

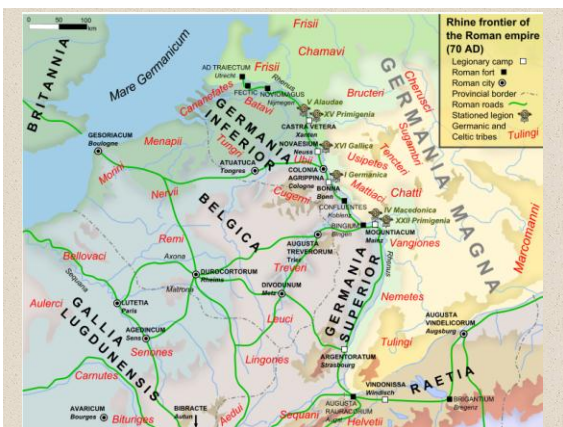
Battle of the Teutoburg Forest Sept. 9 CE

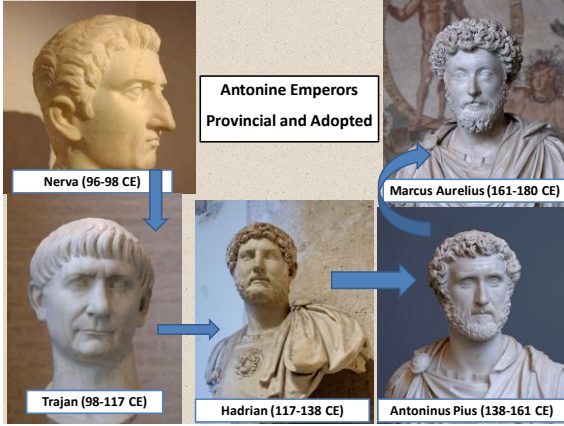
Legion trapped between Roman Empire and confederation of Germanic tribes in Lower Saxony.

The Germanic tribes, under the leadership of a chieftain of the Cherusci, lured Romans led by P. Quintilius Varus into an ambush.
 Three Legions (XVII, XVIII, XIX)

Three day blood bath (30,000 Romans killed)

Famous outburst of Emperor Augustus when he received the bad news of its outcome:
 "Quintilius Varus, give me back my legions!"





Why so good?


- internal **peace, security, and prosperity** in empire
- **benevolent paternalism:**
 - well-meaning care of subjects, a fatherly concern
- **Centralized administration** took on more responsibilities
 - went further, and its control increased

P. Cornelius Tacitus (56-117 CE)

Tacitus's Works

- *Agricola*, 98 CE
- *Germania*, 98 CE
- *Histories*, between 115-120 CE
- *Annals*, between 115-120 CE

Tacitus writes an ethnographic "history" of Germany that speaks more to Roman foibles than "barbarian" lack of culture



Problems with *Germania*

- Not a first-hand account
- Used historical info 40+ years out of date
 - Elder Pliny's History of Germanic Wars (57 CE)
 - Augustan data (boundaries and kings)
 - Macromanni & Quadi

The "noble savage" conundrum

- What does Tacitus choose to discuss?
 What does Tacitus say about the Germans?
- perception that Other is uncivilized & naive, but good
 - vision of "noble savage" implies a civilized viewer: a yardstick, a way of measuring or evaluating civilization
 - we might ask how civilized determines the definition of savage, but also vice-versa

Contrast between degeneracy/virtus

The Other possesses the "survival of archaic virtues that once characterized Rome."

- Scaevola & Dentatus
 - (farmer-generals like Cincinnatus)

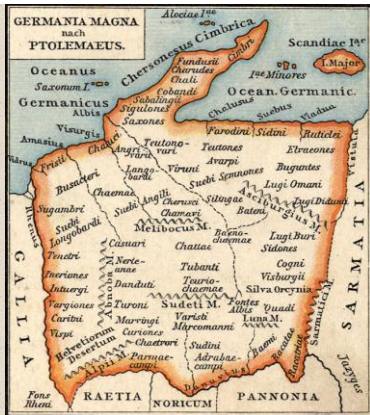
savagery associated with freedom

- drinking bouts where
 - free speech is practiced (§22)
- Fenni : most savage, least technologically advanced:
 - the happiest (§46)

What is Tacitus doing in *Germania*?

- Political pamphlet
- moralizing satire and critique of Roman society
- Document of imperialism
 - What does Tacitus choose to discuss?
 - What does he say about the Germans?

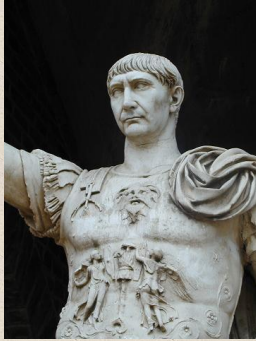
Map of Germania from geographer and ethnographer Ptolemy, 146 -170 CE



Creating the Frontier

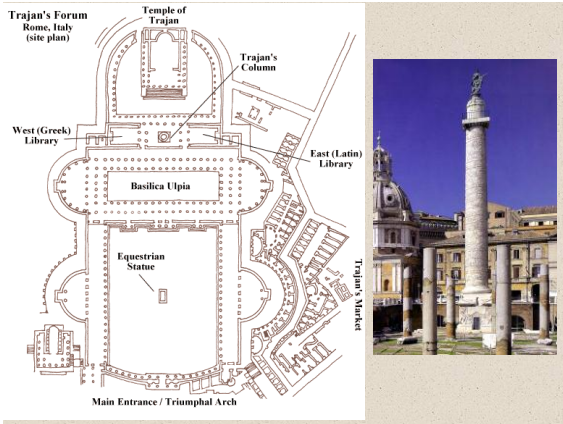
- temporary military camps (*canabae*)
 - women and merchants would follow the legions in permanent civilian settlements (*vici*)
 - grew together and became permanent
 - (Carnuntum in Pannonia)
 - amphitheater, baths, roads and libraries
- Settling Veterans in military colonies
 - between Augustus and Trajan over 50 colonies founded
 - hold local offices in their township

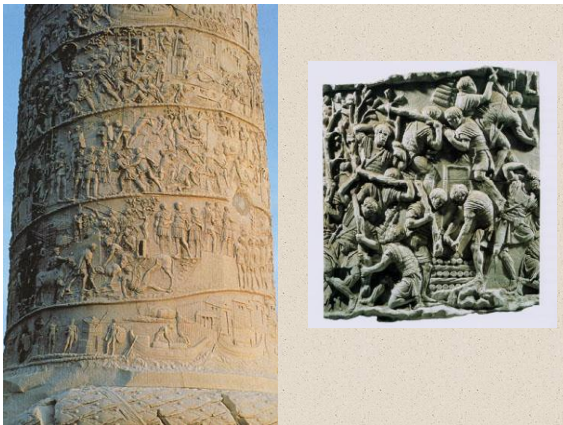
Trajan (98-117 CE)





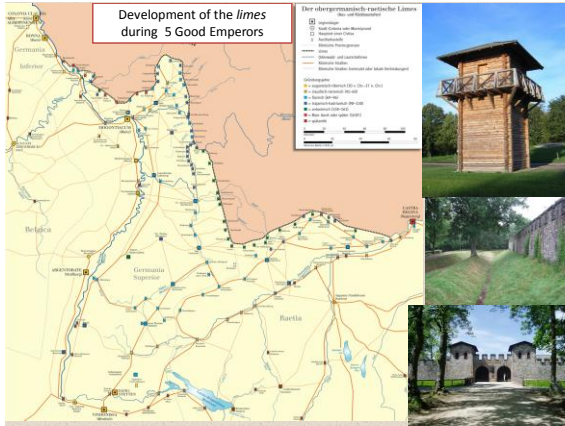






How Art Made the World (BBC 2006)

- Trajan's Column
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPEREDSj9hc&NR=1>



Demographic changes on the army From Augustus to Trajan

- shift from:
 - Italian to non-Italian
 - non-citizen to citizen (after term of service)
- limited mobility
 - *vexillationes* (detachments of legions for limited time)
- innovation of heavily armored cavalry
- Officers receive formal training
 - Frontius, *Stratagemata*



Hadrian's Wall

Three separate features:

1. ditch to the north
2. wide stone wall with turrets and mile forts
3. larger ditch to the South
 - Vallum



Milecastle 39 on Hadrian's Wall, near Steel Rigg, looking east from a ridge along the Hadrian's Wall Path

Housesteads (ancient *Vercovicium*)

- Vercovicium covers some 2 hectares (ca. 180 x 110 m.)
- built by members of the Legio II Augusta
- fort refurbishment in 200 CE
- garrisoned by an auxiliary cohort, the *Cohors I Tungrorum*, from Belgica



Vindolanda Tablets

- hundreds of wooden tablets
- date to around AD 90-120 CE
- earliest written records from Britain
- include stores lists, daily duties, request for leave, duty officer reports and even a regimental strength report
- most well known tablet is the birthday party invitation from Claudia Severa to Sulpicia Lepidina asking her to be present at her party on September 11th
 - “to make her day more enjoyable”
 - earliest surviving writing between two women in Western Europe
 - <http://vindolanda.csad.ox.ac.uk/tablets/TVII-2-3.shtml>
