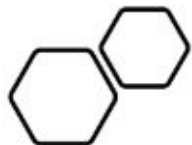


Debt Laws in Rome

- I. Debtors who cannot pay lose their land, standing in the class system, and become sharecroppers to their creditors
 - A. *Nexum* – debt bondage
 1. Aristocrats benefit, no incentive to alter the system
 - II. Debtors may be sold into slavery or killed by their creditor
 - III. Patron-Client System
 - A. Seek protection and help of rich and powerful
 - B. Legal and financial aid given in exchange for future help and support





Discontent in Rome

- I. The old centurion of the Sabine War incites plebians to demand changes
 - II. As Volsci march on Rome, plebians encourage each other not to enlist in the army
 - III. Consul Servilius issues an edict making it illegal to put a Roman citizen into prison for debt or to seize the property of an active duty soldier
- A. Romans defeat the Volsci





Birth of the Dictator

- I. In the long term, Servilius is opposed by the Senate and consul Appius Claudius, who allowed creditors to put debtors in prison
 - II. Group of citizens begin to prevent debtors from being imprisoned
 - A. Resist the Lictors
 - B. Under these circumstances, the office of Dictator is established
1. 501 B.C. - Titus Larcus Flavius becomes the first dictator

The Plebians Secede from Rome



- I. Romans begin to recognize that their city is more stable during war than peace
- II. The Plebians decide to secede from Rome
 - A. They take provisions and encamp on the Sacred Mount
- III. The Senate sends Menenius Agrippa to speak to the people
 - A. Agrippa appeals to the common good
- IV. After the people calm down, the two sides negotiate
 - A. Plebians give their own officers, tribunes, who represent them and protect from abuses of power

The *Decemviri*



- I. Patricians, but not plebians, know the law
 - A. Law transferred orally
 - B. Agitation from the plebians leads to the appointment of the *decemviri*
- II. The Senate appoints ten men to write down the laws
 - A. The *decemviri* rule over rule; their decisions not subject to appeal
 - B. The *decemviri* make twelve tables of laws, written on bronze or wood
 - C. The *decemviri* begin to abuse their power
 1. Appius Claudius pursues Verginia
 2. Verginius kills Verginia to keep her from becoming Claudius' concubine
 3. The people rise up against the *decemviri*

The Twelve Tables



- I. Establishes Legal Procedure
- II. Judges who accept bribes are subject to capital punishment
- III. Citizens must receive a trial before execution
- IV. Debtors allowed a thirty-day grace period before arrest
- V. Prohibition of marriage between plebians and patricians
- VI. Measures approved by the people become law
- VII. Protection of Property, Protection for Women

Plebeians Strive for the Consulship

- I. The plebeian request to run for the consulship is vehemently opposed by the patricians
 - A. In response, the tribunes begin to obstruct the proceedings of the Senate and magistrates through their veto
 1. Military tribune established, alternative to consul
 - a. No plebeian is elected to military tribune until 400 B.C.
 - b. After approximately fifty years, the consulship is reinstated
 - II. 406 B.C. - Senate approves payment for soldiers
 - III. 367 B.C. - *Leges Liciniae Sextiae* finally allows plebeians to run for consulship
 - A. 366 B.C. - G. Licinius Stolo becomes the first plebeian consul
 - B. 356 B.C. - G. Marcius Rutilus becomes the first plebeian dictator
 1. 351 B.C. - Rutilus becomes the first plebeian censor

