

## **Time Periods of Ancient Greece:**

Until 1400 BC the main civilization in Ancient Greece could be found on Crete. It was called the Minoan civilization and was the first civilization in Europe. The Minoan civilization flourished because of sea trade with other civilizations.

In 1400 BC the Mycenaean people attacked many cities on Crete. This led to the fall of the Minoan civilization, and Mycenae and Troy became the most powerful cities.

After a while, the Mycenaean people were invaded by the Dorian people. They were forced into a few cities, while the Dorians were in others. After a while, the two peoples started to mix and marry and from this came the Greeks. After this union, Athens was formed as one of the most powerful cities.

The Hellenic period was aptly named as many other people tried to invade Greece, but were defeated. During this period, Athens was clearly the most powerful city in the civilisation. Ancient Greece became wealthy through trade. However, Athens being so powerful caused unrest and small wars began to break out between city-states. This weakened them and left them open to invasion.

The so-called Hellenic period ended as the King of Macedonia conquered Greece in 339 B.C. The King's son would later widen the Greek empire and the Greek culture by conquering the land around it.

# Athenian Democracy

## ☒ **Yes arguments:**

- The Athenian coup of 411 b.c stated that some high-status Athenian men disliked the “democracy” of the city state were going to establish an oligarchy
- Under this system, all male citizens had equal political rights, freedom of speech and the opportunity to participate directly in the political arena. Not only did the citizens participate in a direct democracy, whereby they themselves made the decisions by which they lived in, but also they actively served in institutions that governed them, so they could directly control all parts of the political process which shows how the power was directly controlled by the people which again points to democracy.
- Undoubtedly Athens is not a democracy as we know it today, but it was a start. No modern democracy today started out with a full democracy. It takes time for democracy to evolve and what Athens did was an important step. In the year 594 b.c the archon Solon laid the foundation for democracy in greece
- There are quite a few similarities between the older court system to nowadays court system there was a lottery to judge who the jurors would be which is quite similar to our court philosophy of today.
- There was also a council representative from the 10 athenian tribes meaning the beginnings of equal representation in government.

## ☒ **No arguments:**

- Athens was not a full democracy because most people were not considered citizens and, therefore, could not vote. The people considered not to be citizens were slaves, women and foreigners.
- Even though they abolished the aristocracy they were still citizens so they still had power.
- In the end there were only 10-20% of the population that were able to vote which means that the power was not completely coming from the people of Athens but from male citizens which shows that democracy as we know today is not followed completely.
- The existence of slavery made the Athens an uncomplete democratic state. In fact, slavery is what gave others the time to contribute to the government. These slaves had no political rights or freedom.

## Time Periods of Rome (625BC-476AD)

### Unification of Rome

The first thing the Romans did was to drive the last Etruscan king out of power to then become a republic. Rome was able to become the large empire because they extended some sort of citizenships to the people they conquered. By conquering they mean war. By leading a series of wars they protected the borders and gain more land. They also made the smart choice to make allies with their old enemies. By 264 B.C.E., Rome and its allies controlled all of the Italian peninsula

### Period of Kings

The first period of Rome is called the period of kings. It lasted between 625 B.C. and 510 B.C.<sup>1</sup> Rome was ruled by seven kings (including its legendary founder, Romulus).<sup>2</sup> During this time it developed both economically and militaristically.

### Republican Rome

Republican Rome happened after the Roman Kingdom was overthrown in 509BC and lasted till 27BC. Julius Caesar was a significant figure in this period.

### Imperial Rome

Describes the period of the Roman Empire following the assassination of Julius Caesar essentially ending Rome's time as an empire. This was between 27 BC and AD 476. During this time, Rome controlled all the land from Western Europe to the Middle East.

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<https://www.mpm.edu/research-collections/anthropology/anthropology-collections-research/mediterranean-oil-lamps/roman-empire-brief-history>

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Kingdom)

# Fall of Rome

476 AD

476 was the year that the last emperor of Rome was overthrown (Romulus Augustulus) which is why it is classified as the end of Rome

Visigoth King Alaric of the Germanic tribes sacked Rome successfully in the 300s. They were raided once again in 455. The Germanic leader in 476, Odoacer finally disposed of Romulus Augustulus as the leader. Many now look back to 476 as the official deathblow for the western Roman Empire. There are several other reasons that back up the fall of Rome. Military spending, economic problems, political corruption and more. However in a sense you could classify that as the "old" Rome, which means that Rome fell so that the newer and more modernly civilized Rome could continue on into what we know Rome as today. (Theory) Some consider Western Rome to not have fallen however it did fail to enforce its government laws which also caused the crash of Rome.

After the fall of Rome Europe went into a dark age which lasted 900 years

During this time period, there were two different Romes, the east one and the west one, and the west one was the one that fell. One of the reasons behind the fall of 476 was the rise of the eastern empire that was centered in Constantinople (or Byzantium as it was called then) This means that Rome lived on, just not the west part, and that later became the Byzantine empire. The Byzantine empire fell in 1453. The reason behind that is the invasion of the Ottoman army in Constantinople.

This means that by definition Rome fell in 476, but it also didn't because it lived on in the eastern empire. The answer to the question about when Rome fell is both 476 and 1453. It all depends on the perspective you have.

378 AD, Eastern Emperor Valens was defeated in Adrianople. The emperor Theodosius I (379 - 395) spent most of his time and resources on the spread of Christianity, which could have contributed to the weakening of the empire.

The city of Rome got sacked by a Barbarian tribe year 410 AD, called the Visigoths. Many buildings got destroyed and many Romans were enslaved. In 476 AD, a Germanic barbarian named Odoacer took over Rome.