

arch of Titus

Village to Empire – THEME II

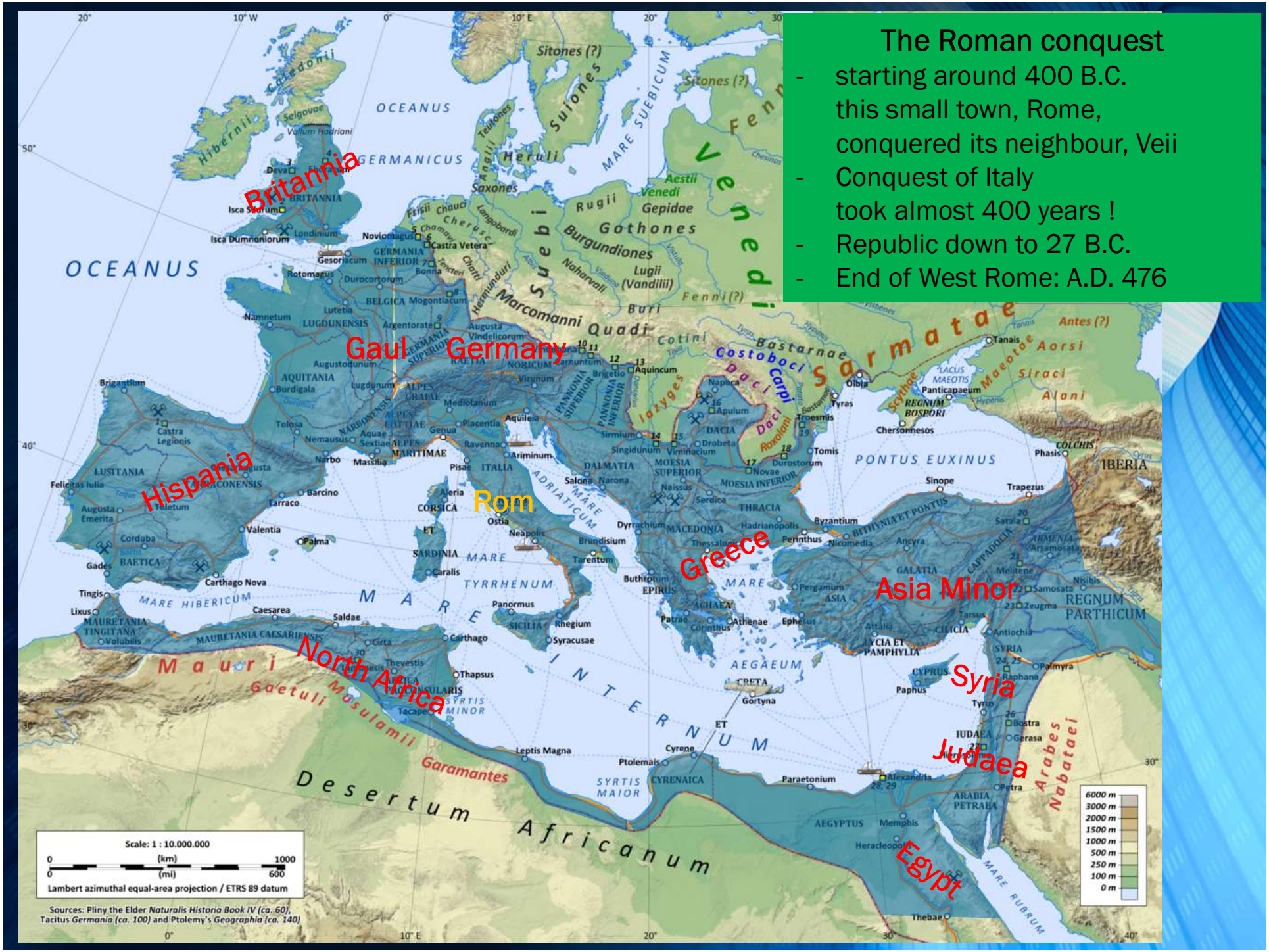
ROMAN IMPERIALISM

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THREE SESSIONS

- Aggressive / Defensive Imperialism
  - Changes under Augustus
- Roman Imperialism // Holding the empire together
  - Imperial discourse
  - Spheres of Roman control and the role of diplomacy and military force
  - Diplomacy
  - Integration, assimilation, Roman citizenship
  - Patronage networks
- Hegemony and empire
  - Roman provincial administration
- The conquest of Britain: the limits of Roman imperialism




The Roman conquest
- starting around 400 B.C.
this small town, Rome,
conquered its neighbour, Veii
- Conquest of Italy
took almost 400 years !
- Republic down to 27 B.C.
- End of West Rome: A.D. 476
Britannia
Gaul
Germany
Hispania
Rom
Greece
Asia Minor
North Africa
Syria
Judaea
Egypt
OCEANUS
MARE INTERNUM
Desertum Africanum
Scale: 1 : 10.000.000
Lambert azimuthal equal-area projection / ETRS 89 datum
Sources: Pliny the Elder Naturalis Historia Book IV (ca. 60),
Tacitus Germania (ca. 100) and Ptolemy's Geographia (ca. 140)

ROMAN IMPERIALISM

- The Roman army
- Defensive / Aggressive Imperialism
- Augustus, the first “emperor” (*princeps*)
  - the new image / ideology of Rome

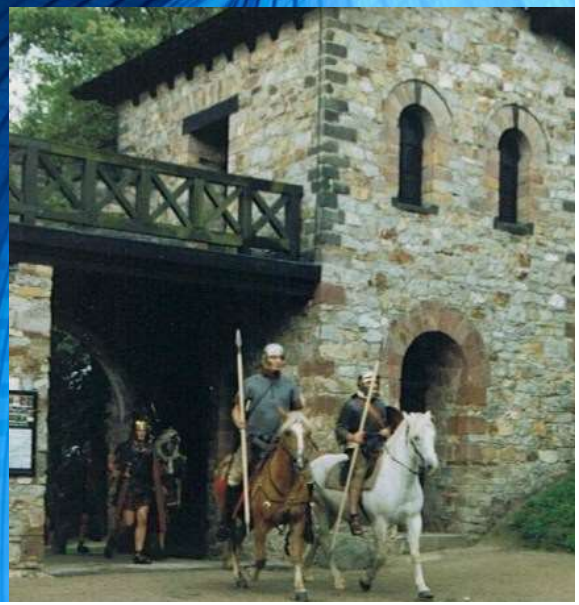
THE ROMAN ARMY....



- How important was the army really to consolidate the empire?
- Progression:
  from “citizen army” of the Republic
  to a professional army in the Empire
- From occupation force to “peace keepers”







THE ROMAN ARMY....

- Peace keeper

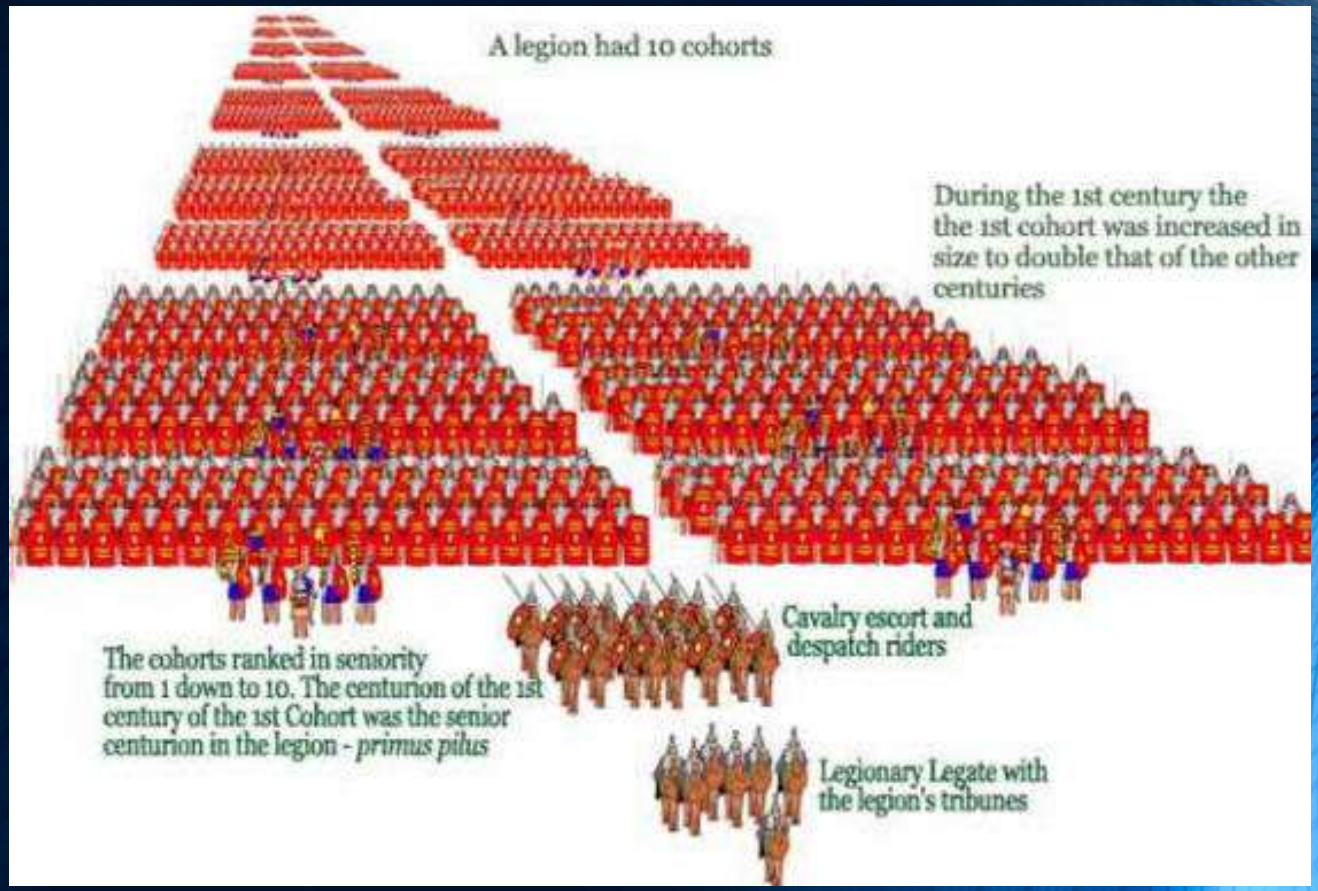




THE ROMAN ARMY….



- Roman legion: 6,000 men



THE ROMAN ARMY....

- plus an equal number of auxiliary units of Rome's "allies"





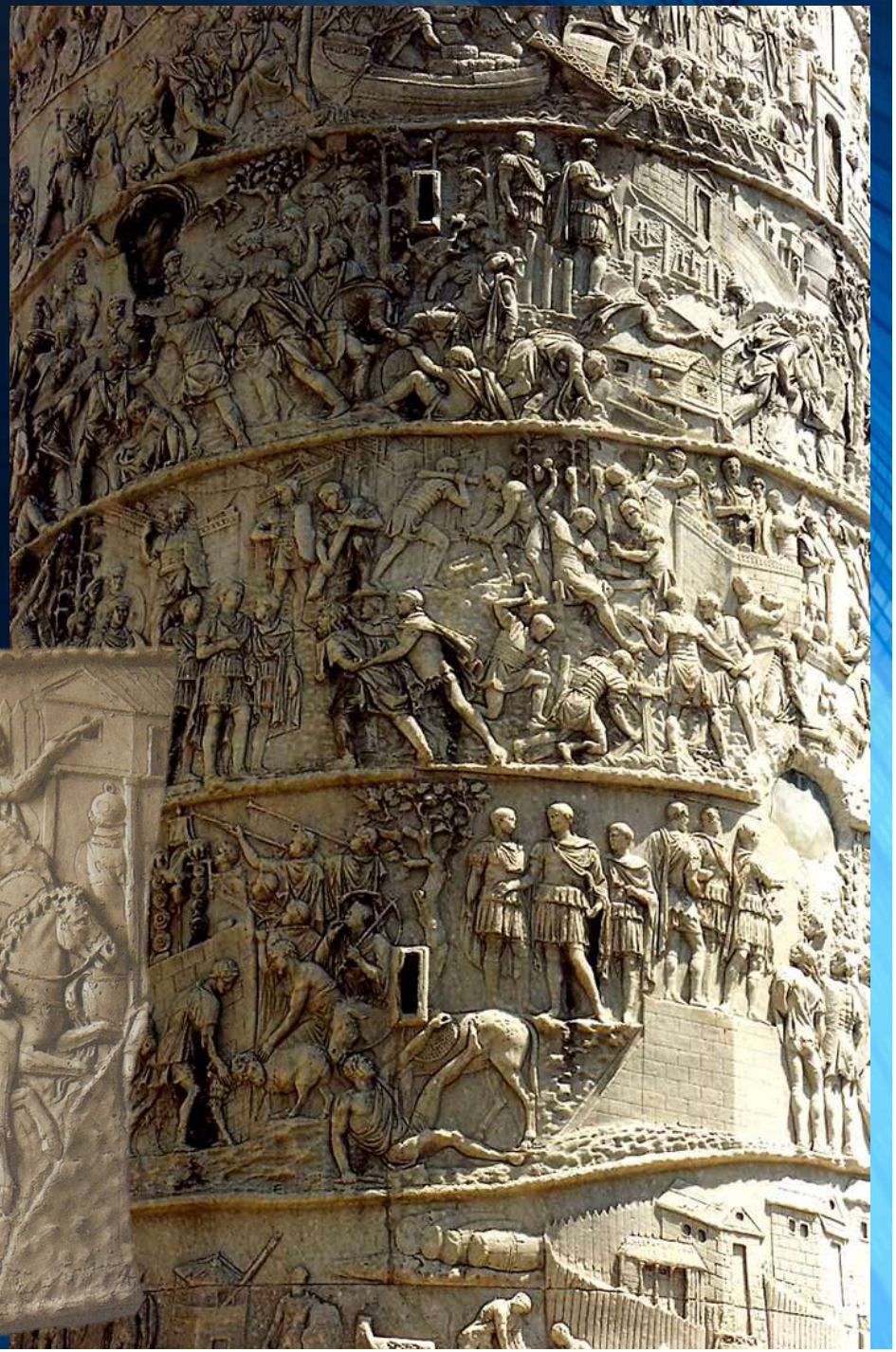
THE ROMAN ARMY....

- Trajan's column
  - A.D. 113
  - height: 35 metres
  - epic wars between Romans & Dacians(101–102, 105–1



THE ROMAN ARMY....

- Trajan's column
  - A.D. 113
  - height: 35 metres
  - epic wars between Romans & Dacians(101–102, 105–10)
  - army: engineers, bridges, roads...





THE ROMAN ARMY…

- crushing revolts
  - for example: The Jewish War & siege of Masada A.D. 66-74
  - 1 million people killed (after Josephus)



THE ROMAN ARMY…

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  - for example: The Jewish War & siege of Masada A.D. 66-73
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legionary fort at Masada, A.D. 72/73

THE ROMAN ARMY…

- crushin
  - for e
  - 1 mi

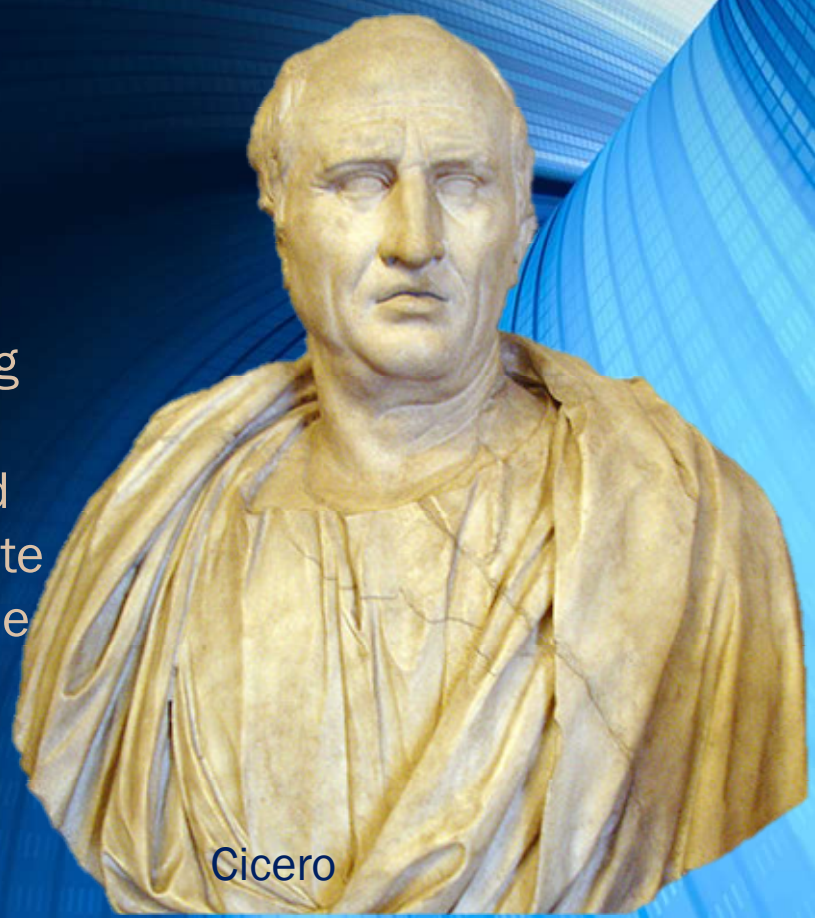


IMPERIALISM: DEFENSIVE / AGGRESSIVE

- Defensive imperialism & the *bellum iustum* "just war"
  - Rome just defends herself and her allies…
  - *bellum iustum* → Rome had the right and divine favour on her side

Cicero (*de officiis* 36.38) – 1st century B.C.
"No war is just unless it is begun after satisfaction has been demanded or warning has been given and a formal declaration made…. Even when empire is the prize and glory the object of war, it is nonetheless quite appropriate that there should be present the same causes…. of a just war."

→ *the just war, just a formality ?*


Cicero

IMPERIALISM: DEFENSIVE / AGGRESSIVE

- "Glory the object of war…"

  → the senatorial class :

  glory, honour and *auctoritas*



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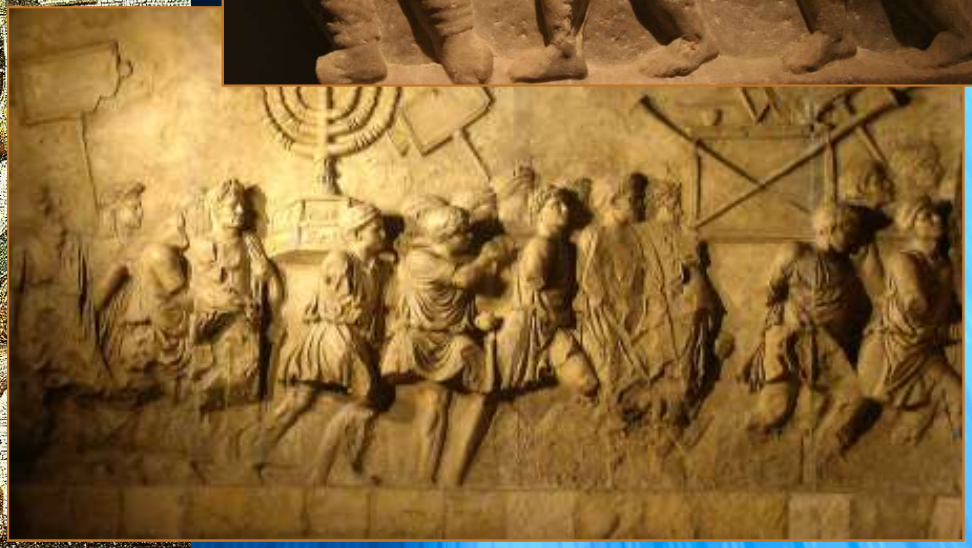
IMPERIALISM: AGGRESSIVE ?

- Roman society: a war-like society (Roman Republic)
  - + organisation of Roman society
  - + morality / aggressiveness (gladiatorial games)
  - + motivation: economic interests, too!
    - × glory, power → booty, money, mining





BOOTY



IMPERIALISM: AGGRESSIVE ?

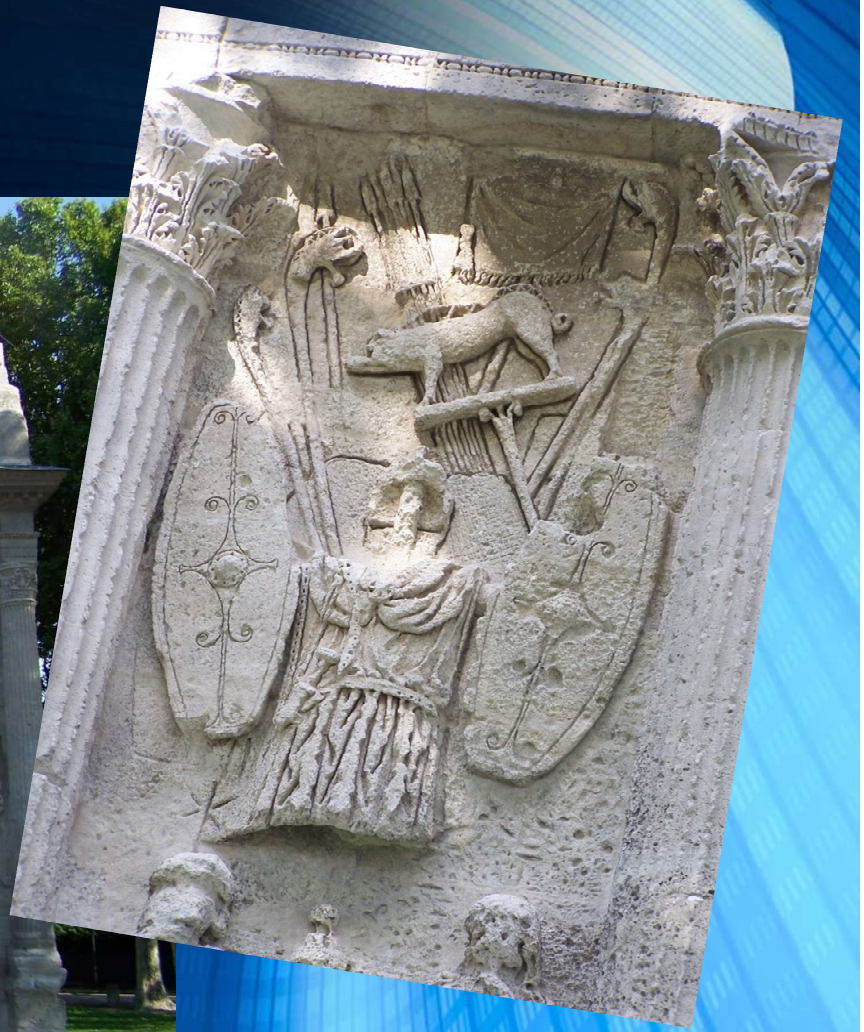
- Landscape of power & victory



IMPERIALISM: AGGRESSIVE ?

- Landscape of power & victory





IMPERIALISM: AGGRESSIVE ?

- Landscape of power & victory



IMPERIALISM: CHANGE UNDER AUGUSTUS

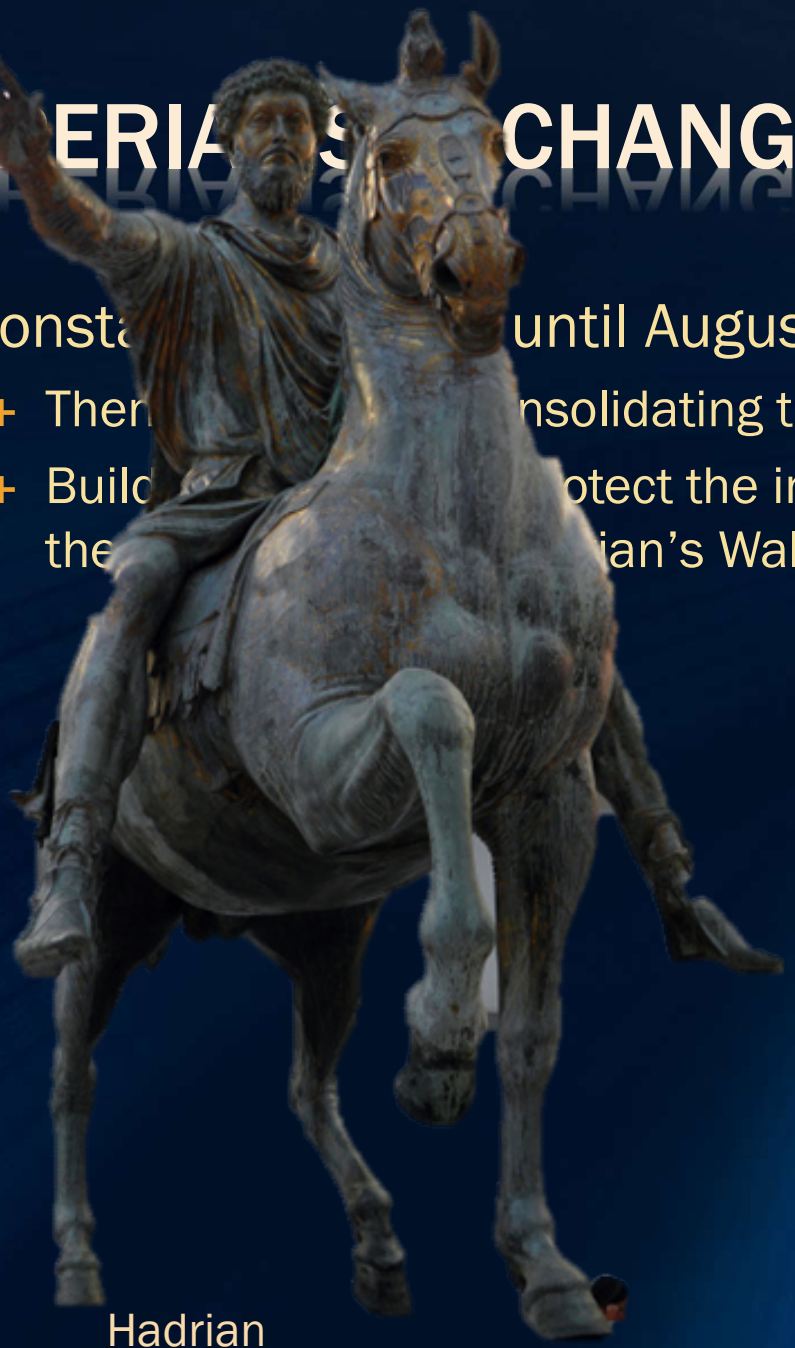
- Constant expansion until Augustus
  - Then, increasingly consolidating the empire
  - Building defences to protect the inhabitants of the Roman empire: Hadrian's Wall (*limes*)





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  - Build otect the inhabitants of the ian's Wall (*limes*)



Hadrian



IMPERIALISM: CHANGE UNDER AUGUSTUS

- Constant expansion until Augustus
  - Then, increasingly consolidating the empire
  - Building defences to protect the inhabitants of the Roman empire: Hadrian's Wall (*limes*)
  - New image of Rome promoted:
    bringing peace, prosperity, civilisation



IMPERIALISM: CHANGE UNDER AUGUSTUS

- Image of *princeps*







IMPERIALISM: CHANGE UNDER AUGUSTUS

- Rome & princeps →*pax Augusta* & prosperity



Tellus / fertility & abundance



Ara Pacis, 9 B.C.

IMPERIAL DISCOURSES: PEACE, PROSPERITY

- Rome & princeps →*pax Augusta* & prosperity



aureus, Claudius AD 41-54



IMPERIAL DISCOURSES: PEACE, PROSPERITY

- Rome & princeps →*pax Augusta* & pro[illegible]

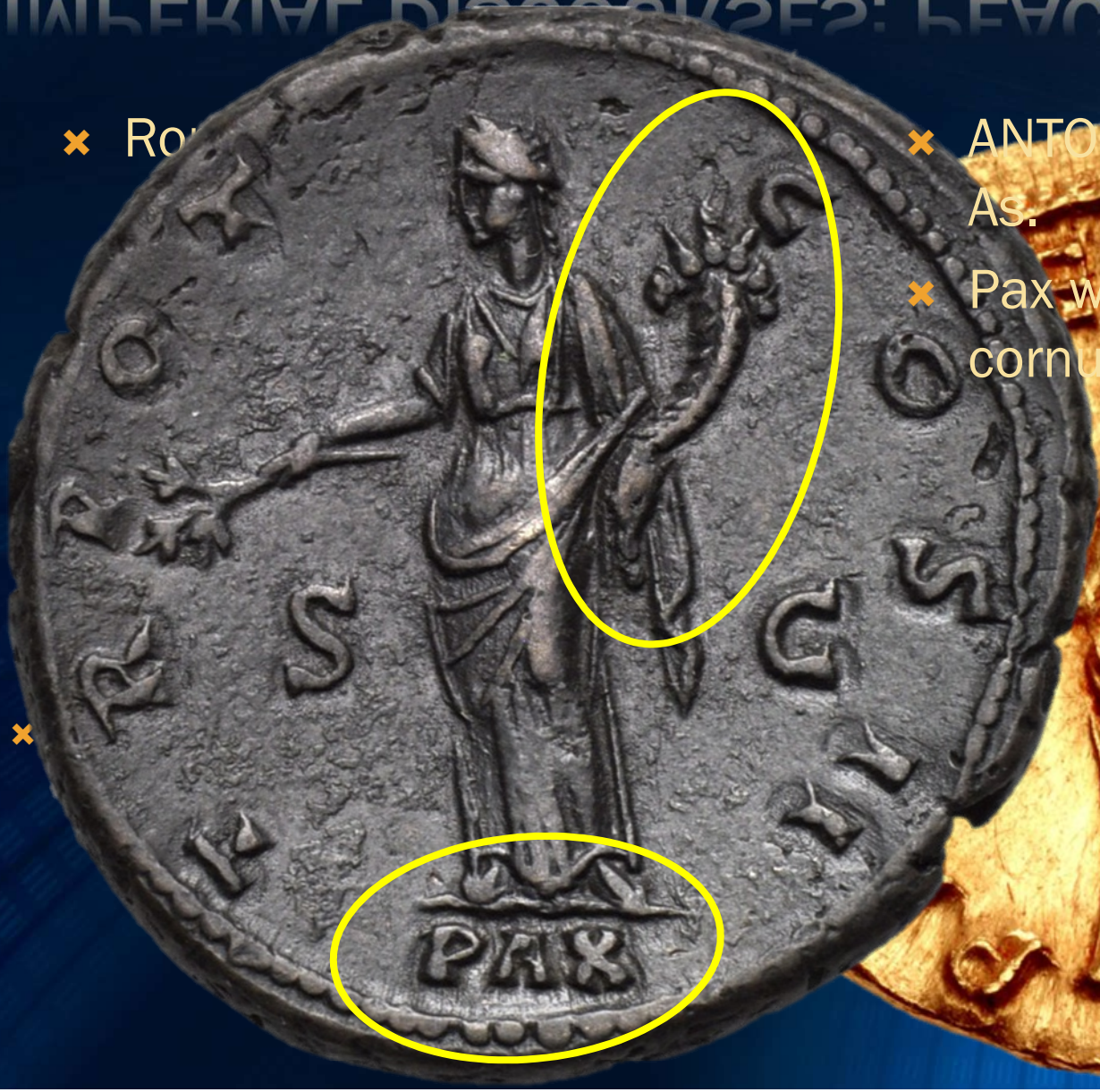


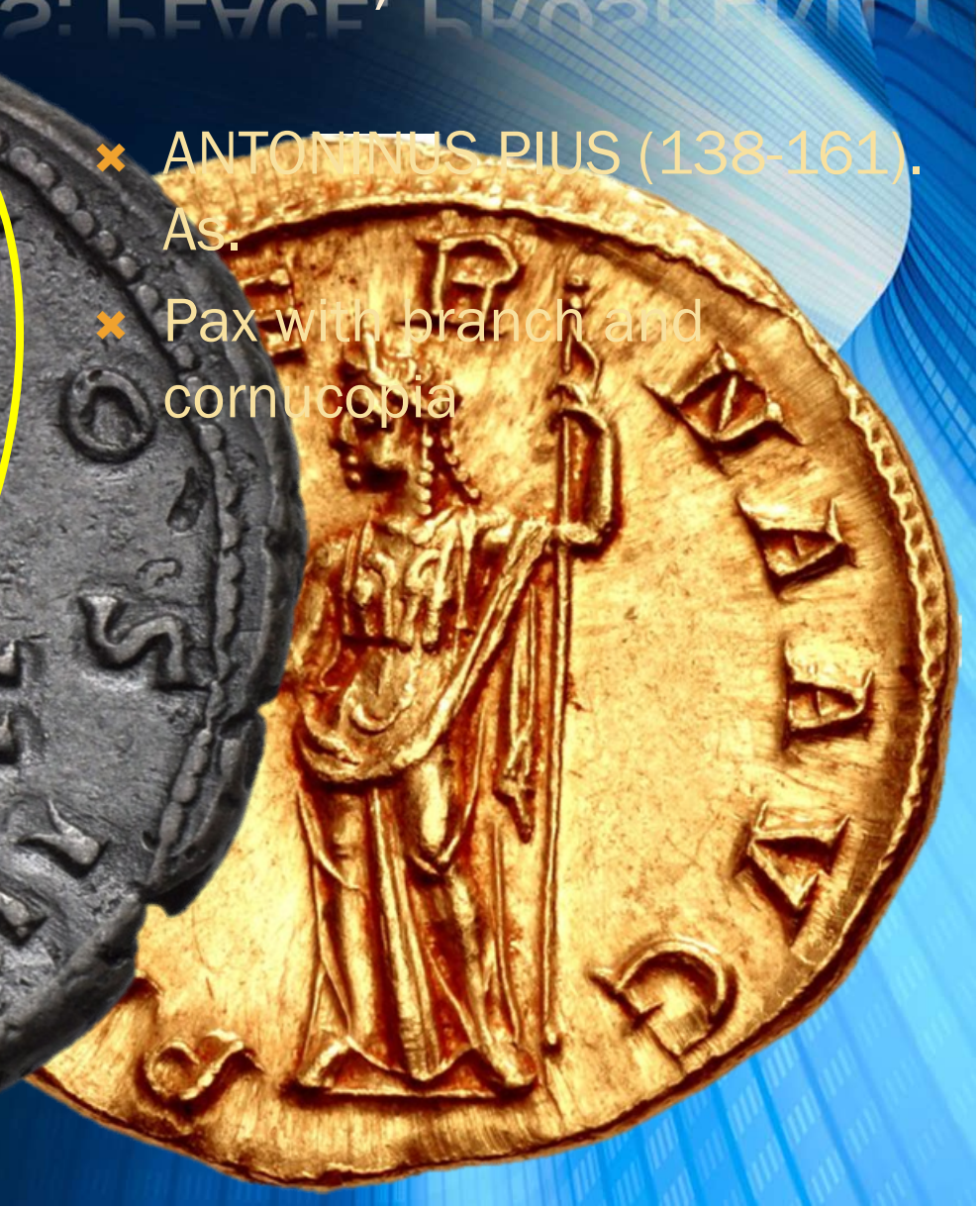
- pax aeterna Aug(usta)
- emperor Severus Alexander A.D. 222 – 235
- *aureus*

aureus, Claudius AD 41-54

IMPERIAL DISCOURSES: PEACE, PROSPERITY

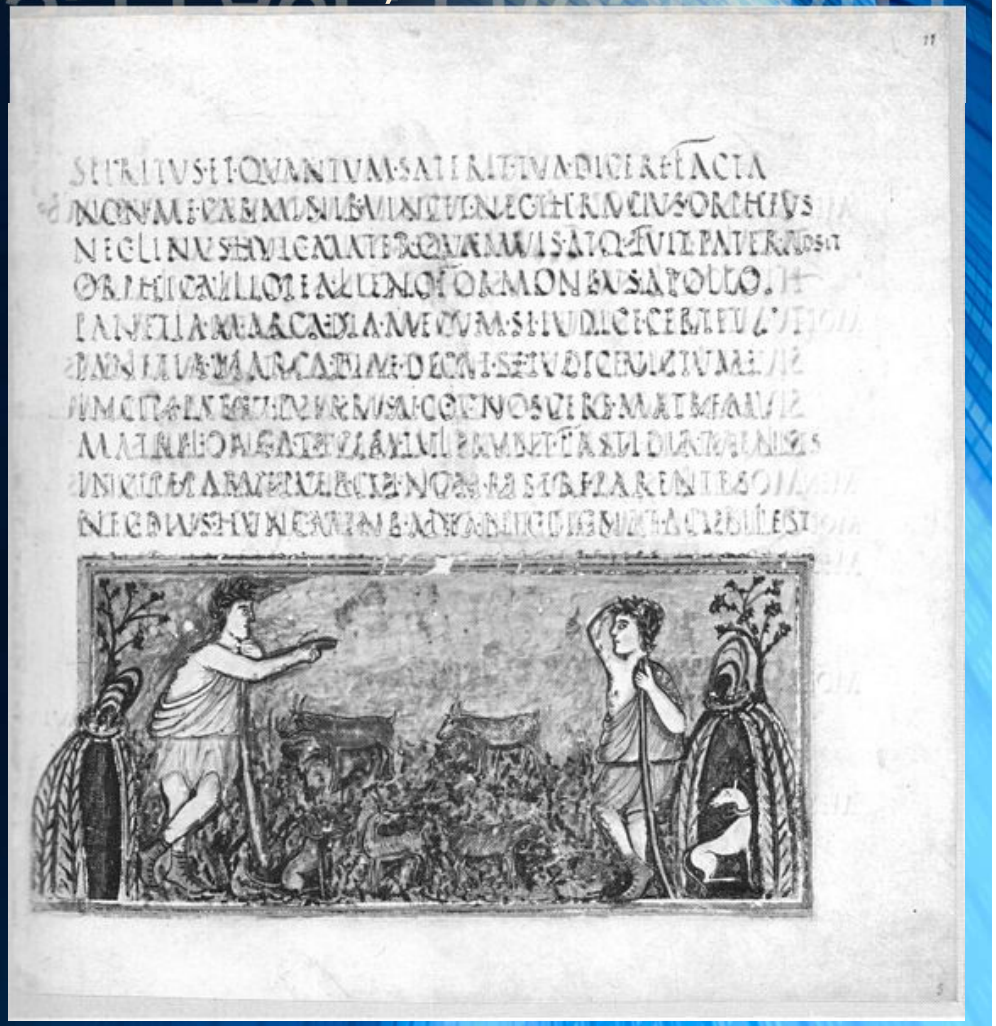
- Ro
- ANTONINUS PIUS (138-161). As.
- Pax with branch and cornucopia
-





IMPERIAL DISCOURSES: PEACE, PROSPERITY

- Golden Age / *aurea aetas*
  - Greek myth of four Ages of Man: golden, silver, bronze and iron.
  - Iron – current age – a period of decline
  - Golden Age: period of primordial peace, harmony, stability and prosperity ("paradise")
  - under Augustus: a new Golden Age of peace and justice was about to return… (→e.g. works of Vergil)



Vergil, Buc. VI, 80–86

IMPERIAL DISCOURSES: PEACE, PR PERITY

- Worship of the emperor
- “imperial cult”



- Augustus as Jupiter !
  (1st century A.D.)

IMPERIAL DISCOURSES: PEACE, PR PERITY

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Temple to Augustus and Rome, Vienne



IMPERIAL DISCOURSES: PEACE, PROSPERITY

- Worship of the emperor
- “imperial cult”



- Apotheosis of Antoninus Pius and Faustinus, *c*.A.D. 161

HOLDING THE EMPIRE TOGETHER…

- The nature of Roman imperialism
- The Roman empire:
  - a “federation” ?
  - hardly any bureaucracy
  - local people: self-government (internal affairs)
  - the conquered people: become Roman citizens, and even Roman senators (and some: emperors!)
    - → participation
    - → integration
  - differences between “Romans” and “natives” diminish !
  - A.D. 212: all free people become Roman citizens!



togati:
“Gallo-Roman” statues from Ingelheim

HOLDING THE EMPIRE TOGETHER...









- Local elites

HOLDING THE EMPIRE TOGETH





- Local elites

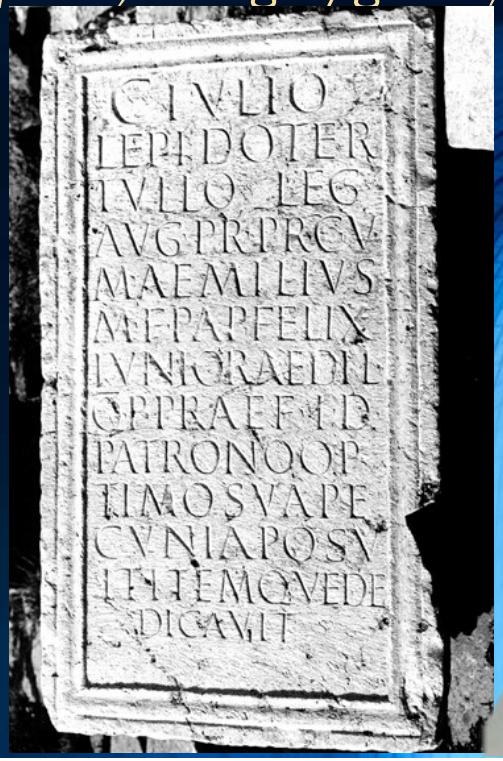


Glanum, 30's B.C.

HOLDING THE EMPIRE TOGETHER…

- patronage network
  - from Rome / the princeps
    via senators, equestrians
    to all communities across the empire
  - local *patroni*: for cities, *pagi*, *vici*, *plebs*, colleges/guilds,…







SUMMARY: ROMAN IMPERIALISM

- role of the army ?
- defensive imperialism ?
- aggressive imperialism ?
  - what drives expansion & conquest ?
- change between Republic and Empire ?
  - Augustus as *princeps* ?
  - ideology: peace, prosperity, justice, civilisation/*humanitas*,...
  - imperial discourses
  - myth, religion,... ?
  - local elites: internalising Roman values...
  - patronage structures

HOLDING THE EMPIRE TOGETHER…

