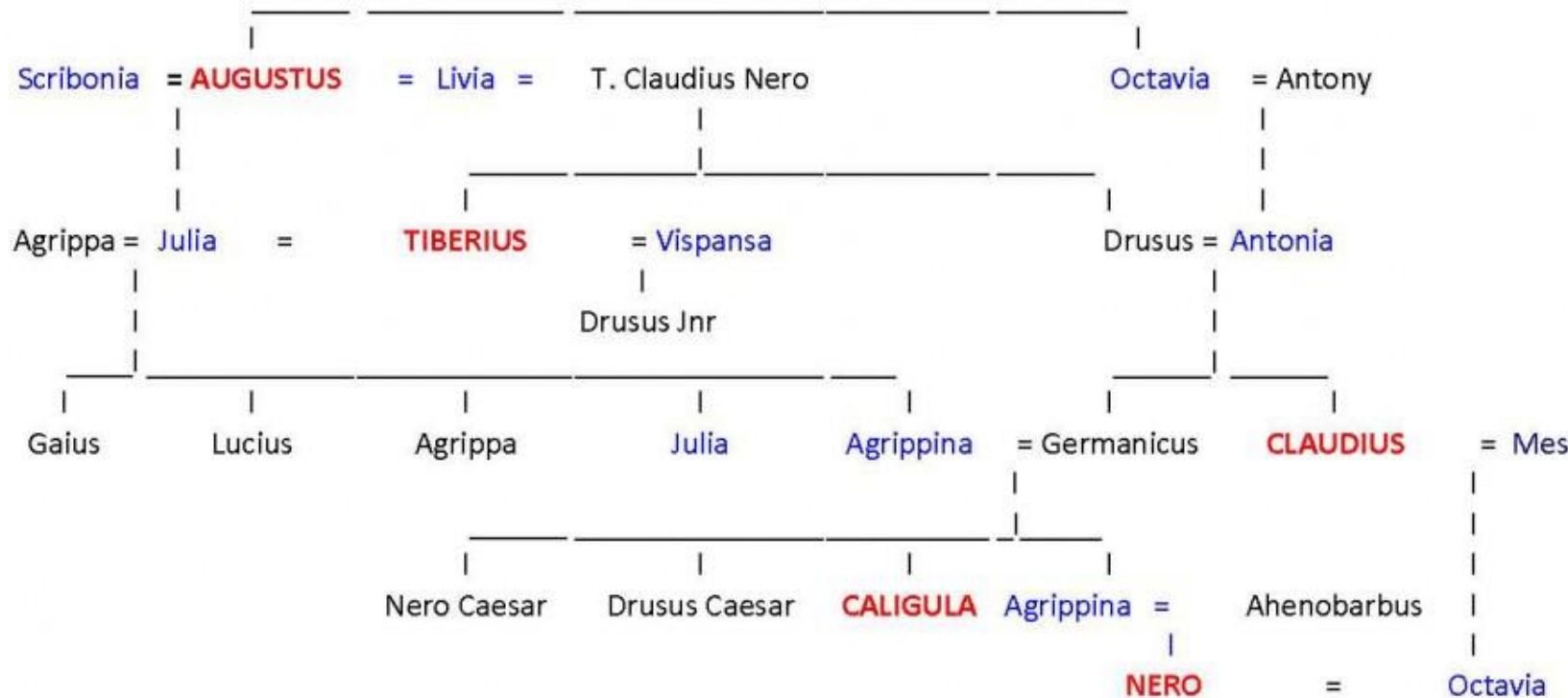




Caligula

## THE JULIO-CLAUDIANS

(27 BC - AD 68)



## THE PRINCIPATE

(First Dynasty of Roman Emperors)

AUGUSTUS  
TIBERIUS  
CALIGULA  
CLAUDIUS  
NERO

27 BC - AD14  
AD 14 - 37  
AD 37 - 41  
AD 41 - 54  
AD 54 - 68

cause of death

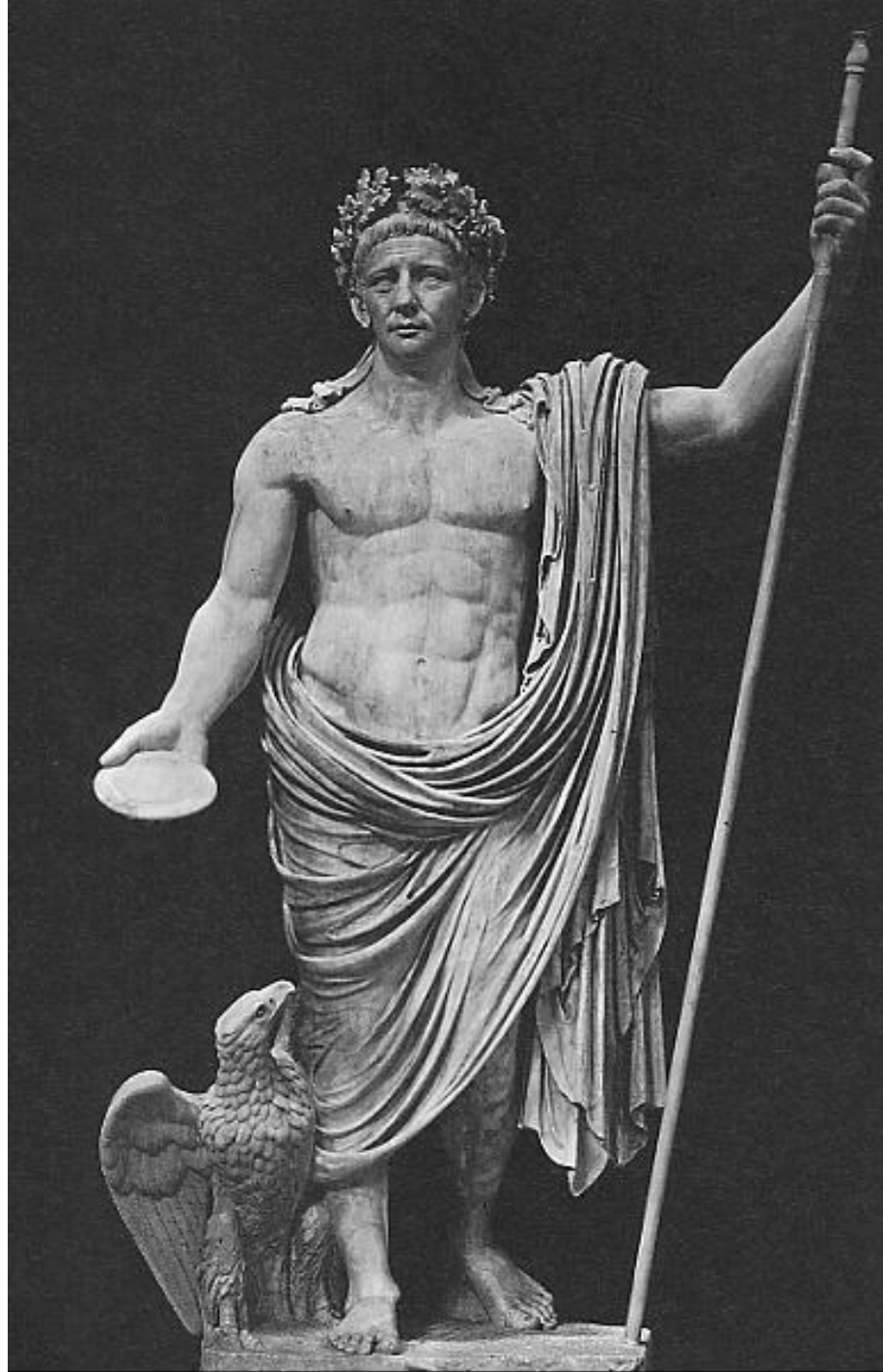
old age  
old age  
assassinated  
poisoned ?  
suicide



Claudius



Claudius  
as deity





**NERO (54-68)** : last of Julio  
Claudian dynasty

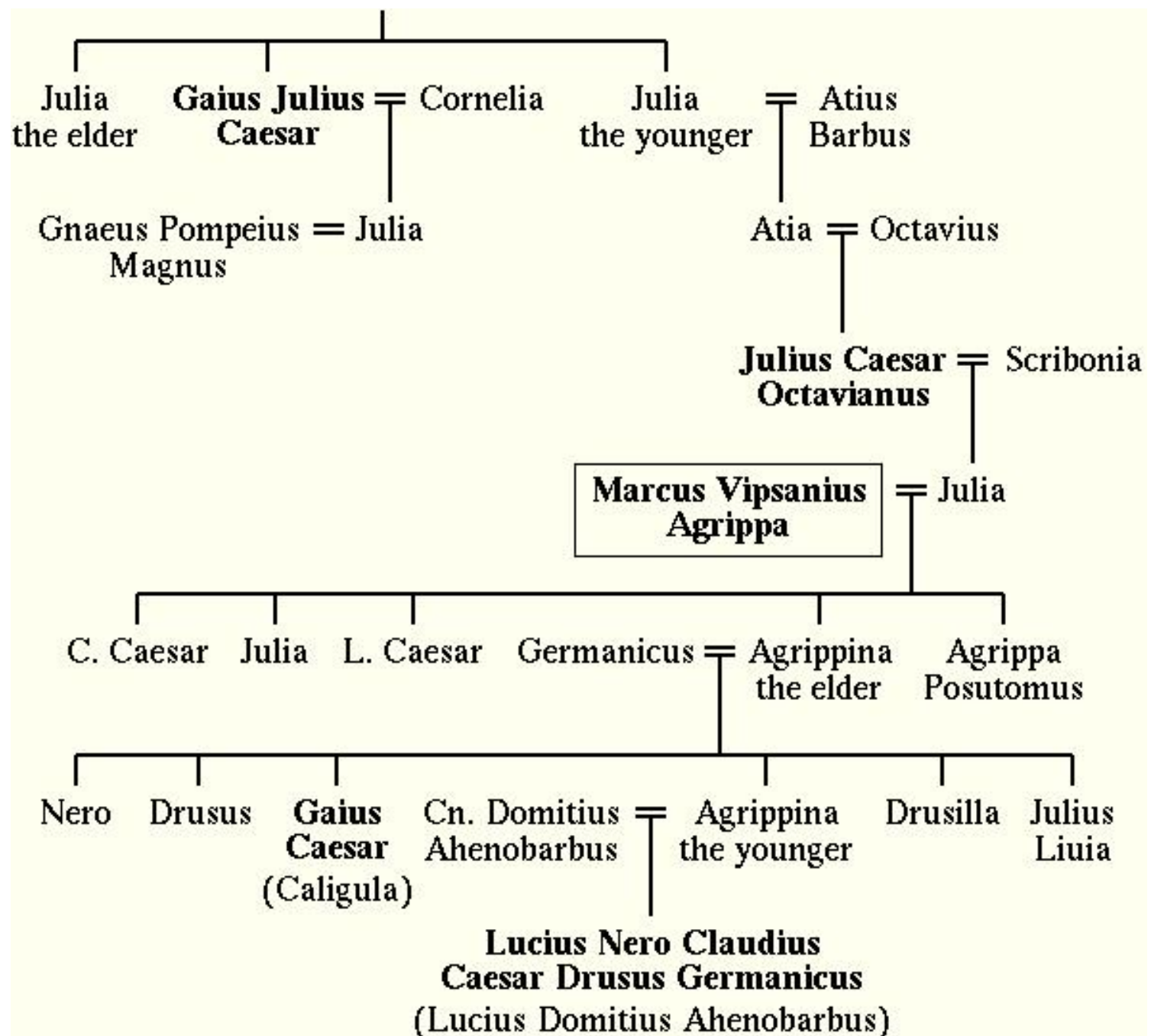
Prof. Sbragia lecture Thursday

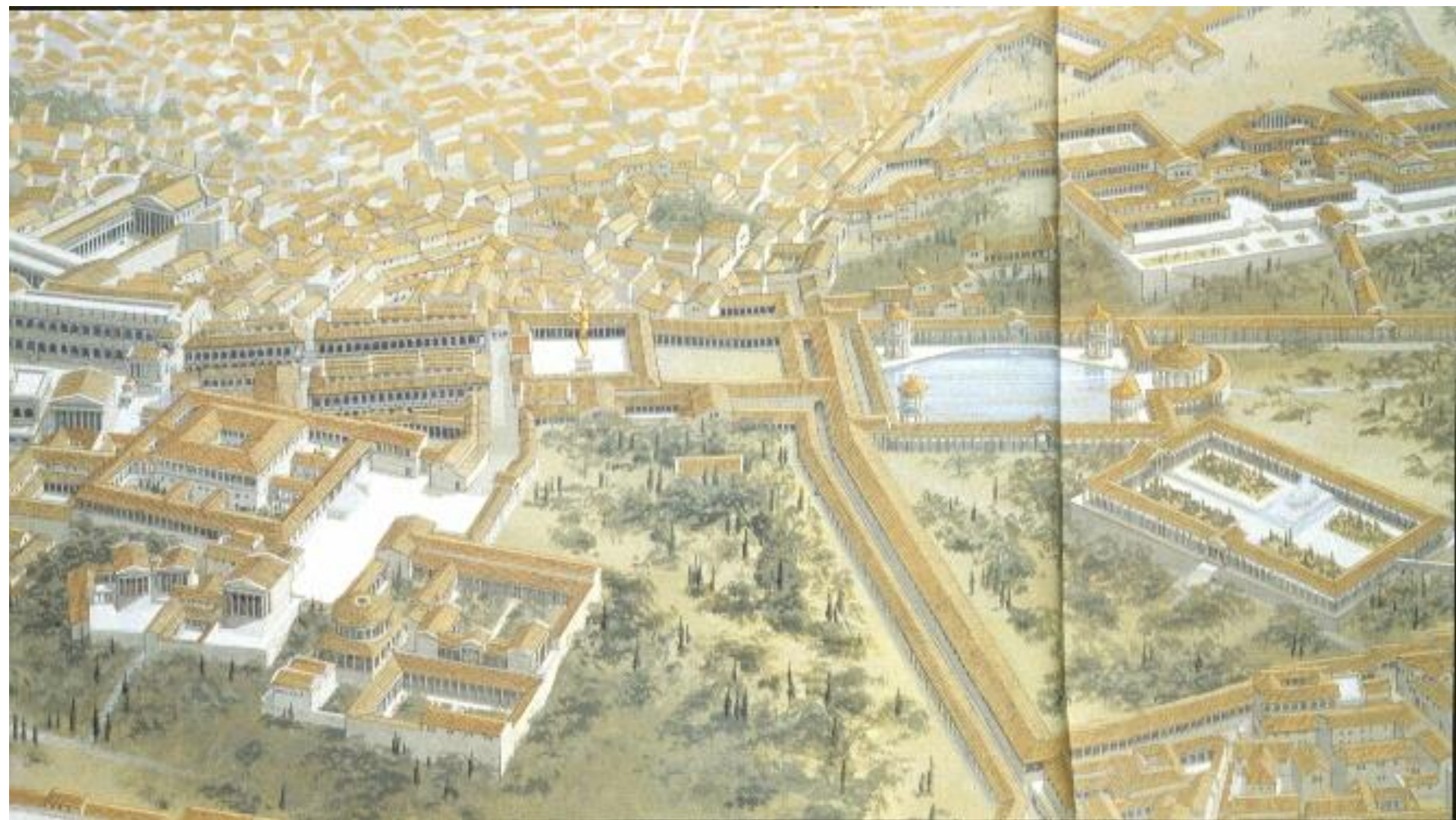
biography in  
TACITUS' ANNALS

(reading for Friday)









**Nero's Golden House**

**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**

**VESPASIAN (69-79)** takes power by military force

**Colosseum** on site of Nero's lake; gladiatorial games



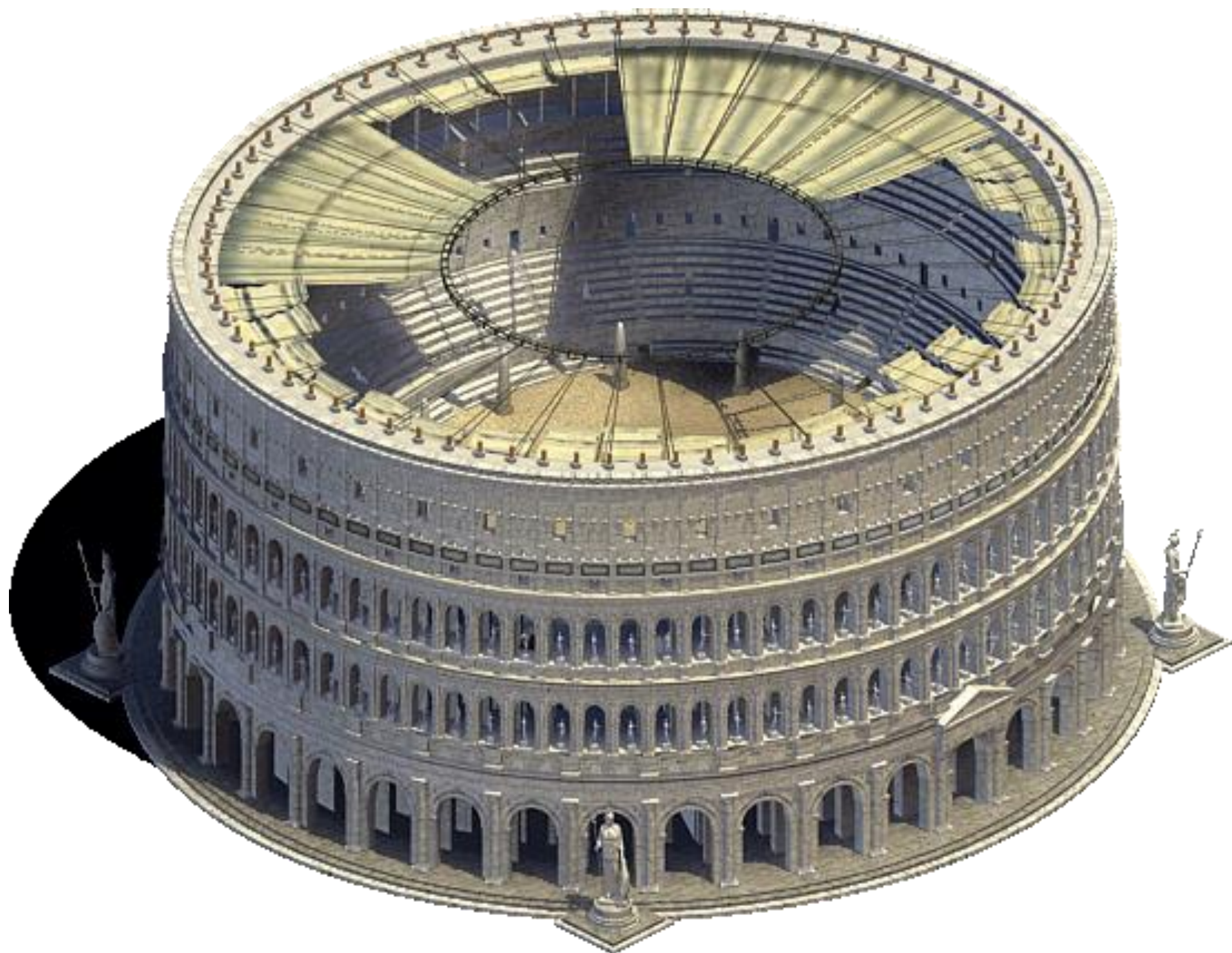


**Vespasian**

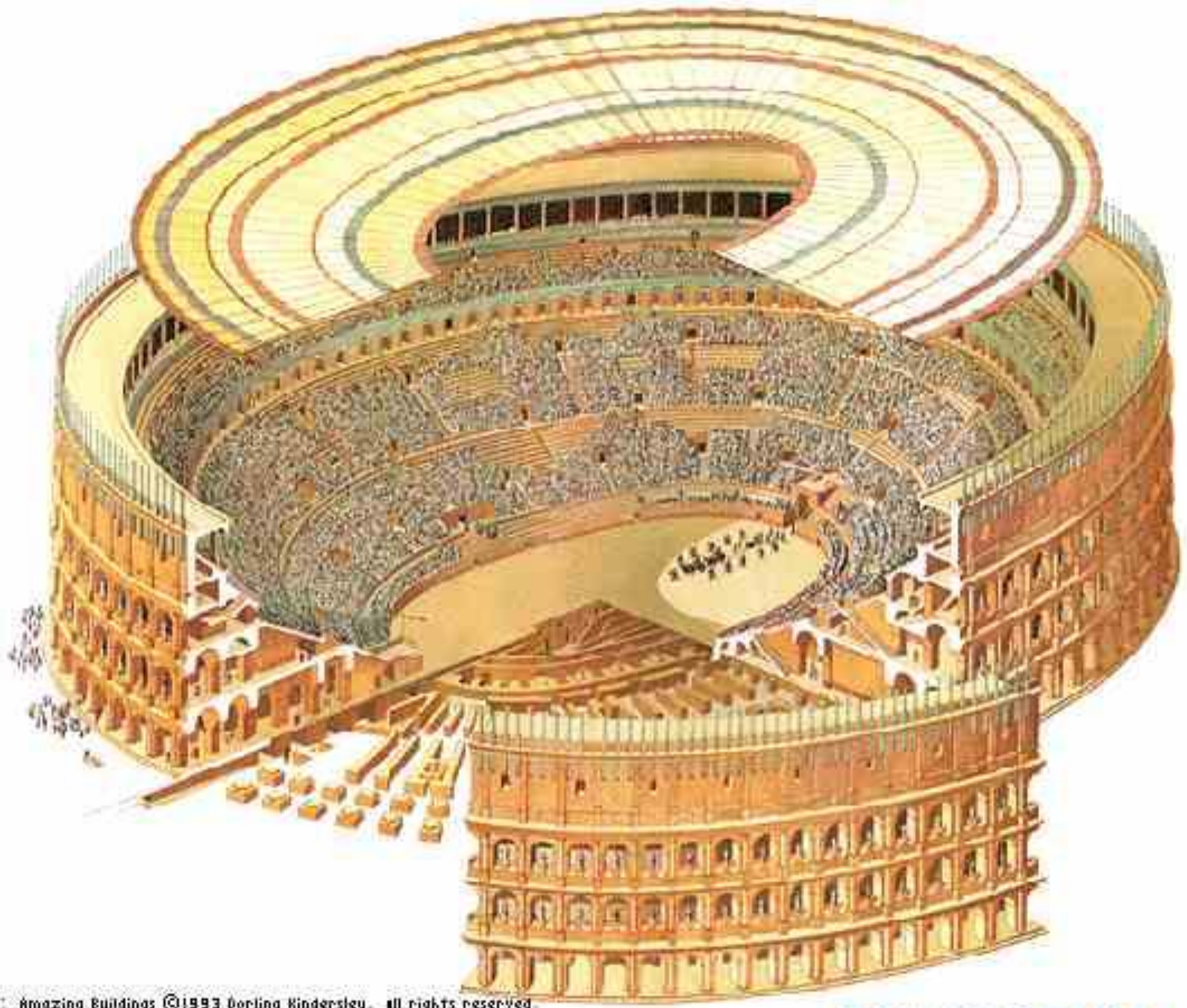












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COLOSSEUM

## **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

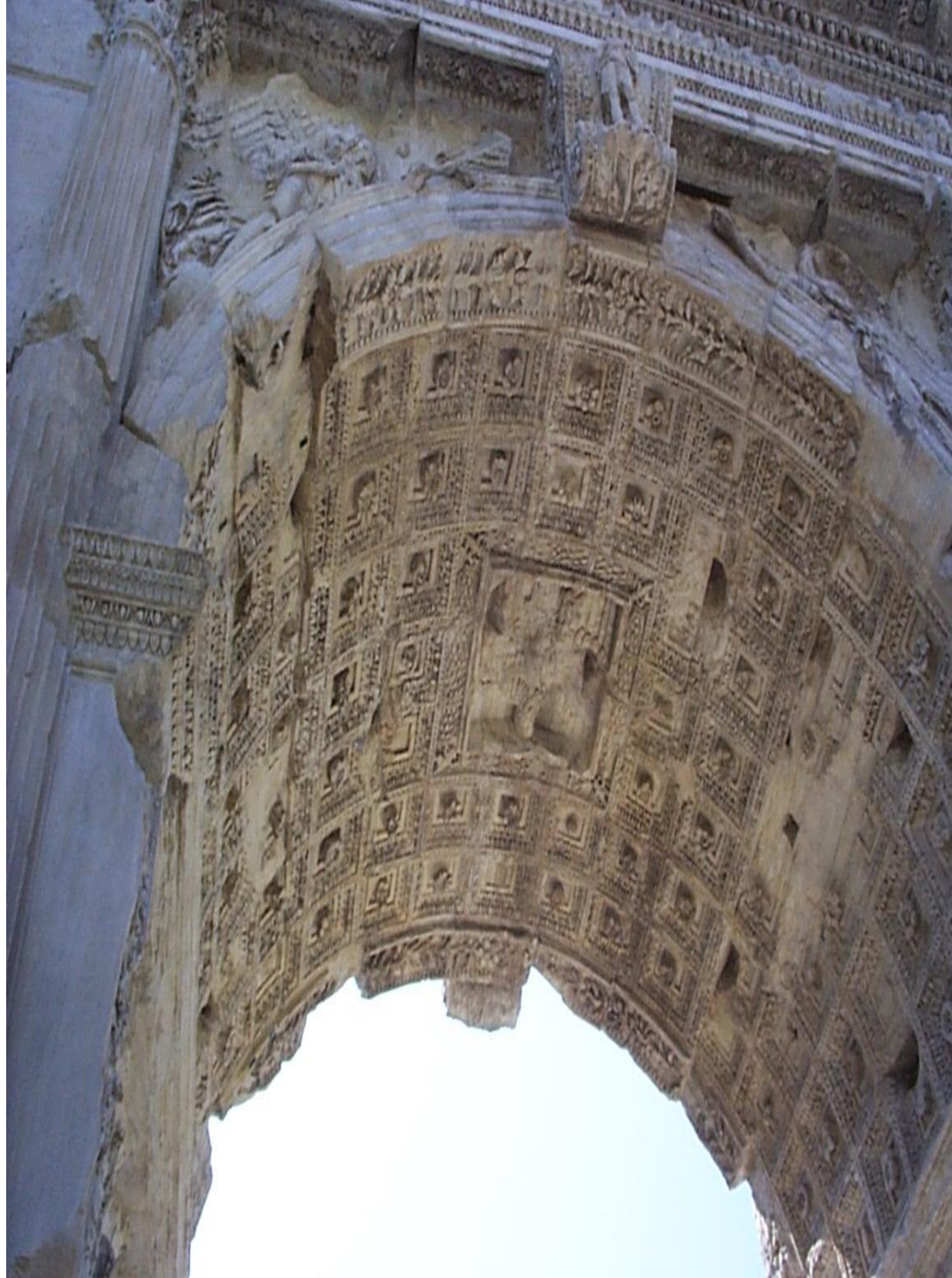
















IN OMNIBUS RELIGIONIS AC VERTUTIS MONUMENTVM  
VETUSTATE EDITIONE  
PIVS SEPTIMVS PONTIFEX MAX  
NOBIS CERNENS PRISCVM DIGNVM PLACUIT  
FVLGIVS SECVS ACQVE IVSSIT  
ANNO SACRI PRINCIPATVS EIVS XXIII





## **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"

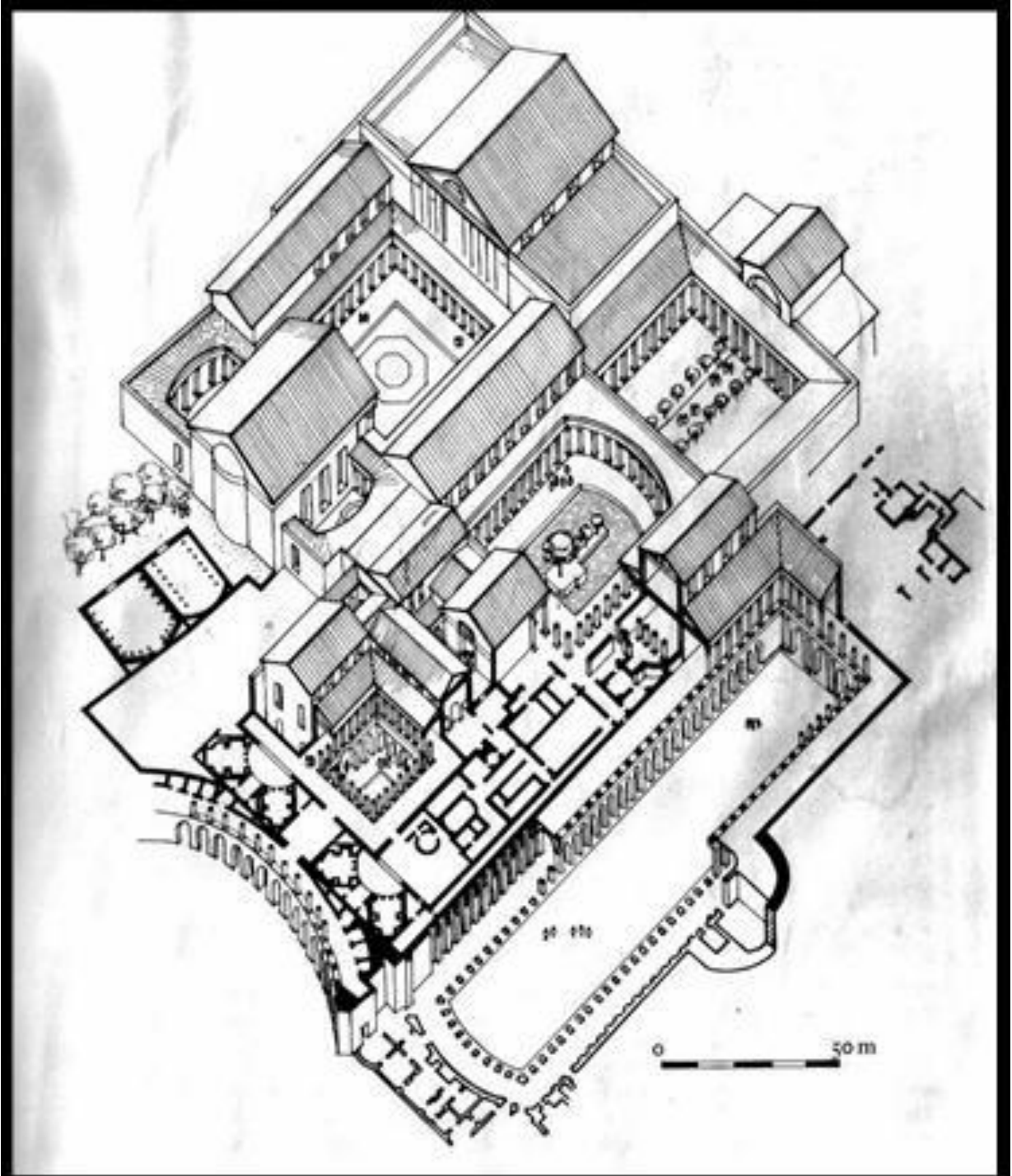
**DAMNATIO MEMORIAE:** damnation of memory  
of Domitian due his many crimes

**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



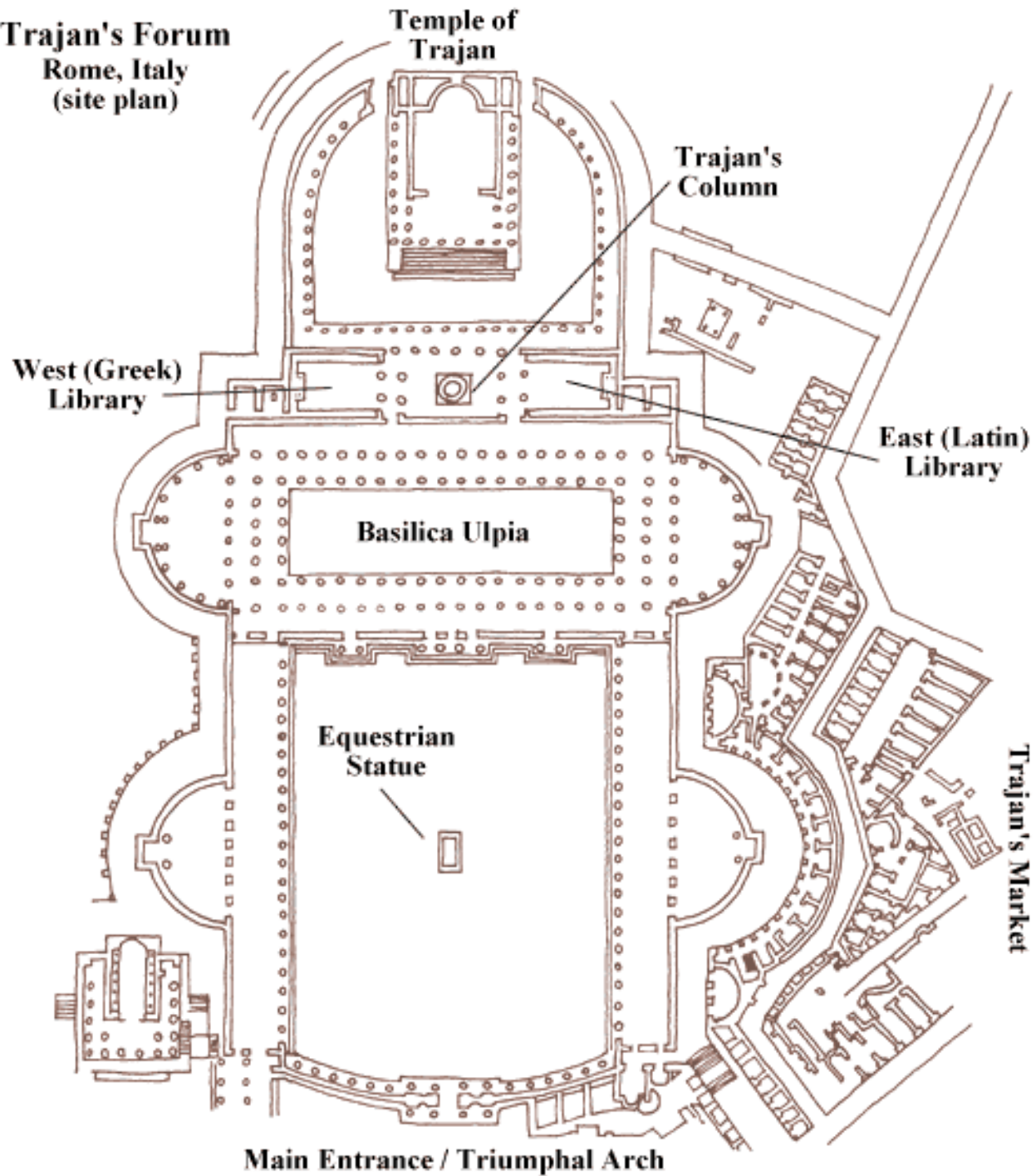
# Forum of Trajan







**Trajan's Forum**  
Rome, Italy  
(site plan)





# Forum of Trajan model













# Column of Trajan

Illustrating  
his wars in  
Dacia





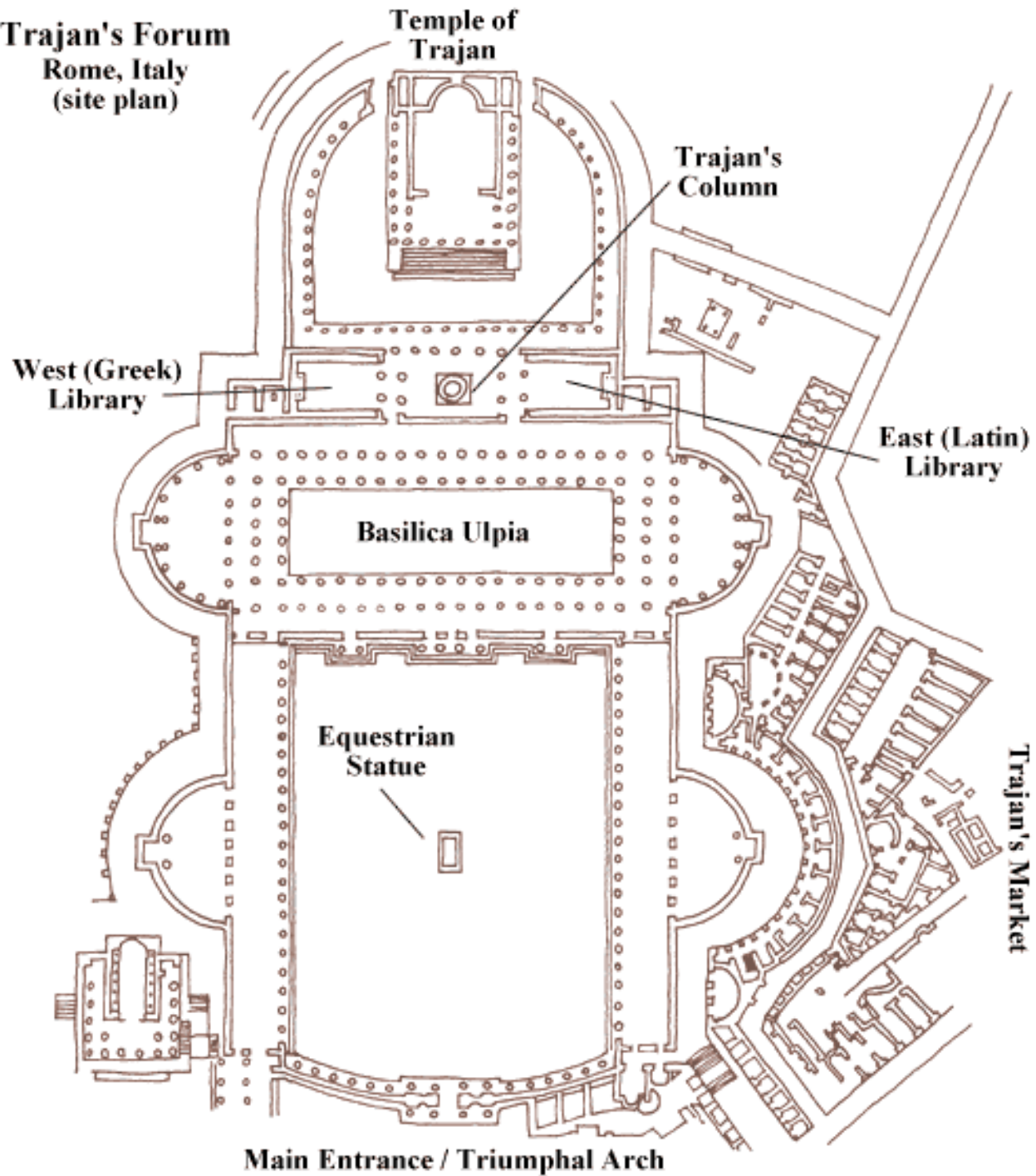


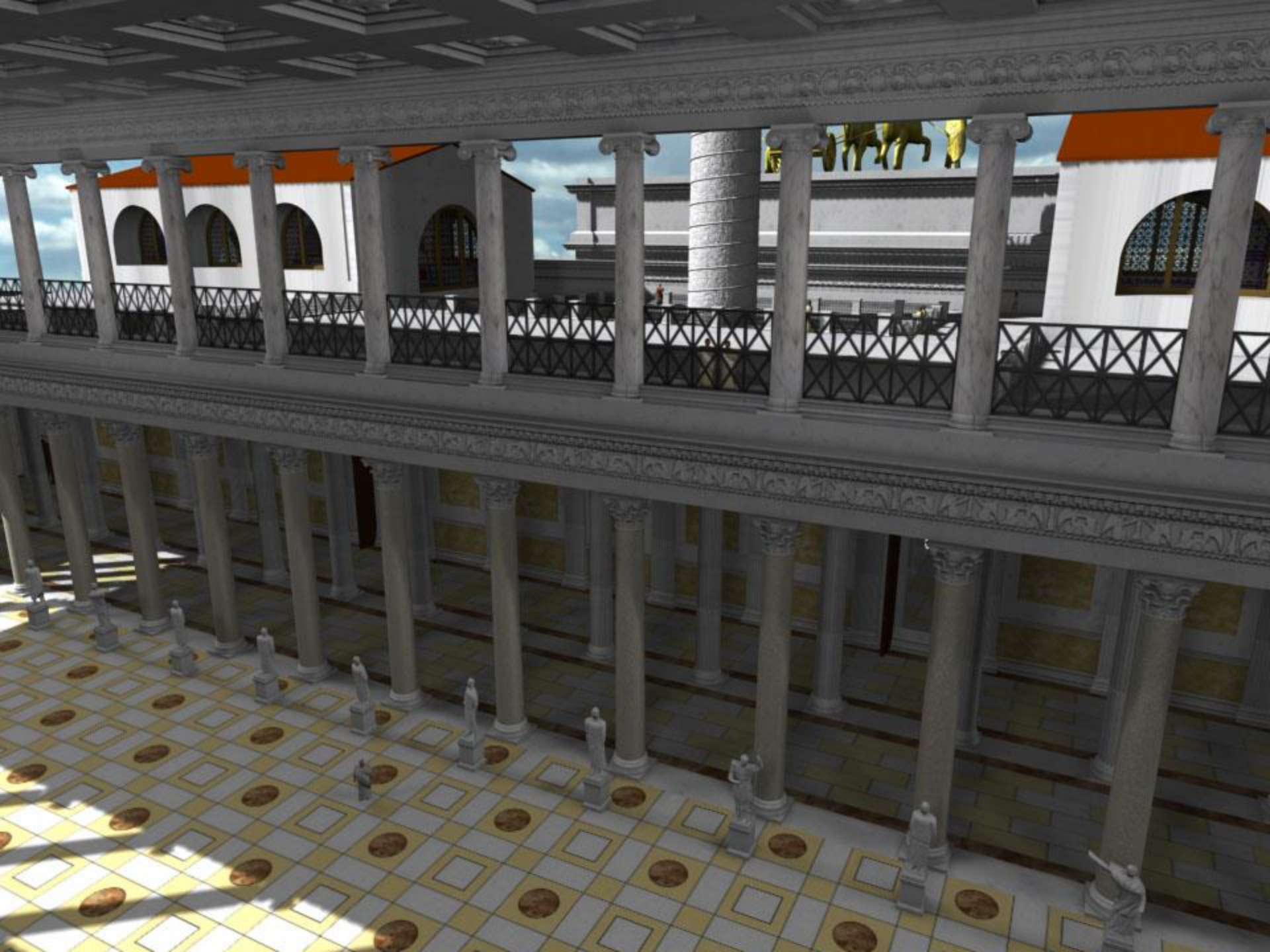
Scene from Trajan's column





**Trajan's Forum**  
Rome, Italy  
(site plan)









# 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



# Hadrian's Wall northern 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

18<sup>th</sup> 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



