

## Ancient Geography Study Guide

This is based on pages 105-128 in *Handbook to Life in Ancient Rome*, Leslie Adkins and Roy Adkins. Instead of following the expansion of empire strictly chronologically like the book, I will focus on each map and simply comment on particulars with a quasi-narrative style. (Mr. Adams, April 7, 2010)

### Map 1 (Fig. 3.1)

Early Rome with seven Hills and Servian Walls

- First note the seven hills and where they lie. Pretend that the city is your left hand. The **Capitoline** would be the thumb
- The **Palatine** the center of the palm
- The **Aventine** the pad below the thumb
- The **Caelian** the heel
- The **Quirinal** the index finger

The **Viminal** the middle finger  
The **Esquiline** the ring finger

- The **Servian Walls** were the first to enclose all seven hills.
- Note also the **Janiculum**, a hill across the Tiber. It was a center for the Italian god Janus. The Vatican Hill lies right to its north.

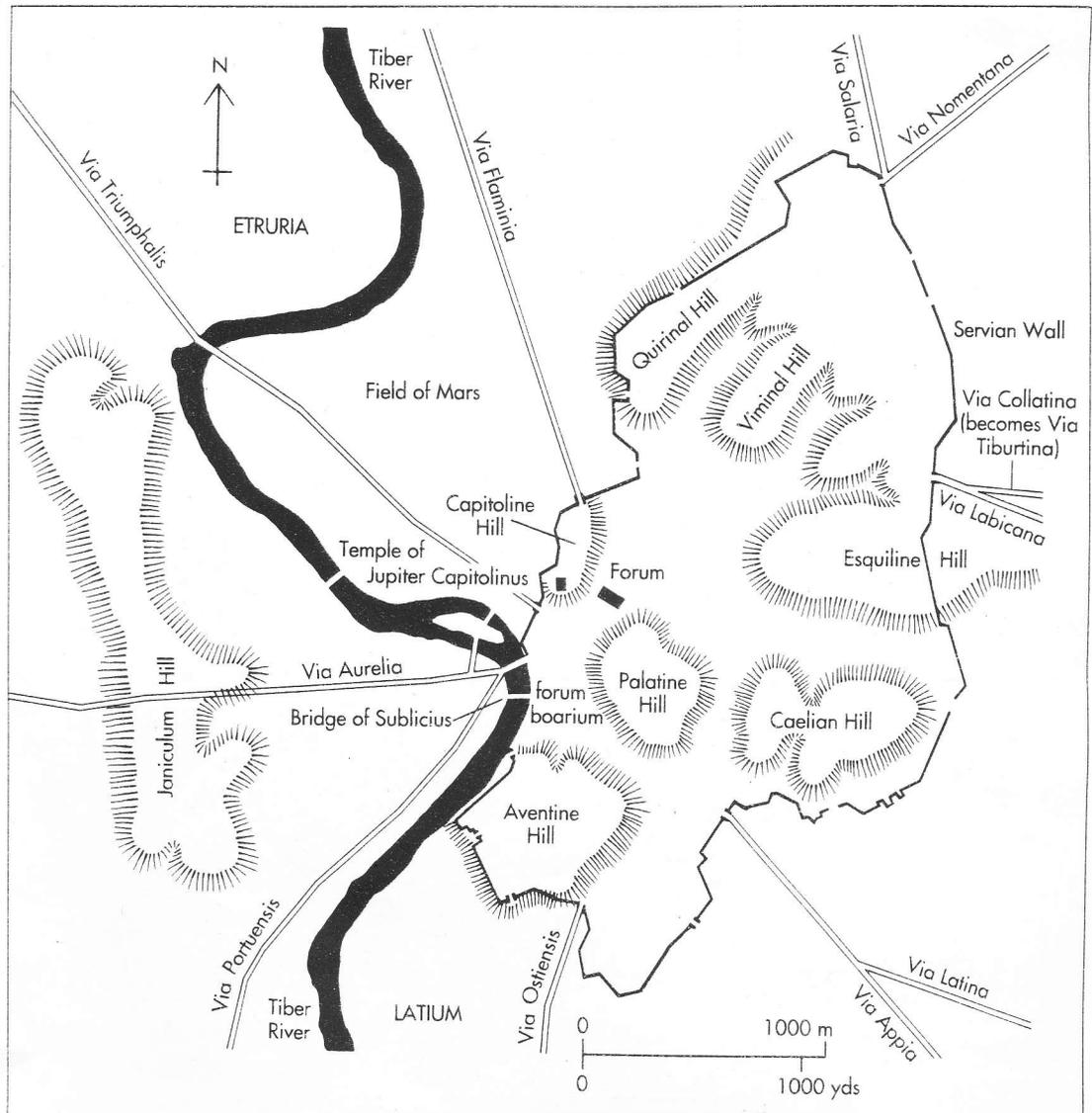


Fig. 3.1 Plan of early Rome with the Seven Hills and the Servian Wall.

### Sites of note in early Rome

- The **Forum Boarium** right next to the Tiber between the Palatine and Aventine: It was Rome's first and oldest Forum and functioned as a cattle market. It was a religious center for Rome and held two important temples: The **Temple of Hercules Victor** (a round temple), and **The Temple of Portunus**.
- The **Pons Sublicius**: This is of course the first bridge over the Tiber, built by Ancus Marcius. It enters Rome in the Forum Boarium.
- The **Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus**; Note that it is on the south end of the Capitoline.
- **Via Triumphalis**: Note this road running southeast toward the Palatine. It was the start of the triumph. The parade would circle the Palatine, enter the forum and follow the **Via Sacra** up to the Capitoline to the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus.
- **Via Flaminia**: This road runs north through the **Campus Martius** from the Capitoline. The **Ara Pacis** and **Horologium** (Augustus' sundial) was along its route. Augustus' Mausoleum was also on its course a little farther north. (see map 2 – fig. 3.2 for the exact location)

## Map 2 (Fig. 3.2)

### Major Sites in the Imperial City

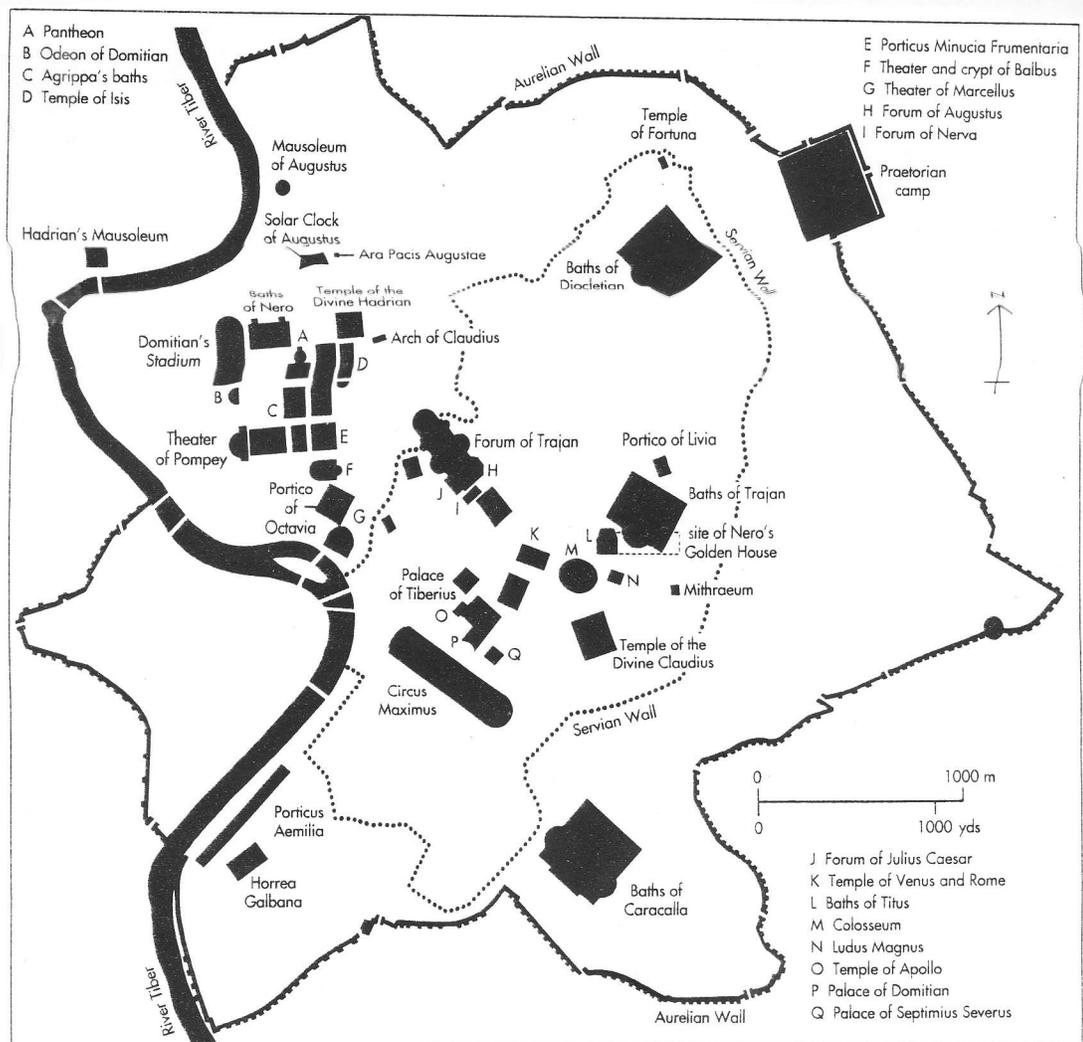


Fig. 3.2 Plan of imperial Rome with the major sites. Some monuments (such as the Ara Pacis) have since been moved.

- **The Walls:** Note now the walls are the **Aurelian walls**. A great expanse of area from the Servian Walls. They were constructed by the emperor Aurelian in 270 AD. They now also enclose the Campus Martius.
- **The Praetorian Camp:** The Aurelian walls were built to include these barracks in the northeast corner was the Castra Praetoria. It held the members of the Praetorian Guard in Imperial Rome.

### Imperial Baths:

- Agrippa's:** These are in the Campus Martius right below his Pantheon.
- Nero's:** These are in the Campus Martius right above Agrippa's baths. Subsequent Emperor's Thermae only got bigger.
- Trajan's:** These were right near the palatine and Caelian. Next to the Colosseum, they occupied part of what had been Nero's Golden House.
- Caracalla's:** Huge structure in the south of the city. They Lie right along the Appian way outside of the Servian walls.
- Diocletian's:** These were humongous. They are in the northeast of the city near the Castra Praetoria.

### Fora:

- Forum Boarium:** The oldest Forum and originally a cattle market. Site of cult worship of Hercules (perhaps dating to his myth with the monster Cacus who killed his cattle)
- Forum Romanum:** The Forum in Rome. It was between the palatine and capitoline, and was the center of city life in the Res Publica. It is not pictured in map 2 (fig. 3.2), but it would be right below the Imperial For a.

- C. **Forum of Julius Caesar:** The first of Imperial For a. labeled “J” on the map. It had the temple of Venus genetrix in honor of the Julian gens (descended from Iulus and thus Venus)
- D. **Forum of Augustus:** Right next to Caesar’s, it held the temple of Mars Ultor.
- E. **Forum of Vespasian:** Right next to Caesar’s and Augustus’, it was really just a Temple of Peace to commemorate his conquering of Jerusalem.
- F. **Forum of Nerva:** In the same area
- G. **Forum of Trajan:** The Forum to put all to shame. In the map it is the structure that takes up all the space. It held the **Basilica Ulpia** (Trajan’s nomen Ulpus), and open area holding an Equestrian Statue of Trajan, two libraries –one Greek, one Latin) and of course his column to commemorate his conquering of Dacia.

**Theaters:** located mainly in the south Campus Martius

- A. **Pompey’s:** built in 55 BC, he claimed it was merely a staircase to the temple of Venus at the top.
- B. **Marcellus:** right next to the bend of the Tiber

**Portico’s:** These are colonnaded walkways throughout the city – see map for several

**Temples:** Rome was littered with temples: note several temple’s throughout the city, many in honor to rulers (Claudius’ in the southeast by the Servian wall, Hadrian’s in the Campus Martius). However, Jupiter Optimus Maximus on the Capitoline is by far the most important.

- The **Pantheon** is located in the middle of the Campus Martius. Built originally by Agrippa, it was redone by Hadrian.

**Mausoleums:** only two in the city

- A. **Augustus’** in the north along the Via Flaminia, right north of his Solar clock (which was huge – like a football field) and the Ara Pacis
- B. **Hadrian’s** right across the Tiber from the Campus Martius. Now it is Castel San Angelo, a mediaeval fort famous ala’ Angels and Demons.

**Entertainment Buildings**

- A. **The Circus Maximus** lies between the Palatine and the Capitoline. Its seats are actually built into the palatine on its southern slope.
- B. **The Flavian Amphitheatre** lies right to the east of the Roman Forum and was built in the backyard of what had been the Golden House.
- C. **Domitian’s Stadium** and **Odeon** lie in the Campus Martius.

**Imperial Palaces:** As the name suggests, they were on the Palatine Hill which from Augustus onward was reserved for imperial family members.

**Horreae:** These were the warehouses next to the Tiber in the south of the city.

### **Map 3 (Fig. 3.3)**

The Roman world circa 100 BC

The word **province** originally meant the task of a magistrate (ex. a praetor's **provincia** would be jurisdiction in Rome. Another famous example was Pompey's extraordinary provincia of the entire Mediterranean and 25 miles inland to deal with Pirates in 67 BC.)



Fig. 3.3 Map of the Roman world in 100 BC.

**Sicily:** was the first extra Italian Roman possession, acquired in the 1<sup>st</sup> Punic War in 241 BC. It became an official province in 211 BC during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War, after the capture of Syracuse.

**Sardinia and Corsica:** Officially provinces in 227 BC

**Hispania:** Originally this was two provinces from 197 BC – following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic war, and taken from Carthage. Hispania was divided into **Ulterior** and **Citerior** (farther and nearer)

**Gallia:** Also originally two (**Transcisalpina** and **Cisalpina**). Transcisalpina later was known as **Narbonensis**. Controlled since 121 BC (around the time of Gaius Gracchus's death) Caesar used this province as an excuse to move into Gallia Comata.

**Illyricum:** This province came under Roman control after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic war as Rome moved in on the Hellenistic Eastern Mediterranean.

**Macedonia:** Originally this was the area of all of Greece. It will be split up later. Romans controlled this area after the battle of Pydna in 168 BC, and was made a formal province after the sack of Corinth in 146 BC by C. Mummius.

**Asia:** This is the area bequeathed to Rome in 133 BC by Attalus III, king of Pergamum (which Tiberius Gracchus used the resources to put forth his reform legislation).

**Cilicia:** Southern Asia Minor. Officially a province in 72 BC, this was the area most known for Piracy (dealt with by Pompey in 67 BC) and the place of Cicero's proconsulship in 50 BC.

**Africa:** Includes the area of Carthage taken after its destruction in 146 BC by P. Cornelius Aemilianus Scipio. It will grow under Caesar and later in the empire to include more land.

**Map 4 (Fig. 3.4)**

Roman Empire in 44 BC – the death of Caesar



Fig. 3.4 Map of the Roman world in 44 BC.

**Hispania:** Both Ulterior and Citerior has grown in area

**Gallia:** Now has grown to include **Gallia Comata** (which itself will be divided into three parts – that sounds familiar)

**Bithynia and Pontus:** In northern Asia Minor, this province was bequeathed to Rome in 74 BC by Nicomedes IV (the one whom people claimed Caesar was the boytoy of in his youth as an ambassador). In 62 BC Pontus was added to Bithynia after the Third Mithridatic war when Mithridates was finally defeated by Lucullus and Pompey (remember both Sulla and Murena had fought him in the 80s and the 70s in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mithridatic wars)

**Syria:** This was added to the empire by Pompey following his defeat of Mithridates in 64 BC.

**Cyprus:** annexed by Rome in 58 BC

**Cyrenacia (Cyrene):** Bequeathed to Rome in 96 BC but remained an autonomous region. After disorder in 74 BC it was made a province.

**Africa:** Now divided by Caesar into Africa Nova and Vetus (new and old) after battle of Thapsus in 46 BC.



**Galatia, Cappadocia:** made provinces under the Julio-Claudians, subsequent emperors made them one and other two entities.

**Assyria, Mesopotamia:** Added by Trajan but abandoned by Hadrian.

**Syria:** divided up by later emperors

**Aegyptus:** acquired by Augustus following the battle of Actium. It was unlike any other province in that it was governed like a huge estate of the emperor with the same governing structures as it had under the Ptolemies.

**Cyrene and Crete:** same as before. Now Crete added.

**Africa Proconsularis:** Africa basically expanded under the empire. Occassionall divided, etc.

**Mauretania Caesariensis and Tingitana:** Originally a part of Africa along with Numidia, but later made into imperial provinces of their own.

**Map 6 (fig. 3.6)**

Roman Empire 211 AD. Essentially the same as 117 AD but with fewer holdings as the empire tries to solidify what it has rather than expand or be so widespread.

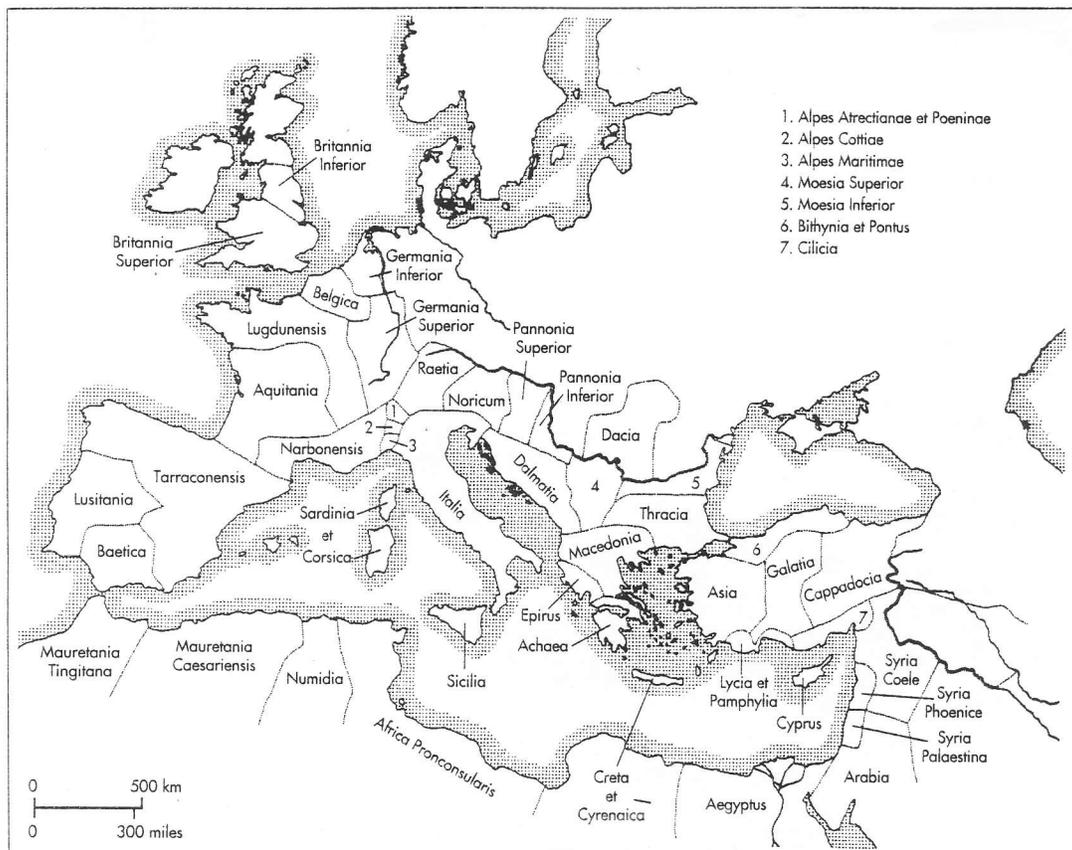


Fig. 3.6 Map of the Roman Empire in AD 211.

**Map 7 (fig. 3.7)**

Diocletian changes everything with his reorganization of the empire into a **terarchy**. He splits it up and reorganizes it into 12 **DIOCESSES**. He virtually double the number of provinces, but now the administrative sections were the larger **DIOCESSES**.

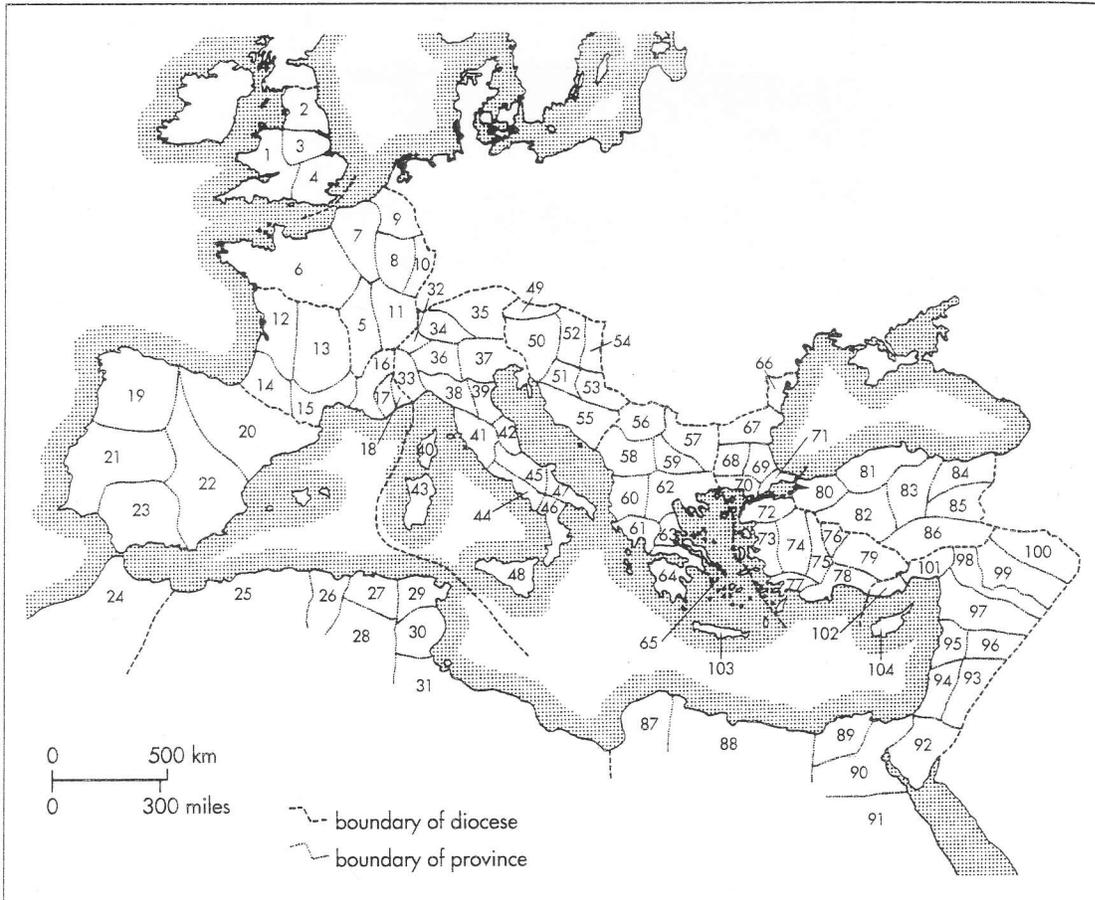


Fig. 3.7 Map of the dioceses and provinces of the Roman Empire in AD 314 after Diocletian's reorganization. The provinces are numbered 1 to 104, and the dioceses are in roman type: Britanniae: 1. Britannia Prima (I), 2. Britannia Secunda (II), 3. Flavia Caesariensis, 4. Maxima Caesariensis; Galliae: 5. Lugdunensis Prima (I), 6. Lugdunensis Secunda (II), 7. Belgica Secunda (II), 8. Belgica Prima (I), 9. Germania Secunda (II), 10. Germania Prima (I), 11. Sequania (Maxima Sequanorum); Viennensis: 12. Aquitanica Secunda (II), 13. Aquitanica Prima (I), 14. Novem Populi, 15. Narbonensis Prima (I), 16. Viennensis, 17. Narbonensis Secunda (II), 18. Alpes Maritimae; Hispaniae: 19. Gallaecia, 20. Tarraconensis, 21. Lusitania, 22. Carthaginiensis, 23. Baetica, 24. Mauretania Tingitana; Africa: 25. Mauretania Caesariensis, 26. Mauretania Sitifensis, 27. Numidia Cirtensis, 28. Numidia Militana, 29. Proconsularis, 30. Byzacena, 31. Tripolitania; Italia: 32. Alpes Graiae, 33. Alpes Cottiae, 34. Raetia Prima (I), 35. Raetia Secunda (II), 36. Aemilia, 37. Venetia et Histria, 38. Liguria, 39. Flaminia, 40. Corsica, 41. Tuscia et Umbria, 42. Picenum, 43. Sardinia, 44. Campania, 45. Samnium, 46. Lucania, 47. Apulia et Calabria, 48. Sicilia; Pannoniae: 49. Noricum Ripense, 50. Noricum Mediterraneum, 51. Savia, 52. Pannonia Prima (I), 53. Pannonia Secunda (II), 54. Valeria, 55. Dalmatia; Moesia: 56. Moesia Prima (I), 57. Dacia, 58. Praevalitana, 59. Dardania, 60. Epirus Nova (New Epirus), 61. Epirus Vetus (Old Epirus), 62. Macedonia, 63. Thessalia, 64. Achaea, 65. Insulae (islands); Thracia: 66. Scythia, 67. Moesia Secunda (II), 68. Thracia, 69. Haemimontus, 70. Rhodope, 71. Europa; Asiana: 72. Hellespontus, 73. Asia, 74. Lydia, 75. Phrygia Prima (I), 76. Phrygia Secunda (II), 77. Caria, 78. Lycia et Pamphylia, 79. Pisidia; Pontica: 80. Bithynia, 81. Paphlagonia, 82. Galatia, 83. Diospontus, 84. Pontus Polemoniacus, 85. Armenia Minor, 86. Cappadocia; Oriens: 87. Libya Superior (Upper Libya), 88. Libya Inferior (Lower Libya), 89. Aegyptus Iovia, 90. Aegyptus Herculia, 91. Thebais, 92. Arabia Secunda (II), 93. Arabia Prima (I), 94. Palaestina, 95. Phoenicia, 96. Augusta Libanensis, 97. Syria Coele, 98. Augusta Euphratensis, 99. Osroene, 100. Mesopotamia, 101. Cilicia, 102. Isauria, 103. Creta, 104. Cyprus.

## Chronologically the Roman Empire Provincial Additions

241 BC – **Sicily** from 1<sup>st</sup> Punic war

227 BC – **Sardinia** and Corsica following the 1<sup>st</sup> Punic war

197 BC - **Hispania Citerior** and **Ulterior** following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic war (218-202BC)

146 BC – **Africa** and **Macedonia** (Africa following destruction of Carthage by Aemilianus Scipio, Macedonia following Sack of Corinth by C. Mummius)

129-128 BC - **Asia** following Attalus III's bequeathing of his kingdom

121BC - **Gallia Narbonensis** (Transcispina)

74 BC – **Bithynia and Cyrene** (Bithynia following bequeathing by Nicomedes IV, Cyrene also bequeathed)

67 BC – **Crete** to be added to Cyrene

65 BC – **Pontus** to be added to Bithynia (after the defeat of Mithridates VI)

64 BC – **Syria** added by Pompey following his defeat of Mithridates VI

58 BC - **Cyprus**

58-50 – **Gallia Comata** by Caesar

30 BC – **Aegyptus** after the defeat of Cleopatra and Antony by Octavian by AUGUSTUS

25 BC – **Galatia** by AUGUSTUS

15 BC – **Raetia** begins the extension of the northern border to the Danube by AUGUSTUS

15 BC – **Noricum** (see Raetia above) by AUGUSTUS

6AD – **Moesia** (see Raetia and Noricum above) by AUGUSTUS

9 AD – **Pannonia** (see Raetia, Noricum, and Moesia above) by AUGUSTUS

17 AD – **Cappadocia**

42 AD – **Mauretania** by CLAUDIUS

43 AD – **Britannia, Lycia, and Pamphylia** by CLAUDIUS

46 AD – **Thracia** by CLAUDIUS

106 AD – **Arabia** by TRAJAN

107 AD – **Dacia** by TRAJAN

197 AD – **Mesopotamia**

## Physical Features of the Roman World

### Rivers

**Tiber** – river of Rome

**Po** – in Cisalpine Gaul, forms fertile valley, longest in Italy

**Nile** - Egypt

**Danube** – northern border of Empire (most troops stationed here and Rhine)

**Rhine** – northern border with Germania; flow north to North Sea

**Ebro** – river in Spain that was the treaty border with Carthage before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic war

**Tagus** – main river of the Iberian peninsula

**Metaurus** – river in Italy, site of Hasdrubal's defeat and death in 212 BC

**Ticinus** – river in N. Italy. Site of Hannibal's first victory in Italy in 218 BC

**Arno** – River in Italy; main river of Florentia

### Mountain Ranges

**Alps** – cap of Italy. Divides Italy from Gaul

**Apennines** – backbone of Italy

**Pyrennes** – division between Hispania and Gaul

**Atlas** – Northern Africa

**Caucasus** – Far East of the empire; near the Caspian

### Individual Mountains

**Vesuvius** – On Bay of Naples; erupted in 79 AD

**Etna** – Tallest volcano in Europe on Sicily

**Parnassus** – In Greece; home to Delphi

**Olympus** – In Northern Greece; home of gods

**Ida** – Asia Minor; home to Cybele in Phrygia

## **Islands**

**Balearic** – Islands right south of Hispania; supplied the famous slingers of the Roman army

**Sicily** – see study guide above

**Aegates Is.** – off Sicily, site of the last battle of 1<sup>st</sup> Punic War

**Corsica** - see study guide above

**Sardinia** - see study guide above

**Caprae** – Island off bay of Naples; where Tiberius exiled self at end of his Principate

**Creta** – southern boundary of the Aegean; site of the Minoan civilization

**Naxos** – One of Cyclades

**Delos** – One of Cyclades; known for its slave trade

**Lemnos** – One of Cyclades nearer to Asia Minor

**Lesbos** – large island near Asia Minor

**Rhodes** – large island underneath Asia Minor; where Augustus had Tiberius exiled early in his rule

**Cyprus** – large island under Asia Minor, to the east of Rhodes

**Cities – see accompanying maps**

**Battle Sites – astericized\***

**Italy (starting at Rome and working outward)**



Fig. 3.9 Map of Italy, Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily with major place names.

**Rome** – on the Tiber in Latium

**Ostia** – Rome's port

**Lavinium** – City founded by Aeneas

**Arpinum** – just south of Rome; home to Marius and Cicero

**Napoli** – largest city on bay of Naples, south of Rome

**Pompeii** – largest city destroyed by Vesuvius in 79 AD

**Herculanem** - city destroyed by Vesuvius in 79 AD

**Stabii** - city destroyed by Vesuvius in 79 AD

**Capua** – capital of Campania (south of Rome)

**Nola** and **Nuceria** – rivals of Pompeii

\***Beneventum** – site of battle against Pyrrhus in 275 BC

**Paestum** – south of Bay of Naples, known for its Greek temples

**Venusia** – southern Italy, home to Horace

**Tarentum** – in the arch of the boot, flashpoint of the War with Pyrrhus

**Brundisium** – eventual terminus of Appian Way, port to Greece

#### North of Rome

**Tarquinia** – Home in Etruria of the Etruscan kings

**Corfinium** – important city at the outbreak of the civil war

**Perusia** – site of short Perusine war between Octavian and Fulvia and Antony's brother (41-40 BC)

**Luca** – northern Italian city, site of the conference of 56 BC between 1st Triumvirate

**Ravenna** – in 402AD Honorius moved the empire's capital here from Milan (Mediolanum)

**Mediolanum** – in 286AD Diocletian moved capital here from Rome

**Bononia** – modern Bologna; site of a conference for 2<sup>nd</sup> Triumvirate

**Patavium** – modern Padua; home to Livy; Asinius Pollio accused Livy of favoring it "Proatavinitas"

**Verona** – home to Catullus in N. Italy at foot of Alps

**Mantua** - home to Vergil in N. Italy at foot of Alps

#### Sicily

**Syracuse** - capital

**Messana** – flashpoint for 1<sup>st</sup> Punic war

\***Agrigentum** – 1<sup>st</sup> major battle of 1<sup>st</sup> Punic war

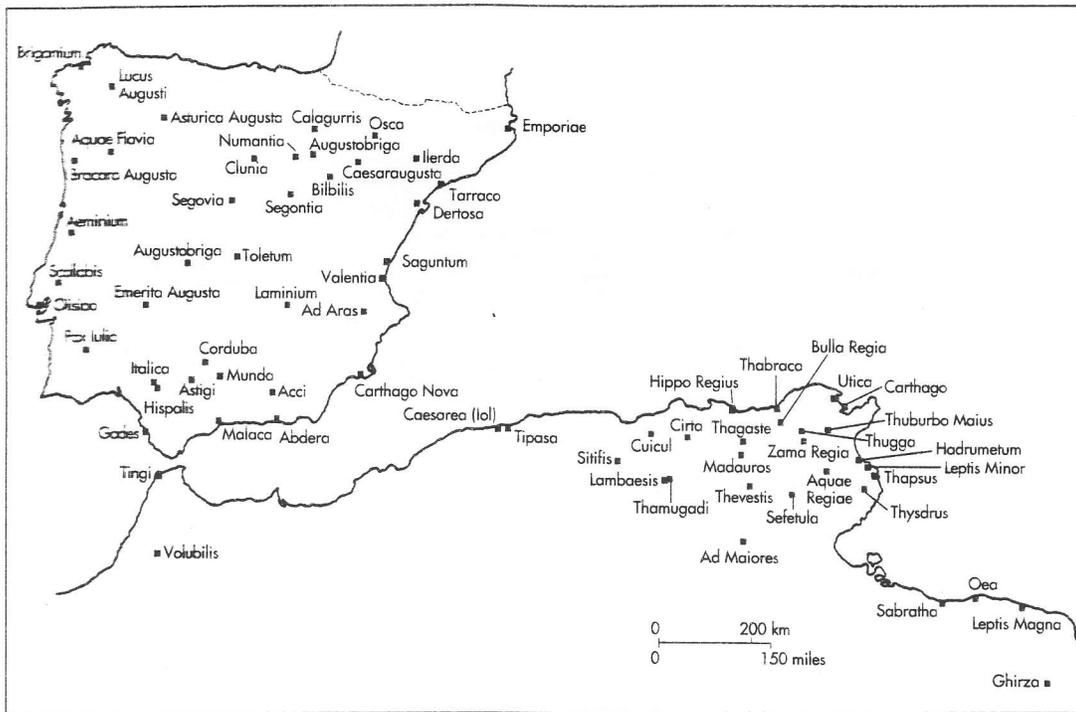


Fig. 5.16 Map of the Iberian peninsula and north Africa with major place names.

### Africa

- \***Carthage** – Phoenician colony. Later the greatest Roman city in Africa after remade as Roman colony
- \***Zama** – site of final battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War in 202 BC
- \***Utica** – center site of resistance to Caesar after his defeat of Pompey (hence why Cato becomes “Uticensis”)
- \***Thapsus** – site of Battle between Caesar and Senatorial forces led by Cato the Younger
- \***Leptis Magna** – birthplace of Septimius Severus, which as emperor he made a lavish City

### Hispania

- \***Saguntum** – coastal city (east); Hannibal’s seige of it in 219 BC starts 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War
- \***Nova Carthago** – city on coast which Hasdrubal founded in 228 BC as center of Carthaginian power in Hispania
- \***Italica** – in Baetica; birthplace of Trajan and Hadrian (Hadrian lavishes building projects on his hometown)
- \***Munda** – site of a 45 BC battle between Caesar and remnant Pompeian forces led by Pompey’s sons
- \***Corduba** – birthplace of Seneca the Elder, Seneca the Younger, and Lucan
- \***Gades** – coastal city (west)
- \***Numantia** – northern central; site of wars in mid 100s BC, finally subdued by Aemilianus Scipio

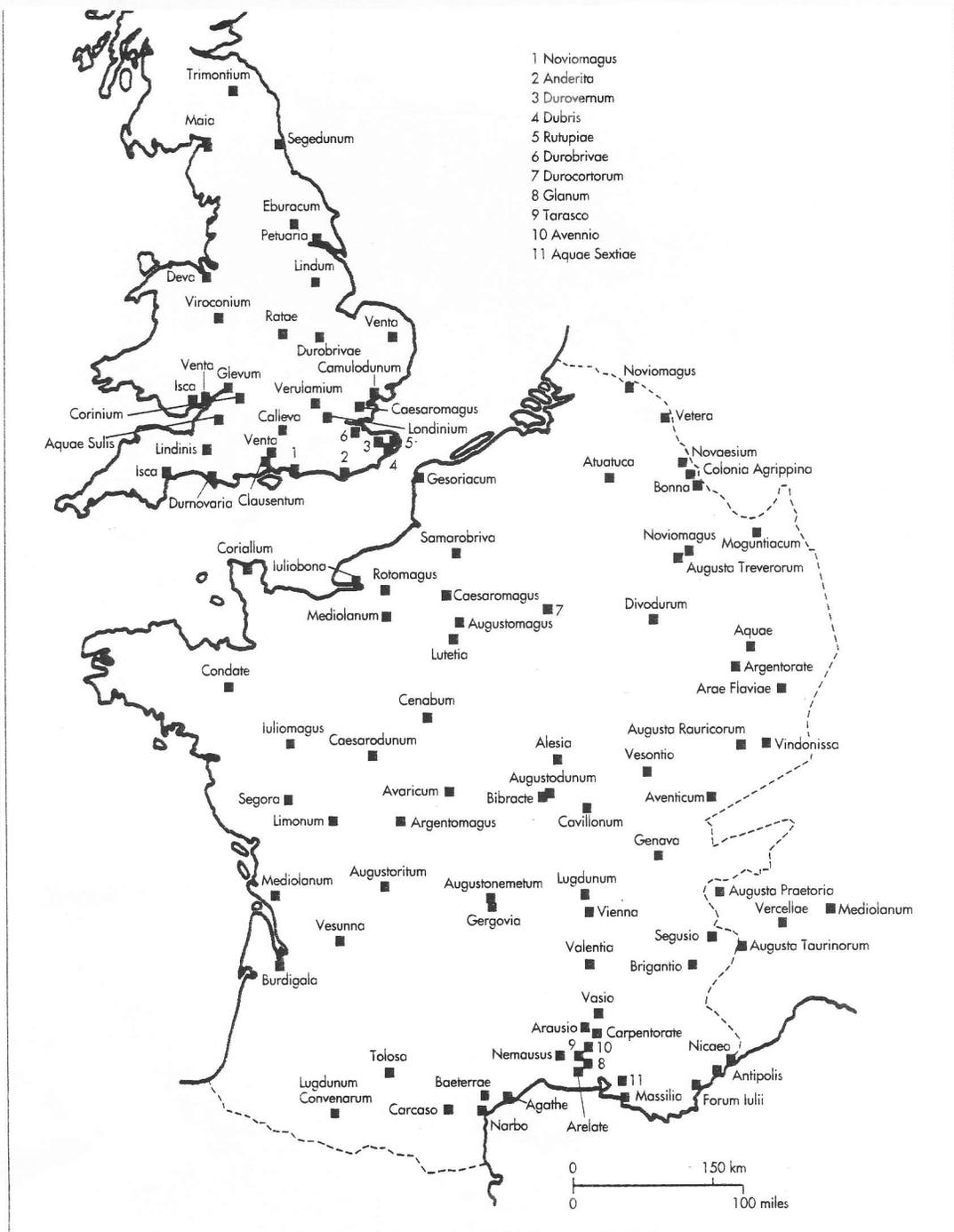


Fig. 3.11 Map of Britain and Gaul with major place names.

**Gallia**

**Lutetia** – North central; modern Paris

**Masillia** – on southern coast; modern Marseilles; Greek city; major trading locale; site of exile for Milo; site for Caesar besieging the city at outset of civil war with Pompey

**Narbo** – namesake for the Province

**Lugdunum** – Birthplace for Caracalla; site of Septimius Severus' victory over Clodius Albinus in 197 BC

**Treveri** (Augusta Treverorum) – northwest; capital of western empire from 285-295; hugely important city

\***Gergovia** – site of Caesar's defeat to Vercingetorix in 52 BC

\***Alesia** – site of Caesar's victory over Vercingetorix and end to the Gallic wars in 52 BC

**Britannia**

**Londinium** – modern London; center of Roman Britain

**Eboracum** – modern York; staging city for Hadrian's planned wall, and Scottish campaigns by Septimius Severus



**Helicarnassus** – western coast; site of the Mausoleum and birthplace of Herodotus

**Nicomedia** – northern coast; Capital of Bithynia

**Niceae** – home of the 325 Council under Constantine which put down the Arian heresy, and came up with the famous creed (Pro Trinity)

**Byzantium** – changed name to Constantinople. Lies on Bosphorous at mouth to Black sea. Eastern capital of the Empire from Constantine to the end in 1453.

**Charrae** – disaster site of Parthian victory in which M. Licinius Crassus and his son was killed in 53 BC

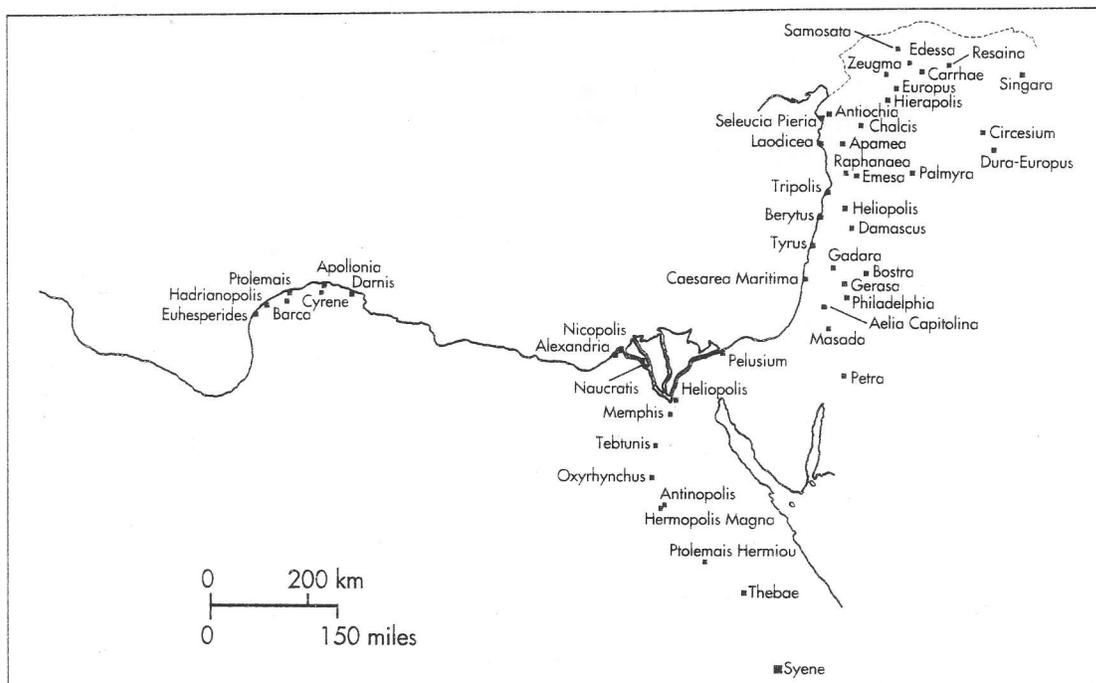


Fig. 3.13 Map of Cyrenaica, Egypt and Syria with major place names.

### Syria/Judaea

**Palmyra** – home to Zenobia, queen who led rebellion in 270s. Put down by Aurelian

**Tyre** – Phoenician city, home of Dido; along with Sidon known for purple dye

**Sidon** – see Tyre

\***Masada** – Site of the Roman siege in the 1<sup>st</sup> Jewish War 66 AD, led by L. Flavius Silva

### Egypt

**Alexandria** - Center of the Hellenistic cultural and intellectual world. Greatest city of the Mediterranean between 323 BC and 31 BC.