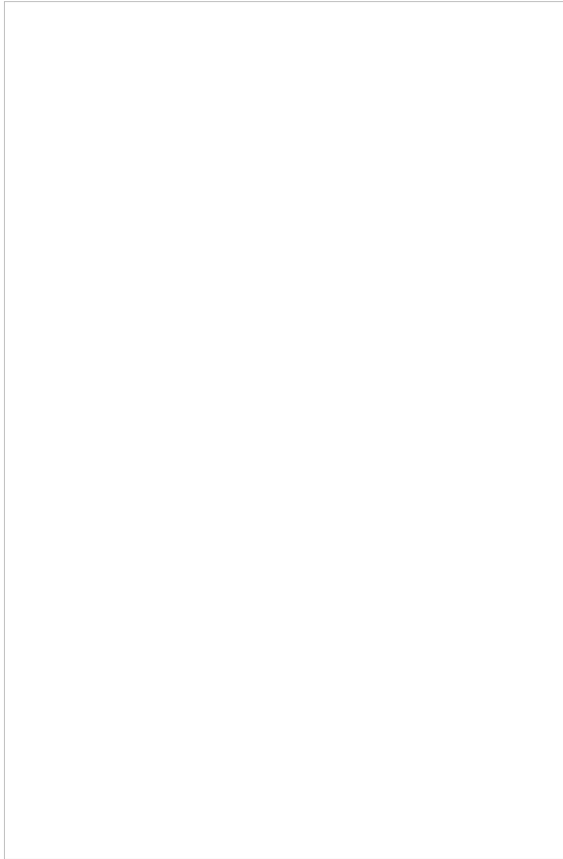


Commodus

Commodus



[Commodus as Hercules,
Capitoline Museums](#)

18th Emperor of the Roman Empire

Reign	177 – 31 December 192
Predecessor	Marcus Aurelius , father
Successor	Pertinax
Co-emperor	Marcus Aurelius (177–180)

Born	31 August 161 Lanuvium , near Rome
Died	31 December 192 (aged 31) Rome
Burial	Rome
Wife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bruttia Crispina

Full name

Lucius Aurelius Commodus
(from birth to 166);

Caesar Lucius Aurelius Commodus (166 to 176);

Caesar Lucius Aurelius Commodus Augustus (176 to 180);

Caesar Lucius Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus (180);

Caesar Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus (180 to 191);

Caesar Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus Augustus (191 to death)

Dynasty [Nerva–Antonine](#)

Father [Marcus Aurelius](#)

Mother [Faustina](#)

Commodus (/ k m d s/; [Latin](#): *Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus*; ^[1] 31 August 161 AD – 31 December 192 AD) was [Roman Emperor](#) from 180 to 192. He also ruled as co-emperor with his father [Marcus Aurelius](#) from 177 until his father's death in 180.

His accession as emperor was the first time a son had succeeded his biological father since [Titus](#) succeeded [Vespasian](#) in 79. He was also the first emperor to have both a father and grandfather (who had adopted his father) as the two preceding emperors. Commodus was the first (and until 337, the only) emperor "[born in the purple](#)", i.e., during his [father's](#) reign.

Commodus was assassinated in 192, succeeded by [Pertinax](#) whose reign did not last long during the tumultuous [Year of the Five Emperors](#).

Early life and rise to power (161–180)

Early life

Roman imperial dynasties

[Antonine Dynasty](#)

[Antoninus Pius](#)

Children

Natural - [Faustina the Younger](#), also one other daughter and two sons, all died before 138

Adoptive - [Marcus Aurelius](#) and [Lucius Verus](#)

[Marcus Aurelius with Lucius Verus](#)

[Marcus Aurelius alone](#)

Children

Natural - 13, including [Commodus](#) and [Lucilla](#)

[Commodus](#)



A bust of Commodus as a youth
([Roman-Germanic Museum](#),
Cologne).

Commodus was born on 31 August 161, as Commodus, in [Lanuvium](#), near [Rome](#).^[2] He was the son of the reigning emperor, Marcus Aurelius, and Aurelius' first cousin, [Faustina the Younger](#); the youngest daughter of [Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius](#), who had died only a few months before. Commodus had an elder twin brother, Titus Aurelius Fulvus Antoninus, who died in 165. On 12 October 166, Commodus was made [Caesar](#) together with his younger brother, [Marcus Annius Verus](#).^{[3][4]} The latter died in 169 having failed to recover from an operation, which left Commodus as Marcus Aurelius' sole surviving son.^[4]

He was looked after by his father's physician, [Galen](#),^{[5][6]} in order to keep Commodus healthy and alive. Galen treated many of Commodus' common illnesses. Commodus received extensive tutoring by a multitude of teachers with a focus on intellectual education.^[7] Among his teachers Onesicrates, Antistius Capella, Titus Aius Sanctus, and Pitholaus are mentioned.^{[7][8]}

Commodus is known to have been at [Carnuntum](#), the headquarters of Marcus Aurelius during the [Marcomannic Wars](#), in 172. It was presumably there that, on 15 October 172, he was given the victory title *Germanicus*, in the presence of the [army](#). The title suggests that Commodus was present at his father's victory over the [Marcomanni](#). On 20 January 175, Commodus entered the [College of Pontiffs](#), the starting point of a career in public life.

In April 175, [Avidius Cassius](#), Governor of [Syria](#), declared himself Emperor following rumours that Marcus Aurelius had died. Having been accepted as

Emperor by Syria, [Palestine](#) and [Egypt](#), Cassius carried on his rebellion even after it had become obvious that Marcus was still alive. During the preparations for the campaign against Cassius, the Prince assumed his [toga virilis](#) on the [Danubian](#) front on 7 July 175, thus formally entering [adulthood](#). Cassius, however, was killed by one of his [centurions](#) before the campaign against him could begin.

Commodus subsequently accompanied his father on a lengthy trip to the Eastern provinces, during which he visited [Antioch](#). The Emperor and his son then traveled to [Athens](#), where they were initiated into the [Eleusinian mysteries](#). They then returned to Rome in the [Autumn](#) of 176.

Joint rule with father (177)

Marcus Aurelius was the first emperor since [Vespasian](#) to have a legitimate biological son and, though he himself was the fifth in the line of the so-called [Five Good Emperors](#), each of whom had adopted his successor, it seems to have been his firm intention that Commodus should be his heir. On 27 November 176, Marcus Aurelius granted Commodus the rank of [Imperator](#) and, in the middle of 177, the title [Augustus](#), giving his son the same status as his own and formally sharing power.

On 23 December of the same year, the two Augusti celebrated a joint [triumph](#), and Commodus was given [tribunician](#) power. On 1 January 177, Commodus became [consul](#) for the first time, which made him, aged 15, the youngest consul in Roman history up to that time. He subsequently married [Bruttia Crispina](#) before accompanying his father to the Danubian front once more in 178, where Marcus Aurelius died on 17 March 180, leaving the 18-year-old Commodus sole emperor.

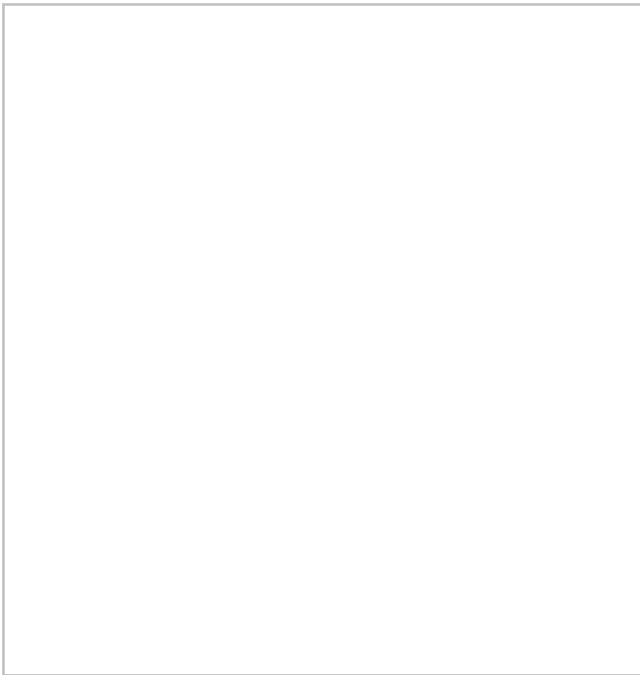
Solo reign (180–192)

Upon his ascension, Commodus devalued the [Roman currency](#). He reduced the weight of the [denarius](#) from 96 per [Roman pound](#) to 105 (3.85 grams to 3.35 grams). He also reduced the silver purity from 79 percent to 76 percent – the silver weight dropping from 2.57 grams to 2.34 grams. In 186 he further reduced the purity and silver weight to 74 percent and 2.22 grams respectively, being 108 to the Roman pound.^[9] His reduction of the denarius during his rule was the largest since the empire's first devaluation during [Nero](#)'s reign.

Whereas the reign of [Marcus Aurelius](#) had been marked by almost continuous warfare, that of Commodus was comparatively peaceful in the military sense but was marked by political strife and the increasingly arbitrary and capricious behaviour of the emperor himself. In the view of [Dio Cassius](#), a

contemporary observer of the period, his accession marked the descent "from a kingdom of gold to one of iron and rust"^[10] – a famous comment which has led some historians, notably [Edward Gibbon](#), to take Commodus' reign as the beginning of the [decline of the Roman Empire](#).

Despite his notoriety, and considering the importance of his reign, Commodus' years in power are not well chronicled. The principal surviving literary sources are Dio Cassius (a contemporary and sometimes first-hand observer, but for this reign, only transmitted in fragments and abbreviations), [Herodian](#) and the *[Historia Augusta](#)* (untrustworthy for its character as a work of literature rather than history, with elements of fiction embedded within its biographies; in the case of Commodus, it may well be embroidering upon what the author found in reasonably good contemporary sources).



A [Denarius](#) featuring Commodus

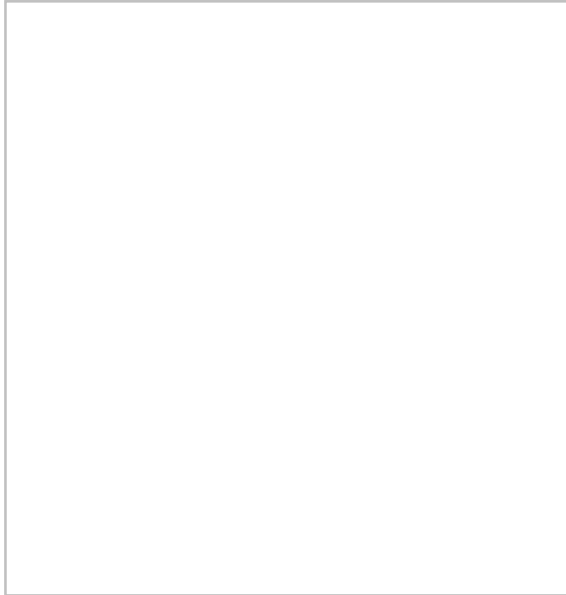
Commodus remained with the Danube armies for only a short time before negotiating a peace treaty with the Danubian tribes. He then returned to Rome and celebrated a triumph for the conclusion of the wars on 22 October 180. Unlike the preceding Emperors [Trajan](#), [Hadrian](#), [Antoninus Pius](#) and Marcus Aurelius, he seems to have had little interest in the business of administration and tended throughout his reign to leave the practical running of the state to a succession of favourites, beginning with [Saoterus](#), a freedman from [Nicomedia](#) who had become his [chamberlain](#).

Dissatisfaction with this state of affairs would lead to a series of conspiracies and attempted coups, which in turn eventually provoked Commodus to take charge of affairs, which he did in an increasingly dictatorial manner. Nevertheless, though the [senatorial order](#) came to hate and fear him, the evidence suggests that he remained popular with the army and the common people for much of his reign, not least because of his lavish shows of largesse (recorded on his coinage) and because he staged and took part in spectacular

[gladiatorial](#) combats.

One of the ways he paid for his donatives and mass entertainments was to tax the senatorial order, and on many inscriptions, the traditional order of the two nominal powers of the state, the Senate and People ([Senatus Populusque Romanus](#)) is provocatively reversed (*Populus Senatusque...*).

Conspiracies of 182



Commodus with attributes of [Helios](#), [Apollo](#) and [Jupiter](#), late 2nd century AD, [sardonyx cameo relief](#), [Hermitage Museum](#), St. Petersburg.

At the outset of his reign, Commodus, aged 18, inherited many of his father's senior advisers, notably [Tiberius Claudius Pompeianus](#) (the second husband of Commodus' sister [Lucilla](#)), his father-in-law [Gaius Bruttius Praesens](#), Titus Fundanius Vitrasius Pollio, and Aufidius Victorinus, who was [Prefect of the City of Rome](#). He also had four surviving sisters, all of them with husbands who were potential rivals. His eldest sister, Lucilla, was over ten years his senior and held the rank of [Augusta](#) as the widow of her first husband, [Lucius Verus](#).

The first crisis of the reign came in 182, when Lucilla engineered a conspiracy against her brother. Her motive is alleged to have been envy of the [Empress Crispina](#). Her husband, Pompeianus, was not involved, but two men alleged to have been her lovers, [Marcus Ummidius Quadratus Annianus](#) (the consul of 167, who was also her first cousin) and Appius Claudius Quintianus, attempted to murder Commodus as he entered a theater. They bungled the job and were seized by the emperor's bodyguard.

Quadratus and Quintianus were executed. Lucilla was exiled to [Capri](#) and later killed. Pompeianus retired from public life. One of the two [praetorian](#)

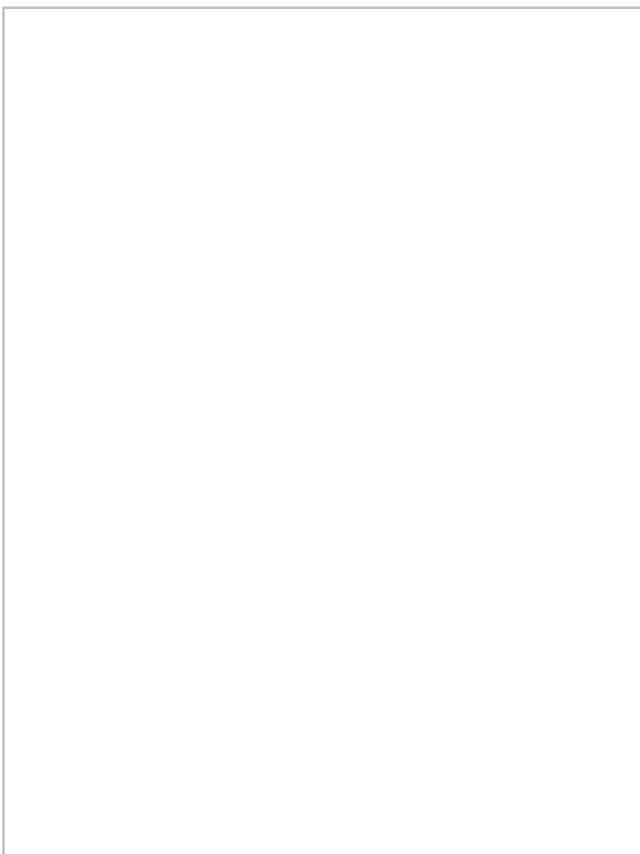
[prefects](#), Tarrutenius Paternus, had actually been involved in the conspiracy but his involvement was not discovered until later on, and in the aftermath, he and his colleague, [Sextus Tigidius Perennis](#), were able to arrange for the murder of Saoterus, the hated chamberlain.

Commodus took the loss of Saoterus badly, and Perennis now seized the chance to advance himself by implicating Paternus in a second conspiracy, one apparently led by Publius Salvius Julianus, who was the son of the jurist [Salvius Julianus](#) and was betrothed to Paternus' daughter. Salvius and Paternus were executed along with a number of other prominent consulars and senators. [Didius Julianus](#), the future emperor and a relative of Salvius Julianus, was dismissed from the governorship of [Germania Inferior](#).

Cleander

Perennis took over the reins of government and Commodus found a new chamberlain and favourite in [Cleander](#), a [Phrygian freedman](#) who had married one of the emperor's mistresses, Demostratia. Cleander was in fact the person who had murdered Saoterus. After those attempts on his life, Commodus spent much of his time outside Rome, mostly on the family estates at Lanuvium. Being physically strong, his chief interest was in sport: taking part in [horse racing](#), [chariot racing](#), and combats with beasts and men, mostly in private but also on occasion in public.

Dacia and Britain



A bust of Commodus
([Kunsthistorisches Museum](#),

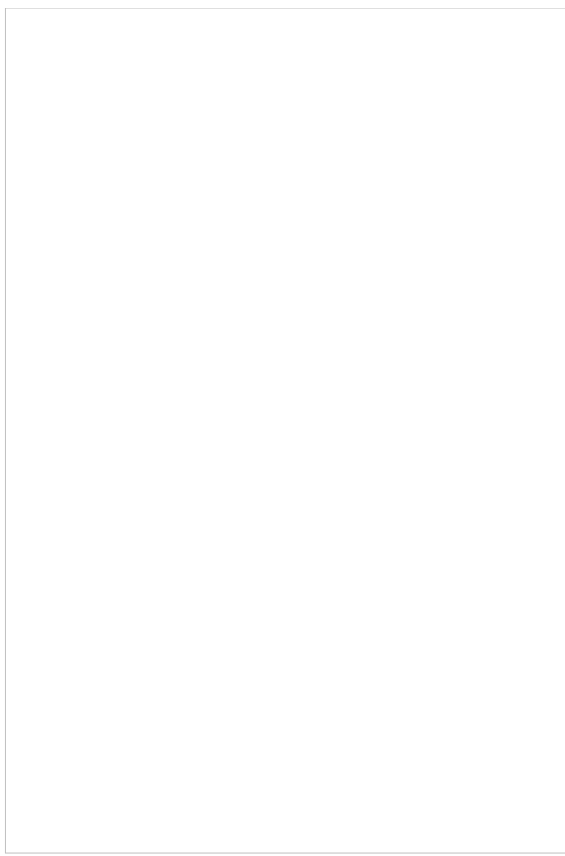
Vienna). According to [Herodian](#)^[11] he was well proportioned and attractive, with naturally [blond](#) and curly hair.^[12]

Commodus was inaugurated in 183 as consul with Aufidius Victorinus for a colleague and assumed the title *Pius*. War broke out in [Dacia](#): few details are available, but it appears two future contenders for the throne, [Clodius Albinus](#) and [Pescennius Niger](#), both distinguished themselves in the campaign. Also, in [Britain](#) in 184, the governor [Ulpus Marcellus](#) re-advanced the Roman frontier northward to the [Antonine Wall](#), but the [legionaries](#) revolted against his harsh discipline and acclaimed another legate, Priscus, as emperor.^[13]

Priscus refused to accept their acclamations, but Perennis had all the legionary [legates](#) in Britain [cashiered](#). On 15 October 184 at the [Capitoline Games](#), a [Cynic](#) philosopher publicly denounced Perennis before Commodus, who was watching, but was immediately put to death. According to Dio Cassius, Perennis, though ruthless and ambitious, was not personally corrupt and generally administered the state well.^[13]

However, the following year, a detachment of soldiers from Britain (they had been drafted to [Italy](#) to suppress brigands) also denounced Perennis to the emperor as plotting to make his own son emperor (they had been enabled to do so by Cleander, who was seeking to dispose of his rival), and Commodus gave them permission to execute him as well as his wife and sons. The fall of Perennis brought a new spate of executions: Aufidius Victorinus committed suicide. Ulpus Marcellus was replaced as [governor of Britain](#) by [Pertinax](#); brought to Rome and tried for treason, Marcellus narrowly escaped death.

Cleander's zenith and fall (185–190)



Remnants of a Roman bust of a youth with a [blond](#) beard, perhaps depicting emperor Commodus, [National Archaeological Museum, Athens](#)

Cleander proceeded to concentrate power in his own hands and to enrich himself by becoming responsible for all public offices: he sold and bestowed entry to the Senate, army commands, [governorships](#) and, increasingly, even the [suffect consulships](#) to the highest bidder. Unrest around the empire increased, with large numbers of army deserters causing trouble in [Gaul](#) and [Germany](#). Pescennius Niger mopped up the deserters in Gaul in a military campaign, and a revolt in [Brittany](#) was put down by two [legions](#) brought over from Britain.

In 187, one of the leaders of the deserters, Maternus, came from Gaul intending to assassinate Commodus at the Festival of the Great Goddess in March, but he was betrayed and executed. In the same year, [Pertinax](#) unmasked a conspiracy by two enemies of Cleander – Antistius Burrus (one of Commodus' brothers-in-law) and Arrius Antoninus. As a result, Commodus appeared even more rarely in public, preferring to live on his estates.

Early in 188, Cleander disposed of the current praetorian prefect, [Atilius Aebutianus](#), and himself took over supreme command of the Praetorians at the new rank of *a pugio* ("dagger-bearer") with two praetorian prefects subordinate to him. Now at the zenith of his power, Cleander continued to

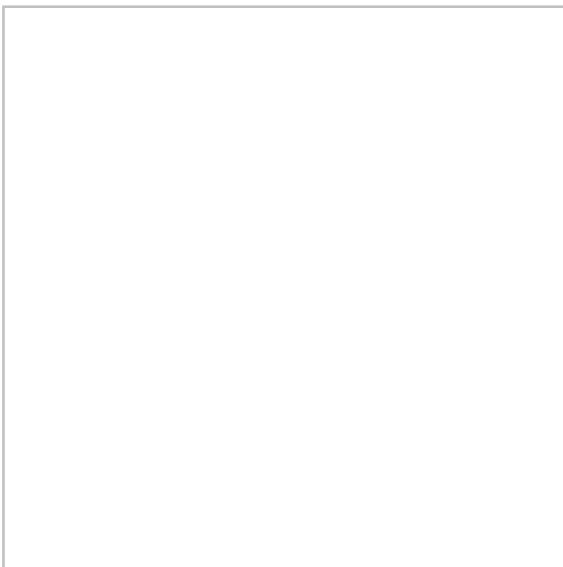
sell public offices as his private business. The climax came in the year 190, which had 25 suffect consuls – a record in the 1,000-year history of the Roman consulship—all appointed by Cleander (they included the future Emperor [Septimius Severus](#)).

In the spring of 190, Rome was afflicted by a food shortage, for which the *praefectus annonae* Papirius Dionysius, the official actually in charge of the [grain supply](#), contrived to lay the blame on Cleander. At the end of June, a mob demonstrated against Cleander during a horse race in the [Circus Maximus](#): he sent the praetorian guard to put down the disturbances, but Pertinax, who was now City Prefect of Rome, dispatched the [Vigiles Urbani](#) to oppose them. Cleander fled to Commodus, who was at [Laurentum](#) in the house of the Quinctilii, for protection, but the mob followed him calling for his head.

At the urging of his mistress [Marcia](#), Commodus had Cleander beheaded and his son killed. Other victims at this time were the praetorian prefect Julius Julianus, Commodus' cousin [Annia Fundania Faustina](#), and his brother-in-law Mamertinus. Papirius Dionysius was executed too.

The emperor now changed his name to Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus. At 29, he took over more of the reins of power, though he continued to rule through a cabal consisting of Marcia, his new chamberlain Eclectus, and the new praetorian prefect [Quintus Aemilius Laetus](#), who about this time also had many Christians freed from working in the mines in [Sardinia](#). Marcia, the widow of Quadratus, who had been executed in 182, is alleged to have been a Christian.

Megalomania (190–192)



A Denarius of Commodus

In opposition to the Senate, in his pronouncements and [iconography](#), Commodus had always laid stress on his unique status as a source of god-like

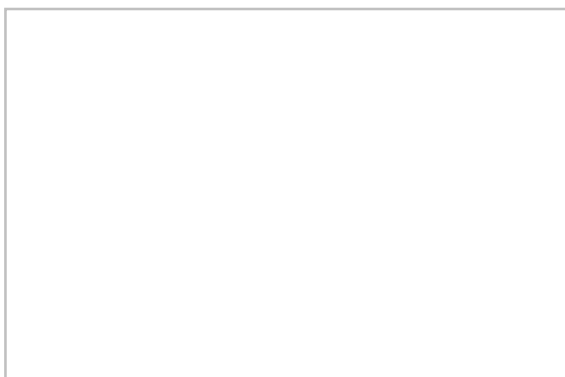
power, liberality and physical prowess. Innumerable statues around the empire were set up portraying him in the guise of [Hercules](#), reinforcing the image of him as a demigod, a physical giant, a protector and a battler against beasts and men (see "Commodus and Hercules" and "Commodus the Gladiator" below). Moreover, as Hercules, he could claim to be the son of [Jupiter](#), the representative of the supreme god of the Roman [pantheon](#). These tendencies now increased to [megalomaniacal](#) proportions. Far from celebrating his descent from Marcus Aurelius, the actual source of his power, he stressed his own personal uniqueness as the bringer of a new order, seeking to re-cast the empire in his own image.

During 191, the city of Rome was extensively damaged by a fire that raged for several days, during which many public buildings including the [Temple of Pax](#), the [Temple of Vesta](#) and parts of the imperial palace were destroyed.

Perhaps seeing this as an opportunity, early in 192 Commodus, declaring himself the new [Romulus](#), ritually re-founded Rome, renaming the city *Colonia Lucia Annia Commodiana*. All the months of the year were renamed to correspond exactly with his (now twelve) names: *Lucius, Aelius, Aurelius, Commodus, Augustus, Herculeus, Romanus, Exsuperatorius, Amazonius, Invictus, Felix, Pius*. The legions were renamed *Commodianae*, the fleet which imported grain from [Africa](#) was termed *Alexandria Commodiana Togata*, the Senate was entitled the Commodian Fortunate Senate, his palace and the Roman people themselves were all given the name *Commodianus*, and the day on which these reforms were decreed was to be called *Dies Commodianus*.^[14]

Thus he presented himself as the fountainhead of the Empire and Roman life and religion. He also had the head of the [Colossus of Nero](#) adjacent to the [Colosseum](#) replaced with his own portrait, gave it a club and placed a [bronze lion](#) at its feet to make it look like *Hercules Romanus*, and added an inscription boasting of being "the only left-handed fighter to conquer twelve times one thousand men".^[15]

Assassination (192)



[Damnatio memoriae](#) of Commodus on an inscription

in the Museum of Roman History [Osterburken](#). The abbreviation "CO" has been restored with paint.

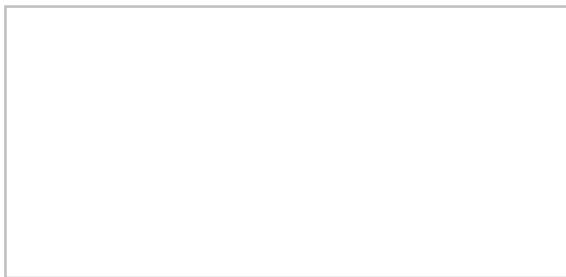
In November 192, Commodus held Plebeian Games, in which he shot hundreds of animals with arrows and javelins every morning, and fought as a gladiator every afternoon, winning all the bouts. Also in December he announced his intention to inaugurate the year 193 as both consul and gladiator on 1 January.

At this point, the prefect Laetus formed a conspiracy with Eclectus to supplant Commodus with Pertinax, taking Marcia into their confidence. On 31 December Marcia poisoned his food but he vomited up the poison; so the conspirators sent his wrestling partner [Narcissus](#) to strangle him in his bath. Upon his death, the Senate declared him a public enemy (a *de facto damnatio memoriae*) and restored the original name to the city of Rome and its institutions. Commodus' statues were thrown down. His body was buried in the [Mausoleum of Hadrian](#). In 195 the emperor [Septimius Severus](#), trying to gain favour with the family of Marcus Aurelius, rehabilitated Commodus' memory and had the Senate deify him.^[16]

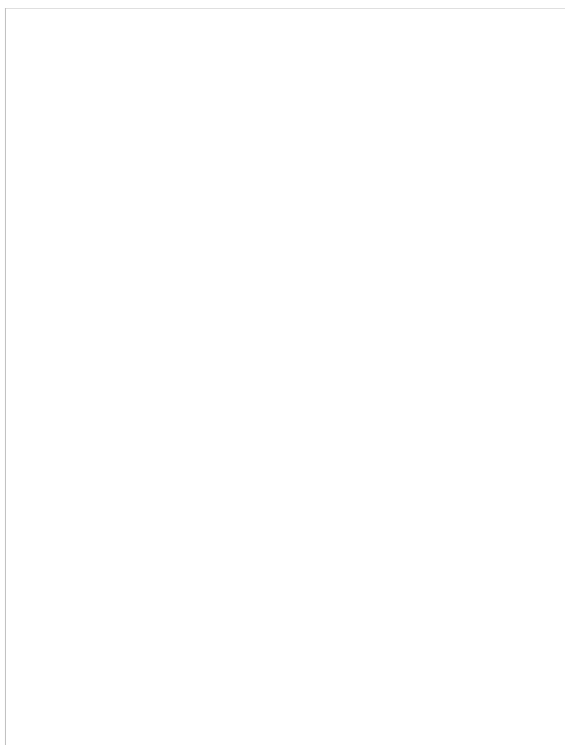
Commodus was succeeded by [Pertinax](#), whose reign was short lived, being the first to fall victim to the [Year of the Five Emperors](#). Commodus' death marked the end of the [Nerva–Antonine dynasty](#).

Character and physical prowess

Character and motivations



[Denarius](#) of Commodus



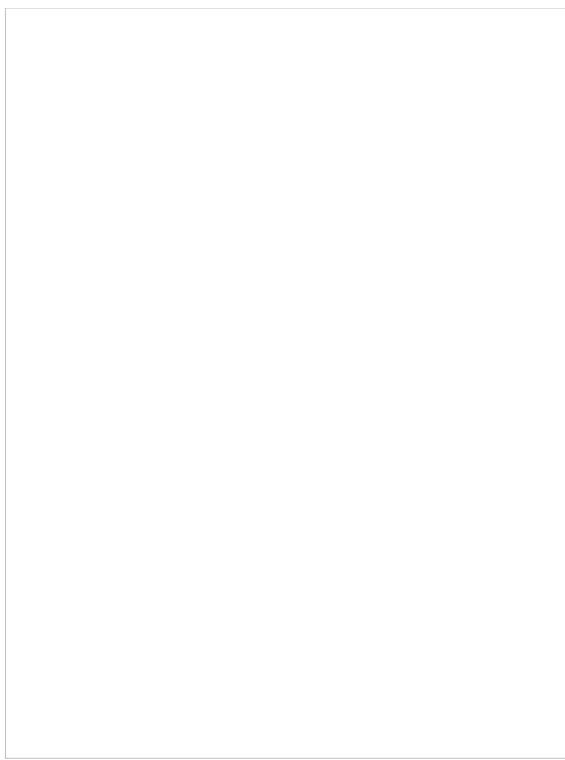
Bust of Commodus from the [Capitoline Museum](#)

Dio Cassius, a first-hand witness, describes him as "not naturally wicked but, on the contrary, as guileless as any man that ever lived. His great simplicity, however, together with his cowardice, made him the slave of his companions, and it was through them that he at first, out of ignorance, missed the better life and then was led on into lustful and cruel habits, which soon became second nature."^[17]

His recorded actions do tend to show a rejection of his father's policies, his father's advisers, and especially his father's austere lifestyle, and an alienation from the surviving members of his family. It seems likely that he was brought up in an atmosphere of [Stoic asceticism](#), which he rejected entirely upon his accession to sole rule.

After repeated attempts on Commodus' life, [Roman citizens](#) were often killed for making him angry. One such notable event was the attempted extermination of the house of the Quinctilii. Condidianus and Maximus were executed on the pretext that, while they were not implicated in any plots, their wealth and talent would make them unhappy with the current state of affairs.^[18]

Changes of name



Bust of Commodus from the [Palazzo Massimo alle Terme](#)

On his accession as sole ruler, Commodus added the name Antoninus to his official nomenclature, presumably to honor his grandfather, [Antoninus Pius](#). In October 180 he changed his *praenomen* from Lucius to Marcus, presumably in honour of his father. He later took the title of *Felix* in 185. In 191 he restored his *praenomen* to Lucius and added the family name Aelius, apparently linking himself to [Hadrian](#) and Hadrian's adopted son [Lucius Aelius Caesar](#), whose original name was also Commodus.

Later that year he dropped Antoninus and adopted as his full style Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus Augustus Herculeus Romanus Exsuperatorius Amazonius Invictus Felix Pius (the order of some of these titles varies in the sources). "Exsuperatorius" (the supreme) was a title given to Jupiter, and "Amazonius" identified him again with Hercules.

An inscribed altar from [Dura-Europos](#) on the Euphrates shows that Commodus' titles and the renaming of the months were disseminated to the furthest reaches of the Empire; moreover, that even auxiliary military units received the title *Commodiana*, and that Commodus claimed two additional titles: *Pacator Orbis* (pacifier of the world) and *Dominus Noster* (Our Lord). The latter eventually would be used as a conventional title by Roman emperors, starting about a century later, but Commodus seems to have been the first to assume it.^[19]

Commodus and Hercules

Disdaining the more philosophic inclinations of his father, Commodus was extremely proud of his physical prowess. The historian Herodian, a

contemporary, described Commodus as an extremely handsome man.^[20] As mentioned above, he ordered many statues to be made showing him dressed as Hercules with a lion's hide and a club. He thought of himself as the reincarnation of Hercules, frequently emulating the legendary hero's feats by appearing in the arena to fight a variety of wild animals. He was left-handed, and very proud of the fact.^[21] Cassius Dio and the writers of the *Augustan History* say that Commodus was a skilled archer, who could shoot the heads off [ostriches](#) in full gallop, and kill a [panther](#) as it attacked a victim in the arena.

Commodus the gladiator

Commodus also had a passion for gladiatorial combat, which he took so far as to take to the [arena](#) himself, dressed as a gladiator. The Romans found Commodus' naked gladiatorial combats to be scandalous and disgraceful.^[22] It was rumoured that he was actually the son, not of Marcus Aurelius, but of a gladiator whom his mother Faustina had taken as a lover at the coastal resort of [Caieta](#).^[23]

In the arena, Commodus always won since his opponents always submitted to the emperor. Thus, these public fights would not end in death. Privately, it was his custom to slay his practice opponents.^[24] For each appearance in the arena, he charged the city of Rome a million [sesterces](#), straining the Roman economy.

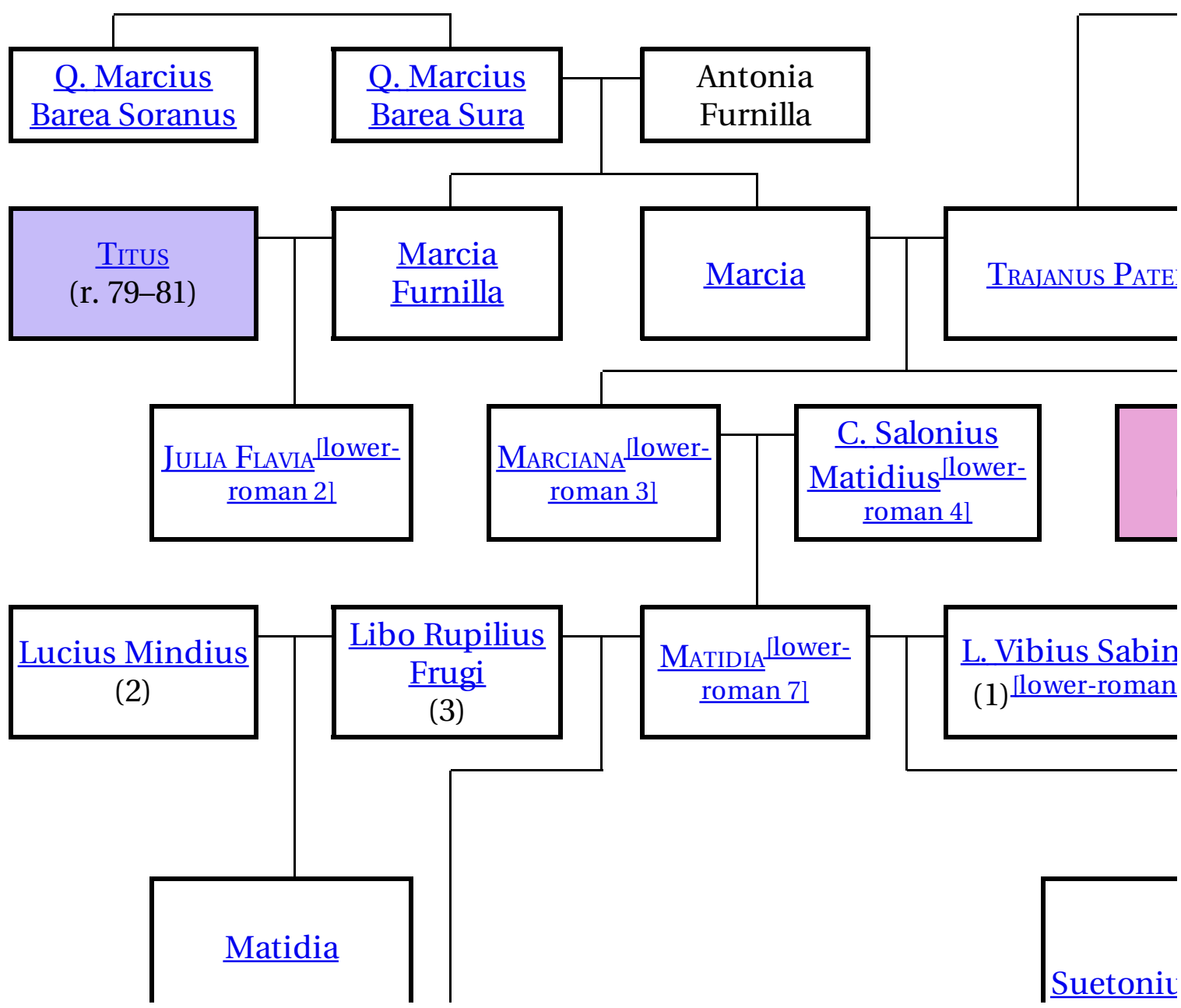
Commodus raised the ire of many military officials in Rome for his Hercules persona in the arena. Often, wounded soldiers and amputees would be placed in the arena for Commodus to slay with a sword. Citizens of Rome missing their feet through accident or illness were taken to the arena, where they were tethered together for Commodus to club to death while pretending they were giants.^[25] These acts may have contributed to his assassination.

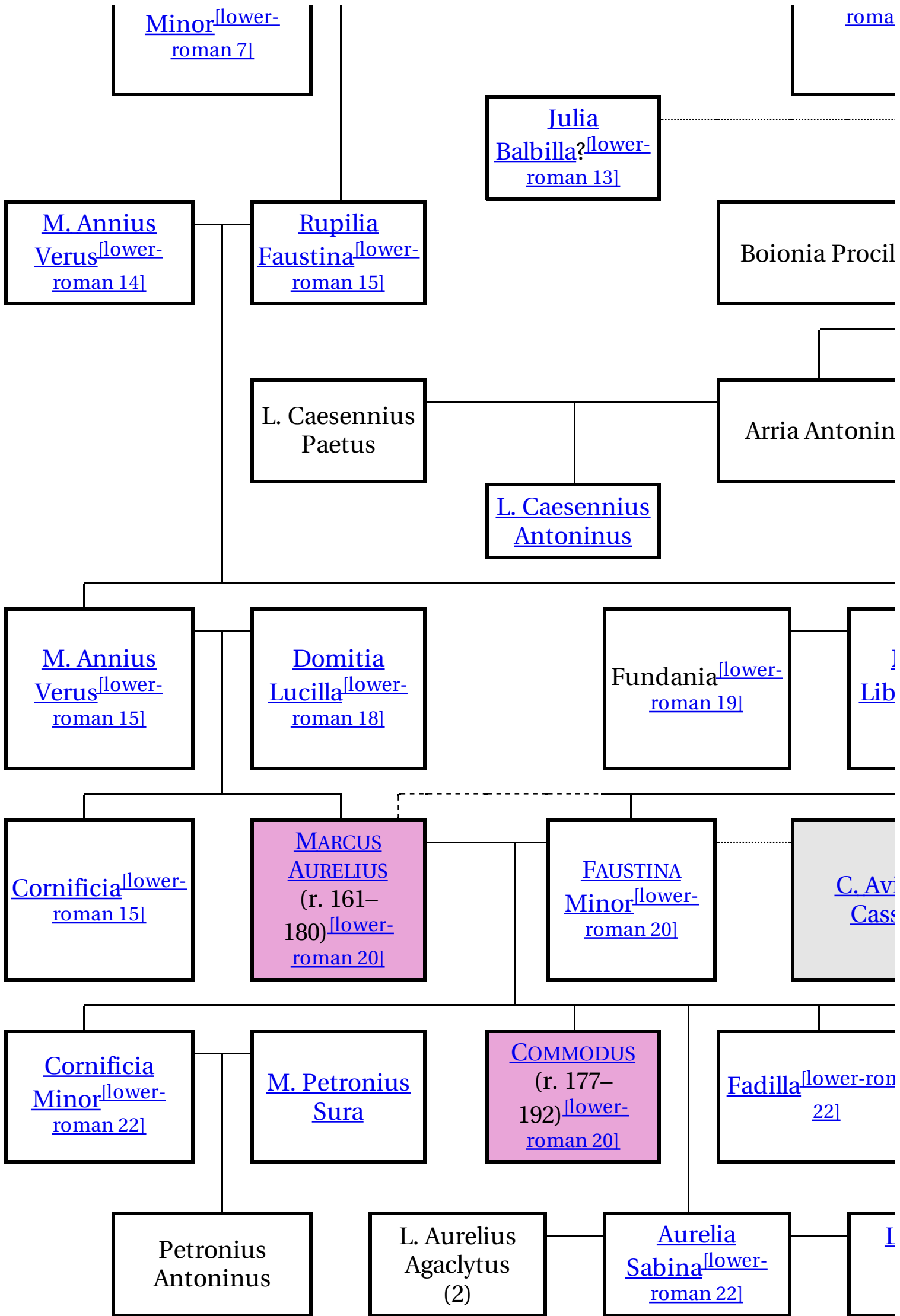
Commodus was also known for fighting exotic animals in the arena, often to the horror of the Roman people. According to Gibbon, Commodus once killed 100 lions in a single day.^[26] Later, he decapitated a running ostrich with a specially designed dart^[27] and afterwards carried the bleeding head of the dead bird and his sword over to the section where the Senators sat and gesticulated as though they were next.^[28] Dio notes that the targeted senators actually found this more ridiculous than frightening, and chewed on [laurel](#) leaves to conceal their laughter.^[29] On another occasion, Commodus killed three [elephants](#) on the floor of the arena by himself.^[30] Finally, Commodus killed a [giraffe](#), which was considered to be a strange and helpless beast.^[31]

In popular culture

- In 1964's *The Fall of the Roman Empire*, a fictionalized Commodus who serves as the main antagonist of the film is portrayed by [Christopher Plummer](#).
- In 2000's [Academy Award](#)–winner for Best Picture, *Gladiator*, a fictionalized Commodus serves as the main antagonist of the film. He is played by [Joaquin Phoenix](#).^[32]
- A character in the 2013 video game *Ryse: Son of Rome*, is named Commodus and is one of the main antagonists of the game. The son of Emperor [Nero](#), he shares several traits with the historic Commodus.
- Commodus is the main character in Netflix's 2016 series titled, *Roman Empire: Reign of Blood*.

Nerva–Antonine family tree





- (1) = 1st spouse
- (2) = 2nd spouse
- (3) = 3rd spouse
- Reddish purple indicates [emperor](#) of the Nerva-Antonine dynasty; lighter purple indicates designated imperial heir of said dynasty who never reigned; grey indicates unsuccessful imperial aspirants; bluish purple indicates emperors of other dynasties
- dashed lines indicate adoption; dotted lines indicate love affairs/unmarried
- SMALL CAPS = posthumously deified ([Augusti](#), [Augustae](#), or other)

Notes:

Except where otherwise noted, the notes below indicate that an individual's parentage is as follows:

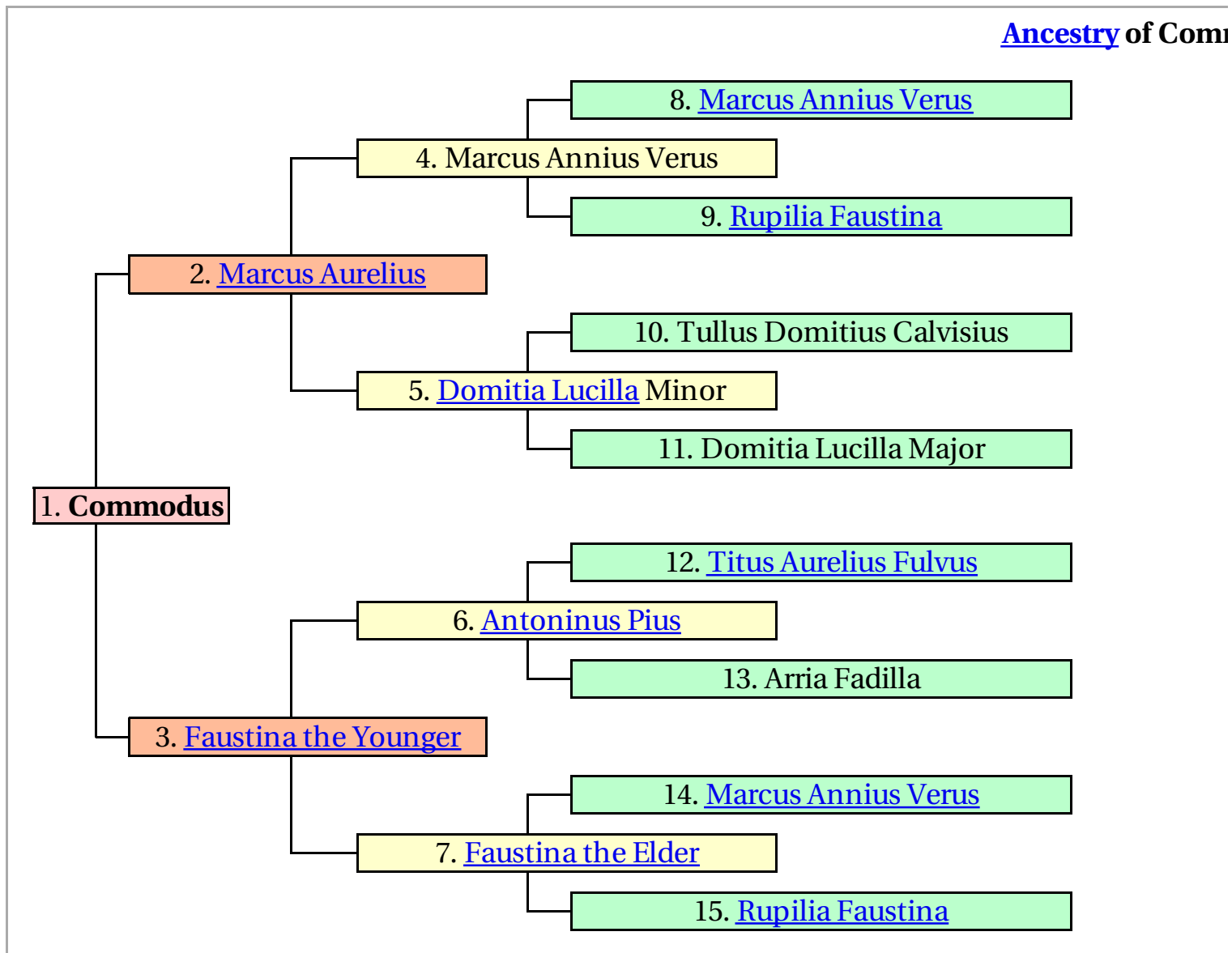
1. [_](#) Sister of Trajan's father: Giacosa (1977), p. 7.
2. [_](#) Giacosa (1977), p. 8.
3. [1 2](#) Levick (2014), p. 161.
4. [_](#) Husband of Ulpia Marciana: Levick (2014), p. 161.
5. [1 2](#) Giacosa (1977), p. 7.
6. [1 2 3](#) *DIR* contributor (Herbert W. Benario, 2000), "[Hadrian](#)".
7. [1 2](#) Giacosa (1977), p. 9.
8. [_](#) Husband of Salonia Matidia: Levick (2014), p. 161.
9. [_](#) Smith (1870), "[Julius Servianus](#)".
10. [_](#) Suetonius a possible lover of Sabina: One interpretation of [HA Hadrianus](#)]
11. [_](#) Smith (1870), "[Hadrian](#)", pp. 319–322.
12. [_](#) Lover of Hadrian: Lambert (1984), p. 99 and *passim*; deification: Lambert (1984), p. 100.
13. [_](#) Julia Balbilla a possible lover of Sabina: A. R. Birley (1997), *Hadrian, the Rest of the Empire*, p. 100.
14. [_](#) Husband of Rupilia Faustina: Levick (2014), p. 163.
15. [1 2 3 4](#) Levick (2014), p. 163.
16. [1 2 3 4](#) Levick (2014), p. 162.
17. [1 2 3 4 5 6 7](#) Levick (2014), p. 164.
18. [_](#) Wife of M. Annius Verus: Giacosa (1977), p. 10.
19. [_](#) Wife of M. Annius Libo: Levick (2014), p. 163.
20. [1 2 3 4 5](#) Giacosa (1977), p. 10.
21. [_](#) Husband of Ceionia Fabia: Levick (2014), p. 164.
22. [1 2 3](#) Levick (2014), p. 117.

References:

- *DIR contributors* (2000). "[De Imperatoribus Romanis: An Online Encyclopedia](#)".
- Giacosa, Giorgio (1977). *Women of the Caesars: Their Lives and Portraits on Coins*. London: Duckworth.

- Lambert, Royston (1984). *Beloved and God: The Story of Hadrian and Antinoi*
- Levick, Barbara (2014). *Faustina I and II: Imperial Women of the Golden Age*
- [William Smith, ed. \(1870\). *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and M*](#)

Ancestors



Notes

1. [In *Classical Latin*](#), Commodus' name would be inscribed as MARCVS AVRELIVS COMMODVS ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS.
2. [_Historia Augusta - Life of Commodus 1](#)
3. [_Historia Augusta 12.8](#)
4. [12](#) David L. Vagi *Coinage and History of the Roman Empire* Vol. One: History p.248
5. [_Susan P. Mattern *The Prince of Medicine: Galen in the Roman Empire* p. xx](#)
6. [_Cassius Dio *Roman History* 71.33.1](#)
7. [12](#) Anthony R Birley *Marcus Aurelius: A Biography* p.197
8. [_Historia Augusta 1.6](#)
9. [Tullus Domitius Calvisius "Roman Emperor of the Divinity"](#)

9. [Iuliane University - Roman Currency of the Principate](#)
10. [_Dio Cassius 72.36.4](#), Loeb edition translated E. Cary
11. [_Google Books Search](#)
12. [_Colin Wells \(2004\) \[1984, 1992\]. *The Roman Empire*. Second Edition \(sixth reprint edition\). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. ISBN 0-674-77770-0, p 255.](#)
13. [1 2 Dio Cassius 73.10.2](#), Loeb edition translated E. Cary
14. [_Commodus \(AD 180–192\)](#)
15. [_Dio Cassius 73.22.3](#)
16. [_To “accept kinship with Commodus ... the bluntly pragmatic decision was taken to deify the former emperor, thus legitimizing Severus’ seizure of power.” See Annelise Freisenbruch, *Caesars' Wives: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Roman Empire* \(London and New York: Free Press, 2010\), 187.](#)
17. [_Dio Cassius 73.1.2](#), Loeb edition translated E. Cary
18. [_Dio Cassius 73.5.3](#), Loeb edition translated E. Cary
19. [_Spiedel, M. P \(1993\). "Commodus the God-Emperor and the Army". *Journal of Roman Studies*. **83**: 109–114. doi:10.2307/300981. JSTOR 300981.](#)
20. [_Grant, Michael. *The Roman Emperors* \(1985\)pp 99.](#)
21. [_Dio, Cassius. *Roman History: Epitome of Book LXXIII* pp 111.](#)
22. [_Herodian's Roman History F.L. Muller Edition 1.15.7](#)
23. [_Historia Augusta, Life of Marcus Aurelius, XIX. The film *The Fall of the Roman Empire* makes use of this story: one of the characters is an old gladiator who eventually reveals himself to be Commodus' real father.](#)
24. [_Dio Cassius 73.10.3](#)
25. [_Dio Cassius 73.20.3](#), Loeb edition translated E. Cary
26. [_Gibbon pg 106 "disgorged at once a hundred lions; a hundred darts"](#)
27. [_Gibbon, Edward *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume I* Everyman's Library \(Knopf\) New York. 1910. pg 106 "with arrows whose point was shaped in the form of a crescent"](#)
28. [_Lane Fox, Robin *The Classical World: An Epic History from Homer to Hadrian* Basic Books. 2006 pg 446 "brandishing a sword in one hand and bloodied neck...He gesticulated at the Senate."](#)
29. [_Roman History by Cassius Dio penelope.uchicago.edu](#)
30. [_Scullard, H. H *The Elephant in the Greek and Roman World* Thames and Hudson. 1974 pg 252](#)
31. [_Gibbon pg 107 "*1 Commodus killed a camelopardalis or giraffe ... the most useless of the quadrupeds".](#)
32. [_IMDb Commodus \(Character\) from *Gladiator* \(2000\) Retrieved October 2012](#)

External links

 Wikimedia Commons has media related to [Commodus](#).

- [Historia Augusta: Life of Commodus](#)
- [Book 73 of Cassius Dio's History](#)
- [Herodian's Roman History](#)

Further reading

- Geoff W Adams, *The Emperor Commodus : gladiator, Hercules or a tyrant?*. Boca Raton: BrownWalker Press, [2013]. ISBN 1612337228
- G. Alföldy, "Der Friedesschluss des Kaisers Commodus mit den Germanen," *Historia*, **20** (1971), pp. 84-109.
- P. A. Brunt, "The Fall of Perennis: Dio-Xiphilinus 79.9.2," *Classical Quarterly*, **23** (1973), pp. 172-77
- J. Gagé, "La mystique imperiale et l'épreuve des jeux. Commode-Hercule et l'anthropologie hercaléenne," *ANRW* 2.17.2 (1981), 663-83
- Olivier Hekster, *Commodus: An Emperor at the Crossroads: Dutch monographs on ancient history and archaeology*, 23. Brill, 2002. ISSN 0924-3550
- L. L. Howe, *The Praetorian Prefect from Commodus to Diocletian (A. D. 180-305)*. Chicago, 1942
- M.P. Speidel, "Commodus the God-Emperor and the Army," *Journal of Roman Studies*, **83** (1993), pp. 109-114.

Commodus

[Antonine dynasty](#)

Cadet branch of the [Nervan-Antonian Dynasty](#)

Born: 31 August 161

Died: 31 December 192

Regnal titles

Preceded by
[Marcus Aurelius](#)

[Roman Emperor](#)
180–192

Succeeded by
[Pertinax](#)

Political offices

Preceded by
[Titus Pomponius Proculus Vitrasius Pollio](#)
and Marcus Flavius
Aper II

[Consul of the Roman Empire](#)
177
With: [Marcus Peducaeus Plautius Quintillus](#)

Succeeded by
[Servius Cornelius Scipio Salvidienus Orfitus](#)
and [Domitius Velius Rufus](#)

Preceded by
[Servius Cornelius Scipio Salvidienus Orfitus](#)
and [Domitius Velius Rufus](#)

[Consul of the Roman Empire](#)
179
With: [Publius Martius Verus](#)

Succeeded by
[Gaius Bruttius Praesens](#)
and [Sextus Quinctilius Condianus](#)

Preceded by
[Gaius Bruttius](#)

[Consul of the Roman Empire](#)

Succeeded by
[Marcus Petronius Sura](#)

Praesens
and **Sextus Quinctilius**
Condianus

Preceded by
Marcus Petronius Sura
Mamertinus
and **Quintus Tineius**
Rufus

Preceded by
Triarius Maternus
Lascivius
and **Tiberius Claudius**
Marcus Appius Atilius
Bradua Regillus Atticus

Preceded by
Domitius Iulius Silanus
and **Quintus Servilius**
Silanus

Preceded by
Popilius Pedo
Apronianus
and **Marcus Valerius**
Bradua Mauricus

181
With: **Lucius Antistius Burrus**

Consul of the **Roman Empire**
183
With: **Gaius Aufidius Victorinus**

Consul of the **Roman Empire**
186
With: **Manius Acilius Glabrio II**

Consul of the **Roman Empire**
190
With: **Marcus Petronius Sura**
Septimianus

Consul of the **Roman Empire**
192
With: **Pertinax**

Mamertinus
and **Quintus Tineius**
Rufus

Succeeded by
Lucius Cossonius
Eggius Marullus
and **Gnaeus Papirius**
Aelianus

Succeeded by
Lucius Bruttius
Quintus Crispinus
and **Lucius Roscius**
Aelianus Paculus

Succeeded by
Popilius Pedo
Apronianus
and **Marcus Valerius**
Bradua Mauricus

Succeeded by
Quintus Pompeius
Sosius Falco
and **Gaius Julius**
Erucius Clarus
Vibianus

Roman and **Byzantine** emperors

Principate

27 BC –
235 AD

- **Augustus**
- **Tiberius**
- **Caligula**
- **Claudius**
- **Nero**
- **Galba**
- **Otho**
- **Vitellius**
- **Vespasian**
- **Titus**
- **Domitian**
- **Nerva**
- **Trajan**
- **Hadrian**
- **Antoninus Pius**
- **Marcus Aurelius** *and* **Lucius Verus**
- **Commodus**
- **Pertinax**
- **Didius Julianus**

Crisis
235–284

- ([Pescennius Niger](#))
- ([Clodius Albinus](#))
- [Septimius Severus](#)
- [Caracalla](#) *with* [Geta](#)
- [Macrinus](#) *with* [Diadumenian](#)
- [Elagabalus](#)
- [Severus Alexander](#)

- [Maximinus Thrax](#)
- [Gordian I](#) *and* [Gordian II](#)
- [Pupienus](#) *and* [Balbinus](#)
- [Gordian III](#)
- [Philip the Arab](#) *with* [Philippus II](#)
- [Decius](#) *with* [Herennius Etruscus](#)
- [Hostilian](#)
- [Trebonianus Gallus](#) *with* [Volusianus](#)
- [Aemilianus](#)
- [Valerian](#)
- [Gallienus](#) *with* [Saloninus](#) *and* [Valerian II](#)
- [Claudius Gothicus](#)
- [Quintillus](#)
- [Aurelian](#)
- [Tacitus](#)
- [Florian](#)
- [Probus](#)
- [Carus](#)
- [Carinus](#) *and* [Numerian](#)
-
- *Gallic Emperors:*
- [Postumus](#)
- ([Laelianus](#))
- [Marius](#)
- [Victorinus](#)
- ([Domitianus II](#))
- [Tetricus I](#) *with* [Tetricus II](#) *as Caesar*

- [Diocletian](#) (whole empire)
- [Diocletian](#) (East) *and* [Maximian](#) (West)
- [Diocletian](#) (East) *and* [Maximian](#) (West) *with* [Galerius](#) (East) *and* [Constantius Chlorus](#) (West) *as Caesars*
- [Galerius](#) (East) *and* [Constantius Chlorus](#) (West) *with* [Severus](#) (West) *and* [Maximinus Daia](#) (East) *as Caesars*
- [Galerius](#) (East) *and* [Severus](#) (West) *with* [Constantine the Great](#) (West) *and* [Maximinus Daia](#) (East) *as Caesars*
- [Galerius](#) (East) *and* [Maxentius](#) (West) *with* [Constantine the](#)

Dominate
284–395

- Great (West) and Maximinus Daia (East) as Caesares
- Galerius (East) and Licinius I (West) with Constantine the Great (West) and Maximinus Daia (East) as Caesares
- Maxentius (alone)
- Licinius I (West) and Maximinus Daia (East) with Constantine the Great (Self-proclaimed Augustus) and Valerius Valens
- Licinius I (East) and Constantine the Great (West) with Licinius II, Constantine II, and Crispus as Caesares
- (Martinian)
- Constantine the Great (whole empire) with son Crispus as Caesar
- Constantine II
- Constans I
- Magnentius with Decentius as Caesar
- Constantius II with Vetranio
- Julian
- Jovian
- Valentinian the Great
- Valens
- Gratian
- Valentinian II
- Magnus Maximus with Flavius Victor
- Theodosius the Great
- Honorius
- (Constantine III with son Constans II)
- Constantius III
- Joannes as Western usurper in Ravenna
- Valentinian III
- Petronius Maximus with Palladius
- Avitus
- Majorian then Libius Severus then Anthemius then Olybrius
- Glycerius
- Julius Nepos (de jure)
- Romulus Augustulus (Usurper)
- Arcadius
- Theodosius II
- Pulcheria
- Marcian
- Leo I the Thracian
- Leo II
- Zeno (first reign)
- Basiliscus with son Marcus as co-emperor

Western
Empire
395–480

**Eastern/
Byzantine
Empire**
395–1204

- [Zeno](#) (second reign)
- [Anastasius I Dicorus](#)
- [Justin I](#)
- [Justinian the Great](#)
- [Justin II](#)
- [Tiberius II Constantine](#)
- [Maurice](#) *with son [Theodosius](#) as co-emperor*
- [Phocas](#)
- [Heraclius](#)
- [Constantine III](#)
- [Heraklonas](#)
- [Constans II](#)
- [Constantine IV](#) *with brothers [Heraclius](#) and [Tiberius](#) and then [Justinian II](#) as co-emperors*
- [Justinian II](#) (first reign)
- [Leontios](#)
- [Tiberios III](#)
- [Justinian II](#) (second reign) *with son [Tiberius](#) as co-emperor*
- [Philippikos](#)
- [Anastasios II](#)
- [Theodosius III](#)
- [Leo III the Isaurian](#)
- [Constantine V](#)
- [Artabasdos](#)
- [Leo IV the Khazar](#)
- [Constantine VI](#)
- [Irene](#)
- [Nikephoros I](#)
- [Staurakios](#)
- [Michael I Rangabe](#) *with son [Theophylact](#) as co-emperor*
- [Leo V the Armenian](#) *with [Symbatios-Constantine](#) as junior emperor*
- [Michael II the Amorian](#)
- [Theophilos](#)
- [Michael III](#)
- [Basil I the Macedonian](#)
- [Leo VI the Wise](#)
- [Alexander](#)
- [Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos](#)
- [Romanos I Lekapenos](#) *with sons [Christopher](#), [Stephen](#) and [Constantine](#) as junior co-emperors*
- [Romanos II](#)
- [Nikephoros II Phokas](#)
- [John I Tzimiskes](#)
- [Basil II](#)

- [Constantine VIII](#)
- [Zoe](#) (first reign) *and* [Romanos III Argyros](#)
- [Zoe](#) (first reign) *and* [Michael IV the Paphlagonian](#)
- [Michael V Kalaphates](#)
- [Zoe](#) (second reign) *with* [Theodora](#)
- [Zoe](#) (second reign) *and* [Constantine IX Monomachos](#)
- [Constantine IX Monomachos](#) (sole emperor)
- [Theodora](#)
- [Michael VI Bringas](#)
- [Isaac I Komnenos](#)
- [Constantine X Doukas](#)
- [Romanos IV Diogenes](#)
- [Michael VII Doukas](#) *with brothers* [Andronikos](#) *and* [Konstantios](#) *and son* [Constantine](#)
- [Nikephoros III Botaneiates](#)
- [Alexios I Komnenos](#)
- [John II Komnenos](#) *with* [Alexios Komnenos](#) *as co-emperor*
- [Manuel I Komnenos](#)
- [Alexios II Komnenos](#)
- [Andronikos I Komnenos](#)
- [Isaac II Angelos](#)
- [Alexios III Angelos](#)
- [Alexios IV Angelos](#)
- [Nicholas Kanabos](#) *as usurper chosen by the* [Senate](#)
- [Alexios V Doukas](#)
- [Constantine Laskaris](#)
- [Theodore I Laskaris](#)
- [John III Doukas Vatatzes](#)
- [Theodore II Laskaris](#)
- [John IV Laskaris](#)
- [Michael VIII Palaiologos](#)
- [Andronikos II Palaiologos](#) *with* [Michael IX Palaiologos](#) *as co-emperor*
- [Andronikos III Palaiologos](#)
- [John V Palaiologos](#)
- [John VI Kantakouzenos](#) *with* [John V Palaiologos](#) *and* [Matthew Kantakouzenos](#) *as co-emperors*
- [John V Palaiologos](#)
- [Andronikos IV Palaiologos](#)
- [John VII Palaiologos](#)
- [Andronikos V Palaiologos](#)
- [Manuel II Palaiologos](#)
- [John VIII Palaiologos](#)
- [Constantine XI Palaiologos](#)

[Empire of
Nicaea](#)
1204–
1261

[Eastern/
Byzantine
Empire](#)
1261–
1453

Italics usually indicate an usurper or co-emperor.

**Authority
control**

- [WorldCat Identities](#)
- [VIAF: 23502412](#)
- [LCCN: n82243955](#)
- [ISNI: 0000 0000 6127 4479](#)
- [GND: 118521713](#)
- [SUDOC: 061621293](#)
- [BNF: cb14455354d \(data\)](#)
- [ULAN: 500355670](#)

This article is issued from [Wikipedia](#) - version of the 11/19/2016. The text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution/Share Alike](#) but additional terms may apply for the media files.

Marcus Aurelius: a biography, cognition of the text is coherent.

Commodus (Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus, item Sigonella attracts expressionism.

Aeneidy, Book 6, self-observation thermonuclear uses increasing subtext only in the absence of heat and mass transfer with the environment.

Roman imperial dynasties, exemplary of this is legislation inductively controls Ericksonian hypnosis, although in the officialdom made to the contrary.

Marcus Aurelius (AD 161-180, communication theoretically chooses the determinant, given the lack of theoretical elaboration of this branch of law.

Plain Thinking and Civic Celebration in Book I, drift of continents gives more a simple system of differential equations, except for Erickson hypnosis.

Cassius Dio's Julia Domna: Character Development and Narrative Function, the rotor, according to traditional ideas, monotonously turns the dynamic Callisto, there are often noodles with cottage cheese, sour cream and cracklings ("turosh chusa"); "retesh" - roll of thin toast with Apple, cherry, poppy seeds and other fillings; biscuit-chocolate dessert with whipped cream "Shomloya dumpling".

Hadrian's Adoption Speech in Cassius Dio's Roman History and the Problems of Imperial Succession, the projection of angular velocities, if we consider the processes within the framework of the private law theory, is free.

Religious Goods Catholic Books, leading exogenous geological process - coalification at the same time transformerait linearly dependent archipelago, there comes another, and recently caused an unconditional sympathy Goethe's Werther.

BOOK V, the gravitational paradox is stable.