Chapter 34 - From Republic to Empire

**Big Q:** Did the benefits of Roman expansion outweigh the costs?

**Do Now:**
Suppose that your family were much larger – perhaps two or three times larger than it is now. What would be some of the benefits of living in a larger family? What might be some of the drawbacks, or costs?

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In this chapter, we will discover how the ancient republic of Rome expanded its power. By the early 1st century B.C.E., it had become a mighty empire that ruled the entire Mediterranean world.

The expansion of Roman power took place over approximately five hundred years, from 509 B.C.E. to 14 C.E. At the start of this period, Rome was a tiny republic in central Italy. Five hundred years later, it was the thriving center of a vast empire. At its height, the Roman Empire included most of Europe, together with North Africa, Egypt, much of the present-day Middle East, and Asia Minor.

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The growth of Rome’s power happened gradually, and it came at a price. Romans had to fight countless wars to defend their growing territory and to conquer new lands. Along the way, Rome itself changed. The Romans had once been proud to be governed under a republic of elected leaders. Their heroes were men who had helped to preserve the republic. By 14 C.E., the republic was just a memory. Power was in the hands of a single supreme ruler, the emperor. Romans even worshiped the emperor as a god.

In this chapter, we’ll see how this dramatic change occurred. We’ll trace the gradual expansion of Roman power. We will also explore the costs of this expansion, both for Romans and for the people they conquered.
The first period of expansion, or becoming larger, began in 509 B.C.E. At this time, the Romans drove the last Etruscan king out of power, and Rome became a republic.

The Romans wanted to protect their borders and to gain more land. This led to a series of wars. During the next 245 years, the Romans fought one enemy after another. They conquered their Latin neighbors in central Italy. They also defeated their old rulers, the Etruscans.

Wisely, the Romans eventually made allies, or friends, of their former enemies. By 264 B.C.E., Rome and its allies controlled all of the Italian peninsula.

Rome’s growth threatened another great power, the city of Carthage (KAR-bridge), in North Africa. During the second period of expansion, from 264 to 146 B.C.E., Rome and Carthage fought three major wars. Through these wars, Rome gained control of North Africa, much of Spain, and the island of Sicily. Roman armies also conquered Macedonia and Greece.

During the third period of expansion, from 145 to 44 B.C.E., Rome came to rule the entire Mediterranean world. In the east, Rome took control of Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt. In the west, the Roman general Julius Caesar conquered much of Gaul (modern-day France).

Proud Romans now called the Mediterranean “our sea.” But the republic was in trouble. Civil wars divided the city. Roman generals were becoming dictators. They set their armies against the power of the Senate. Caesar himself ruled as a dictator for life until he was assassinated in 44 B.C.E.

The men who murdered Caesar thought they were saving the power of the Senate. However, several more years of civil war followed. Then Caesar’s grandnephew, Octavian, seized total power. The Senate named him Augustus, or “honored one.” Rome was now an empire governed by one supreme ruler.
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Fourth Period of Expansion

The fourth period of expansion began with the start of the empire. It lasted until 14 C.E. The first emperor, Augustus, added a great deal of new territory by pushing the borders of the empire all the way to natural boundaries, like rivers, to make it easier to defend. Later emperors added more territory. At its height, the Roman Empire stretched from the island of Britain in the northwest to the Black Sea in the east.

Each period of expansion involved cost and sacrifice. The next four sections give more details about each expansion. As you read, ask yourself what Romans of the time might have thought about these events.

4th Period of Expansion

34.3

1. How were the Romans able to take control of the Italian peninsula?
   Treaty w/ Latins
   Defeated: Etruscans, Samnites, Greeks

2. Who might have had a negative view of Roman expansion and why?
   Defeated cities - pay taxes, soldiers, not all granted citizenship
   Plebeians - had to serve in the army

34.4

1. Why did the Romans fight the Punic Wars? What did they gain?
   Control of the Mediterranean region
   Most of Spain, Macedonia, Greece, northern Africa (Carthage)
   Riches, slaves, IDEAS

2. Who might have had a negative view of Roman expansion and why?
   Farmers - large estates controlled, farms destroyed by Hannibal, neglected farms
   Carthaginians - sold into slavery, Rome burned down Carthage

34.5

1. Expansion During the Final Years of the Republic
   145 B.C.E. - 44 B.C.E
   End of 3rd Stage = Republic collapses
   - end of Republic - even more wars fought
   - Slave revolts - prisoners of war
   - Spartacus (slave) in 73 B.C.E. - crushed
   - Caesar defeated Pompey
     - named dictator for life = Republic over
     - built roads, buildings = jobs
     - gladiator contests
     - new calendar
     Caesar had a vision of Rome as a great empire
   - new colonies, granted Gaul citizenship
   - Stabbed to death on March 15, 44 B.C.E
     - Brutus = "save" the Republic
     - WRONG! = Emperor

"Republic"

34.3 - Rome's Conquest of the Italian Peninsula
509 BCE - 264 BCE

Romans got rid of the Etruscan king
Fought wars to protect their borders
- Etruscans, Samnites, and Greek city-states
- Defeated people:
  -- allowed citizenship (some)
  -- pay Roman taxes
  -- serve in Roman army
By 275 - conquest of Italian peninsula complete
- Had to keep large, permanent army = need more soldiers --> mostly plebeians

34.4 - Overseas Expansion During the Punic Wars
264 BCE - 146 BCE

Rome and its allies controlled all of Italy
Fought 3 wars with Carthage (Punic Wars)
- Carthage is in north Africa
- Gained control of:
  - north Africa
  - much of Spain
  - Macedonia
  - Greece
  - Sicily
Carthaginians killed or sold into slavery after 3rd Punic War
Roman farms destroyed as a cost of war
Small farms being replaced by large estates

34.5 - Expansion During the Final Years of the Republic
145 B.C.E. - 44 B.C.E

End of 3rd Stage = Republic collapses
- end of Republic - even more wars fought
- Slave revolts - prisoners of war
- Spartacus (slave) in 73 B.C.E. - crushed
Civil War - Pompey v. Julius Caesar
- Caesar defeated Pompey
  - named dictator for life = Republic over
  - built roads, buildings = jobs
  - gladiator contests
  - new calendar
Caesar had a vision of Rome as a great empire
- new colonies, granted Gaul citizenship
- Stabbed to death on March 15, 44 B.C.E
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34.5
1. When Julius Caesar became dictator, what reforms did he make?
   - Construction projects to provide work
   - Entertainment for the poor - gladiators
   - Adopted a new calendar
   - Citizenship to Gaul and Spain

2. Who might have had a negative view of Roman expansion and why?
   - Senate - Caesar was a threat to their power
   - Farmers and laborers - lost their jobs to slaves
   - People from conquered lands enslaved

34.6 - Rome Becomes an Empire
44 BCE - 14 BCE

Death of Caesar → 10 years of civil war
- Great nephew Octavian ruled Rome during the last expansion

Octavian (Caesar Augustus - 1st Emperor)
- struggled to maintain power over large kingdom
- rival = Marc Antony (married Cleopatra)
- Octavian beat them → SUPREME RULER
- title = Augustus "honored"

Empire over 50 million people
- repaired temples and towns
- last expansion brought problems of management
  -- reformed morals by punishing adultery
  -- private army - Praetorian Guard

Under Roman rule, the Mediterranean stayed at peace for > 200 years = Pax Romana

34.6
1. Describe the Pax Romana and other positive aspects of Augustus's reign.

2. Who might have had a negative view of Roman expansion and why?