**II. Roman Empire**

1. Republic Collapses

* As Rome grew its Republican form of government became unstable
* As Rome grew the gap between rich and poor grew wider
* Rich landowners owned huge estates where slaves did the work
* Small farmers were unable to compete with slave labor
* Many were forced to sell their land and move to the city to find work
* 1/4th of Rome’s population was made up of the urban poor

1. Help is on the Way

* **Tiberius & Gaius Gracchus –**
* Upset Roman elites
* Both brothers met violent deaths
* Civil war erupted in Rome following their deaths

1. Julius Caesar

* Strong leader and military genius who rose up during the civil war
* **59 BC –**
* Following Roman tradition he served one year but declares himself Governor of Gaul (France)
* Caesar led his men and conquered all of Gaul
* **46 BC –**
* **44 BC –**

1. Caesar’s Reforms

* Extended the right to vote to many people newly added to the Roman rule
* Made many reforms to help the poor
* Created many public works jobs
* Also created the modern day calendar system (July is named after him)

1. Caesar’s Death

* **March 15, 44 BC –**
* Known as the Ides of March

1. Beginning of an Empire

* Civil war broke out again following Caesar’s death
* Octavian and Mark Antony joined together and ruled Rome for 10 years
* Their alliance ends in jealousy and violence

1. Octavian vs. Antony

* Mark Antony met the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra (former wife of Julius Caesar) while leading Roman troops
* Fell in love and formed an alliance
* Octavian accused Antony of plotting against Rome and civil war broke out again
* **Battle of Actium –**

1. Pax Romana

* Octavian became rule of all Rome
* **Augustus –**
* **Pax Romana –**

1. Society and Culture

* Many people in the Roman Empire were jobless
* Government gave out daily grain rations
* Government also provide free games, race, mock battles, and gladiator contest
* **Colosseum –**