

Lecture 24

Nerva and Trajan

Essential chronology

18 September 96	M. Cocceius Nerva hailed as <i>princeps</i>
97	Nerva is consul
end 97-early 98	completion of the forum of Nerva; dedication to <i>Libertas</i> Nerva takes up the title of Germanicus
January 98	October: adoption of M. Ulpius Traianus (Trajan) death of Nerva; accession of Trajan, who remains in his province
Spring-Summer 99	Trajan arrives to Rome
100	consulship of Pliny the Younger, who opens his tenure with the speech known as <i>Panegyric</i>
Summer 101	beginning of the Dacian campaign, personally led by the emperor
102	Decebalus declares his submission to Trajan and manages to keep his kingdom
105	beginning of a second Dacian campaign
106	conquest of Sarmizegetusa; Decebalus flees and commits suicide a few weeks later
107	Dacian triumph; creation of the Roman province of Dacia
107-113	Trajan's longest stay in Rome
110	foundation of the Roman colony at Sarmizegetusa Pliny the Younger is governor in Bithynia
113	Trajan sets off for the Eastern campaign
114	Trajan at Antioch
	Spring: beginning of the operations against the Parthians
116	Conquest of Ctesiphon and Seleucia; the Parthian king Chosroes flees Trajan stops in Babylon on the way back
117	Trajan crowns the Arsacid prince Parthamaspates as new king of the Parthians July: he entrusts the command to Hadrian and starts his journey to Italy August: dies at Selinus in Cilicia, soon after adopting Hadrian on his deathbed

Essential primary sources

Tacitus, *Agricola*

Pliny the Younger, *Panegyric*

Pliny the Younger, *Letters*, Book 10

Cassius Dio, *History of Rome*, Book 68

Frontinus, *On Aqueducts*

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- C. Wells, *The Roman Empire*, London 1984, 170-174.
- R. Alston, *Aspects of Roman History AD 14-117*, London-New York 1998, 191-207.
- J. Bennett, *Trajan Optimus Princeps: Life and Times*, London 1997.
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- C. S. Lightfoot, 'Trajan's Parthian War and the Fourth-Century Perspective', *Journal of Roman Studies* 80 (1990), 115-126 [JSTOR].
- On the correspondence between Pliny the Younger and Trajan, see A. N. Sherwin-White, *The letters of Pliny: a Historical and Social Commentary*, Oxford 1966 [especially the introduction].
- On the column of Trajan, see D. E. E. Kleiner, *Roman Sculpture*, New Haven-London 1992, 213-223.
- On the Arch of Trajan at Beneventum, see Kleiner, *Roman Sculpture*, 224-229.