

scorned religion, but was induced to buy the famous Sibylline books, which thereafter were the chief guidance of Rome in the hour of need. A rebellion against him was led by Junius Brutus, who drove him from the throne (509 B.C.). Rome now became a republic.

Four times the banished Tarquin attempted to regain his power. First, he enlisted the aid of Brutus's two sons. When their treachery was discovered, the stern old father, true to the ancient Roman ideal of duty, condemned them both to death. Next, the men of Veii and Tarquinii, two Etruscan cities, marched on Rome to force Tarquin's restoration. Brutus was slain in the fight, but the Romans won the day.

Next, Lars Porsena, an Etruscan prince, appeared before the gates of Rome. The city was saved only by the heroism of Horatius and two companions, who held off the whole Etruscan army while the Romans destroyed the bridge (as you may read in the story accompanying the article on Tiber River). Finally, Tarquin stirred up his son-in-law, Octavius Mamilius, chief of all the Latins, to lead a revolt. But the Latins were crushed in the famous battle of

Lake Regillus, in which, the story goes, the Romans were aided by Castor and Pollux.

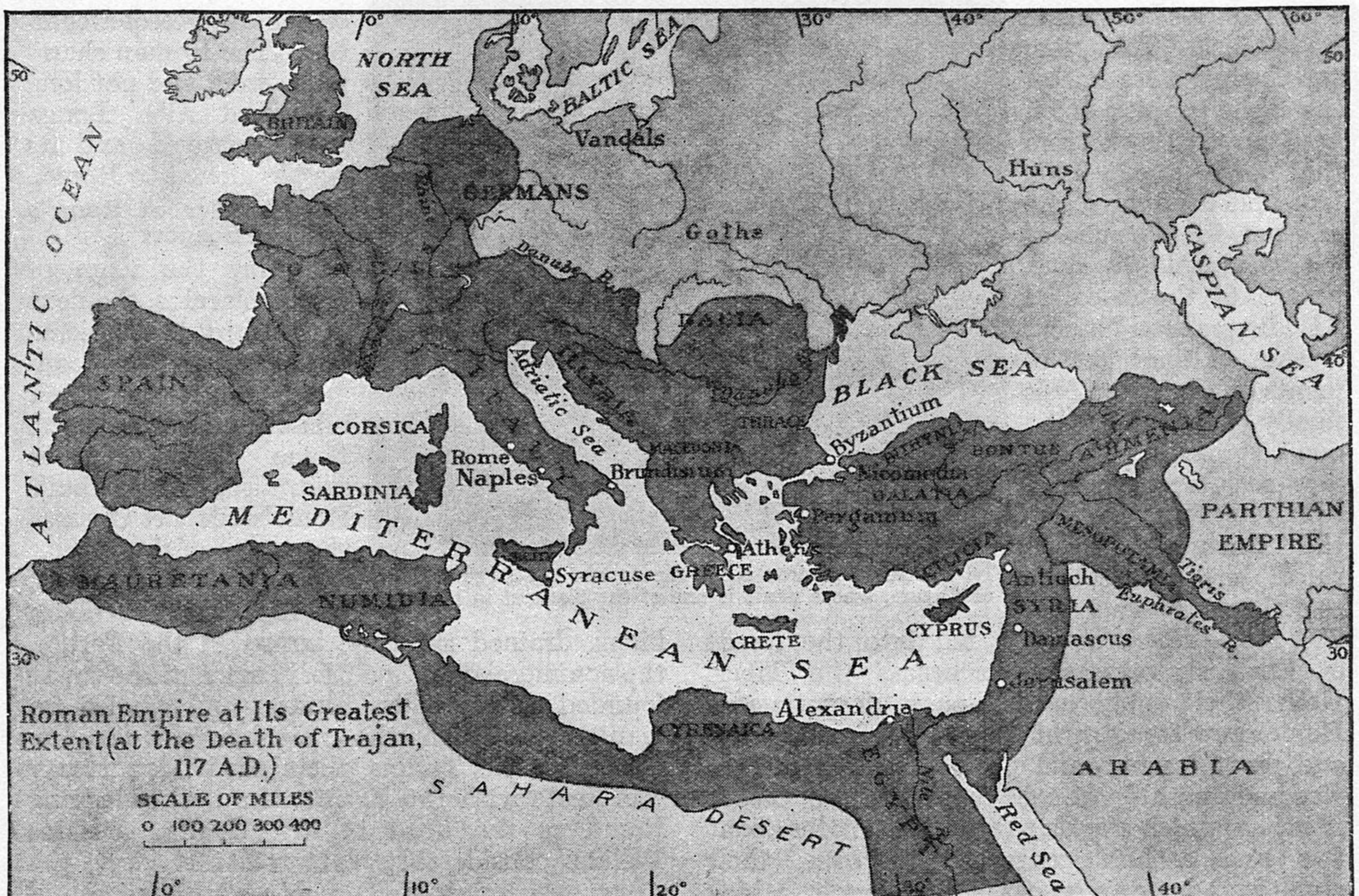
A Tiny City-state

The young republic, which now set out on its long career of almost incessant warfare, was far different from the great republics of to-day. It was only a tiny city-state, much like the city-states that were flourishing at the same time in Greece. Its area was less than 400 square miles, and its population perhaps 150,000. The chief power was in the hands of the wealthy and aristocratic citizens, called the "patricians," who were supposed to be the descendants of the three original tribes of Rome.

The common citizens, the "plebs" or "plebeians" at first had little more to do with the business of government than they had had in the days of the kings. But bit by bit they gradually tore down the barrier which separated the two orders, and the internal history of the republic for the next three centuries is largely the story of how the plebeians wrested reform after reform from the patricians.

In the early days of the republic the ruling power was divided between two patrician

WHEN ROME WAS MISTRESS OF THE WORLD



As your eye travels along the shaded portions of the map girdling the Mediterranean, it takes in virtually the whole of the ancient civilized world. From the Atlantic to the Caspian, from Britain to the Red Sea, from beyond the Rhine and the Danube to the deserts of Africa, a hundred million souls, perhaps, in Europe, Asia, and Africa, were bound together in a far-flung empire such as the world was not to see again until the rise of the British Empire.

For any subject not found in its alphabetical place see information