

# The Eternal City: A Comprehensive History of Rome

## Introduction

The history of Rome is one of the most fascinating and influential in the world. From its humble beginnings as a small village on the banks of the Tiber River, Rome grew into a vast empire that spanned three continents. For over a thousand years, Rome was the center of Western civilization, and its legacy can still be seen today in our laws, our governments, and our culture.

In this book, we will explore the entire history of Rome, from its founding to its fall. We will examine the political, social, and cultural forces that shaped the Roman world, and we will meet the men and women who played a role in its rise and fall.

The history of Rome is a complex and often contradictory one. It is a story of great achievements and terrible failures, of heroism and treachery, of wealth and poverty. But it is also a story of hope and resilience. The Romans were a people who never gave up, even in the face of adversity. They built a civilization that lasted for centuries, and they left a legacy that continues to inspire us today.

### **The Founding of Rome**

The traditional story of the founding of Rome is that it was founded by Romulus and Remus, twin brothers who were raised by a wolf. According to the legend, Romulus and Remus were the sons of the god Mars and the priestess Rhea Silvia. They were abandoned at birth and were raised by a wolf in the hills of Latium. When they grew up, they returned to the site of their birth and founded the city of Rome.

The historical evidence for the founding of Rome is much less clear. It is likely that the city was founded by

a group of Latin tribes who settled on the banks of the Tiber River. The city grew rapidly, and by the 6th century BC, it had become a major power in the region.

### **The Roman Republic**

In 509 BC, the Roman people overthrew their Etruscan king and established a republic. The republic was a government in which power was held by the people, rather than by a single ruler. The Roman Republic was a complex and often tumultuous system, but it was also a remarkably successful one. Under the republic, Rome expanded its territory, conquered new lands, and became one of the most powerful empires in the world.

### **The Roman Empire**

In 27 BC, the Roman Republic was replaced by the Roman Empire. The empire was ruled by a single emperor, who had absolute power. The Roman Empire was a period of great prosperity and stability. The empire expanded its borders to include much of

Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The Roman Empire also saw the rise of Christianity, which would eventually become the dominant religion in the empire.

### **The Fall of the Roman Empire**

The Roman Empire began to decline in the 3rd century AD. The empire was plagued by political instability, economic problems, and military defeats. In 476 AD, the last Roman emperor in the West was overthrown, and the Western Roman Empire came to an end. The Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the Byzantine Empire, continued to exist for another thousand years, but it was eventually conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

### **The Legacy of Rome**

The Roman Empire left a lasting legacy on the world. The Romans developed a system of law that is still used in many countries today. They also built roads,

aqueducts, and other public works that are still in use today. The Roman Empire also spread Christianity throughout the world. The legacy of Rome can still be seen in our laws, our governments, our culture, and our religion.

## Book Description

From its humble beginnings as a small village on the banks of the Tiber River, Rome grew into a vast empire that spanned three continents. For over a thousand years, Rome was the center of Western civilization, and its legacy can still be seen today in our laws, our governments, and our culture.

**In this comprehensive history of Rome, Pasquale De Marco explores the political, social, and cultural forces that shaped the Roman world.** From the founding of the city to the fall of the empire, Pasquale De Marco provides a detailed and engaging account of one of the most important civilizations in history.

**The Eternal City is more than just a history book. It is also a story of hope and resilience.** The Romans were a people who never gave up, even in the face of adversity. They built a civilization that lasted for

centuries, and they left a legacy that continues to inspire us today.

**Whether you are a student of history, a lover of Rome, or simply someone who wants to learn more about one of the most important civilizations in history, The Eternal City is the perfect book for you.**

**The Eternal City covers all aspects of Roman history, including:**

- The founding of Rome
- The Roman Republic
- The Roman Empire
- The fall of the Roman Empire
- The legacy of Rome

**The Eternal City is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the history of Western civilization.**

# Chapter 1: The Founding of Rome

## The Myth and the Reality of Romulus and Remus

The founding of Rome is one of the most famous stories in history. According to legend, the city was founded by Romulus and Remus, twin brothers who were raised by a wolf. However, the historical evidence for this story is thin. It is more likely that Rome was founded by a group of Latin tribes who settled on the banks of the Tiber River.

The story of Romulus and Remus is first told in the works of the Roman historian Livy, who wrote in the 1st century BC. According to Livy, Romulus and Remus were the sons of the god Mars and the priestess Rhea Silvia. They were abandoned at birth and were raised by a wolf in the hills of Latium. When they grew up, they returned to the site of their birth and founded the city of Rome.



There are a number of problems with this story. First, there is no archaeological evidence to support the claim that Romulus and Remus were raised by a wolf. Second, the story is suspiciously similar to the myths of other cultures, such as the Greek myth of Zeus and Leda. It is possible that the story of Romulus and Remus was invented by the Romans to give their city a more prestigious origin.

Despite the lack of historical evidence, the story of Romulus and Remus has become a powerful symbol of Rome. The wolf that raised the twins has become a symbol of the city, and the story of their founding has been told and retold for centuries.

The story of Romulus and Remus is also a reminder of the power of myth. Myths are not always true, but they can still be powerful forces in our lives. They can shape our beliefs, our values, and our sense of identity. The story of Romulus and Remus is a powerful reminder of the importance of myth in human history.

In addition to the myth of Romulus and Remus, there are a number of other stories about the founding of Rome. One story claims that the city was founded by Aeneas, a Trojan prince who fled to Italy after the fall of Troy. Another story claims that the city was founded by Hercules, the Greek hero.

These stories are all part of the rich tapestry of Roman history. They tell us about the hopes and dreams of the Roman people, and they help us to understand the culture that created one of the greatest empires in history.

# Chapter 1: The Founding of Rome

## The Etruscan Influence

The Etruscans were a powerful and advanced civilization that flourished in central Italy from the 8th to the 3rd century BC. They were skilled metalworkers, architects, and engineers, and they had a sophisticated system of government and religion. The Etruscans had a major influence on the development of Roman culture and society.

The Etruscans first came to Rome in the 7th century BC, and they quickly established themselves as the dominant power in the region. They ruled Rome for over a century, and during this time they introduced many of their own customs and institutions into Roman society. The Etruscans taught the Romans how to build roads, bridges, and aqueducts. They also introduced the Romans to the alphabet, the calendar, and the system of government.

The Etruscan kings were known for their wealth and luxury. They lived in lavish palaces and wore elaborate clothing. They also enjoyed banquets and other forms of entertainment. The Etruscan kings were also patrons of the arts, and they commissioned many works of art and architecture.

The Etruscan influence on Roman culture can still be seen today. The Romans adopted many Etruscan gods and goddesses, and they incorporated Etruscan religious practices into their own religion. The Romans also adopted Etruscan architectural styles, and many of the buildings in Rome were built using Etruscan techniques.

The Etruscan civilization eventually declined in the 3rd century BC, and the Romans became the dominant power in Italy. However, the Etruscan influence on Roman culture and society continued for many centuries. The Etruscans were a major force in the

development of Roman civilization, and their legacy can still be seen today.

# Chapter 1: The Founding of Rome

## The Rise of the Roman Republic

The Roman Republic was a period of great change and expansion for the Roman people. After overthrowing their Etruscan king in 509 BC, the Romans established a new form of government in which power was held by the people, rather than by a single ruler. The republic was a complex and often tumultuous system, but it was also a remarkably successful one. Under the republic, Rome expanded its territory, conquered new lands, and became one of the most powerful empires in the world.

One of the key factors in the rise of the Roman Republic was the development of a strong military. The Roman army was one of the most disciplined and effective fighting forces in the ancient world. The Romans also developed a number of new military technologies, such as the legionary formation and the ballista. These

advances gave the Romans a significant advantage over their enemies.

Another important factor in the rise of the Roman Republic was the development of a strong economy. The Romans were able to develop a thriving agricultural economy, as well as a number of important trade routes. The Romans also developed a number of new technologies, such as the aqueduct and the road, which helped to improve the lives of the Roman people.

The rise of the Roman Republic was also due in part to the development of a strong political system. The Roman Republic was a complex system of checks and balances, which helped to prevent any one person or group from becoming too powerful. The Romans also developed a number of important political institutions, such as the Senate and the Assembly, which helped to ensure that the government was responsive to the needs of the people.

The Roman Republic was a period of great achievement for the Roman people. Under the republic, Rome expanded its territory, conquered new lands, and became one of the most powerful empires in the world. The Roman Republic also developed a number of important institutions and technologies that would have a lasting impact on the world.



**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

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