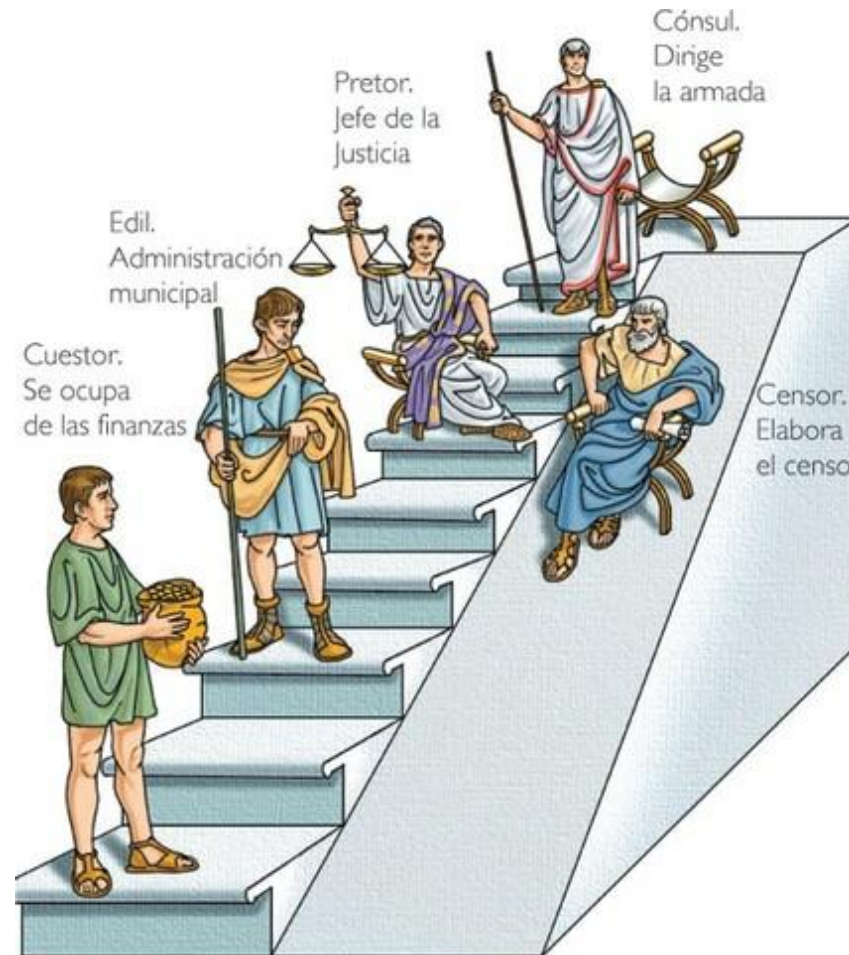


The background image is a photograph of an ancient Roman street scene, likely in Pompeii. It shows a shopfront with a wooden door and windows. The walls are covered in graffiti, including the word 'EINKIDY' and other names like 'MICHELSATRI'. The street is paved with large, irregular stones.

Provincial politics and Roman political system

Pompeii: The life, death and rediscovery of a Roman town
(HPAH5078/HPAH6078)

Rome as the
“centre”: a
reminder



Consuls

- The Monarchical Branch of the Roman Government in the Roman Republic

Senate

- The Aristocratic Branch of the Roman Government in the Roman Republic

Assembly

- The Democratic Branch of the Roman Government in the Roman Republic

Consuls

Senate

Assembly



“Roman-ness” in a local context

- Roman identity not defined primarily in terms of kinship (*contra* Greeks), but in adopting certain customs (*mores*) and material culture.
- Rationalisation in of space:
 - centuriated farmland and grid-planned colonies.
- Civic infrastructure: fora, temples, porticos, and baths.
- **Imperial Period:** Paying taxes, letting the “better sort” rule, and homage to the Imperial family.



Local politics

Old political structures and new

Similar political set up at Herculaneum, but also a single attestation of a quaestor.

The “Oscan” system

- *meddix titicus* (senior magistrate).
- *aidilis* (aedile) and *kvaisstur* (quaestor).
 - Public finances, roads, etc.
- An assembly



“Maras Artinius (son of) Maras, *kvaisstur*, with the money from the fines, by resolution of the assembly, had (this) made”.

Colonia Cornelia Veneria Pompeianorum

- comitium (popular assembly).
- ordo decurion (council).
- magistracies.
 - duumvirs or duovirs (including the quinquennial duumvirs).
 - aediles
 - male and over 25
 - no disgrace





Statue of Marcus Holconius Rufus – Naples Archaeological Museum (Inv. 6233).

Powerful patrons

- Member of the Imperial family as duumvir.
 - Caligula: AD 33 and 40.
 - Prefect (also emergencies).
- The “patron”.
 - Publius Sulla, Marcellus, Marcus Holconius Rufus.
- Military tribune.
 - Marcus Holconius Rufus, Marcus Tullius and Aulus Clodius Flaccus.

Paying for politics

- Paying the political cost:
 - “**Gaius Uulius, son of Gaius, and Publius Aninius, son of Gaius, duumvirs,** awarded the contracts for the *laconicum* and *destrictorium* [room for rubbing down after exercise] and for the refurbishment of the portico and palaestra, in accordance with a decree of the decurions, **using the money that the law requires them to spend for games or public works.** The same officials oversaw the construction and approved it.” [C/I 10.829]
- Commemoration, prestige and future success.

Forum Baths (VII.5.24): Marcus Nigidius Vaccula donated 3 bronze benches and a bronze brazier heater to the Tepidarium.

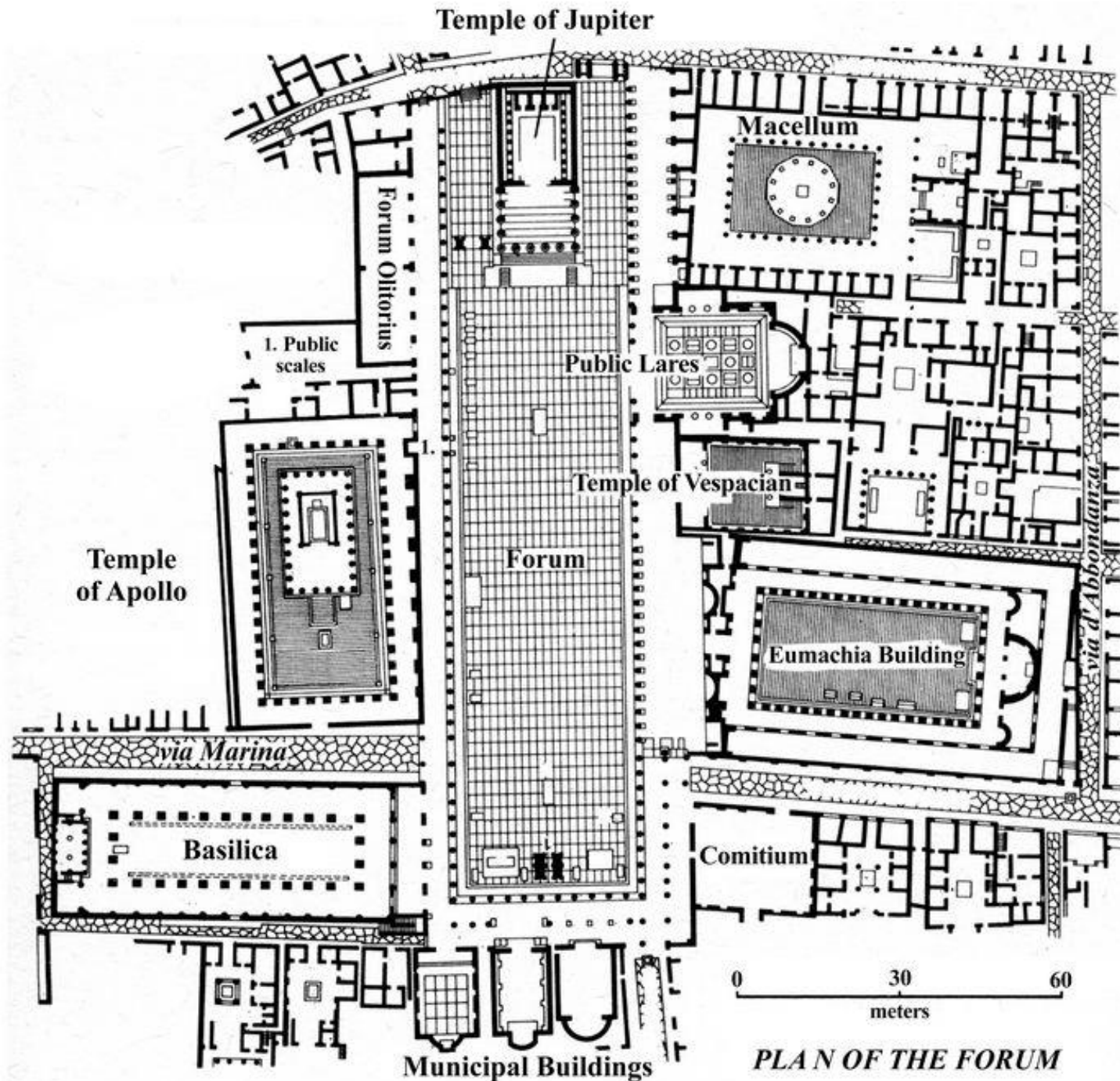


Can we recognise this as a democratic system? Would the Romans have understood this a “true democracy”?

- The “disenfranchised” may still have political interests.
- *programmata*:
 - Black or red text on a white background.
 - Painted on facades of houses and along major thoroughfares
 - Genuine competition, unlike the Imperial era city of Rome.
 - Evidence for 131 candidates [average of 3 people running per office?]

I beg you to elect Lollius, suitable for roads and public and sacred buildings.”

Lollium d(ignum) v(iis) a(edibus) s(sacris)
p(ublicis) o(ro) v(os) f(aciatis)



The Basilica: legal proceedings
“municipal buildings”: “town halls” / archives?

The Comitium: for elections?

The Eumachia Building:
 fullers’ guild? Cloth market?
 Meeting place of the Augustales?

Macellum: meat and fish market.

Mensa Ponderaria: table of official measures and weights

Forum Holitorium: warehouse market for cereals and pulses