

Reforms and policies of the Julio-Claudian rulers

Table supplement for *HTA Ancient History Study Guide (2019)*—Chapter 15 The Julio-Claudians AD 16 – 69, pp. 293 – 294

Princesps	Political	Social	Legal	Religious	Administrative
Tiberius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferred election of magistrates from popular assemblies to the Senate. Replaced Augustus' <i>consilium</i> with one made up of his own trusted friends plus 20 leading citizens, no longer replaced annually. Continued Augustus' policy of admitting only a limited number of provincials to the Senate. Withdrawal to Capri allowed Sejanus undue influence over political affairs in Rome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discouraged games and spectacles and limited the number of gladiators that could be involved. Subsidised the price of grain when there were shortages Created <i>Curatores alvei Tiberis</i>, a permanent board of five senators to oversee the channels and banks of the River Tiber to mitigate flooding. Provided relief for victims of fires and natural disasters e.g. towns in Asia affected by an earthquake in 17. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhered to the laws of Augustus which were well administered in the early years of his rule. Kept check on <i>maiestas</i> charges at first but they became more numerous in later years. Expanded the judicial role of the Senate to handle charges against equestrians and senators, including charges against provincial officials and charges of <i>maiestas</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created <i>Augustales</i>, a priesthood for the cult of Augustus. Built a temple for the worship of the divine Augustus. Expelled from Rome Jews and the worshippers of Isis. Senate declared Christianity illegal, but Tiberius did not interfere with the religion. Refused divine honours for his mother Livia. Declined provincials' offers of divine honours for himself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained Augustus' special police for the suppression of brigandage, which was virtually stamped out. Appointed capable men to administrative positions and extended their term of office. Reformed provincial administration to prevent extortion. Controlled finances and spending and left the treasury in surplus.
Gaius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returned the election of magistrates to the popular assemblies. Held continuous consulships, blocking career paths of others. Alienated the Senate by his autocratic ways. Weakened control of key areas of empire by his erratic foreign policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began, but did not complete, two new aqueducts to increase Rome's water supply. Entertained lavishly, spent extravagantly. Lifted the limit on the number of gladiators allowed at games. Provided numerous games and beast-hunts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recalled political exiles. Abolished <i>maiestas</i> trials but later reinstated them, benefitting from the confiscated property of those convicted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added the rituals of the Isis cult to the Roman calendar of festivals. Associated himself and his sisters with the gods. Established a temple for his own divinity. Antagonised Jews in Palestine by demanding that a statue of himself be placed in Temple of Jerusalem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced taxes at first, later increased them and introduced new taxes. Drained the treasury with extravagant spending.
Claudius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revived the censorship to count the citizens and revise the Senate lists. Encouraged some to resign and added a number of provincials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a new harbour at Ostia to ensure the safe delivery of grain. Completed the aqueducts begun by Gaius and restored a third. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recalled people exiled by Gaius, including Gaius' two sisters and restored confiscated property. Introduced laws for more humane treatment of slaves: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tolerant of foreign religions that were harmless to traditional Roman religion. Expelled astrologers from Italy, suppressed Druidism. After tolerating Jews within 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abolished Gaius' new taxes. Expanded the imperial bureaucracy, created several new bureaux and staffed them with his own

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted deserving freedmen into the equestrian order. • Gave Roman citizenship to provincial individuals and communities. • <i>Consilium</i> replaced Senate as court for charges against high-ranking political offenders. These <i>intra cubiculum</i> (in secret) trials were unpopular. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built roads and canals in Italy and the provinces. • Provided a variety of games, appreciating their value for popularity and propaganda. • Adopted the names ‘Caesar’ and ‘Augustus’ for their prestige, although he was never a Julian. • Fear of plots led to the execution of 35 senators and 300 equestrians. 	<p>banning the killing of slaves who had physical impairments or those too old to work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banned money lenders from lending money to a son in the expectation of a father’s death. • Issued regulations to maintain decorum of citizens: on behaviour in the theatre and against luxury and celibacy. 	<p>the empire, expelled them from Rome in 49.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended the <i>pomerium</i>, the sacred boundary of Rome, in recognition of the extension of the empire under his rule. • Refused to allow Greeks in Alexandria to dedicate a temple to his divinity. • Deified his deceased grandmother Livia. 	<p>freedmen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferred some Senate administrative roles to the imperial bureaucracy. • Provided incentives for shipowners to transport more grain to Rome e.g. insuring ships and cargo against storm damage. • Introduced imperial procurators (financial managers) in all provinces. They operated independently of the proconsul.
Nero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years of his rule (with influence of his mother Agrippina and his advisors Seneca and Burrus) were efficient and respectful toward the Senate. • Later alienated the Senate by his undignified public behaviour. • Became despotic, murdered family members, used exile or forced suicide to eliminate real and imagined conspirators in the Senate and the army. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a range of theatre and circus entertainment and two new festivals, <i>Juvenalia</i> (Youth Games) and the <i>Neronia</i>, based on the Greek Olympic Games. • Established colonies of veterans in Italy. • Constructed a gymnasium, a circus, an amphitheatre, a <i>macellum</i> (food market) and baths that were open to the public. • Provided relief for the homeless after the great fire in Rome in 64. • Introduced building regulations for post-fire reconstruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In early years promised to end <i>intra cubiculum</i> trials but later revived them to secure the death or exile of opponents. • In early rule opposed the charge of <i>maiestas</i> but later expanded it to gain from confiscations. • Debased slightly the value of gold and silver coins to address a money shortage and the negative effect this had on the economy. • Blamed Christians for the great fire and persecuted them with cruel punishments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the deification of Claudius, Nero became <i>divi filius</i>, son of a god. • Identified himself with various gods and was shown on coins wearing a radiate crown, usually associated with sun god. • Went on a tour of Greece. On his return established the cult of Apollo in Rome. • Allowed himself to be worshipped as a living god in the provinces of Greece and Asia. • Tolerated Jews, however actions of the procurator of Judea led to the Jewish Revolt of 66. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced quaestors who headed treasury with senior senators who served for 3 years. • Removed and prosecuted officials for corruption and extortion. • Added to Claudius’ measures to ensure the grain supply by giving tax concessions to importers. • Completed Claudius’ harbour works at Ostia. • Suggested removing all indirect taxes to promote free trade throughout the empire. This plan was not implemented.