

# DAVIS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Third Servile War Crisis Committee





# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

## **Letter from the Head Chair**

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 Davis Model United Conference (DMUNC)!

I have the pleasure to introduce you to the Third Servile War Crisis Committee. In the year 73 BC, as the Ancient Roman Republic is fighting wars overseas to expand its influence and emerge as the superpower of the Mediterranean, a rebellion breaks out at home that threatens the Republic to its very core. The rebels come from the unlikeliest source imaginable: lowly slaves on whose backs the Republic had been built over centuries. From a mere 70 escaped slaves (mostly gladiators) to now an army of thousands that may even march on the city of Rome itself, the Third Servile War represents one of the most memorable conflicts in the history of the Roman Empire. The gladiator Spartacus has rallied his fellow slaves and terrorizes the countryside of one of the world's greatest empires. His guerilla warfare tactics are unparalleled for the time and are incredibly effective against the more disciplined Roman legions.

However, Spartacus is not the only threat to Rome. To the North, the barbaric Germanic tribes are contemplating taking advantage of Rome's perceived weaknesses at home to launch attacks on its northern frontier. To the West, Sertorius a once loyal Roman subject has began his uprising in Spain. To the East, Mithridates VI of the Kingdom of Pontus has gathered the Kingdom of Armenia, the Kingdom of Iberia, and other enemies of the Roman Republic. Together they threaten to bring the lands of Syria and Crimea away from Roman protection to under their control. Additionally, word is that Mithaditis may be aiding the rebelling slaves as well. The Parthians to the East, Rome's most powerful rival in the Mediterranean, may take advantage of the chaos to aid Mithridatis and the slaves both financially and materially to destabilize Rome further. To the South, Cilician pirates roam the Mediterranean Sea, harassing and raiding any vessels that pass by. Loyal only to gold and plunder, they attack the economic system of the republic by strangling trade routes and disrupting the movement of goods. Given that the pirates' loyalty is bought by the highest bidder, they could potentially be brought to the committee's side if simply offered more gold. Be advised that putting any faith in pirates is a risky proposition.

Not all the threats that the Romans face are military. Due to the city's ever increasing population, the water systems of Aqueducts that bring in clean drinking water to the city are under stress. It will be up to the engineers and politicians to ensure that the people are able to live and thrive. If the water failed to flow, diseases could kill millions. In addition, the dearth of slaves may likely cause economic hardships for the Republic which is dependent on their free labor. The slaves could also take over mines which may cause further economic problems to the



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

Republic. Crop failures may cause famines. Keep these factors in mind when thinking of solutions in committee.

Finally, never forget that each member of this committee is loyal firstly to themselves. Caution is advised when trusting others in this time of personal intrigue, deception, sabotage, and war. Good luck delegates!

Sincerely,

Vivek Thangam

Head Chair, Third Servile War, DMUNC XVI

[dmunc.servile@davismun.org](mailto:dmunc.servile@davismun.org)

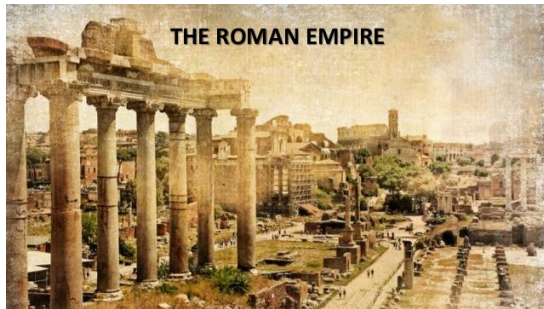


# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018

## Historical Background

### Roman Government



At the time of the Third Servile War, the Roman Republic had stretched on from around 509 BC, a period of almost five centuries. The government was headed by two consuls who were elected by the citizens every year. There were two main groups within Rome, the patricians and the plebeians. The patricians were Rome's landholding aristocracy and traced their ancestry to the founding of Rome. The

plebeians were the far more numerous commoners. Laws giving patricians exclusive rights to Rome's highest offices were gradually weakened which lead plebeian families to hold positions of power. While most people in this committee will be part of the patrician class, one must not neglect the needs of the many. While it may seem easy just to hoard wealth, if the common folk were to revolt, it would be a bloodbath trying to put down such a rebellion. Furthermore, some members of this committee (ostensibly) represent the plebeian class and thus may want to work in their best interest. The sword cuts both ways though. If too much is done to help the plebians, the patricians who own most of the wealth may have delegates killed as they often did with consuls who threatened their hold on power by helping the common man.

While technically still a republic, there were many other factors that would reduce democratic accountability. Most clearly was the disconnect between civilian leadership and the Roman military. Roman soldiers often were compensated for their services by being loyal to their commander thus they were more likely to follow orders from their local leaders rather than serving the idea of the Roman republic. This became clear as Crassus, Pompey, and many swayed the elections with their armies. The reality was that the few at the top were able to keep winning the elections since the military was the main powerhouse.

### Roman Economics



As United Nations of Roma Victrix puts it, "Ancient Rome was an agrarian and slave based economy whose main concern



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

was feeding the vast number of citizens and legionaries who populated the Mediterranean region.” This really does sum up the condition of the Roman economy at the time. Food is the main resource of interest and because everyone needs it, the economy needs to ensure that people are getting enough, at least to keep them in line. If the commoners see that they do not have enough food, then perhaps rising up against Rome and resisting the economic hegemony of the Republic would bring them the goods they need. An important aspect of this economy is the emphasis on the legionaries who were the backbone of the Roman Republic. If the legionaries do not get enough, they will rebel. Rome used a simple system of coinage to help keep track of the transfer of wealth.

According to Princeton from 297 to 167 BCE alone, some “700,000 slaves were reportedly enslaved in military campaigns, a tally that does not lay claim to completeness, and millions of slaves were supposedly created in later wars. Other types of seizure and imports would have added to these totals.” Interestingly, a major component of the captured slaves was the differences in sex. Up till the age of thirty, the slave sex ratio was about 1 to 1, but as the age rises, more and more women were kept, presumably because women could bear children who would then become the slaves. This model was very much taken after the Greek model of slavery. Slavery while critical to the economy, was only part of the equation. Scholars still struggle to measure the economy impact in terms of economic outputs although they do have a relatively good measure of the numbers because of solid record keeping. This committee must take into account the economic value of slavery to ensure that their wealth is preserved while also maintaining Rome’s iron fist.

<https://www.princeton.edu/~pswpc/pdfs/scheidel/091003.pdf>

Taxation under the Roman Republic was low with the rate hovering around 1 to 3 percent. These modest taxes were levied against “land, homes and other real estate, slaves, animals, personal items and monetary wealth.” This had an interesting result in which the people most taxed were those who had the most land, slaves, etcetera. Thus, in order to maintain the income flow, this committee will need to convince the rich that the tax money that Rome collects ends up helping them. If not, the committee may find itself without the funds it needs to pursue other goals.

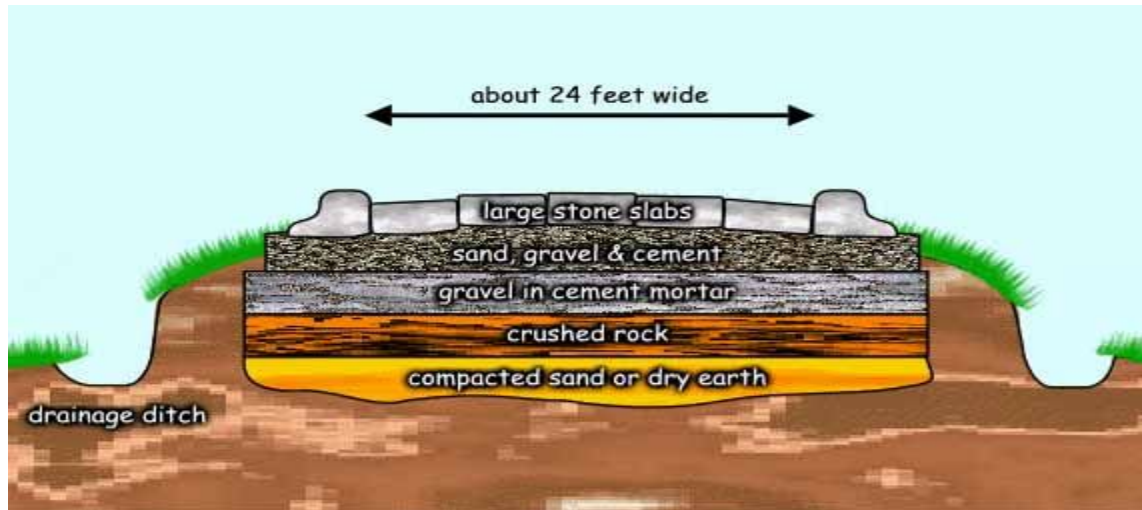
One of the most famous ways that the Roman Republic would use taxes would be in infrastructure specifically Roman roads. Although today it may seem that this would help with long distance trade, it was not the case. The road were primarily built, maintained, and used by



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018

the Roman military. With roads, the Roman Republic could quickly move troops around the empire and enforce taxation. Another use was the communication of the needs of the empire. Using roads, the Republic created a simple pony express like system which could get a message from Rome to Gaul (modern day France) a few days. While short distance trade did happen via roads, the majority of trade took place on the high seas.



<https://www.unrv.com/economy.php>

Another infrastructure feat comes in the form of Aqueducts. These engineering marvels were responsible for ensuring that Roman citizens were able to receive fresh water. Without modern engineering tools, it is incredible that these intricate systems were built and defended against enemies of the state. While these waterways did go throughout the empire, the best and most extensive systems were designed to give water to the city of Rome. As described below, fresh water is critical to maintaining the population of the Roman people as well as the agriculture industry.

<http://www.crystalinks.com/romeaqueducts.html>

## Previous Servile Wars

As one may guess, the Third Servile War is the third war of its kind. Two more major slave revolts had happened both in Sicily. The first one was lead by a slave named Eunus, who claimed to be a prophet, and Cleon, a Cilician who was the military commander. After some minor victories by the slaves, a large Roman army crushed them. The Second Servile War had begun after what appears to be a miscommunication. The leader of the Romans had ordered



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

around 800 Italian slaves to be freed. Some slaves and masters mistook this to mean that all slaves were freed. When the non Italian slaves realized that they were to be kept in chains, they rebelled. The army, lead by the democratically elected slave Salvius, grew to over 20 thousand in size. Again this rebellion was defeated, but it took much more effort by the Roman Republic. Unlike the Third Servile War, neither rebellion actually threatened Rome as a city.

## **Background and History of Slavery in Ancient Rome**

By the first century BC, military conquest had made the the Ancient Roman Republic the dominant power of the Mediterranean and one of the largest and most prosperous empires in the history of the Western World. However, its prosperous economy, society and entire civilization was built on the back of and sustained by the forced labor of vast numbers of slaves. From the 2nd to 1st century BC, as military conquest vastly expanded Rome's empire across the Mediterranean, tens of thousands of slaves were brought in from far flung conquered territories. Slaves could also be those purchased from foreign merchants or sometimes were even poor Roman citizens who had fallen into debt.

While some slaves were craftsmen, servants or personal attendants, most were subjected to harsh physical labor at mines or agricultural fields. In general slaves were extremely oppressed and exploited physically and mentally. Under Roman law, slaves were property and slave owners could abuse, injure, torture or even kill their slaves without any legal consequences. Under such conditions, needless to say, slaves who defied their owners or attempted to escape were often executed. Organized rebellion among the slaves was hard as the slaves came from diverse areas from all across Rome's rapidly expanding boundaries and often did not speak a common language that they could communicate in. Yet due to the exploitative treatment of slaves, rebellions did occur. The two big ones prior to the 1st century BCE were the First Servile War (135-132 BC) led by former slave Eunus and the Second Servile War (104-100 BC) led by the slave Salvius, both in Sicily. While both these wars were serious civil strifes for the Roman state, they never reached the Italian mainland and were thus not considered serious threats to the Roman Republic itself and were eventually defeated.

This however would not be the case in the Third Servile War (73-71 BC) led by Thracian Gladiator General Spartacus which is what our committee is going to deal with. It was the last and by far biggest slave rebellion that the Roman Republic had ever seen. Spartacus and his slave army proved to be surprisingly well trained and disciplined compared to the ill prepared Roman legions sent to quelch the rebellion.



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018

## **Spartacus**

Not much is known about the historical figure of Spartacus prior to the war except that he must have been a remarkable man, who led over a hundred thousand men and women of diverse backgrounds, with possibly no common lingua franca among themselves into their quest for freedom. This lack of knowledge of his life has allowed generations of admirers and historians to paint their own picture of him. Roman sources indicate that he was from Thrace (modern day Bulgaria) born possibly in 111 BC. He was a mercenary in the Roman army who subsequently deserted for unknown reasons. He was eventually captured by the Romans and sold into slavery. Probably due to his strength and military experience, he became a gladiator in the arena at Capua. This is where he plotted his escape and the start of the rebellion with his co-rebels Crixus, Gannicus, Oenomaus and Castus. Given Spartacus' brilliant military strategies through his war with the Romans, his being a former soldier, possibly even a commander in the Roman army is certainly plausible.

Spartacus and his rebellion have fascinated and inspired thinkers, scholars and revolutionaries for centuries since as an example of oppressed peoples fighting for their freedom and human dignity. Toussaint Louverture, who led the slave revolt that led to Haiti's independence was inspired by Spartacus. Even those such as Karl Marx used Spartacus as a the symbol of the common man rising up against the capitalist system and creating a truly free state.

<http://slaveryandremembrance.org/people/person/?id=PP052>

<https://www.marxist.com/spartacus-representative-of-proletariat.htm>

## **Brief Overview of Third Servile War**

The rebellion broke out in 73 BC when a group of 70 gladiators led by Spartacus escaped from a gladiator school in the city of Capua. They were soon joined by many other slaves attracted to the cause. The slaves used ingenious and daring tactics to first defeat the Praetorian militia under the command of Gaius Claudius Glaber in the Battle of Mount Vesuvius 73 BC and then Publius Varinius. In 72 BC, Spartacus and his men stunned the Romans by defeating the consular armies led by Lucius Gellius Publicola and Gnaeus Cornelius Lentulus Clodianus sent by the Roman Senate.

Panicking at the seemingly unstoppable slave rebellion spreading all across the Italian heartland and threatening potentially the city of Rome itself, the Roman Senate sent Marcus Licinius Crassus, the richest man in Rome to put down the rebellion. Crassus imposed a harsh, often brutal disciplinary regime on his own army. He revived the dreaded, extreme punishment of



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

*decimation* (killing every tenth soldier of a retreating unit) which had not been used in over a century. Under Crassus' harsh but effective leadership, the Romans began to turn the tide against Spartacus and his army of slaves who were by now weary after two years of fighting and plagued with internal divisions. Meanwhile Gnaeus Pompeius (Pompey) and his forces returned from putting down a rebellion in Hispaniola and were sent as reinforcements. Crassus wanted to end the war quickly as he did not want Pompei to share credit for putting down the rebellion. Spartacus met Crassus for the final battle at the Battle of the Siler River where his forces were completely defeated and Spartacus himself too presumably died in battle although his body was never found. 6000 surviving slaves were crucified along the Appian Way. However, much to Crassus' anger, Pompey captured and crucified 5000 fleeing slaves who escaped Crassus' army and thus he got to share credit of putting down the slave rebellion with Crassus without ever having directly engaged Spartacus' forces. This sort of political maneuvering was a staple in this time period and is exactly what is expected in this committee. The victory is not all that matters. Just as important is the optics to ensure that each player increases their individual power.

## **Aftermath of the War**

Given that the Third Servile War was the only slave revolt that directly threatened the Italian heartland, it shook the very foundations of the mighty Roman Republic. Its effects on social and political life in Rome were deep and far reaching in both the short and long term. In the short term, both Pompey and Crassus returned to Rome heroes and reaped huge political dividends from putting down the slave rebellion. Both men were elected consul, the highest executive office in Rome in 70 BC. Despite their mutual dislike of each other, they formed an uneasy alliance along with Julius Caesar, called the "First Triumvirate" to influence Roman politics. The three men's actions further subverted already weakening Roman Republican political institutions and thus contributed to the transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. The effect of the rebellion on slavery in Rome is less clear. Certainly, the Roman people were shaken by the slave revolt that almost brought down the Republic and began to treat their slaves slightly better, if only out of fear of a future revolt. The status of slaves improved slightly over the next decades as Roman attitudes towards slaves evolved somewhat over time, in part possibly due to memories of the Third Servile War. Under Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD) killing of old or disabled slaves was made a crime and slaves abandoned by their masters became freedmen. Under Antonius Pious (138-161 AD) the rights of slaves were further expanded,



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

holding owners responsible for killing slaves and having them sold off to someone else if it could be shown that they were being mistreated and providing a third party to which slaves could appeal.

After the end of Augustus' reign (27 BC -14AD) Roman territorial expansion through military conquest largely stopped until the reign of Trajan (98-117AD). With this ended the once prolific supply of slaves from foreign military conquests. The Third Servile War was the last of the major slave revolts. Rome would not see another major slave rebellion of this magnitude again.

As mentioned above, the Third Servile war is not the only challenge the Romans faced. The remaining paragraphs describe some other challenges that you as a committee face. Piracy, Sertorius's Rebellion, the Mithridatic war, and diseases.

## **Piracy**

Piracy is one of the oldest forms of crime. There is plenty of loot to be gained by targeting ships on the high seas. Far away from the governments of land, the ocean provided the protection of distance from the law. No time was this more true than in the Roman Republic. While the Romans did have an effective navy, pirates terrorize trade routes. Specifically because of the increase in trade that took place during the Roman empire, the stakes were raised. Whether it be goods from Egypt, India, Spain, or even China, most of them would at some point be taken across the ocean. Boats allowed a merchant to move large amounts of good which is exactly what made them excellent targets. Pirates also take important people hostage and ransomed them off. If no one would pay, the pirates would just sell their captives into slavery. During the Roman times, the most iconic pirates would be the Cilician Pirates. These pirates captured Caesar himself and held him for ransom, which was eventually paid. However, Caesar later turned on them and crucified them all. Pompey would ultimately use Roman resources to hunt down the the pirate strongholds. Of course this was far after the Third Servile War. At this point, the pirates are a force to be reckoned with and while they may not have the strength to challenge fortified Roman military targets, they are a bane on this committees economics in terms of trade.

<https://www.ancient.eu/Piracy/>

## **Sertorius Rebellion**

The Sertorius Rebellion was a lead by a roman in the western part of the Roman Empire. Quintus Sertorius was originally a disaffected Roman who was also a powerful general. He was



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

appointed governor of Lusitania (Portugal and western Spain). A new Roman general came in and force Quintus Sertorius to flee to North Africa. However, soon the locals began to revolt against their new master and asked Seritorious to help lead the revolution. This committee will need to deal with the problems that this former Roman is causing.

One of this general's strength was his effective use of guerilla warfare. These hit and run tactics were super effective against the more static and centralized Roman military. This was further exaggerated by the fact that the Romans were fighting in an incredibly wooded and hilly area meaning that the guerillas could surprise attack Roman legions, cause massive damage, then fade literally into the woodwork before reinforcements could cause serious losses.

Of course, this was by no means a one sided war with the guerillas constantly on the offensive. In fact, in open engagements, the Romans were much more effective as a fighting force. Of the three major open engagements, the Romans are believed to have won two of them with the other one resulting in a draw. The final battle of the three took place in Schulen. It was a major Roman victory effectively ensuring that the Sertorius rebels would never be able to openly challenge the Romans again.

After the major defeat, the Sertorius Rebellion limped on for another 2 years still being a serious problem for the Roman legions in the area. Finally, Sertorius was assassinated. The assassin took his place as leader, but was quickly crushed by the Romans under the command of Pompey. While a skillful politician, Pompey could not match Sertorius's military skill, but was able to take on the new rookie.

<https://weaponsandwarfare.com/2015/11/03/sertorian-war-80-72-b-c-e/>

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/4435874?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/4435874?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

## **Mithridatic**

The Mithridatic War is the war for regional control over the Middle East. At the time, Mithridates and his allies in the region were attempting to challenge Roman hegemony by forming a coalition of smaller empires as well as allying himself with the Parthians. Mithridates saw the Slave revolt in Italy as well as similar rebellions in the Western side of the Roman empire and used the opportunity to carve out new territory for him to control.

The Mithridatic war is one of the classic wars in this time because it was full of alliances, intrigue, and great power politics. Mithridates was King of Pontus which was a smaller, but still powerful kingdom in the Middle East. This was at the time of expanding influence of both the Parthian Empire in the East, and the Roman Republic in the west. Although there were other



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

empires in the region, these were the two big players. It was also a time that the Romans had finally managed to gain control of regions in Anatolia. The Kingdom of Pontus had just expanded north even reaching the Crimea. His next target was to expand further into Anatolia. To achieve this, he had his brother in law assassinated who was the king of Capitochian. The previous leadership was not too happy with this and because of familial connections between Capitochia and the previous king of Batania, the Capitochian leadership looked to Rome for help. Instead, Rome turned Capitochia into a client states by installing their own king essentially doubling the Roman control in the region. Mitradiates and the King of Aremia, another smaller kingdom to the East, invaded Bithynia (an independent empire at this point) and Capitochia (the region under Roman protection). Because of the other civil wars in Rome, Mithridates was able to push west despite some political and diplomatic setbacks.

One of the reasons that Mithridates was able to successfully fight again the superior Roman army was that Mithridates helped to arm and create rebellion in Greece. This gave the Romans multiple enemies both in the Middle East and the Mediterranean. Eventually the Romans were able to crush the rebellion, but had suffered heavy losses. Furthermore, political instability forced the Roman commander to sign a peace agreement. After some smaller battles which Pontus had won, the king of Bithynia died and left his kingdom to the Romans. This prompted Mithridates to invade Bithynia seeing that the Romans were also dealing with a rebellion in Spain and a slave revolt in Italy. Ultimately, the Romans held off the invasion which forced Mithridates to hide in Aremania. This worked temporarily but eventually the Romans on the West, who allied with the Parthians on the East, pincer the Armenians and forced Mithridatis to flee to other small empires. Eventually however, after the Romans kept following him crushing empires as they went, he killed himself ending the Mithridatic war.

Importantly for the delegates in this committee, Mithridates is a perfectly example of outside empires helping those within the Roman empire revolt. Mithradates was popular specifically among the Greeks who rose up when it appeared the Mithridates had the advantage.

Furthermore, without a proper Roman response, Mithridates may have succeed in kicking the Romans out of the Middle East which would greatly reduce Roman power across the Mediterranean. There were also plenty of smaller empires to be taken, but be wary of trying to go after easy pickings. The massive Parthian Empire in modern day Persia did rival Rome and if they were to see such an aggressive approach, they may respond in kind. Perhaps a more subtle method of installing kings loyal to Rome may allow Roman influence to expand without risking conflict with the Parteon military. Of course, the Parthians could also turn out to be incredible allies as they did in real life helping the Romans to crush Pontus and her allies. What actually happens is dependent on the actions of this committee.



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

<http://www.livius.org/sources/content/appian/appian-the-mithridatic-wars/>  
[http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/wars\\_first\\_mithridatic.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/wars_first_mithridatic.html)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVfTDi7AuF4>

## **Diseases**

Malaria is one of the deadliest diseases in human history. Even as late as the 1950's Italy faced malaria outbreaks. We typically picture the diseases ravaging Africa or poor parts of Europe, but in Roman times, it was one of the deadliest diseases the empire faced, even more so than the plague. Although the pure scientific evidence found from DNA analysis only points it to around 500 AD, there is no reason to believe that it was not a problem even earlier in the Empire's history. The earliest Roman doctors with their pseudoscience were able to deduce a connection between swamps, insect, and malaria. It is up to this committee to help prevent the outbreak and spread of the disease.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/malaria\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/malaria_01.shtml)

Plague is the most classic of diseases faced in the ancient world. With the rise of cities and civilization came groups of people living in close proximity with each other. Although the black death would not hit Europe for centuries after this, plagues could still cause massive damage to the Roman Empire. For example, in the 1st century AD, the Antonine Plague struck which killed as many as 5 million people. Its mortality rate is estimated around 25% with 2 thousand people dying each day.

One of the many ways that plague would spread is by the presence of war. War brings large groups of people together and promotes terrible living conditions. On top of that, infrastructure that brings clean water into the cities could also be damaged or destroyed. Considering that standing water is a breeding ground for bacteria and mosquitos, this is a serious health risk for the committee.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-climate-change-and-disease-helped-fall-rome-180967591/>

Lead poisoning was also a serious problem in the Roman empire. The most common example would be the lead in the pipes used in the Empires plumbing. Interestingly, the Romans are confirmed to have already known that lead is poisonous. For example, , Vitruvius, reported,



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

"water is much more wholesome from earthenware pipes than from lead pipes. For it seems to be made injurious by lead, because white lead is produced by it, and this is said to be harmful to the human body." (Pioreschi) However, the reality was that it was incredibly difficult to find other materials to use for this problem of plumbing. Other uses of lead included through the consumption of defrutum, carenum, and sapa, musts made by boiling down fruit in lead cookware. It also served to make the food taste better.

Although this committee is focused on the war with Sparticus, it is important to recognize the threats to public health that the sanitation system poses. The Roman public health system with its aqueduct, roads, and other infrastructure, while a marvel of engineering at the time, was still only as strong as the men who protected and built it. It is up to this committee to ensure that these critical foundations of civilizations are not ruined by the barbaric slaves or by the passage of time.

Pioreschi, P (1998). A History of Medicine, Volume 3 Of Roman Medicine. Horatius Press. p. 279. ISBN 1-888456-03-5.

Hodge 1992, p. 308

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/02/17/lead-poisoning-and-the-fall-of-rome/?utm\\_term=.fef84897c840](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/02/17/lead-poisoning-and-the-fall-of-rome/?utm_term=.fef84897c840)

## **Roman Religion and Gods**

Like any other civilization of the time, religion played a central part in life, society and politics. Roman paganism, as it is known today was the state religion in Ancient Rome for most of its history until the fourth century AD, when Christianity became the state religion. Roman religion has its origins in ancient Greek religion. Most of the gods of the Roman pantheon are Latinized version of Greek gods. For example, Jupiter, the king of gods in Roman mythology is the Roman equivalent of Zeus, the king of the gods on Mt. Olympus in ancient Greek mythology. Juno, the wife of Jupiter was the Roman equivalent of Hera, the wife of Zeus. However, Roman religion should not simply be viewed as a Latinized form of Greek religion as it had many other influences. It was also heavily influenced by Etruscan religion. The Etruscans were the predecessors of the Romans on the Italian peninsula. As Rome's territories vastly expanded during the second and first centuries BC through war and conquest, a large number of religions and cults of the local people too found their way into the Italian mainland and influenced Roman religion in profound ways. Many of these cults were eventually absorbed within Roman religion and many others continued to function independently, influencing Roman religion nonetheless.



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

The most famous of such cults was Christianity, which started off as an offshoot of Judaism in Judea, one of the far flung provinces of the Roman Empire and through a series of unique circumstances, eventually became the dominant religion and the state religion of the Roman Empire by the late fourth century AD. However, our committee is set in 73 BC, seventy years before even the birth of Christ. At this point, Roman paganism is very much the dominant religion. In Ancient Rome, religion was very much in the public sphere and it was inextricably linked with politics and statecraft. However, the Romans had a policy of toleration for local cults and other religions within its borders. As long as they made the ritual sacrifice to the Roman gods, they could practice their respective religions privately and even publicly. The sacrifice ritual could be thought of more as a recognition of Roman hegemony than religion. Romans viewed their success as an expanding empire and civilization due to their gods and their maintaining *pax deorum* or “Peace with the gods”. Whenever Rome faced any threats, external or internal like wars, civil strife or diseases, it was assumed that the *Pax Deorum* had been disturbed due to some mistake on their part and efforts were made to restore it. These were done by having large public and private ritual prayers to the gods to help them which often included ritual sacrifices as well.

## Characters in Committee

**Note: Not all these characters actually existed. If you are unable to find your person, do not worry. These are expected to be a starting point for your own research.**

1. Marcus Licinius Crassus - You are the richest man in Rome who made his money in the real estate business. Though you have money and with it considerable power, you do not have the respect of the Senatorial class or the military. The former views you as too crass to be a part of them and the latter scoffs at your lack of military experience. To prove them all wrong you ask for the Senate to give you the command against Spartacus and his slave army. You offer to pay for the soldiers’ salary from your own deep pockets. If this happens in committee is up to your efforts. You resent the rising star of Pompey.
2. Pompey (Also fighting hispanic rebellion and Mithridates) - You are a powerful and ambitious rising general. You never miss an opportunity to show your qualities in the battlefield to expand your influence, respect and power in the increasingly militarized late Roman Republic. Currently you are in Hispaniola (Spain) quelling the Sertorian rebellion there. With the outbreak of the rapidly expanding slave revolt, you see yet another



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

opportunity to expand your power and respect back home if you manage to help in putting down the rebellion.

3. Lucius Gellius Publicola - You are a close ally of Pompey and one of the two Consuls (highest executive office in the Republic elected on a one year term) of the Roman Republic during the Third Servile War
4. Gnaeus Cornelius Lentulus Clodianus - You are the other Consul of the Roman Republic and also an ally of Pompey. With your position comes incredible power and resources. However, as with all political power, it comes at the cost of being a target for many other members of committee. Your successes will be downplayed while your failures over exaggerated so ensure the rise of other politicians. You are also a great orator and general.
5. Gaius Cassius Longinus - You are a famous stoic who followed the beliefs of Epicurus. Despite this, you may be willing to abandon this in favor of political gain. More than willing to use violence and assassinations to achieve your goals, you are incredibly aggressive even going against the odds if the payoff is high enough.
6. Marcus Aurelius Cotta - former consul in 74 BC. You are currently proconsul of Bithynia. When it is invaded by Pontus you are given command to take him on along with your former co-consul Lucullus. You have command of the naval fleet to take on Mithridates while Lucullus has the land forces. Despite this prestigious command, you also have your sights on the slave rebellion in Italy. Julius Caesar, a commander in Crassus' army is your nephew (sister's son). Use this connection as you see fit.
7. Lucius Licinius Lucullus - former consul in 74 BC with Cotta who is a commander in the Eastern front War against Mithridates. You are a brilliant military general and tactician. You are in charge of the land forces against Mithridates while Cotta will lead the naval forces. You see someone like Crassus, with no previous military experience leading the battle against Spartacus and think it would be easy to defeat lowly slaves for glory in Rome. However, you don't want to abandon the front against Mithridates where victory could bring booty, glory, prestige and political clout back home in Rome
8. Julius Caesar - You are right now an ambitious young general under Crassus' tutelage. Impressed by your acumen on the battlefield, Crassus makes you a general in his army in the war against Spartacus. Your aim is to one day become the most powerful man in Rome. You thus both admire and are jealous of Pompey who you think is on his way to becoming just that. The slave revolt gives you an opportunity to prove your military and political prowess. Your uncle Cotta is leading the war against Mithridates in the East.



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

9. Quintus marcius Rufus - You are a commander in Crassus' army with an incredible ability to command soldiers. However, you are much more than a boss who sits in the back lines and shouts orders. You are a skilled fighter and a wealthy one as well. You will need these skills to survive the world of politics where you can no longer trust anyone, even your own allies.
10. Marcus Terentius Varro - You are one of the most prolific authors of your time. Being a philosopher may have certain weaknesses in a world where the blade rules, but never underestimate the power of words. With access to incredible library's of books, you can devote yourself to a problem and come up with creative philosophical solutions. It is trite but true; the pen can be mightier than the sword.
11. Cicero (senator)- You are currently a brilliant and ambitious young senator who was the questor of western Sicily in 75 BC. you are in charge of a limited militia in the city of Rome. While you have limited military experience at this point, your main power lies in oratory. Senators shudder at the power of your oratory. With the power of your words, you can turn the Senate and the people of Rome against even the most powerful Senators or military figures. Use this power wisely.
12. Parthian Diplomat - The parthian empire is the only one in this time to actually rival the Romans. You are a representative of an Empire in equal power with its own agenda and goals. While you are a servant of your empire alone, you also recognize that the trade and stability brought by the Pax Romana is a boon to your empire, you also know that the Romans are the single greatest geopolitical threat to your masters. Be wary because if Rome falls, your empire loses tons of money, but if Rome is able to grow too strong, they threaten your empires interest.
13. Gaulish Diplomat - The gauls are a proud people. Known for hunting boar and having a merry time, many underestimate gualish power. However, you know that your people are also fierce warriors capable of unmatched feats of bravery and heroism. As it stands, the Romans do not pose a threat to your people, but this could change easily. The gauls are decentralized and lack the structure to truly resist the Roman Legions. You also know that Gualish slaves are among Spartacus's Army. Never forget your true loyalty and your true goals. Whether you choose to help the Romans crush the rebellion to curry their favor or if you wish to help weaken the Roman empire is up to you. Do not ignore the fact that no matter what you do, there will always be consequences for your people.
14. Egyptian Diplomat - You are a representative from the land of Egypt. Egypt is currently under the control of Romans. As much as one would believe that you would hope the Roman's fall, the reality is that the economic interdependence between your peoples



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

**May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018**

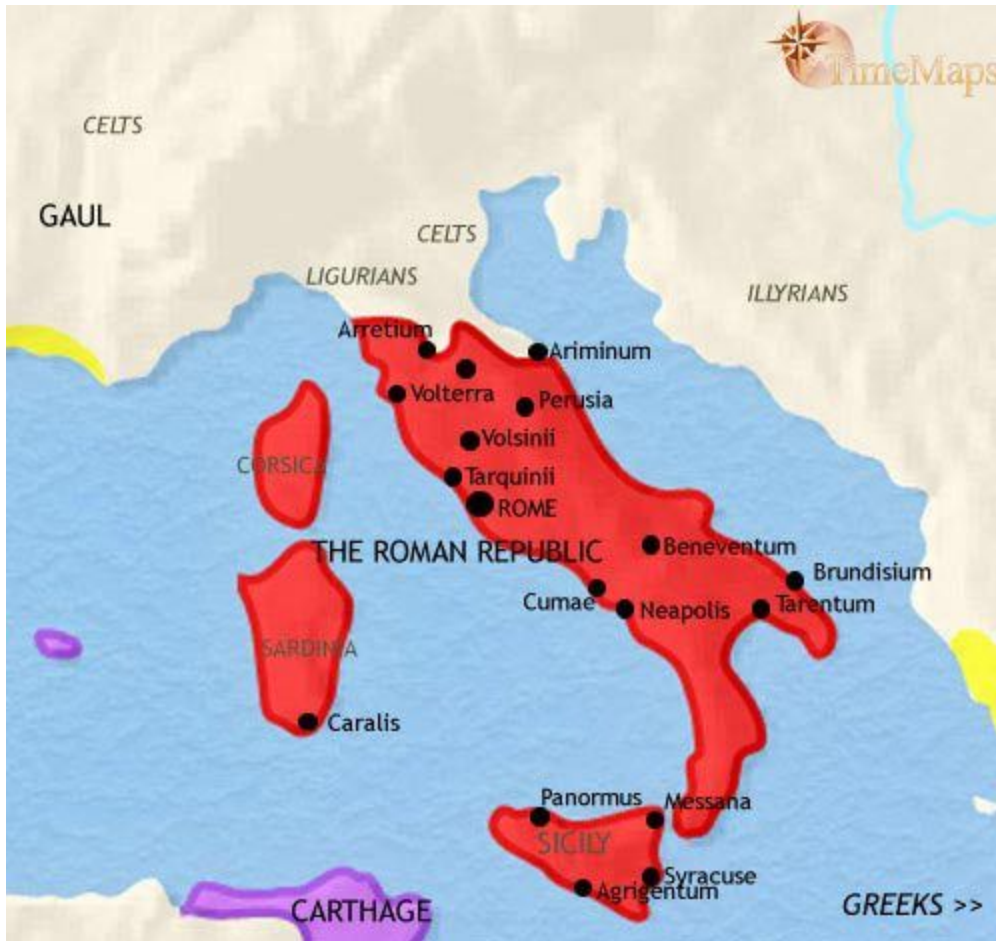
make such a simple goal impossible to achieve. Furthermore, your people's reliance of slave labor means that a successful rebellion here could incite similar problems back home. Your connection with the Egyptian gods is unparalleled. You must answer to the Roman Republic as they are your true masters, but if you are able to navigate the political structures correctly, you could increase Egyptian Hegemony in the mediterranean.

15. Gaius Aemilius Regillus - You are a the grandson of Lucius Aemilius Regillus who was a Admiral for the Roman Navy. Under your father and grandfather, you learned much about the role of the Navy in the Roman Empires quest for regional dominance. Your family had fought great sea battles with other empires while your biggest concern is preventing piracy. You also have devoted time to increasing the technological capabilities of the navy by developing new tactics.
16. Arippa the Senio Roman Engineer - You are a character modelled after Agrippa who was later in Roman history who built many buildings and structures including aqueducts. You are his father, the man who taught him everything he knew about the marvelous power of engineering.



# Davis Model United Nations Conference XVI

May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018



<https://woodsman2b.deviantart.com/art/Roman-Republic-in-100-BC-410634151>



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May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018

Map of the Roman Republic circa 73 BC





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May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018

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