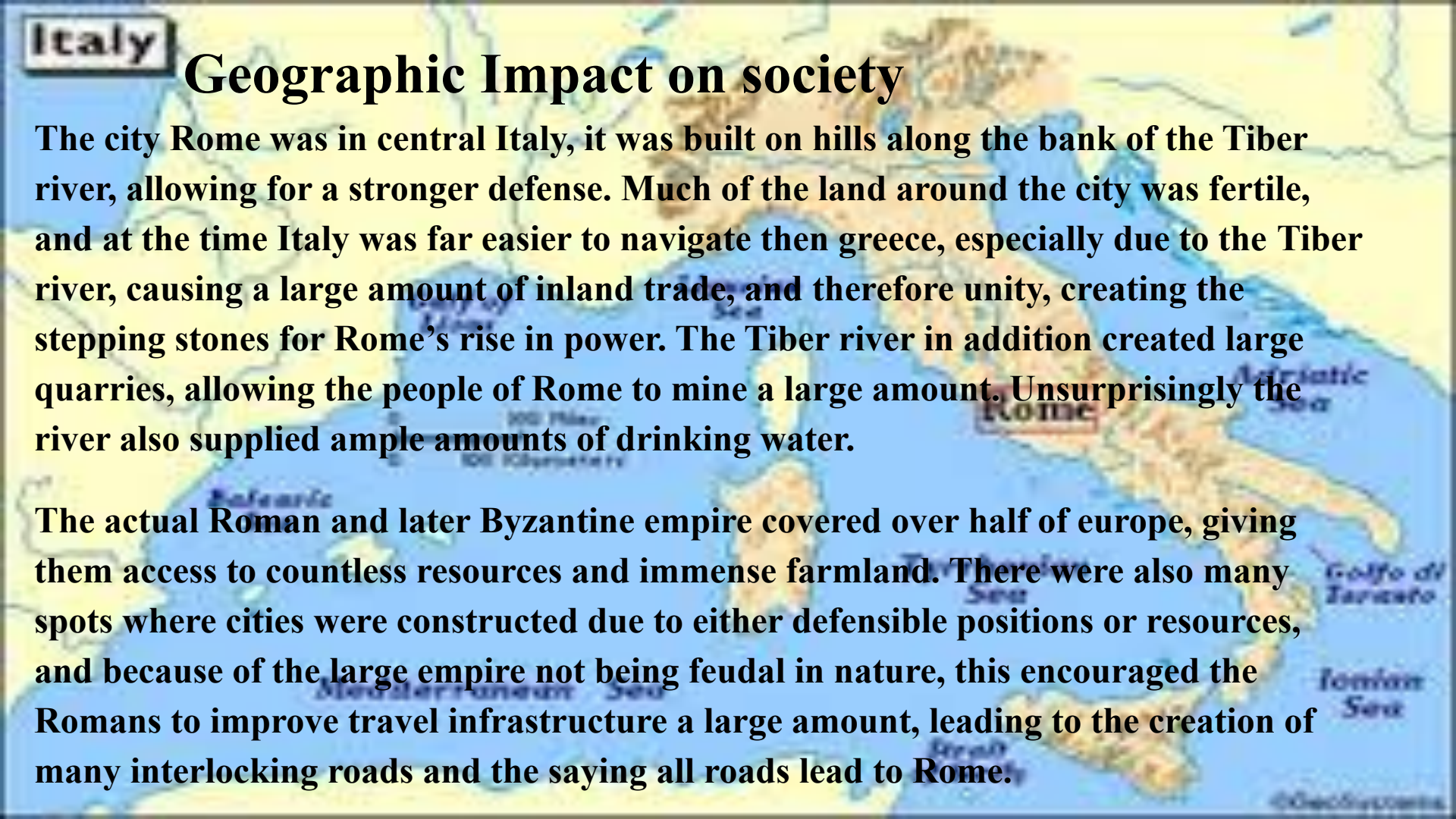


# Rome

Era of roman empire: 27 BC-476 CE

Era of Rome/Byzantine: 753 BC-1453 CE

117 AD Peak of Rome

A map of Italy is shown in the background, with the word 'Italy' in a box in the top left corner. The map highlights the location of Rome and the Tiber river. The text is overlaid on the map.

Italy

## **Geographic Impact on society**

**The city Rome was in central Italy, it was built on hills along the bank of the Tiber river, allowing for a stronger defense. Much of the land around the city was fertile, and at the time Italy was far easier to navigate than Greece, especially due to the Tiber river, causing a large amount of inland trade, and therefore unity, creating the stepping stones for Rome's rise in power. The Tiber river in addition created large quarries, allowing the people of Rome to mine a large amount. Unsurprisingly the river also supplied ample amounts of drinking water.**

**The actual Roman and later Byzantine empire covered over half of Europe, giving them access to countless resources and immense farmland. There were also many spots where cities were constructed due to either defensible positions or resources, and because of the large empire not being feudal in nature, this encouraged the Romans to improve travel infrastructure a large amount, leading to the creation of many interlocking roads and the saying all roads lead to Rome.**

# Political impact on society

The Roman empire was of course ruled by an emperor. Besides them the pope historically held large amounts of power. This created times of a power vacuum, and of course left a mostly united nation, but not always the happiest one. The Roman government structure also led to the fall of Rome in roughly 476 CE. The Roman republic however, was ruled by a council of aristocrats and two leaders said council elects. This tended to lend itself to better leaders, but the bureaucracy slowed down the country by a large amounts. There were three social classes, Patricians were the aristocrats, Plebeians were the working class and farmers, and then there were slaves. This social structure lead itself to a large class divide in political as well as economic power between the classes. The Roman court provided the basic framework for civil court, the type of court used in the modern day. The Romans had in place a system for changing laws. Many punishments were strict in Rome, and men had far more rights than women, for example, while men could legally murder family members, women would become literal property if they spent a year in their husband's house.



## Economic system and society

Rome based a large amount of its economy on agriculture, largely concerned with feeding the denizens of Rome rather than anything else. Slaves were also common place in the economy of ancient Rome, and as previously mentioned this led to a large class divide between the ones who worked on the farms and the ones who owned them. Major exports were wine and olive oil, and this quickly skyrocketed the Roman economy despite its relative simplicity. This also led to a completely farm focused lifestyle for many of the citizens, and with each individual farm not producing much, a large volume of farms. There was enough food to go around. Rome did manage to export more and more things in time, not just wine. But it was always an agricultural base, with farmers able to donate food to the government in lieu of taxes.

# Beliefs and Religious Impact on culture

The Romans believed in the Roman pantheon, which is largely based on the Greek pantheon. Jupiter being equivalent to Zeus, Neptune, Poseidon, and so on. That was of course until the rise of Christianity shortly after 1 CE. After which the majority of Romans were Christian, and quite devout worshipers, often involving large amounts of praying and even the occasional sacrifice. This led to religion being a part of common day life in Rome. This also meant that very few people would oppose the church, which quickly grew very powerful. The pope ending up with arguably more power than the emperor, and for some time the Pope arguably being the strongest man on earth due to this.

# Rise of Civilization

Rome began as just that, a single city in Italy. However it had many great advantages, and was in excellent terrain. It quickly became prosperous due to trade, That combined with its impressive military might and strategy when it became the Republic of Rome made it a fairly formidable force. The Republic of Rome soon after began taking over much of Italy, and then the entire Mediterranean through mostly military means. Of course along the way the Republic of Rome became the Roman Empire. This was after Septimius Severus declared himself emperor after several years of political turmoil in Rome. Rome continued spreading further and further due to their immensely powerful army, albeit it was lacking navy until 117AD, where the Roman empire reached their strongest point. Between their powerful army and influence in gaining allies, as well as its rapid advancement of culture and technology, led to it quickly advancing and taking over the entirety of the Mediterranean sea. Before it had a golden age, followed by the fall of Rome.

# Art and architecture



Rome had a diverse culture with many thousands if not millions of people. This of course led to large amounts of art pieces to sample from. There were many sculpture at the time, most of the art is stone work. There are many great pieces of Roman architecture as well. Prime examples being the Pantheon and of course Colosume, both incredible works of art in their own right, built almost entirely out of stone. However Vase painting, murals, and other works of fine art were also created by the Romans, not just sculpting with marble and bronze. They also created jewelry and other such pieces of art in addition, leading to a quite diverse set of art. But Roman architecture will likely still beat their artwork, as even more common buildings are often intricately designed and beautiful in their own right.

# Writing system and written history

Roman literature begins around the third century, BC. Romans wrote quite a bit, on thin sheets of wood and clay tablets, and even with ink on parchment for binding documents. Romans tended to write a lot of poetry, and while they did write down some of their history, though as with every civilization, they didn't always end up recording history down right of course. However they wrote letters to each other, and made speeches, writing those down and as such giving us further insight in many different topics. Overall we can recover a large amount of Roman Primary sources and other writing pieces, and have done so. This is one of the reasons we have such a rich understanding of Roman history and life styles, those being the commonly found writing pieces.



# Major Technological Advances

Romans made many large technological advances in their time. The most notable ones being Roads, which were vital for travel across the sprawling empire and made logistics a far easier problem to solve than it had been. Another major technological advance were the aqueducts. This of course led to leisure activities, like bathing, but also was necessary for the large and massive sewer system the empire had, which they likely may have suffered a plague without. The aqueducts also supplied water to the citizens of Rome, a precursor to tap water. They also created concrete, which proved vital in many of the feats of engineering they're known for, such as the Colosseum. They also developed several military technologies that furthered the dominion of Europe. Such as several siege weapons, and the Roman phalanx. Which completely changed warfare forever, changing warfare from a focus on individuals, to that of groups.

# Golden Age

Rome was a very prosperous empire throughout, but doubly so during its golden age. Lasting over 200 years, from 27 BC to 180 CE, it brought great triumph and prosperity to the empire. It began when Augustus entered power as emperor, as such Augustus is often seen as one of the greatest Roman emperors of all time. During this time there was a boom in the fine arts, and as such a boom in culture as well. There was great political stability and over all everything was going well for the empire. However the golden age or Augustan era came to an end in 180 CE due to a universally despised emperor seen as incompetent, Commodus. Who within his first year in power destroyed the work that some of the best emperors in roman history spent centuries building up. Commodus was a completely inept ruler who managed to begin the downfall of the greatest empire since ancient egypt in a single decade. And was easily the worst roman emporur, in fact the worst ruler in any sense, ever, and he didn't have an excuse of being too young to effectively rule either. He was actually just mad, and it was likely quite good he was assassinated so soon into his rule.

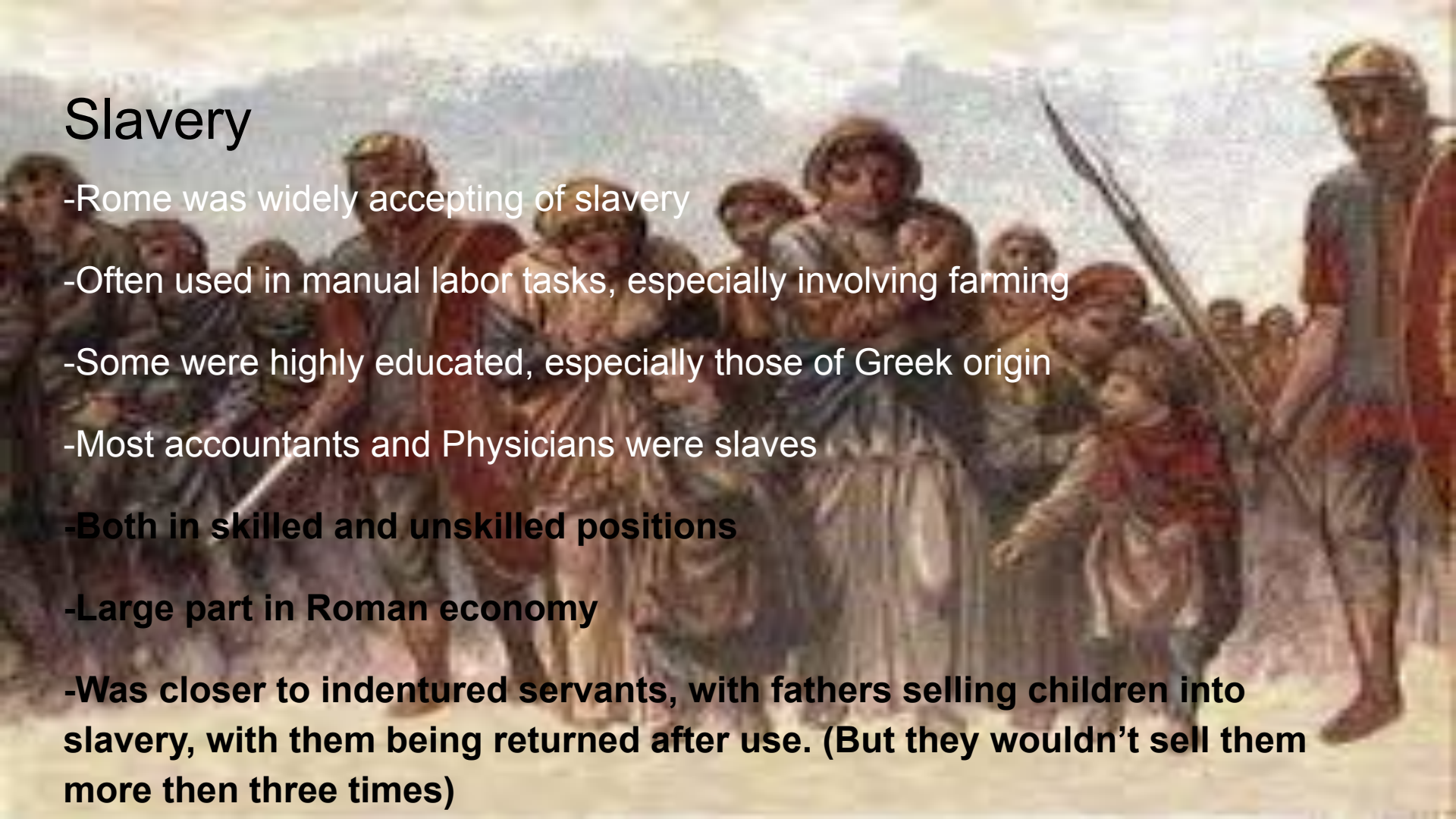
# Famous Citizens and achievements



- Julius Caesar, arguable one of the most well known Roman leaders of all time
- Augustus, often considered to be one of, if not the greatest roman emperors, also why August is 31 days
- Commodus, the mad emperor, incredibly infamous for being a tyrant, and a terrible one at that.
- Construction of the colosseum, an impressive work of engineering and one of the wonders of the ancient world.
- Conquest of the entire mediterranean sea, the empire successfully took over half of europe in just a few centuries.
- Creation of aqueducts, the precursor to tap water
- Conquest of egypt, which was one of the strongest civilizations of all time, along with Rome

# Slavery

- Rome was widely accepting of slavery
- Often used in manual labor tasks, especially involving farming
- Some were highly educated, especially those of Greek origin
- Most accountants and Physicians were slaves
- Both in skilled and unskilled positions
- Large part in Roman economy
- Was closer to indentured servants, with fathers selling children into slavery, with them being returned after use. (But they wouldn't sell them more than three times)



# Fall of civilization



-Beginning of the fall of the Roman empire began in roughly 200 CE after the end of the golden era

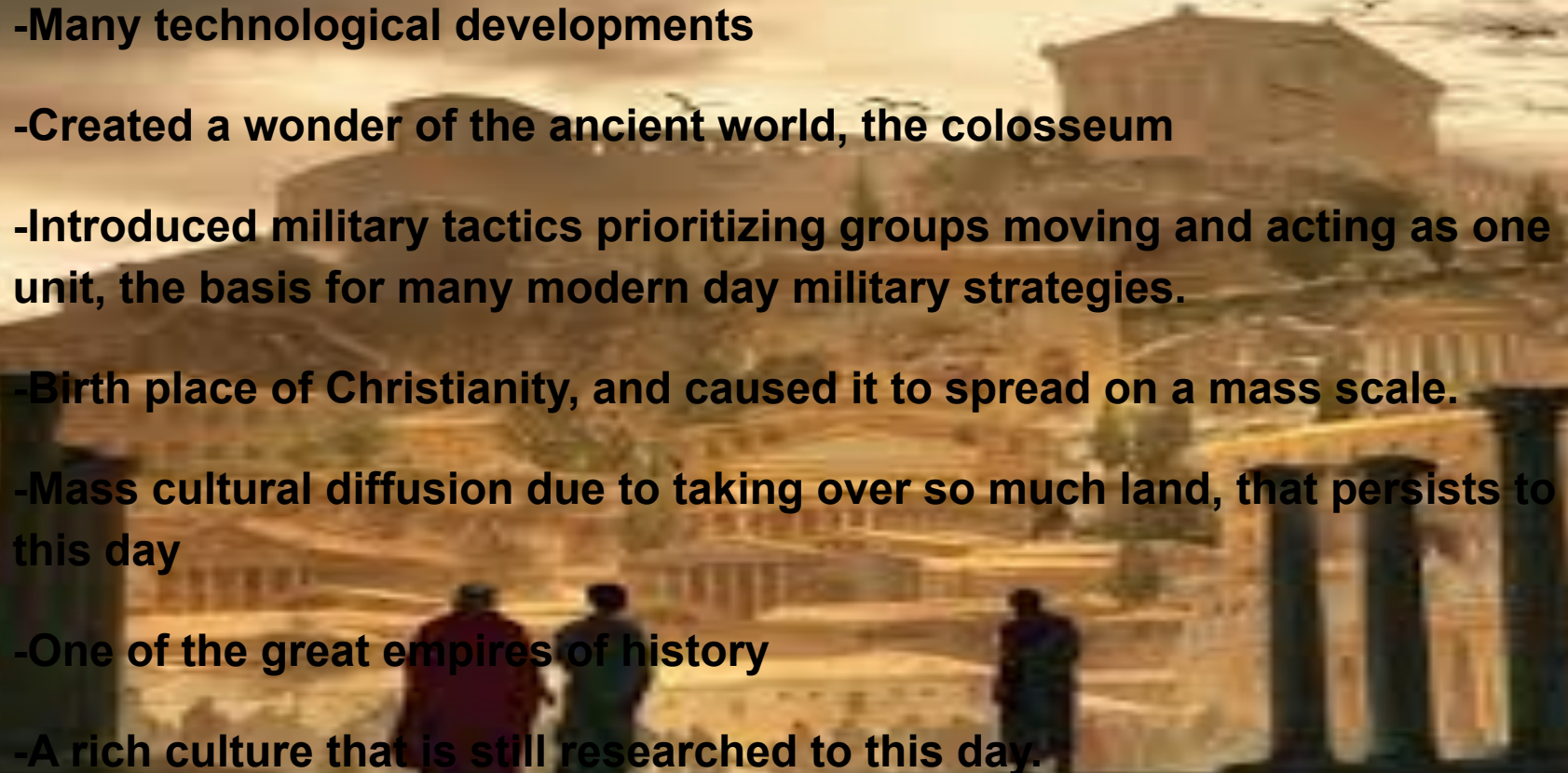
-Fall of Roman culture occurred over a thousand years later with the capture of Constantinople and defeat of the Byzantine empire.

-Was split and fragmented so much in the West the empire became almost nothing, then the East section split off into the Byzantine empire, still undeniably Roman however

-Involved many mostly incompetent emperors and rulers. Like Commodus.

-Final blow dealt by Germanic King in 476 CE

# **World wide contributions**

- Many technological developments**
  - Created a wonder of the ancient world, the colosseum**
  - Introduced military tactics prioritizing groups moving and acting as one unit, the basis for many modern day military strategies.**
  - Birth place of Christianity, and caused it to spread on a mass scale.**
  - Mass cultural diffusion due to taking over so much land, that persists to this day**
  - One of the great empires of history**
  - A rich culture that is still researched to this day.**
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# Resource page

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