

**HISTORY · CHAPTER 2**

# An Empire Across Three Continents (The Roman Empire)

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

**EXPECTED MARKS**

**A well-prepared student should score 7-8 out of 8 on this chapter's questions. Below 4 usually means the political system and the social structure were never understood as connected wholes.**

**TIME TO MASTER**

**6-8 hrs**

**HELPLINE**

**70330 05444**

## WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Your child is studying one of history's greatest empires — Rome — which around 2,000 years ago stretched across THREE continents (Europe, North Africa and West Asia) all around the Mediterranean Sea, which the Romans proudly called 'Our Sea'. The chapter explains how Rome changed from a REPUBLIC (ruled by a Senate, with no single king) to rule by EMPERORS, beginning with Augustus in 27 BCE; how power was balanced between the emperor, the Senate and the army; how the empire's economy worked through trade, coins and a vast network of cities; how Roman SOCIETY was organised — the family with its powerful father-figure, the place of women, and the central role of SLAVERY; and how, over time, CHRISTIANITY spread and was legalised by the emperor Constantine, while the western empire slowly transformed. It is a foundation chapter of Class 11 History and usually carries 6-8 marks.

## 5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- Across which three continents did the Roman Empire stretch, and which sea lay at its heart?
- What is the difference between the Roman Republic and the Empire — and who was Augustus?
- Who were the three 'players' in Roman politics, and why was the army so important?
- What kinds of work did Roman slaves do, and could a slave ever become free?
- Who was Constantine, and what did he do for Christianity?

## WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Thinks Rome covered the whole of three continents, rather than ringing the Mediterranean.
- Cannot tell the Republic apart from the Empire, or does not know Augustus / 27 BCE.
- Believes all slaves were treated identically and could never be freed (misses variety and manumission).
- Thinks Constantine invented Christianity, rather than legalising an already-spreading faith.

**WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO**

If your child cannot explain in their own words the THREE players in Roman politics (emperor, Senate, army) and the basic shape of Roman society (family, slavery), they will lose 4-5 marks on the two most common long-answer questions. The fix is a daily 10-minute recall of the 'political triangle' and the 'slavery + family' notes, NOT re-reading the whole chapter.

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