



From Village to Empire.

Lecture 19:

Augustus

Consequences of Actium (2 September 31 BC)

- Defeat of Antony and Cleopatra
- Emergence of Agrippa as the most prominent associate of Octavian
- Conquest of Egypt: new province
- Reunification of the Empire under Octavian's rule
- The way is paved for the great 'constitutional' settlement of 28/27 BC

Actium, Apollo and the conquest of Egypt on coins and the Res Gestae



"The statues of myself in the city, whether standing or on horseback or in a quadriga, numbering eighty in all and all of silver, I had removed, and from this money I dedicated golden offerings in the Temple of Apollo, in my own name and in the names of those who had honoured me with these statues". (Res Gestae 24)

Chronology of the events

29 BC: Octavian celebrates triumph in Rome

27 BC: Octavian "hands the Republic back to the people" and in return receives the title Augustus and an enormous proconsular province including Spain, Gaul, Syria and Egypt.

23 BC, June: Augustus lays aside the Consular office he has held continuously since 31. He receives instead the *imperium maius*, and *tribunicia potestas*.

27 BC: The Augustan Settlement

- *Res Publica Restituta*:
Restoring the Republic or
creating a new
monarchy?



Tacitus, on the new form of government, Annals, book I

“Yet the State had been organized under the name neither of a kingdom nor a dictatorship, But under that of a prince.”

Restoring the Republic?

- *Fasti Praenestini Ides January:*

*“...corona quern[a uti super ianuam
domus imp. Caesaris] / Augusti poner[etur
senatus decreuit quod leges et iura] p. R.
rest[i]tui[t].”*

The settlement of 27 BC

- Res Gestae: 'I transferred the Republic from my power to the control of the Senate and people of Rome'
- *potestas vs auctoritas*
- Octavian takes up the name 'Augustus'
- He would hold the consulship each year (with a colleague)
- He would be proconsul of an extended province, comprising Gaul, Spain and Syria
- Egypt is a personal possession of the emperor

The settlement of 23 BC

- Augustus' *imperium* (= power) become *maius* (overriding, prevailing) over that of any other individual
- Augustus is directly in control of any province that requires a military presence
- Division between imperial and senatorial provinces
- Exceptions were possible: Cyrene Edicts (7 BC)
- Augustus holds the tribunician power

Inscription from Pompeii. CIL X, 931 (12 v. Chr.)

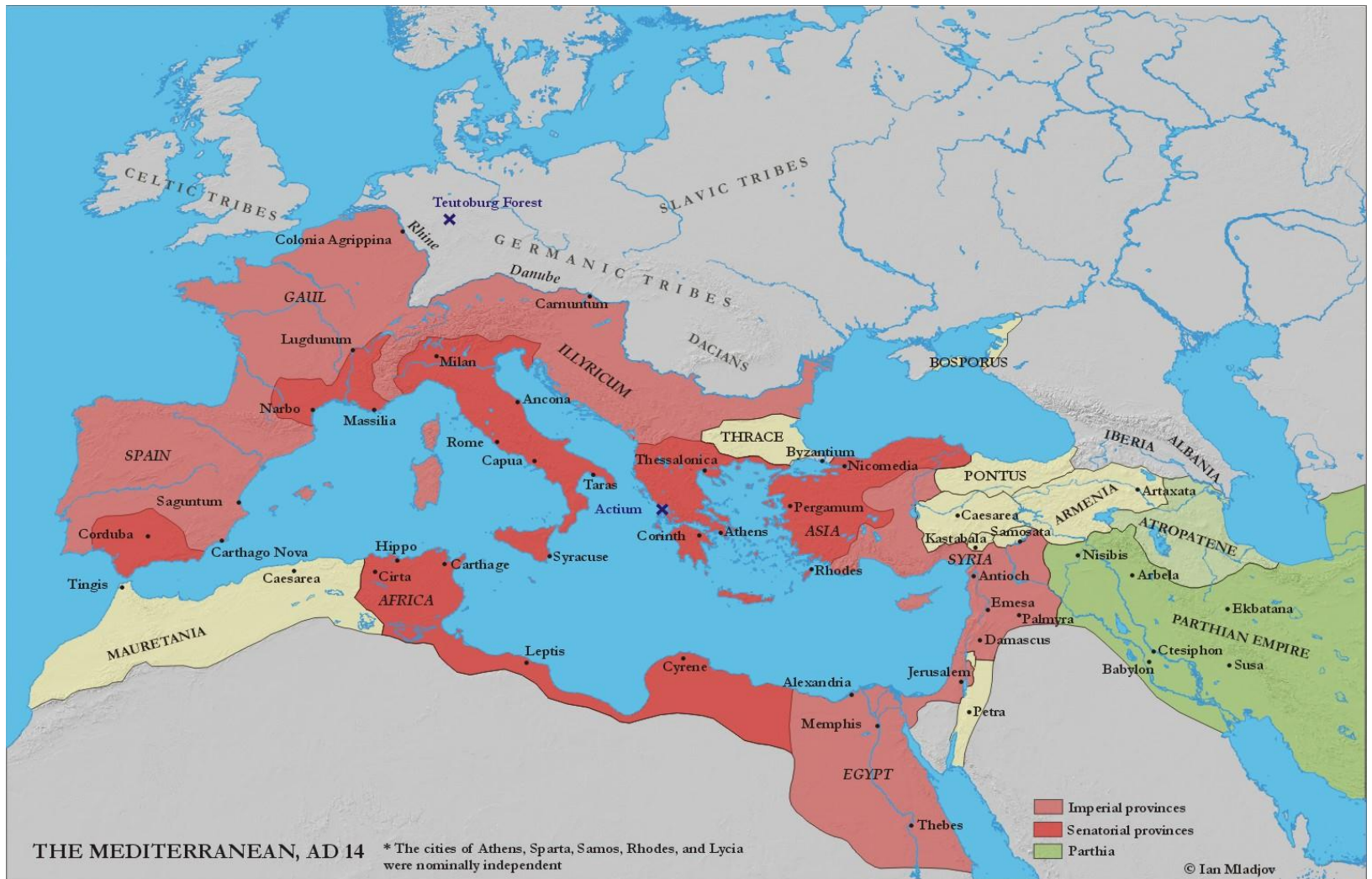
IMP CAESARI DIVI FIL AVGVSTO
IMPERATORI XII TRIB
POTESTATE XV PATRI
PATRIAE COS XI

The administration of the provinces

Division of the provinces:

- **Senatorial provinces:** administrated by a *proconsul*, exconsul with senatorial rank.
- **Imperial provinces:** *legatus Augusti pro praetore*.

Senatorial and Imperial Provinces



Ideology

- Emphasis on themes of tradition, stability and concord
- Moral legislation (adultery)
- Sumptuary legislation
- Offence of *maiestas*
- Maecenas' circle: Virgil, Horace, Ovid

A new Imperial army

- Reform of the army by **Octavian** after the battle of Actium in 30 BC. The legions and troops belonging to different factions and leaders were not disbanded but maintained and increased. Why?
- Paradox: the *pax Augustea* was sustained by the biggest army ever existed in Rome.

The creation of the imperial army

- Beside external enemies and provincial revolts, the public expenditure in the army searched also to consolidate Augustus and his successors in power.
- The emperors tried to avoid that any private individual could create an army at his expenses and challenge their position.

Chronology of events

25 BC: Augustus marries his daughter Julia to Marcellus (his sister's son)

23 BC: death of Marcellus. Augustus makes Agrippa divorce his wife and marry Julia, who then bears three sons, Gaius, Lucius and Postumus, and two daughters, Agrippina and Julia.

22 BC: Journey to the East: Athens, Eleusis (where he is initiated), Peloponnese, Samos, Syria, etc.

20 BC: Augustus recovers standards captured by the Parthians in three wars against Rome. commemorates this event in art and coinage.

17 BC: Augustus adopts his grandsons Gaius and Lucius.

Chronology of events

- 13 BC:** Agrippa, having received Tribunician Powers in 18 and Imperium Maius in 13 (making him virtually co-emperor)
- 12 BC:** death of Agrippa. Augustus ***pontifex maximus***. *Tiberius to divorces his wife Vipsania (daughter of Agrippa and Marcella (a niece of Augustus)) to marry Augustus' daughter Julia (Agrippa's widow).*
- 8 BC:** Census: list of citizens.
- 2 BC:** Augustus named ***Pater Patriae*** (Father of the Country). Augustus' daughter, Julia is sent to the exile due to a scandal with members of the aristocracy.

Chronology of events

AD. 2: Death of Lucius Caesar

AD 4: Death of Gaius Caesar. Tiberius adopted by Augustus; Germanicus adopted by Tiberius.

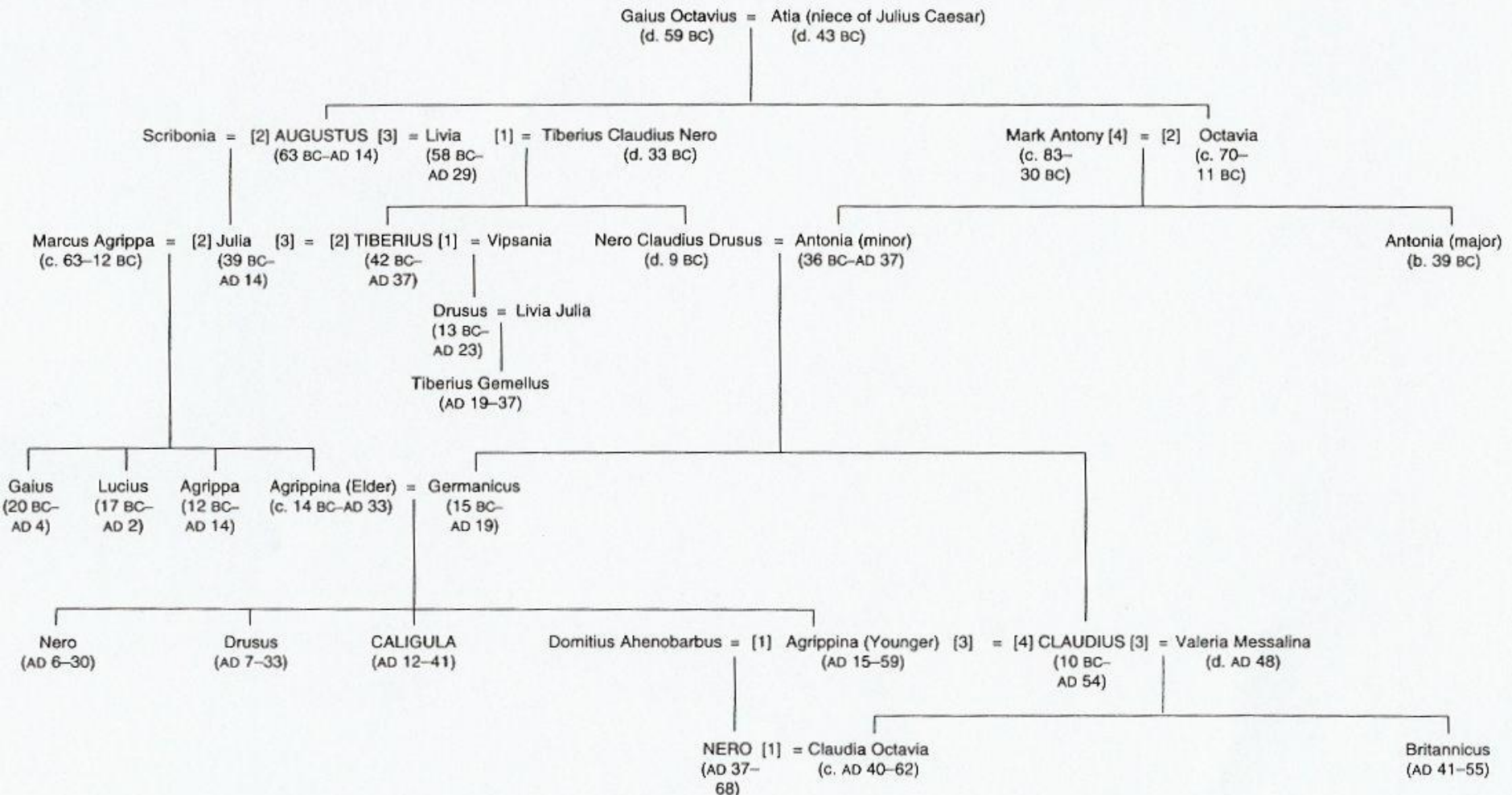
AD 7: Postumus Agrippa sent to exile.

AD 9, Summer: P. Quinctilius Varus and his three legions are massacred by the Germans in the Teutoburger Wald.

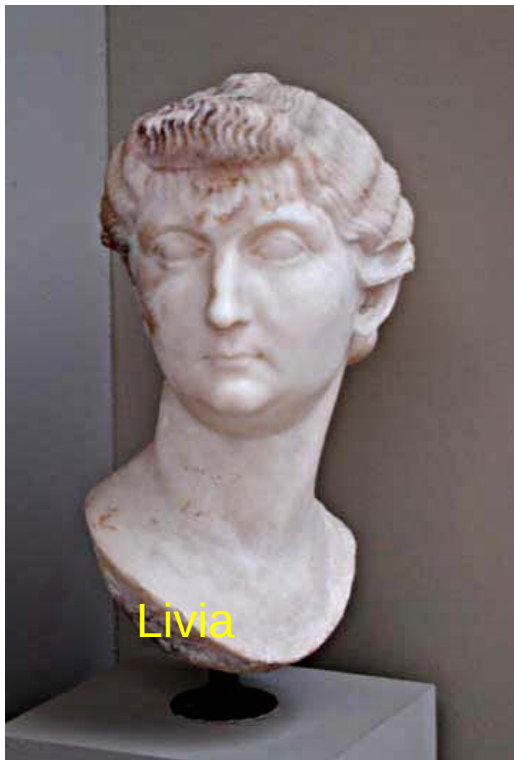
AD 13, April 3: Augustus writes his will.

AD 14: Augustus dies.

The Julio-Claudians: Family Tree



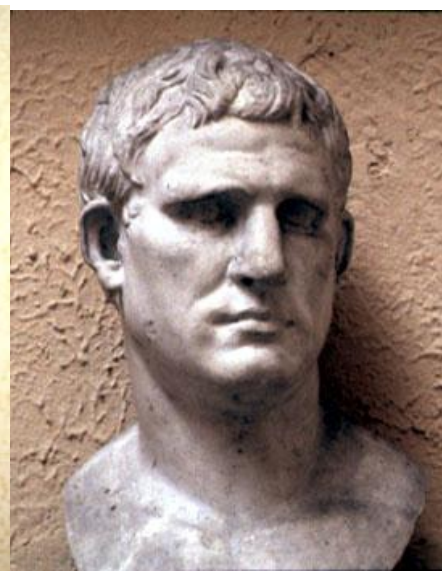
Simplified genealogical chart of the emperors from Augustus to Nero



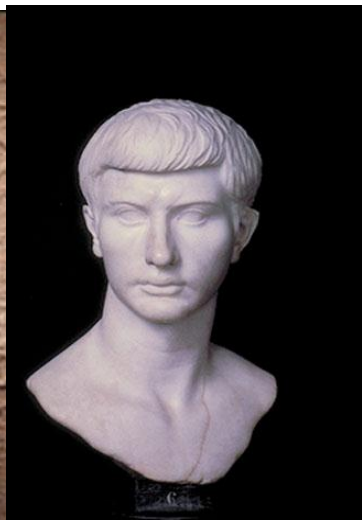
Livia



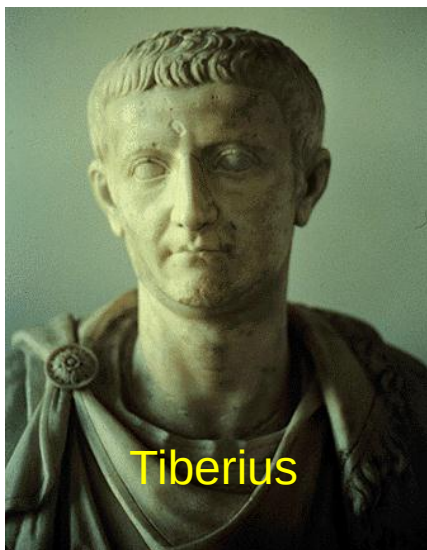
Julia



Agrippa



Marcellus



Tiberius



Caius Caesar



Lucius Caesar



Agrippa Postumus

Augustus' will and the state

Suetonius, Augustus, 101, 4: “With regard to the three codicils (*volumina*) before mentioned, in one of them he gave orders about his funeral; another contained a summary of his acts (*Res gestae*), which he intended should be inscribed on brazen plates, and placed in front of his mausoleum; in the third he had drawn up a concise account of the state of the empire (*tertio breviarium totius imperii*); the number of troops enrolled, what money there was in the treasury (*quantum pecuniae in aeratio*), the revenue, and arrears of taxes; to which were added the names of the freedmen and slaves from whom the several accounts might be taken.”

Augustus' Mausoleum

