The Rule of Augustus

"He subjected the whole wide earth to the rule of the Roman people." Rome achieved great glory under Octavian/Augustus. The empire expanded under Augustus. After his death people worshiped him like a god.

Early Life
Born Gaius Octavius on 23 September 63 BC.
His father died when he was four.
His mother was the daughter of Julia, sister to Julius Caesar.
His great uncle, Julius Caesar, was assassinated.
He later learned Caesar had adopted him and made him his heir.
In 44 BC, he took the name Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus (Octavian) after the murder of his great uncle Julius Caesar.

Triumvirate
44 BC, the senate's leader, Cicero, delivered a series of infamous speeches against Marc Antony.
43 BC, Marc Antony was defeated by Octavian at Mutina and forced to retreat into Gaul.
27 November 43 BC, there is an agreement between Rome’s three most powerful men.
Octavian, Mark Antony, and Lepidus form triumvirate.
This triumvirate completely cut off the senate from power (27 November 43 BC).
Cicero was killed.
Brutus and Cassius, Caesar's chief assassins, were defeated at Philippi in northern Greece.
Brutus and Cassius commit suicide.
The triumvirate divides up the empire.
Antony the East, Octavian the West, and Lepidus northwestern Africa.

Antony and Cleopatra
Antony goes to Egypt and becomes involved with Cleopatra.
40 BC, Antony returns briefly to Italy and marries Octavian's sister, Octavia.
Antony returns to Cleopatra even though he was married to Octavia.
Octavian reads Antony's will to Rome.
Antony's will promised large inheritances to his children by Cleopatra.
It also demanded that, should he die in Italy, his body should be returned to Cleopatra in Egypt.
Antony's will was the final straw.
In Rome's eyes, this could never be the will of a true Roman.
The senate declared war.

Battle at Actium
Antony had 220 ships and Cleopatra had 60.
Antony's larger ships were equipped with catapults.
Octavian had 260 ships.
Octavian's ships were smaller and more maneuverable.
Cleopatra took her ships and left.
Antony followed.
At this time there was doubt as to which side would win.
Antony's ships lost heart.
On 2 September 31 BC, At Actium Octavian's army defeated Antony.

Octavian Arrives in Egypt
From Greece, Octavian moved along the coast.
His route took him through Asia Minor, Syria, and Palestine.
In 30 BC, Octavian arrived in Egypt.
Here he defeated Antonius' troops almost without a fight, as most soldiers defected.
Both Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide.
The vast treasures of Egypt fell to Octavian.
Egypt itself became a new Roman province.
Octavian's next act was to put to death Cleopatra's 17-year old son Caesarion.
Caesarion was the child of Cleopatra and Julius Caesar. Antony and Cleopatra have 3 children. They are twins Cleopatra Selene and Alexander Helios, and a later child named Ptolemy Philadelphus. He allows the two sons of Antony and Cleopatra to live. Another source states that Octavian killed one of Antony's sons. On August 29 30 BC, Octavian enters Rome in triumph, the undisputed master of both east and west.

Physical Appearance
He was of short stature, handsome and well proportioned. He possessed that commodity so rare in rulers - grace. He suffered from bad teeth and was generally of feeble health. His body was covered in spots. He had many birthmarks scattered over his chest and belly.

Political Life
He held the offices of consul, tribune, high priest, and senator at the same time. He would not be crowned emperor. He kept the assemblies and government officials. He made senators feel honored.

Strengthened Authority
He had every soldier swear allegiance to him personally. His imperial household took charge of the daily business of government. He chose people of talent rather than birth. This gave enslaved people and freedmen a chance to be part of the government.

Natural Boundaries
He set up boundaries that would be easy to defend. The Rhine and Danube rivers in the north. His attempts at making the river Elbe instead of the Rhine the northwestern border ended in the Varian disaster. In AD 9 Arminius, a German chieftain of great military skill, destroys three Roman legions in the Teutoburg Forest. The Atlantic Ocean in the west. The Sahara in the south. He stationed soldiers at these location.

Government
Augustus was not interested in conquering new territory. He gave governors long terms in office. They gained experience in their jobs. He paid them large salaries. There would be no need to overtax the people or keep money for themselves. Ordered a census to be taken from time to time.

Achievements of Augustus
Made Rome more beautiful. Wrote strict laws to govern the way people behaved in public. He set up a fire brigade and a police force. there were 35000 firemen and a fire chief. He encouraged learning by building Rome's first library. Augustus ruled for 41 years. He brought peace to Rome.
He made Roman citizenship available to people in the provinces.
He reorganized the government so it ran well for 200 more years.

Death of Augustus
Augustus left Rome for the last time in AD 14.
He fell ill on the way to Capri.
He rested four days on Capri.
When they crossed back to the mainland Augustus passed away.
On 19 August AD 14, Augustus died at Nola, only one month away of his 76th birthday.
The body was taken to Rome and given a stately funeral.
His ashes were then placed in his Mausoleum.
Tiberius becomes emperor.

Pax Romana
Pax Romana means "peace of Rome." The peace lasted 200 years. There were problems, such as revolts, but Rome and its people prospered. Civilization spread, cultures mixed.

Trade
Trade increased with peace.
The same coins were used all over the empire.
There were no tariffs on goods that were brought into the country.
Goods and money moved along trade routes.
The Mediterranean Sea was cleared of pirates.
It was safe for travel and trade.
Shipping became big business.
In the summer, ships brought grain to Rome from North Africa.

Rome Imports
Building products such as, bricks, marble, granite, and wood.
Luxury items included amber from the north and silk from China.

Business for Rome
Increased trade meant more business for Romans.
Shopkeepers grew richer.
Wine and olive oil were the main exports of other countries.
Italy became a manufacturing center.
Romans made pottery, bronze, and woolen cloth.

Law
During Pax Romana, Roman law went through changes.
The laws on the Twelve Tables were changed.
Roman judges had to write new laws that would be fair to Romans and non-Romans.
The judges were helped by special lawyers and legal writers called juris prudentes.
The new laws contained principles that were fair to everyone.
Everyone was equal before the law.
A person was innocent until proven guilty.
By 125 AD, Roman law was standardized.
Laws were the same all over the empire.
Roman legal principles formed the basis for laws of most western countries and the Christian church.

Twelve Tables
Table I Both accused and accuser must be present at a hearing or trial on the matter.
Table II Gives debtors 30 days to pay off a debt. After that, a creditor can make the debtor a prisoner
Table VIII List punishments for certain crimes. If a person lies in court they are executed.
Table IX If a judge takes a bribe he is executed. People committing treason are executed.

Economic Impact
Established a uniform system of money.
Trade was expanded.
Guaranteed safe travel and trade on Roman roads.
Promoted prosperity and stability.

Social Impact
Returned stability to social classes.
Increased the emphasis on the family.

Political Impact
Created a civil service.
Developed a uniform rule of law.

Daily Life in Rome

Problems in Early Rome
One million people lived in Rome
Not enough housing.
The air was polluted.
There was crime in the streets.
The cost of living was high.
Many Romans were unemployed.
Romans had to pay taxes on almost everything

Housing
Rich
Lived in a house called a domus.
They had marble walls with colored stone floors.
Windows were made of small panes of glass.
A furnace heated the rooms.
Pipes brought water to the upper floors.
The atrium was the central room.
It was open to the sky and collected rain water.

Poor
Lived in apartment buildings called islands.
They were six or more stories high.
The ground floor was given over to shops.
Rents in Rome were high.
The higher up, the cheaper the apartment.

Household Goods
Roman homes were lit by oil lamps made of clay, bronze, or glass.
Olive oil was poured into the large hole in the center of the lamp.
A cloth wick was placed in the smaller opening and lit.

The Family
The father was the head of the household and his word was law.
The father arranged marriages to increase status or wealth.
Father could sell or execute family members.
He conducted religious rituals in the home.
Cousins were expected to help one another.

Education
Roman boys and girls went to school together until age 12.

Education for Sons of Wealthy
Then the sons of poor families went to work.
Sons of the rich began their formal education.
Classes
Reading
Grammar
Writing
Music
Geometry
Commercial arithmetic
Shorthand

At age 15 they entered a school of rhetoric, or speech and writing. This would prepare them for a political career. Some went to Athens or Alexandria to study philosophy or medicine.

Education for Daughters of Wealthy
Formal education stopped at age 12. Daughters of rich were given private lessons at home.

Life of Women
Some women worked in or owned small shops. Wealthy women had slaves to do housework. They were free to study arts, literature, or fashion.

People of Rome
The average Roman lived to age forty. Some Romans lived well into their seventies or eighties. Only 50% of the children from wealthy families lived to their twentieth birthdays. Due to the high infant death rate the Romans waited until a baby was nine days old to name a child. Richer people often lived to a later age because of better nutrition and living conditions. Poor people were exposed to waste thrown out of apartment windows onto the streets. Common childhood diseases of today would hit with epidemic force on the population. The sanitary conditions of the water, plates and other items were poor.

Religion
The Romans borrowed Greek, Egyptian, and Persian gods. They did develop some of their own. The early Roman religion consisted of worshiping gods of nature. Isis, an Egyptian goddess had a temple in Rome. Mithirias, a Persian god, was worshipped by the army. The Emperor of Rome was worshipped as a god. This brought them into conflict with Christianity. Near the end of the empire, Christianity came to be the religion of Rome.

Gods and Goddesses

Jupiter
Ruler of the Gods

Juno
Protector of Marriage; Wife of Jupiter

Apollo
God of Poetry and Music

Venus
Goddess of Love and Beauty
Minerva
Goddess of War, Peace & Wisdom

Neptune
God of the Sea

Diana
Goddess of Earth, wildlife, Hunting

Pluto
God of the Underworld

**Medicine**
Doctors in Rome were advanced for the time period.
The Romans performed cataract surgery.
They developed artificial legs.
They were able to drill into a skull to relieve pressure on the brain.
Doctor's instruments are similar to medical tools today.
Doctors were always men.
They were trained as apprentices.
There were no formal schools to train doctors.
Women often acted as herbal healers and midwives in their own families.
Doctors treated only those with enough money to pay for their services.
Poor patients had to rely on herbal medicines.
They could make sacrifices at local shrines.
they could ask for the gods to help heal them.

**Leisure Activities**
People enjoyed playing games in Ancient Rome.
Common games were dice, marbles, and knucklebones.
Knucklebones were jacks made out of dried animal bones. Romans also played games similar to checkers.

**Gambling**
**Public Bathhouses**
**Public Games**

**Toys**
Infants enjoyed rattles and noisemakers.
Children had piggybanks.
Masks made from ivory or terra-cotta.
Letters cut from ivory.
Lead figurines shaped like gods.
Children played with scooters, jump ropes, kites, yo-yos, and swings.
Small wooden tops were used.
Some children played with small carts that were hitched to the family goat, pony, or dog.
Girls played with rag dolls and wax figurines.
Some of the wooden and terra cotta dolls had movable arms and legs.

**Bath Houses**
Romans could take warm, cold, or steam baths.
Some had gyms, sports stadiums, and libraries.
They could watch or play.
They could listen to lectures.
They could see musical shows.
They could sit and talk.
**Colosseum**
It opened in 80 A.D. and the opening ceremonies lasted for ten days. It took ten years to build of marble and limestone. The Colosseum was oval shaped. A large awning could be stretched over the top to keep out the hot sun. It was 160 feet tall, and had four stories of windows, arches, and columns. Over 9,000 animals were killed the day the Coliseum opened. It could hold as many as 55,000 people. The first gladiatorial contests were in 250 B.C. Mock naval battles were held by removing the heavy wooden flooring. The lower cells where prisoner and animals were usually kept were then flooded.

**Public Games**
There were no team sports in Rome. Free public games ran from dawn to dusk. When Rome was a republic, the games were staged by politicians looking for votes. When Rome was an empire, the games were staged by the government.
Games included Circuses, Chariot Races, and Gladiatorial Games.
The chariot races were held in the Circus Maximus. The circus was an oval arena that could seat 200,000.

**Gladiators**
The first gladiators were part of a sacrificial rite adopted from the Etruscans. Gladiators were people who fought animals and other people. The word gladiator comes from the Latin for swordsman, from gladius, sword. Most were slaves, prisoners of war, criminals, or poor people. There were upper-class gladiators who were looking for excitement or public attention. Gladiators would go to a feast the night before they were to fight. They would be looked over and gamblers would place bets. As they entered the arena they passed the emperor. "Hail Emperor, those who are about to die salute you." Many died. They were the modern day sports heroes. Some won their freedom. Poor performers were usually killed. In 404 AD, gladiator fights were outlawed by Emperor Honorius.

**Gladiator Schools**
There were three gladiatorial schools where slaves were trained to fight. The Ludus Magnus was the largest, connected to the Colosseum by an underground tunnel. Gladiators were trained by managers who would hire them out.

**Gladiators Rebel 73-71 BC**
Spartacus, native of Thrace in Greece, led a two-year uprising of gladiators, slaves and poor peasants. He defeated five Roman armies. The rebellion started at the gladiator school in Capua, south of Rome. Spartacus was an army deserter who was in training. Armed with kitchen knives, Spartacus and 70 students managed to break out of the school. They headed for Mt. Vesuvius, where they slipped past soldiers sent in pursuit. Spartacus’s was killed in battle with the politician and general Marcus Licinius Crassus. 6,000 of his followers were crucified on the Appian Way between Capua and Rome. Rome would now view gladiators in a different light.
Private individuals could only own a certain number of gladiators. Gladiators could no longer enter with weapons.

**Animals in Public Games**

Some animals pulled chariots or performed tricks. Most animals fought gladiators or other animals. Lions, elephants, snakes, bears, buffaloes, rhinos, and panthers were used. Some days, 5000 animals were killed in a single day. The Romans wiped out thousands of animals. They either captured or drove away entire species. The hippopotamuses were no longer seen in Egypt. Lions disappeared from Assyria. The Mesopotamian lion and the North African elephant became extinct.

**Roman Roads**

The Romans built some of the best roads in the world. They built 53,000 miles of road. They did this so the could connect and control their empire.

**Mining**

Mining was a dangerous job done usually by slaves or criminals. The conditions in the mines were very hazardous and unpleasant. Miners were lowered with a rope into a deep shaft. The mining tunnels were only tall enough to crawl into. Flooding was also a problem in the mines. The Romans invented a water wheel system that was able to take the water out of the mines. Stone or metal picks and shovels were used to dig out the minerals. The ores were taken back to the surface in grass woven baskets. The miners would split rocks by heating them with fire and the dousing the rock with vinegar. The sudden change in temperature would split the rocks.

**Metalworking**

Rome imported much of their ores from other areas. Gold and silver came from Spain and Greece. Tin from Britain. Copper came from Italy, Spain and Cyprus. Smiths would process the ore. Iron was also used to make rings. Bronze was used to make everyday objects. Gold would be worked into rings, earrings and chains for the wealthier Romans.

**Aqueducts**

The aqueducts were Roman man-made water system. Water was carried for irrigation and to supply water for cities and towns. Aqua Claudia supplied Rome with water from 43 miles away. At the ending point, the water would flow into a distribution basin. There would be a number of smaller pipes to feed public baths and fountains. A few wealthy homes in that area of the city would have water.
Clothing
The Romans knew only two articles of clothing: the toga and the tunica. The toga was worn at official happenings, like the salutatio, and the tunica at home etc. Instead of a toga, women wore a stola, a white woolen attire. The Romans wore leather sandals on their feet. They were comfortable and airy. They didn't know any other footwear like shoes.

Ships
Goods were transported by sea throughout the Roman Empire. The Corbitas was the type of ship the Romans used. It was a round-hulled ship with curving prow and stern. It could carry cargo weighing between 70 and 350 ton. Ships could carry as many as 600 passengers. They could carry or 6000 amphorae (clay jars) of wine, oil, or other liquids. It took only two to three weeks by ship to go from Egypt to Rome. In A.D. 50, a lighthouse was set up at Ostia to guide sailors. At its peak, Rome set up lighthouses in forty different locations to aid sailors.

Pompeii
In 62 AD, an earthquake destroyed much of Pompeii. 79 AD August 24, Pompeii destroyed by eruption of Mt Vesuvius. 1:00PM, first eruption of Vesuvius. 1:30 PM, pumice and ash begin to fall on Pompeii. Volcano threw up ash for 10 hours. Pompeii was covered with 9 feet of ash. Herculaneum got 1". 11:30 PM, lava flowed down the volcano reaching Herculaneum and killing the people. 12:30 AM, second lava flow covers Herculaneum, bit did not reach Pompeii. 5:30 AM, Third flow of lava buries Herculaneum and reaches Pompeii. 6:30 AM, fourth lava flow covers Pompeii. 7:00 AM, fifth flow of lava. 8:30 AM, sixth and final lava flow buries Pompeii. Most of the people who remained behind died. Many people died in their houses. Many were crushed when their roofs collapsed.

Pompeii Rediscovered
1594 AD, Count Tutavilla found ancient buildings while digging a trench. 1748 AD, excavations begin with the search for souvenirs and valuables. 1763 AD, name Pompeii was found on a building. Miles of streets with public buildings and houses were discovered. Statues, jewelry, and household items are found. 1765 AD, excavators find food on tables, and bread in ovens. 1860s AD, archaeologists bring a scientific approach. Giueseppe Fiorelli fills cavities with plaster and creates replicas of people and animals. 1980 AD, large parts of Pompeii are excavated. Earthquake closes town to tourists.