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: 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)

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**Commodus** (/ˈkɒm.dəs/; 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**
A bust of Commodus as a youth (Roman-Germanic Museum, Cologne).

Commodus was born on 31 August 161, as Commodus, in Lanuvium, near Rome. 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. The latter died in 169 having failed to recover from an operation, which left Commodus as Marcus Aurelius' sole surviving son.

He was looked after by his father's physician, Galen, 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. Among his teachers Onesicrates, Antistius Capella, Titus Aius Sanctus, and Pitholaus are mentioned.

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
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**

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,
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 Ulpius 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. Ulpius 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 pugione ("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. Condianus 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
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
Notes:

Except where otherwise noted, the notes below indicate that an individual's parentage is as shown in the above family tree.

6. 1 2 3 DIR contributor (Herbert W. Benario, 2000), "Hadrian".
9. Smith (1870), "Julius Servianus".
15. 1 2 3 4 Levick (2014), p. 163.
22. 1 2 3 Levick (2014), p. 117.

References:

- DIR contributors (2000). "De Imperatoribus Romanis: An Online Encyclopedia of Roman Rulers and Their Families"
**Ancestors**

1. Commodus
2. Marcus Aurelius
3. Faustina the Younger
4. Marcus Annius Verus
5. Domitia Lucilla Minor
6. Antoninus Pius
7. Faustina the Elder
8. Marcus Annius Verus
9. Rupilia Faustina
10. Tullus Domitius Calvisius
11. Domitia Lucilla Major
12. Titus Aurelius Fulvus
13. Arria Fadilla
14. Marcus Annius Verus
15. Rupilia Faustina

**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
5. Susan P. Mattern The Prince of Medicine: Galen in the Roman Empire p. xx
6. Cassius Dio Roman History 71.33.1
7. Anthony R Birley Marcus Aurelius: A Biography p.197
8. Historia Augusta 1.6
9. Tulane University: "Roman Currency of the Principate"
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.


Dio Cassius 73.1.2, Loeb edition translated E. Cary

Dio Cassius 73.3.5, Loeb edition translated E. Cary


Dio Cassius 73.20.3, Loeb edition translated E. Cary

Gibbon pg 106 "disgorged at once a hundred lions; a hundred darts"

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"

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 bloodyed neck...He gesticulated at the Senate."

Roman History by Cassius Dio penelope.uchicago.edu

Scullard, H. H *The Elephant in the Greek and Roman World* Thames and Hudson. 1974 pg 252

Gibbon pg 107 "+1 Commodus killed a camelopardalis or giraffe ... the most useless of the quadrupeds".


**External links**

Wikimedia Commons has media related to **Commodus**.
Further reading

- L. L. Howe, *The Praetorian Prefect from Commodus to Diocletian (A. D. 180-305)*. Chicago, 1942
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<td>181</td>
<td>Praesens and Sextus Quinctilius Condianus</td>
<td>Lucius Antistius Burrus</td>
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<td>183</td>
<td>Mamertinus and Quintus Tineius Rufus</td>
<td>Gaius Aufidius Victorinus</td>
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<td>Consul of the Roman Empire</td>
<td>Manius Acilius Glabrio II</td>
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<td>190</td>
<td>Consul of the Roman Empire</td>
<td>Marcus Petronius Sura Septimianus</td>
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<tr>
<td>192</td>
<td>Consul of the Roman Empire</td>
<td>Pertinax</td>
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**Roman and Byzantine emperors**

- 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

**Principate**

27 BC – 235 AD
- *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

### Crisis

235–284

- **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 Caesares
- Galerius (East) and Constantius Chlorus (West) with Severus (West) and Maximinus Daia (East) as Caesares
- Galerius (East) and Severus (West) with Constantine the Great (West) and Maximinus Daia (East) as Caesares
- Galerius (East) and Maxentius (West) with Constantine the Great (West) and Maxentius (East) as Caesares
**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 Vetrano
- 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
- Glycyrius
- Julius Nepos (de jure)
- Romulus Augustulus (Usurper)

**Western Empire**
395–480

- Arcadius
- Theodosius II
- Pulcheria
- Marcian
- Leo I the Thracian
- Leo II
- Zeno (first reign)
- Basiliscus with son Marcus as co-emperor
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

**Empire of Nicaea**
**1204–1261**
- Constantine Laskaris
- Theodore I Laskaris
- John III Doukas Vatatzes
- Theodore II Laskaris
- John IV Laskaris

**Eastern/Byzantine Empire**
**1261–1453**
- 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
Italics usually indicate an usurper or co-emperor.

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

Commodus (Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus, item Signonella 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.