

ROMAN EMPIRE: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Reference Chart: 753 BCE - 1453 CE Subject: Classical Antiquity

ERA / PERIOD	TIMELINE	KEY CHARACTERISTICS	NOTABLE FIGURES
Regal Period	753 - 509 BCE	Early monarchical rule; establishment of the Senate and religious institutions.	Romulus, Numa Pompilius
Roman Republic	509 - 27 BCE	System of checks and balances; Punic Wars; massive territorial expansion.	Scipio Africanus, Julius Caesar, Cicero
Principate	27 BCE - 284 CE	Pax Romana; peak of cultural and territorial influence; autocratic emperors.	Augustus, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius
Dominate	284 - 476 CE	Division into East and West; Christianization; migration period pressures.	Diocletian, Constantine the Great
Byzantine Empire	330 - 1453 CE	Survival of the Eastern half; Greek influence; preservation of Roman law.	Justinian I, Theodora, Constantine XI

Legacy Highlights: The Roman Empire significantly influenced modern Western civilization through its contributions to codified law (Corpus Juris Civilis), architectural engineering (concrete, arches, aqueducts), the spread of Latin-based Romance languages, and the administrative structure of the Christian Church.