

- Lucius Tarquinius Superbus (534 BC-509 BC) (last king and first tyrant)
 - Conspires to kill his wife and brother-in-law with his sister-in-law
 - Has Servius killed after having the senate turn on him for being a “non-Roman” slave
 - Ignores traditional hand-off of power customs like the power
 - Executed senators who might be sympathetic to Servius w/o trial
 - Made executive decisions w/o consulting the council first
 - In all disciplines, economic to judicial
 - The wealth of anyone assassinated was absorbed by Lucius and spent to bribe politicians into supporting him
- A series of contemptuous events transpire, and Lucius Junius Brutus convinces the senate and citizens to exile the king in 509 BC, marking the end of the Roman monarchs
 - No Superbus=no bribes. No bribes=no fuel for corruption
- Lucius Junius Brutus
 - One king to two consults: similar to kings, just less power
 - Brutus and Lucius Tarquinius Collatinus
 - Only ruled for one year, one term limit, voted on in person by the citizens
 - Law supersedes rulers, Brutus’ sons are caught planning a coup and sentenced to death as he watches
 - “We are all slaves to law so that we might be free”- Plutarch

Conflict of the Orders

- Patricians and plebeians clashing over the goals of Rome, measures should be taken to ensure the empire gets there, and what political equality meant in the Roman context
- As aristocracy consolidated more power, the plebeians removed themselves from city life, participating in non-violent protests. Sometimes even leaving the city all together.
 - Predatory lending, unfair distribution of land won in battle, unequal military service
- Another method of plebeian protest was refusal to fight in wars
- After forming their own political party in 367 BC, one consul was required to be of plebeian birth
 - Later this council of plebeians gained the right to review and review any legislation passed through the senate before its ratification
 - Right appeal judgments before a court
 - Aediles: public officers that regulated buildings, festivals, common spaces, crimes committed by the patrician class against plebeians, and the distribution of land among the classes

- Eventually the plebeian leadership gains the power to veto degrees of the senate and can even be elected to seats in the senate
 - This movement gives rise to the Twelve Tables (first Roman law-code)
- Religious leadership remained under the sway of the aristocracy however (more similar to Egypt than Greece)
 - Flamines: leaders of specific cults and groups devoted to certain gods
 - Fetiales: leadership over peace and war (do the gods find this war just?)
 - Augures: reading the messages of the gods (oracles)
- Dictators: In times of great political strife, a single member of the senate was given full control of Rome for six months in order to restore peace and balance
- Cursus Honorum: the system and requirements to hold office in Rome post reform (see pg. 214)
 - Shifting from aristocracy to meritocracy
- Eventually the cycle repeats itself and prominent plebeian families are co-opted by the aristocracy to form a new upper class
 - The struggle between the elite and majority will tilt in a various directions, maintaining relative balance for the remainder of the empire