

Figure 7. Plan of the Roman Forum

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| 1. Forum Iulium | 15. Tullianum (prison) |
| 2. Forum of Nerva | 16. Rostra |
| 3. Forum of Peace (Vespasian) | 17. Temple of Julius Caesar |
| 4. Temple of Peace | 18. Arch of Augustus |
| 5. Library of Peace | 19. Temple of Vesta |
| 6. Basilica of Constantine | 20. Regia |
| 7. Porticoed annex to the Curia | 21. Temple of Saturn |
| 8. Curia | 22. Basilica Iulia |
| 9. Basilica Aemilia | 23. Temple of Castor |
| 10. Temple of Antoninus and Faustina | 24. Fountain of Juturna |
| 11. Tabularium (archives) | 25. House of the Vestals |
| 12. Temple of Vespasian | 26. Pearl Dealers' Portico |
| 13. Temple of Concord | 27. Graecostadium (shops) |
| 14. Arch of Septimius Severus | 28. Vestibule of the Imperial Palace |

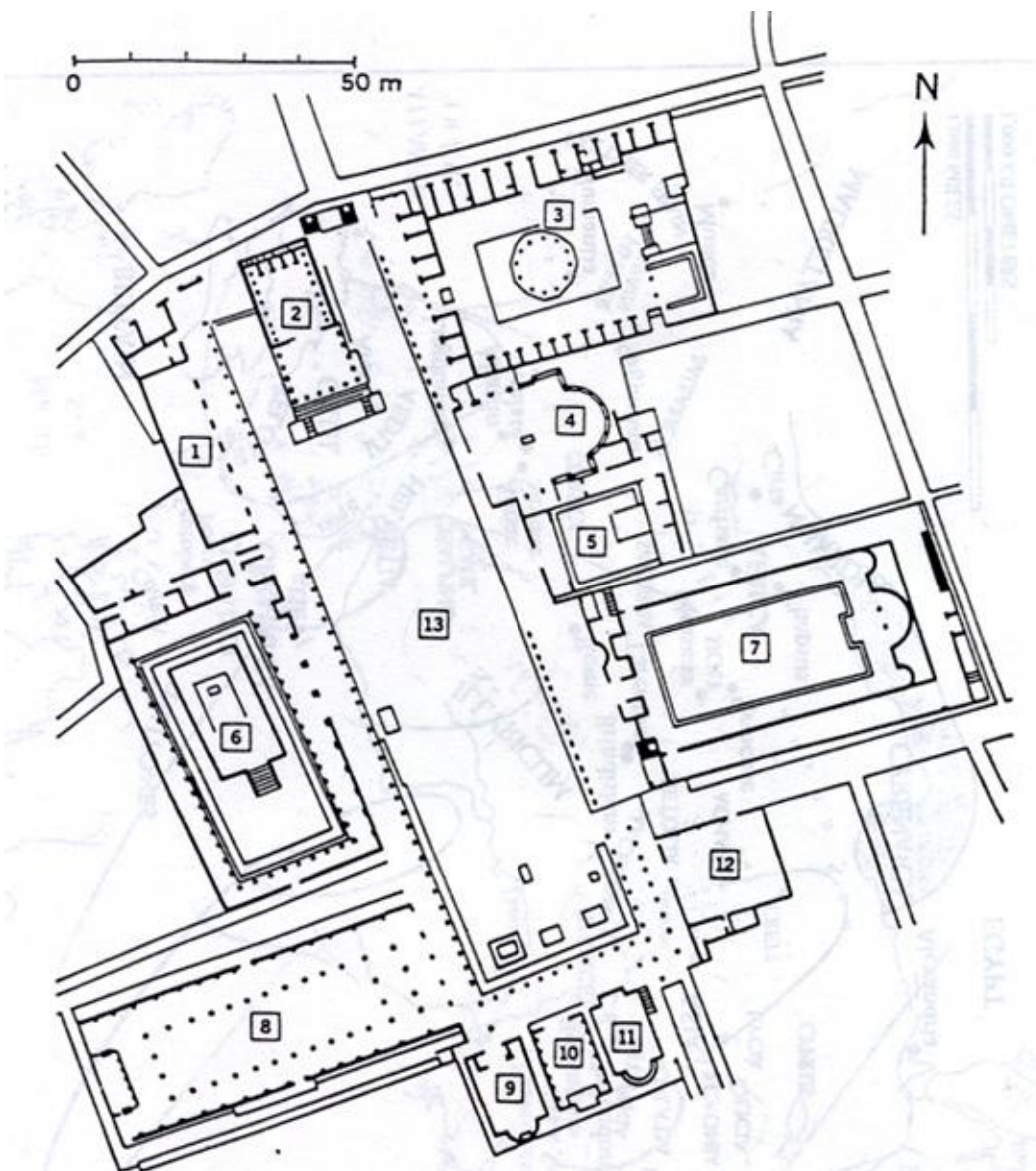


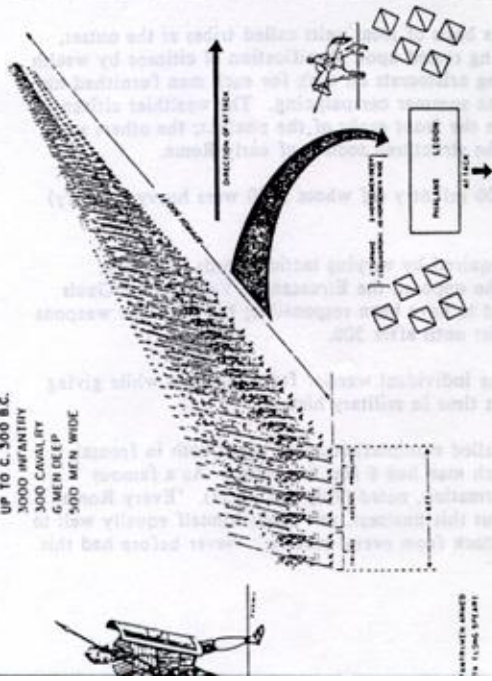
Figure 11. Plan of the Forum at Pompeii

For the Library, following L. Richardson, Jr., *Archaeology* 30 (1977): 400

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Warehouse | 8. Basilica |
| 2. Capitol | 9. Office of the Aediles |
| 3. Market | 10. Curia |
| 4. Public Library | 11. Office of the Duumviri |
| 5. Temple of Vespasian (?) | 12. Comitium (assembly place) |
| 6. Temple of Apollo | 13. Forum |
| 7. Building of Eumachia | |

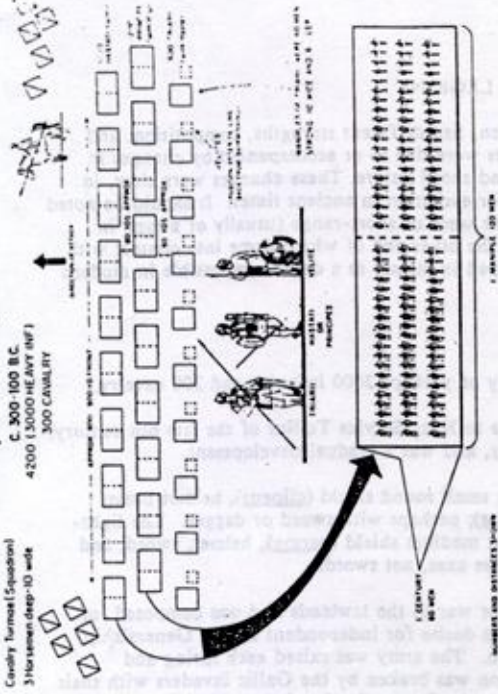
Phalanx Legion

UP TO C. 300 B.C.
 3000 INFANTRY
 300 CAVALRY
 6 MEN DEEP
 500 MEN WIDE



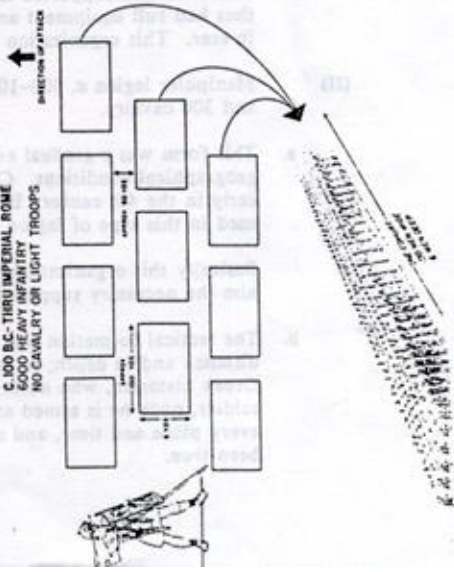
Manipular Legion

C. 300-100 B.C.
 4200 15000-HEAVY INF.
 300 CAVALRY

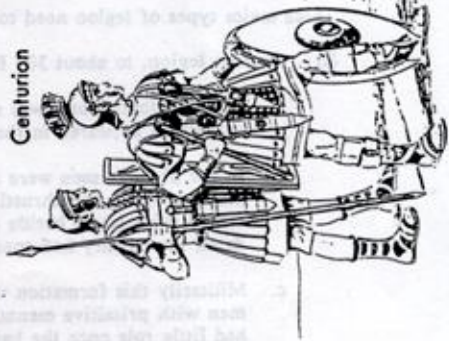


Cohortal Legion

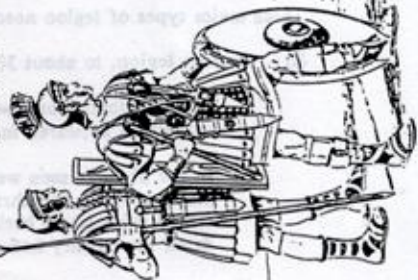
C. 100 B.C.-THRU IMPERIAL ROME
 5000 HEAVY INFANTRY
 NO CAVALRY OR LIGHT TROOPS



Legionnaire



Centurion



Eagle Bearer



Vellite



ROMAN LEGIONS

The Roman legion, like the U. S. infantry division, had different strengths, composition, and tactical patterns at different times. Some changes were due to or accompanied by changes in weapons; some were due to factors of political and social nature. These changes were slow, in keeping with the slow tempo of political and other evolution in ancient times. It should be noted in general in ancient military history that weapons were of short-range (usually of a type in which the wielder had one hand on the weapon, the other end of which came into contact with the enemy), and that men accordingly were grouped in masses to a degree impossible in modern times.

Three major types of legion need to be noted:

- (I) Phalanx legion, to about 300 B.C.; originally of perhaps 3000 infantry and 300 cavalry.
 - a. The developed form was said to be due to King Servius Tullius of the late 6th century; actually it appeared in the next century, and was a gradual development.
 - b. In the phalanx men were armed with a small round shield (clipeus), helmet breast plate, greaves, and thrusting spear (hasta); perhaps with sword or dagger. The light-armed skirmishers beside the legion had medium shield (parma), helmet, sword, and darts; the cavalry had spears and at times axes, not swords.
 - c. Militarily this formation was suitable for war in the lowlands and was composed of men with primitive mental standards, no desire for independent action. Generalship had little role once the battle was begun. The army was raised each spring and discharged each fall. This type of legion was broken by the Gallic invaders with their large cutting swords and fierce charge at the famous battle of the Allia River (387 B.C.).
 - d. Politically, the army was raised on the basis of local units called tribes at the outset, then, in its developed form, its drafting rested upon classification of citizens by wealth into five classes (plus the horse owning aristocrats on top); for each man furnished his own arms and supported himself in the summer campaigning. The wealthier citizens thus had full equipment and served in the front ranks of the phalanx; the others stood in rear. This organization reflected the structured society of early Rome.
- (II) Manipular legion c. 300-100 B.C., 4200 infantry (of whom 3000 were heavy infantry) and 300 cavalry.
 - a. This form was a gradual evolution, required by varying tactical needs in diverse geographical conditions. Camillus (who opposed the Etruscan of Veii and the Gauls early in the 4th century B.C.) was said to have been responsible; but the basic weapons used in this type of legion did not exist until after 300.

Basically this organization liberated the individual warrior from the mass while giving him the necessary support for the first time in military history.
 - b. The tactical formation was of units (called maniples) standing apart both in frontal distance and in depth; in each unit each man had 6 feet for action. As a famous Greek historian, who observed this formation, noted (Polybius 18.33). "Every Roman soldier, once he is armed and sets about this business, can adapt himself equally well to every place and time, and can meet attack from every quarter." Never before had this been true.

Such a formation was based both on the necessary weapons (pilum and gladius, see above Sword and Pike) and on the training of the men.

The maniples were arranged in 3 waves of 10 maniples each in a checker-board fashion. The first rank or wave was called that of the hastati, the youngest, 1200 strong; the second, mature men, was called the principes, also 1200 strong--both of these organized 20 men wide and 6 men deep in a maniple--and the third or reserve wave was called the triarii, the older warriors, 600 strong.

The front two waves were armed with sword, pilum, a shield (oval in shape, about 4 feet by 20 feet, made of wood, with a hide external covering and metal strips inside to strengthen it). Each maniple had two centurions, the one to the right in command, the one on the left flank as a second-in-command. Each maniple may be estimated to have covered about 19 by 7 yards in depth; distance between maniples apparently was the same, or 19 yards. This unit was as deep or deeper than a Greek phalanx, but the rear wave was not committed tactically or psychologically to the combat and could maneuver or reinforce as needed; in the event the front waves were defeated, its grizzled veterans could open out to a 3-man deep line with their spears and cover the retreat of the men in front to the Roman camp (fortified from the early 3rd century onwards). Since ancient armies lacked long-range weapons, it was very rare that they could cover themselves in case of defeat and cut their losses below complete annihilation.

In battle the hastati fired their pila in a volley and closed; apparently the principes fired over their head as they did so. The Roman armies commonly engaged in frontal attack and sought to penetrate on a broad front; after the approach (called cursus in military accounts) they could engage in one assault (impetus) after another. The type of weapons and the training of the men led generals always to seek the offensive if at all possible.

Auxiliary units consisted of Balearic slingers, Cretan archers, Spanish light cavalry and infantry, and Numidian cavalry.

Militarily, the manipular legion provided independent units capable of flanking and penetrating enemy gaps; the individual warrior was trained to operate, on a smaller scale, in much the same manner. Down to the time of Scipio Africanus, who eventually defeated Hannibal (late 3d century B.C.), the formation tended to be "stiff", and the troops in a sense reserve troops inasmuch as they were called up only in time of war. In Spain and in Africa they became more professional, and their formation more supple under the leadership of Scipio Africanus. In meeting the phalanx of the Hellenistic world (the era after Alexander) the legion won every time.

Against barbarians, the legionaries checked the enemy assault by a volley of pila, then closed; and the battle became one of sword play in which the civilized endurance of the Romans (a weapon in itself always of the civilized as against the uncivilized) carried the day. Against the phalanx, a Roman faced 2 spearbearers of the phalanx front line (and the lines of 5 men deep had spears projecting against him); here he had to hack and break enemy spears while retreating and maneuvering until gaps could be opened. Then the legionaries could play havoc in the phalanx ranks.

1. Politically, the manipular legion reflected the rise of a more unified Roman state, the pay of troops so they could serve throughout the year (done from about 396 B.C. onwards), and the fact that almost all property-holding men of Rome were subject to the draft to serve in this unit. The men of the manipular legion were the first in history to rely primarily upon the sword, rather than the spear; they were also the first
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to be placed in a tactical formation on the battlefield in which they operated in a relatively independent fashion. Only citizens who felt their own importance and relative independence could have done so.

III. Cohortal legion, from 100 B.C. on; 6000 infantry, no cavalry or light-armed within its framework.

a. The introduction of this type was presaged across the 2nd century B.C. but it was consolidated by the general C. Marius in the last years of the century. The needs of the Roman empire, which now embraced virtual control of all the Mediterranean, and the foreign threats affecting this vast region made considerable military reorganization a requisite. Tactically, Marius discovered that the maniples were too many and too small to met the thrusts of Gallic barbarians.

b. This form of legion had 10 cohorts, arranged in as many waves as a general thought necessary. Three were still common but 2 also turn up; and various parts of the battle line could be arranged differently, with 1 in one area, and 3 in another of greater danger. The men stood 6 deep; a cohort may be estimated to have covered about 70 yards front by 6 yards deep; a legion with 4 cohorts in the front wave and 3 lines deep might extend over 500 yards front by 260 yards deep.

All men now had the same arms, i.e., swords and javelins; the latter now had as great weight in battle as the sword. Besides the great shield, men wore a leather jerkin (metal at times for the officers or later for many soldiers).

Generals preferred the offensive, might well attack on wings or seek to reach the enemy's rear, and rarely engaged in battle themselves in view of the need to keep control over the whole battlefield. While no new weapons marked this stage, training in gladiatorial techniques and virtual professionalization of the military increased the utility of the weapons already known.

Cavalry and light-armed troops were furnished by non-Roman auxiliary units; the cavalry had a spear, and if light no sword.

c. Militarily this unit was the most supple of ancient times. Caesar, its greatest commander, made no innovations, but used it deftly; thanks in part to the reorganization of the train so that troops carried their own basic necessities (the Marian "mules") he and others could march swiftly. Exploratores and cavalry units now reconnoitered up to 20 miles ahead of the main body (a remarkable feat, for ancient armies to this point quite often blundered into a meeting battle).

Troops were long-service, grouped in professional units of permanent nature, each with its silver eagle as emblem; unit loyalty was a basic quality.

d. Politically, armies were now made up of volunteers and landless men, raised by a general and so obedient to him even against the state (as in the cases of Sulla and Caesar); in this chaos eventually Augustus rose and by 27 B.C. had established a new political system which we call the Roman empire, in which troops took their oath to the "emperor" and were his basic support. By the very needs of the Roman world the troops became professionals; and along with a great many other factors the military reorganization of the late 2nd-1st centuries B.C. helped bring the downfall of the Republic.

4. Government of the Few

A. Concepts of Government

res privata: "Private Affairs" (literally, "the Private Thing").

res publica: "Public Affairs" (literally, "the Public Thing"). **The Roman State, Republic.** Also: Constitution, Politics, Government. Note that *res publica* (often abbreviated *r. p.*) denotes the Roman State as an abstract concept: it can be served, managed, threatened, defended, owned, and lost; but it cannot act. The Roman State as an acting, sovereign entity—e.g., collecting taxes, going to war, or concluding a treaty with another state—is always the *populus Romanus*, the Roman People.

mos (maiorum): "Custom, Tradition (of the Ancestors)." Of overriding importance in private and public life.

dignitas ("Reputation, Prestige"): The private and public respect due to one's ancestry and personal achievements.

auctoritas ("Influence, personal authority"): The private and public influence due to one's ancestry and force of personality; the ability to get things done merely by virtue of one's advice, suggestion, or opinion.

potestas ("Power"): The legally defined and limited powers of a holder of public office; in the private sphere (*res privata*), the power of the *pater familias* over his household. Power (as opposed to *auctoritas*) accumulated and exercised by a *private* citizen in the public sphere to a degree where he is able to force fellow citizens against their will is considered illegitimate, un-republican, and known as *potentia*.

res gestae ("Things Done"): Deeds and Achievements in the course of a public career. Military achievements (*gloria*, "Glory") are especially prized.

res novae ("Things New"): in general, anything unconstitutional or revolutionary.

pomerium: The sacred boundary of the inner City of Rome; it did not include, e.g., the Field of Mars (*Campus Martius*). No troops were allowed inside the *pomerium*; the Centuriate Assembly had to meet outside the *pomerium*. The area within the *pomerium*, i.e., the inner City, is legally defined as *domi* ("At Home"), with certain limitations on the powers (esp. regarding capital/ corporal punishment) of Magistrates. The world outside the *pomerium* is defined as *militiae* ("At War"), in a state of permanent martial law.

urbs: The City. In general, the entire City of Rome; in a technical sense, only the Inner City, i.e., the area within the *pomerium*.

Province (*provincia*): A Magistrate's or Promagistrate's allocated task or sphere of duty.

Triumph: A special honor granted by the Senate to a victorious commander (*imperator*). The Triumph consists of a ceremonial entry into and procession through the inner City, with the triumphing general riding in a four-horse chariot and dressed in a gold-embroidered, all-purple toga.

imperator: An honorific title granted to a victorious commander holding *imperium*. The title is bestowed by his army; the ceremony is known as **imperial acclamation**. Being acclaimed *imperator* is a necessary prerequisite for a Triumph, but does not automatically result in one.

Sacrosanctity (*sacrosanctitas*): The inviolability accorded to a Tribune of the Plebs, based on a Great Oath (*lex sacrata*) taken by the entire Roman Plebs in the early 5th century BC and considered binding for all posterity, to the effect that anyone who would do (or threaten) harm and violence to a Tribune was to be held *sacer* ("accursed": i.e., removed from the protection of the human community and consecrated to the Gods Below, hence to be killed with impunity by anyone).

provocatio: The right of every Roman Citizen to appeal against capital or corporal execution (incl. the levying of a fine) by a Magistrate. The Appeal is heard by the Centuriate Assembly (see below, 3.D), whose decision is final. Until 195 BC, *provocatio* was possible only within the *pomerium* (i.e., not outside the City), and not against a Dictator. *N.B.*: There is no appeal against a verdict in a Trial by Assembly or (since the 2nd century) a Jury Court.

ius: a) The Law as such. b) The right to (do) something.

lex: "Law"; i.e., a specific Law, Act, or Ordinance.

Plebiscite (*plebi scitum*): A Law ("Resolution") passed by the Plebeian Assembly.

3. Roman Government under the Republic

A. General Terms and Concepts

res publica: "Public Affairs" (literally, "the Public Thing"). **The Roman State, Republic.** Also: Constitution, Politics, Government. Note that *res publica* (often abbreviated *r. p.*) denotes the Roman State as an abstract concept: it can be served, managed, threatened, defended, owned, and lost; but it cannot act. The Roman State as an acting, sovereign entity—e.g., collecting taxes, going to war, or concluding a treaty with another state—is always the *populus Romanus*, the Roman People.

populus Romanus: The Roman People, i.e., the community of Roman Citizens = the Roman State as a sovereign entity or nation.

Magistrate, Magistracy (*magistratus*): A collective term for most government officials and offices. All regular Magistrates are elected by the People at large and hold office for a one-year term (except Censors). All regular Magistrates come in groups of two or more; however, within each magistracy (e.g., the 2 Consuls, or the 8 Praetors), each member exercises the full powers (*potestas*) of the office by himself without having to obtain the prior consent of his colleague(s), or a majority thereof. On the other hand, any Magistrate may block the actions of any colleague in the same magistracy: prolonged deadlock is usually avoided by compromise. Higher Magistrates may issue orders to lower ones (e.g., Consuls to Praetors), except to Tribunes of the Plebs, who take orders from no one.

Curule Magistrates: Collective term for senior magistrates, i.e., those entitled to wear the purple-embroidered toga (*toga praetexta*) and sit on a curule chair (*sella curulis*): Consuls, Praetors, Censors, and Curule Aediles; also the Dictator, Master-of-Horse, and Interrex.

privatus: A Private Citizen, i.e., anyone who is not a Magistrate or Promagistrate.

imperium: The 'Sovereign Power' of the highest Magistrates (Consuls, Praetors; Dictator, Interrex) and Promagistrates (Proconsuls, Proprators), in particular the right to levy and command a Roman army. (Only holders of *imperium* may celebrate a Triumph.) In a wider sense, the chief executive power, including capital and corporal punishment. In a non-technical sense, "Empire": *imperium populi Romani*, "the *imperium* of the Roman People," i.e., the Roman Empire.

Auspices (*auspicia*): The procedure of asking Iuppiter's permission to conduct any Act of State, such as holding an Assembly, convene the Senate, or give battle. Only Magistrates (and Promagistrates) who have *imperium* also "have Auspices" (i.e., have the right to take Auspices).

Lictor: Lictors are ritual attendants of Magistrates and Promagistrates with *imperium*. Over their left shoulder, they carry a bundle of rods (*fasces*, for flogging) with an ax tied in (for executions); however, the ax is not carried within the *pomerium*. They accompany the Magistrate wherever he goes, marching in single file ahead of him.

B. Magistrates

I. Regular Magistrates

Consul: 2 Consuls elected each year; take office on January 1. Established in 509 BC. Chief Executives and Heads of State. Have *imperium* and *Auspices*; convene Senate and Assemblies of the People. Commanders-in-Chief. 12 Lictors each. Since 180 BC, previous holding of the praetorship and a minimum age of 42 years are required.

Praetor: Established in 366 BC. The number of Praetors elected each year increases from 1 in 366 to 2 in 242, 4 in 228, 6 in 197, and eventually 8 in 81 BC. Take office on January 1. Chief Judicial Officials. Have *imperium* and *Auspices*; may convene Senate and Assemblies of the People. May command armies. 6 Lictors each. Minimum age (since 180 BC): 39 yrs. Must have been Quaestor (since 81 BC).

Censor: 2 Censors elected every 5 yrs, for an 18-month term. Established in 443 BC. Not the highest but the most prestigious office in the Republic. Keep register of citizens, determine membership in Senate and Equestrian Order. Chief Financial Officials; property assessment and taxation. No minimum age, but with few exceptions (last in 209 BC), only ex-Consuls are elected Censors.

Aedile (*aedilis*): 4 elected each year: 2 Curule Aediles (established in 366; somewhat more prestigious) and 2 Plebeian Aediles (established in the early 5th century). Take office on January 1. Public Safety Officials (but there is no real police force in Republican Rome). Supervise streets, buildings, and public places; organize Public Games. Minimum age (since 180 BC): 36 yrs. Must have been Quaestor (since 81 BC).

Tribune of the Plebs (*tribunus plebis*): 10 Tribunes elected each year; take office on December 10. Established in 494 BC. May convene Senate and Plebeian Assembly; may Veto any legislative bill, any decree of the Senate, or any act by any Magistrate (not only fellow Tribunes). *Sacrosanct*. No minimum age, but the office is usually held in one's early 30's. No previous office required, but a Tribune will usually have been Quaestor. All Tribunes must be Plebeians.

Quaestor: 8 or 12 Quaestors (increased to 20 in 81 BC) elected each year; take office on December 5. Established in 446 BC. 2 Quaestors in charge of Treasury (but not of fiscal policy), 2 as assistants to the Consuls, 1 in Ostia (the Port of Rome), the rest in the provinces to assist governors. Minimum age: 30 yrs (since 81 BC).

II. Special Magistrates

Dictator: Not a 'dictator' in the modern sense, but an Emergency Official appointed by the Consul(s), with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a six-month term in times of severe military or political crisis. The Dictator has unlimited executive and judicial powers, even inside the *pomerium*; a Tribune's veto is not valid against a Dictator. 24 Lictors; *imperium* and *Auspices*. Usually an ex-Consul.

Master-of-Horse (*magister equitum*): Appointed by the Dictator to serve as his deputy. 6 Lictors; *imperium* and *Auspices*.

Interrex: If, due to delays or disturbances, no Consuls (and consequently, no lower Magistrates) have been elected by Jan. 1, the *patres*, i.e., the patrician members of the Senate, select from among themselves an *Interrex* (lit., "King Between") for the sole purpose of holding the consular elections. 12 Lictors; *imperium* and *Auspices*. The Interrex is the only Magistrate who *must* be a Patrician.

IV. Triumvirs, Decemvirs, etc.

Many Roman officials were not designated by a 'proper' title such as Consul or Praetor, but by a numeral (derived from the number of men filling that particular post) followed by *vir* ("man," plural: *vir*) and a brief definition of their office or task. For instance, the three Magistrates in charge of the Public Mint were known as *triumviri* (or *tresviri aere argento auro flando feriundo*, i.e., "Three Men (or Board of Three) for the Casting and Striking of Bronze, Silver, and Gold," or more briefly, *triumviri monetales* ("Three Men of the Mint"). In writing, a numeral, e.g., *Illvir(i)*, is usually used rather than spelling out *trium* or whatever the number may be. The more important 'numbered' offices are listed below.

a) Special Commissioners

Illviri rei publicae constituendae (*Illviri r.p.c.*): "Triumvirs for Constituting the State." A special magistracy established by the *lex Titia* on 27 November 43 BC for M. Antonius, M. Aemilius Lepidus, and Caesar the Younger (Octavian), with virtually dictatorial powers (24 Lictors) for a period of 5 years (until 31 Dec. 38 BC). Renewed for another 5 years in 37 (until 31 Dec. 33 BC). Lepidus was stripped of the office in 36; Antonius continued to use the title even after 1 Jan. 32, while Young Caesar dropped the title but de-facto continued to exercise the powers of the Triumvirate.

Illviri coloniae deducendae: "Triumvirs for Establishing a Colony."

Illviri agris iudicandis adsignandis: "Triumvirs for Adjudging Land Assignments."

Xviri legibus scribundis: "Decemvirs for Writing Laws." Special commission elected in 451/0 BC to codify Roman Law. The resulting work is known as **The Laws of the Twelve Tables**.

b) Minor Magistrates in Rome

Illviri a.a.a.f.f.: Triumvirs of the Mint, as explained above.

Illviri capitales: "Triumvirs for Capital Crimes." In charge of the state prison (*carcer*) and executions therein; certain police functions under the supervision of the Aediles.

Illlviri (or *IVviri*) *viis in urbe purgandis*: "Quattuorvirs for Cleaning the Streets in the City."

Xviri stlitibus iudicandis: "Decemvirs for Judging Lawsuits." Decide cases involving the status (free or slave) of a person.

c) Local Officials in the Towns of Italy

Ilviri iure dicundo: "Duumvirs for Legal Affairs." The chief magistrates of Roman and Latin Colonies.

Illlviri (or *IVviri*): "Quattuorvirs." The chief magistrates in most Roman *municipia*.

III. Promagistrates

A **Promagistrate** (*pro magistratu*, "in place of a Magistrate") is an ex-Magistrate (Consul, Praetor, or Quaestor) who, immediately upon the expiration of his term of office, has his *imperium* (or, in the case of a Quaestor, the functions of that office) renewed for another year, or sometimes indefinitely; a Promagistrate with *imperium* also continues to have Auspices. The decision whether to make such an appointment belongs to the Senate. A Promagistrate serves usually either as governor and Commander-in-Chief of a regular province, or as C-in-C in a major war; he may already have assumed his command while still in his year of office as a regular Magistrate.

On rare occasions, a **Private Citizen** (*privatus*) may be granted *imperium* and thus be made a Promagistrate without first having been elected to a regular magistracy. Such a person is known as a *privatus cum imperio* (Private Citizen with *imperium*) but officially uses the same title (Proconsul or Proprator) as other Promagistrates.

A Promagistrate must remain outside the City limits (i.e., the *pomerium*) for the entire duration of his appointment, and cannot engage in matters of domestic government (e.g., he cannot convene Senate or Assemblies). If, for any reason, he crosses the *pomerium* and enters the City, he at once loses his *imperium* (or any other function) and becomes a private citizen. (Note that his functions are not merely dormant while he is in the City: he has ceased to be a Promagistrate.)

Unlike regular Magistrates, who theoretically can exercise their office anywhere (though Censors and Tribunes are restricted to the City), a Promagistrate's exercise of his powers is largely limited to his assigned task or sphere of duty, i.e., his **Province** (*provincia*). Within that sphere, however, he has virtually the same power and discretion as a regular Magistrate of the same rank would have: e.g., within his *provincia*, a Proconsul is as good as a 'real' Consul.

Proconsul (*pro consule*, literally: "in place of a Consul"): A Promagistrate with Auspices and consular *imperium*; 12 Lictors. Since the late 3rd cent. BC, all Consuls and most Praetors who continue as Promagistrates serve as Proconsuls. (Note that the term does not imply an ex-Consul: it may as well be an ex-Praetor.)

Propraetor: A Promagistrate with Auspices and praetorian *imperium*; 6 Lictors. Comparatively rare and used mostly for minor tasks or provinces. (As noted above, most ex-Praetors as Promagistrates become Proconsuls.)

pro praetore: Acting Commander-in-Chief. Usually in the form *legatus pro praetore* ("Legate and Acting C-in-C"). 5 Lictors. Whenever a C-in-C leaves his province (temporarily or before the arrival of a successor), he appoints a senior officer of senatorial rank, called Legate (*legatus*), as Acting C-in-C. Note that the latter's title is always *pro praetore*, even if the actual commander-in-chief is a Consul or Proconsul. (The word *praetor* originally meant simply "general, governor, C-in-C," and retained that wider usage after it had also come to denote the eight annual Magistrates called "Praetors.") The (*legatus*) *pro praetore* does not have *imperium* or Auspices of his own (hence only 5 Lictors), but exercises the *imperium* and fights "under the Auspices" of his actual Commander-in-Chief. If he wins a great victory, not he but the actual (though absent) holder of *imperium* will get to style himself *imperator* and claim a Triumph.

Legate (*legatus*): A Senator serving as a senior officer on the staff of a Commander-in-Chief.

C. The Senate

The Senate (*senatus*) is the Council of State and principal governing body of the Republic. Composed of all ex-Magistrates from Quaestor upward; ca. 300 members in the early and middle Republic, ca. 600 since 81 BC. Normally convened and presided over by the Consul(s); debates and effectively decides all important matters of policy. Senators are ranked according to the most recent (i.e., highest) magistracy they have held: ex-Consuls (*consulares*, "Consulars") are the senior and most influential members (their opinion often determines the vote of the entire House), ex-Praetors ("Praetorians") rank second, ex-Quaestors ("Quaestorians") are the most junior ones. Not all Senators are in Rome all the time: many are serving as Promagistrates abroad, or as Legates (*legati*) on the staff of a Commander-in-Chief. Senators as such are not government officials, however: any Senator who is not currently holding a magistracy (or promagistracy) is considered *privatus*, a Private Citizen.

Senators normally serve for life; however, every 5 years, the Censors revise the roll of the Senate and may expel members for a variety of reasons (e.g., bankruptcy, luxury, conduct unbecoming a Senator, etc.). The ex-Consul (and usually ex-Censor) put at the top of the Senate List by the Censors is called *princeps senatus* (literally, "First Man of the Senate"—not an office but an honorific title); he is usually the first to speak in debates. (Not to be confused with the presiding officer, which is always a Consul, Praetor, or Tribune: the Senate cannot be convened by ordinary Senators, or gather on its own.)

princeps ("Leading Statesman, First Citizen," plural *principes*): not a title or office but an informal (though well-understood) way of referring to the few men (almost always Consulars) who at any given time are considered pre-eminent in politics, in the *res publica*: i.e., those with the highest degree of *auctoritas*.

D. The Assemblies

All legislative powers and the election of all Magistrates are reserved to the Roman People meeting in Assembly. Assemblies can only meet *in Rome*, and citizens wishing to participate must be present *in person*. There is no absentee ballot.

Tribunes and Plebeian Aediles are elected by the Plebeian Assembly (and must be Plebeians themselves); all other Magistrates are elected by Assemblies of the People (and may be Plebeians or Patricians, though one Consul always must be Plebeian). The Magistrate convening the Assembly presides over it and entirely controls its agenda; he alone may introduce a bill for legislation. Like the Senate, the People may not gather on their own, but only when convened by a Magistrate. As a rule, only fellow-Senators, and occasionally important men of the Equestrian Order, will be permitted by the presiding Magistrate to address the Assembly; ordinary citizens stand, listen, and eventually, vote. (No secret ballot until 139 BC.)

I. Assemblies of the People (*comitia populi*)

Centuriate Assembly (*comitia centuriata*): Election of Consuls, Praetors, and Censors. Legislation (though rarely used for that purpose after the 3rd century BC). Trial of Roman Citizens on capital charges. Open to all Citizens. Voters are arranged in 193 voting units called 'Centuries' (*centuriae*), grouped according to property qualifications: 18 Centuries of the Equestrian Order, 70 Centuries of Census Class I, 100 Centuries of Census Classes II-V, 4 "unattached" Centuries, 1 Century of Proletarians. Originally an Assembly of the People in arms; for that reason it must always meet outside the *pomerium*, usually on the Field of Mars. May be convened only by a Consul or Praetor (or, of course, a Dictator or Interrex).

Tribal Assembly (*comitia tributa*): Election of Curule Aediles, Quaestors, and lower Magistrates. Legislation (commonly used for that purpose after the 3rd century BC). Trial of Roman Citizens on non-capital charges. Open to all Citizens. Voters are arranged in 35 voting districts called 'Tribes' (*tribus*), with membership based on place of residence. Usually meets in the Forum, sometimes on the Capitol. May be convened only by a Consul or Praetor (or, of course, a Dictator or Interrex).

Curiate Assembly (*comitia curiata*): Earliest type of assembly, dating back to the Regal Period. Voters arranged in 30 voting units called *curiae*. Superseded by the Centuriate and Tribal Assemblies during the 5th and 4th centuries; thereafter used only for ceremonial purposes, such as the sanctioning of wills and adoptions, with 30 Lictors representing the citizen body.

Contio: Meeting of Citizens (incl. armies on campaign) called solely for the purpose of information or discussion, without any votes being taken. It may be convened by any Magistrate or (if outside the City) Promagistrate.

II. Assembly of the Plebs

Plebeian Assembly (*concilium plebis*): Sometimes called "Plebeian Council," a translation best avoided, and often confused with the Tribal Assembly of the People. Elections of Tribunes of the Plebs and Plebeian Aediles. Full legislative powers since 287 BC. Trial of Roman Citizens on non-capital charges. Voting organization same as Tribal Assembly. Open only to Citizens of Plebeian (i.e., non-Patrician) status, but since the 3rd cent. BC, Plebeians account for over 99% of the citizenry. (Remember that in historical times, the term 'Plebeian' does not necessarily imply low social or economic standing.) The Plebeian Assembly may be convened only by a Tribune of the Plebs.

ROMAN MAGISTRATES (as in 154 B.C.)

1. Regularly elected (every year except where mentioned)

A. Magistrates with imperium

(i) Consuls (two) (from 509 B.C.). The senior magistrates; supreme commanders of the army. From 367 B.C. at least one consul each year had to be plebeian.

(ii) Praetors (six) (from 367 B.C.). Two (praetor urbanus and praetor peregrinus) for judicial duties at Rome; one to govern each of the four provinces.

B. Magistrates without imperium

(i) Censors (two) (from 443 B.C.). Elected every 5 years for a term of not more than 18 months. Drew up a list of citizens; determined the membership of the senate; and let out public contracts to auction. From 339 B.C. at least one of each pair had to be a plebeian.

(ii) Curule Aediles (two) (from 367 B.C.). Looked after public buildings, public shows, the grain supply, etc.

(iii) Quaestors (no information on numbers before the increase to twenty in 81 B.C., which seems to have been substantial). (447 B.C.) Mainly financial duties: in Rome, management of the state treasury, the Aerarium; in each province, management of the Roman administration's finances under the provincial governor.

C. Officers of the plebs (patricians not eligible)

(i) Tribunes of the plebs (ten) (494 B.C.). The senior officers of the plebs. Their persons were inviolate (sacrosanctitas). They had the right to compel citizens to obey their orders (coercitio). They could veto the decision of any magistrate (or of a fellow tribune), prevent the passing of any law or the holding of any election, and veto any resolution of the senate (intercessio). They could give protection against arbitrary judicial decisions of magistrates with imperium (auxilium). They presided over the concilium plebis and put proposals to it (plebiscita). They could also summon a meeting of the senate.

(ii) Aediles of the plebs (two) (493 B.C.). Duties as for Curule Aediles above.

2. Magistrates not regularly elected

(i) Dictator (c. 500 B.C.). Appointed in times of stress by a consul, usually on the recommendation of the senate. He possessed imperium and outranked all other magistrates. His orders could not be challenged, except that after 300 B.C. they could be vetoed by a tribune. He appointed on his own initiative a Magister Equitum, who possessed imperium and ranked equal to a praetor. Dictators of the early period were never appointed for more than 6 months; they often retired from office before that time had elapsed.

(ii) Interrex. Appointed by the senate to hold elections for new consuls if both of them died in office. His powers were equal to those of a consul, but he held office for only 5 days. An interrex had to be a patrician.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CENTURIATE ASSEMBLY		
<u>Property Class</u>	<u>Number of Centuries</u>	
Equites ("Knights")		18
Class I	40 seniors plus 40 juniors =	+80 = 98
Class II	10 seniors plus 10 juniors =	20
Class III	10 seniors plus 10 juniors =	+20
Class IV	10 seniors plus 10 juniors =	+20
Class V	15 seniors plus 15 juniors =	+30
<u>Proletarii</u>		+1
<u>Fabri</u> (Smiths) and <u>Cornicines</u> (Trumpeters)		+4 = 95
	<u>Total Number of Centuries</u>	193

C. The Council of the Plebs (consilium plebis) and the Tribal Assembly (comitia tributa)

THE ROMAN ASSEMBLIES

ata, composed of 30 Curiae

	<u>Comitia Centuriata</u>	<u>Comitia Populi Tributa</u>	<u>Comitia Plebis Tributa or Concilium Plebis</u>
<u>Position</u>	All citizens	All citizens	Only plebeians; all patricians excluded
<u>Voting Units</u>	193 centuries in order as below	35 tribes in order determined by lot	35 tribes in order determined by lot
<u>Distribution of voting units. In all assemblies, a majority of units, not of votes, decided the outcome.</u>	Equites 18 Pedites I 70 Pedites II-V 100* Musicians 2 Artisans 1 Accensi 1 Capite censi (proletarii) 1 *Breakdown 193 of centuries between the four grades not known	Rural 31 Urban 4 35 Minimum required for a majority: 18 tribes	Rural 31 Urban 4 35 Minimum required for a majority: 18 tribes
<u>Convening Magistrates</u>	Consul Praetor (occasionally Interrex)	Consul Praetor	Tribune of the plebs
<u>Elections of: -</u>	Consuls Praetors Censors	Curule Aediles Quaestors	Tribunes of the plebs Aediles of the plebs
<u>Legislative powers</u>	The earliest and highest assembly. But because of cumbersome procedure, normally only used for questions of war and peace.	Normally used by consuls and praetors for legislation, since it was less cumbersome than Comitia Centuriata	Passed Plebiscita, which were binding on both patricians and plebeians after 287 B.C.
<u>Judicial powers</u>	Appeals of Roman citizens on capital charges	Minor trials	Minor trials

Voting order in the Comitia Centuriata: First, centuria praerogativa chosen by lot from among the 35 centuriae iuniores of Pedites I. Second, remaining 34 centuriae iuniores of Pedites I, with all 35 centuriae seniores of Pedites I, with 12 centuries of Equites, with 1 century of Artisans. Third, remaining 6 centuries of Equites. /Total of 88 centuries so far./ Fourth, Pedites II. And so on down the scale. Minimum required for a majority : 97 centuries.