

The Search for the Perfect Constitution

THE ROMANS

Thomas A. Leibundgut

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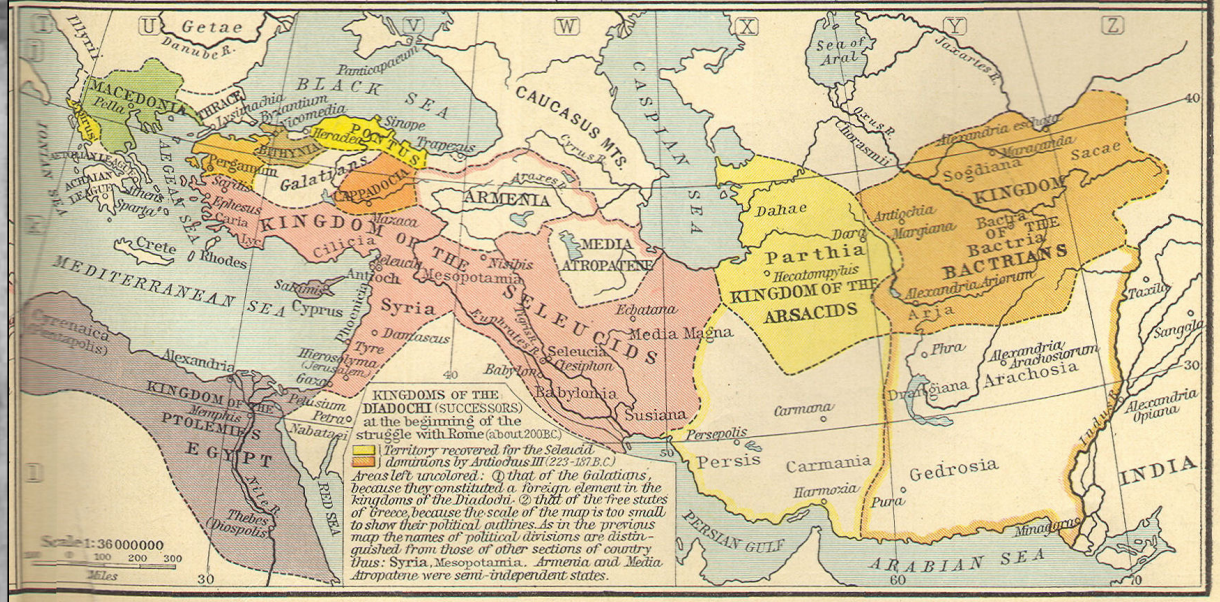
Today

1. Introduction
2. Administrative Issues
3. The Search for the Perfect Constitution
 - a. Presentation
 - b. Discussion
4. Conducting Research in (Ancient) History
5. Conclusion

Administrative Issues

- Weekly Response Paper
 - Answer the question on Canvas in your respective section folder
 - Write c. one page
 - Send it to me (talug@stanford.edu) 24 hours before section begins
- Weekly Discussion Question
 - Inspired by the readings for section, come up with one question per week
 - It can be factual or analytical
 - Send it to me (talug@stanford.edu) 24 hours before section begins
- Do both things each week—unless you're giving an oral report

The Search for the Perfect Constitution



Above: The Diadochi Kingdoms, c. 200 BCE; source: https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd/diadochi_kingdoms_301_200.jpg (04/11/19)

Left: Stele of Kleitor depicting Polybius, 2nd century BCE; source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c8/Stele_des_Polybios.jpg (04/11/19)

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The Roman Expansion 220–140 BCE;

source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Republic_Empire_map.gif (04/11/19)

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	2 nd Punic War	218-201	
	1 st Macedon War	215-205	
		199 (?)	Polybius born in Megalopolis (Achaea)
	2 nd Macedon War	200-197	
	War against Antiochus III.	192-188	
	3 rd Macedon War	171-167	
		169	P. elected Hipparchus
		167-150	P. in Rome as hostage - mentor of C. Scipio Aemilianus
	3 rd Punic War	149-146	P. joins Scipio on campaign in Africa
	Macedonia becomes Roman Province	148	
	Achaean War; End of Greek independence	146	P. travels in Africa, Spain; Return to G.
		146-118	P. resides in Rome; several voyages
	Asia becomes Roman Province	129	
		118 (?)	last event mentioned in <i>H.</i> ; P. dies

In Search of the Perfect Constitution

- How did Polybius' life experiences influence his perception on the world in general and his historical writings in particular?
- What is the relationship between the cyclical nature of constitutional change and the idea of a mixed constitution?
- Apart from the constitution (if at all), what other factors were possibly responsible for the stability of the Roman republican political, social, cultural, and economic order?
- Was the Roman republic a stable society at all?