

Name _____

Eurasian History Homework: Rome and its Military

Due:

Directions: Read the assigned sections of *World History* and answer the questions that follow.

Rationale: After our brief look at Athens and Sparta, we will turn ourselves to Ancient Rome. In this unit we will focus on Roman military might and the extent to which the use of coercive physical power was an asset or liability to Rome.

1. On page 157 of your text is a section on “The Roman Army.” Read it and explain who served in the Roman military. In your opinion, was the reason for this group making up the army?

2. As Rome conquered more and more land, how did it treat the conquered people with regard to legal rights?

3. In your opinion, what was the basis for the three Punic Wars against Carthage? Could you argue that each of the three Punic Wars had a different motivation? Why or why not?

4. What was the ultimate result of the Punic Wars with regard to Rome and Carthage?

The following questions relate to “The Roman Empire” (Section II of Chapter VI of the textbook).

5. With regard to the economic problems of Rome, how were slavery and victory in war connected together? Where did Rome get most of its slaves and how did widespread use of slave labor affect the conditions of free persons?

6. How did military successes lead to problems regarding the loyalty of the military? Who were the soldiers loyal to and why?

7. Imagine that a general of the United States army had troops in an area far away from Washington D.C. and that he was ordered to disband his army by the U.S. government. Instead of doing so, imagine that the general kept his army and marched on Washington under arms. That is, essentially, what Julius Caesar did in 49 B.C.E. What were the results of his “crossing of the Rubicon”? What does the event say about the loyalty of the military and the power of military commanders?

8. Through our in-class discussions and through reading the textbook, you should now see that while the Roman military had many conquests and expanded the Empire, military success also led to many problems. Read the section “Military and Political Turmoil” (page 173) and look at the chart “Multiple Causes: Fall of the Western Roman Empire” (page 174). Using your own words, explain the problems that grew out of Rome’s military exploits.