History of Ancient Rome

The Roman Empire combined the traditions of the Romans, Greeks, and Eastern peoples. Architecture, sculpture, military theory, oratory, law - all these branches of culture and science are largely based on Roman models.

The emergence of the state of ancient Rome

The civilization of ancient Rome dates back to the 8th century B.C. The early history of the city is shrouded in legends. The Romans began writing the first works on the history of their state in the 3rd century BC, so there is no evidence of this time written by contemporaries.

The data of archeology in general outlines confirm the stories of Roman authors. Rome was founded in the 8th century BC on Palatine Hill. On another hill, Quirinal, stood a settlement of the Sabine people. In the 7th century BC they united, which is reflected in the legend of the abduction of Sabine women. Since the 6th century BC, Rome can be spoken of as a city. It had walls, public buildings, a market square, temples and a citadel.

Tony Robert-Fleury "The Last Day of Corinth."

Tony Robert-Fleury "The Last Day of Corinth". Source: Wikimedia.Commons

Romulus was considered the founder and first king of Rome. He won many victories and placed in the temple of Jupiter the "splendid armor" of the enemy king he defeated. The same honor was later bestowed on two more generals. At the end of the 6th century BC, King Tarquinius the Proud was overthrown and a republic was established in the city.

Periods of Ancient Rome during the Republic:

Early Republic (6th-3rd centuries BC);

Middle Republic (3-2 centuries B.C.);

Late Republic (2-1 centuries B.C.).

At the beginning of the Republican era, Rome was an aristocratic state where all power belonged to the patricians. Plebeians had limited political rights and could not become magistrates. Moreover, the patricians owned most of the landed property. Plebeian debtors who could not pay them were forced into bondage.

The magistrate was an elected official in Rome

During the entire period of the Early Republic in the state there was a struggle between patricians and plebeians. The latter demanded fair distribution of land plots, abolition of debt slavery and the right to be elected as magistrates. All demands were eventually satisfied. The result was civil peace and the formation of a patrician-plebeian elite.

In parallel, in the 6th-3rd centuries BC, the conquest of Italy by Rome was underway. It was completed by 265 B.C. Especially difficult were the wars with the Etruscan city of Veii, the Samnites and the Greek polis of Southern Italy. The Greeks turned for help to the Epirus king Pyrrhus, who crossed to Italy with his army.

The result of the wars was the Roman-Italian confederation. The communities included in it had five statuses, from those with Roman citizenship to "surrendered" communities, which were deprived of self-government.

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