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SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

B.H.I.C.-104

B.A. History (Hons.) - 2nd Semester

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By: Kumud Lohani



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Content

SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

Question Paper–June-2023 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–December-2022 (Solved).....	1
Question Paper–Exam Held in July-2022 (Solved)	1-2
Question Paper–Exam Held in March-2022 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–Exam Held in February-2021 (Solved)	1

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.	Roman Empire : Political System	1
2.	Roman Empire: Economic and Social Structure	13
3.	Religion and The Rise of Christianity	22
	in The Roman World	
4.	Crisis of The Roman Empire	32
5.	Form and Structure of Feudalism	43
6.	Phases of Feudalism and Its Decline	54
7.	Religion and Culture in Medieval Europe	65
8.	Growth of Craft Production in Europe	73
9.	Rise of Trade and Commerce in Asia and Europe	80
10.	Africa	90

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
11.	Latin America	100
12.	Pre-Islamic Arab World and Its Culture	108
13.	The Rise and Expansion of Islam	114
14.	The Caliphate: Ummayyads and Abbasids	124
15.	Islamic society: Rise and Spread of Sects	134
16.	Trading World of Asia and The Arabs	144



**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
Papers**

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

B.H.I.C.-104

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any five questions. Attempt at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Discuss the nature of the slave mode of production in the Roman Empire. What led to the decline of slave economy?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 14, 'Slave Mode of Production and the Crisis' and 'Decline of Slave Economy and the Rise of Colonnate System'.

Q. 2. Analyze the presence of different types of land tenures in medieval Ethiopia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 96, Q. No. 10.

Q. 3. What are the theories pertaining to rise of Islam? Elaborate the salient points of the Revisionist theory.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 115, 'Theories Pertaining to the Rise of Islam' and 'Some Historiographical Reconsideration'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) 'Pax Romana'

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 36, 'Pax Romana as a cause of Crisis of Slavery'.

(b) Wine making in medieval Europe

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 74, 'Wine Making' and Page No. 75, Q. No. 3.

(c) Aztec society

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 107, Q. No. 7.

(d) Mu'tazila theology

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 141, Q. No. 11 and Page No. 138, 'Five Principles of the Mu'tazila Theology'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Give a brief account of the prominent trading communities in medieval Europe. In what ways did Jews dominate business activities?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 81, 'Trading Communities' and Page No. 85, Q. No. 4.

Q. 6. What are the chief components of feudalism? Why were knights called the 'agents of seigneurial exploitation'?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 43, 'Chief Components of Feudalism'?

Q. 7. Discuss briefly the growth of Ummayyad Caliphate under the Marwanids. How did Malik-bin-Marwan change the nature of Ummayyad Caliphate?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 124, 'The Ummayyad Caliphate: Marwanid Period'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) The Almoravids

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 90, 'Almoravids'.

(b) Crusades

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 121, Q. No. 13.

(c) Coptic Christianity in Ethiopia

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 91, 'Ethiopian Coptic Christianity' and Page No. 98, Q. No. 1.

(d) Arab trade with China

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-16, Page No. 145, 'Arab Trade with China'.

■ ■

QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

B.H.I.C.-104

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer any **five** questions. Attempt at least **two** questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Discuss the nature of craft production in medieval Europe with special reference to textiles and ship building.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 73, 'Nature of Craft Production', 'Textiles' and Page No. 76, Q. No. 4 and 'Ship Building'.

Q. 2. Differentiate between the two phases of feudalism. How was agricultural production organized during the first phase of feudalism?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 54, 'Two Main Phases' and Page No. 59, Q. No. 3.

Q. 3. Explain the various commercial practices adopted by merchants in medieval Asia and Europe.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 86, Q. No. 7.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Camel Nomadism in Arabia

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 109, 'Camel Nomadism' and Page No. 111, Q. No. 9.

(b) Inca Architecture

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 105, Q. No. 13.

(c) Slave mode of production in the Roman Empire

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 14, 'Slave Mode of Production and the Crisis'.

(d) Christianization of Europe

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 65, 'Christianity and the Christianization of Europe'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Describe the system of taxation and central bureaucracy (Diwans) under the Abbasids.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 128, 'Taxes and Diwans Under the Abbasids' and Page No. 132, Q. No. 11 and Q. No. 12.

Q. 6. Examine the various reforms introduced in the Roman Empire during the Augustan Age.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 4, 'The Augustan Age'.

Q. 7. What was the pattern of trade in medieval Europe? How did rise of Islam affect the Oceanic trade?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 84, Q. No. 2 and Page No. 83, Q. No. 1.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Religion in pre-Islamic Arabia

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 108, 'Tribal and Religious Practices'.

(b) The Kharijites

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 136, 'Who were the Kharijites?' and Page No. 140, Q. No. 7.

(c) Decline of feudalism

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 56, 'General Debate on the Decline of Feudalism'.

(d) Medieval Empires of Morocco

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 90, 'Morocco: Medieval Empires'.

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Sample Preview of The Chapter

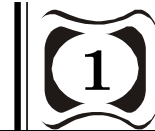
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SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD



Roman Empire : Political System

INTRODUCTION

The Roman empire was located in Italy as its hub and it encircled the entire Mediterranean world. 'Rome was not built in a day' it was stated earlier. In the 8th century BCE the history of Rome began as a small pastoral community in Central Italy but came to acquire the status of a vast empire in the ancient world. Lets study the main periods in the history of ancient Rome and the political system that supported it. (a) The early history of Rome as a kingdom; (b) The Republic; (c) The Principate or Augustan age; and (d) the Late Empire.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

EARLY HISTORY OF ROME

In earlier times the history of Rome before Livy(64-17 BCE) was very sketchy and was based largely on a series of legends, were mostly people of pastoral community, who used to keep cattle, pigs, goats and sheep, and used to live in scattered villages, were speaking a language of Indo-European origin which might be called proto Latin.

As legend has it, Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by Romulus and Remus, twin sons of Mars, the God of war. After killing his brother, Romulus became the first king of Rome, which is named for him. The Tiber river gave the city a trade route to the north and access to the sea at its port of Ostia to the south. Rome lay between the two cultures: with the Greek colonies to the south and the Etruscan settlements to the North.

The Etruscans were the first highly civilized people of Italy and were the only inhabitants who did not speak an Indo-European language. By 700 BC several Greek colonies were established along the southern coast. Both Greeks and Phoenicians were actively engaged in trade with the Italian natives. Many features of Etruscan culture were adopted by the Romans, their successors to power in the peninsula. The rome became an important centre of trade for the first time as the Etruscan rule brought about urbanization.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ROMAN REPUBLIC AND MILITARY EXPANSION

There are two phases in which Roman expansion can be studied. The period of initial consolidation i.e

was the first phase; while Romans consolidated across the Mediterranean was in the second phase.

First Phase of the Conquest

The First Period of Expansion: The first period of expansion, or becoming larger, began in 509 B.C.E. At this time, the Romans drove the last Etruscan king out of power, and Rome became a republic. The Romans wanted to protect their borders and to gain more land, which led to a series of wars. By 264 B.C.E., Rome and its allies controlled all of the Italian peninsula.

In 509 BCE, Etruscan dynasty of Tarquins was expelled from Rome which led to the establishment of republic governed by two **Consuls**. In 406 BCE the Romans attacked their greatest rival, the Etruscan city of Veii, finally conquering it in 396 BCE. After establishing its power in central Italy, Rome turned to southern Italy which had been colonized by the Greeks. Finally the Roman power was established when the Greeks were defeated in a number of fiercely fought battles.

Second Phase of the Conquest

Rome's growth threatened another great power, the city of Carthage (KAR-thidge), in North.

The Punic Wars, as the struggle against Carthage which was a colony founded by Phoenicia in modern Tunisia and controlled vast agricultural and commercial resources of Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica and eastern portions of the Iberian peninsula is known, had a great impact on Rome. By the end of the third Punic war the empire of Carthage was completely destroyed and its territories were annexed by Rome. During the turmoil, many small farms were bought by wealthy landowners who began managing huge estates called latifundia. Landless, unemployed plebeians began flooding the city of Rome.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

The natural born inhabitants of the Republic, who were not slaves, were broken into two main groups were the **patricians**, members of the upper class including the nobility and the wealthy landowners, and the **plebeians**, or the common people of Rome.

2 / NEERAJ : SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

The Senate

Trying to make sure the patricians could keep control, the consuls were elected from the **Senate**, a group of 300 patricians who were, in essence, the law makers of Rome. They made decisions on spending, while also controlling taxation and relationships with foreign powers. Perhaps most obvious, the senators of Rome were not chosen by the citizens. They were chosen by the Consul and they were elected for life.

The Magistrates

Magistrates were the elected officials of the Roman republic. Each magistrate was vested with a degree of power, and the dictator, when there was one, had the highest level of power. Below the dictator was the censor (when they existed), and the consuls, the highest ranking ordinary magistrates. Two were elected every year and wielded supreme power in both civil and military powers. The ranking among both consuls flipped every month, with one outranking the other.

The People

Magistrate was elected by the people in their various assemblies approved or rejected bills laid before them and decided on issues of war and peace. In theory, the principle of sovereignty was vested in them, but they met when summoned by a Magistrate and voted without discussion on what was laid before them.

The Assembly

The *Comitia Curiata* was composed of 30 curiae, or local groups, drawn from three ancient *tribus*, or tribes; the *Comitia Centuriata* consisted of 193 centuries, or military units; the Concilium Plebis was drawn from the ranks of the plebes, or plebeians (common people); and the *Comitia Tributa*, like the Athenian Assembly, was open to all citizens. In all the assemblies, votes were counted by units (centuries or tribes) rather than by individuals; thus, in so far as a majority prevailed in voting, it would have been a majority of units, not of citizens. All of the Senate's proposals had to be approved by either of two popular assemblies: the *Comitia Centuriata*, who not only enacted laws but also elected consuls and declared war, and the *Concilium Plebis*, who conveyed the wishes of the plebians via their elected tribunes. These assemblies were divided into blocks and each of these blocks voted as a unit. Aside from these two major legislative bodies, there were also a number of smaller tribal assemblies.

The *Concilium Plebis* came into existence as a result of the Conflict of Orders – a conflict between the plebians and patricians for political power. In the *Concilium Plebis*, aside from passing laws pertinent to the wishes of the plebians, the members elected a number of tribunes who spoke on their behalf. Although this "Council of the Plebs" initially gave the plebians some voice in government, it did not prove to be sufficient.

Since the time of monarchy another assembly *Comitia populi tributa* consisted of all citizens and

grouped into three tribes where all the male adults of the tribe were members of the assembly.

POLITICAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE ORDERS

The story of the conflict of Orders begins with the beginning of the Republic in Rome in 509 BCE, is important when the monarchy ended and Republican form of government began which was ruled by senators and a constitution. These senators were aristocrats (Patricians) who misused their privileges and exploited the people (Plebeians) who were oppressed, had no privileges, no political rights /voice and were stricken with hunger, poverty and powerlessness. The struggle between the people (plebeians) and the aristocrats (Patricians) continued roughly from 494 BCE to 287 CE. called the Conflict of the Orders. To help resolve the conflict between the orders, the patrician order gradually gave up most of their privileges and gradually introduced various reforms (code of the Twelve Tables-450 BCE, Nexum abolition-326BCE and Lex Hortensia-287 BCE) but retained vestigial and religious one.

First Phase of the Conflict and Changes in the Constitution

Plebeians who were around 90% were considered the lower class of Rome. They were often in debt and were powerless and offered jobs as farmers, shopkeepers, workers or soldiers. Unlike the Patricians, Plebeians didn't own that much land. Opposite of the Patrician women, they cooked, cleaned and went shopping. Patricians were nobles of Rome, worked in the government either be a senator or a consul, and were generals or soldiers, were wealthy and important people. Plebeians were not given equal right. The Plebeians in 490 BC, held a protest on a small hill outside of Rome. Soldiers that were Plebeians refused to serve in the army and they threatened the Patricians by saying that the Plebeians would leave Rome and create a city of their own. After the Plebeian's protested, the government allowed the Plebeians to have more power.

For both classes to have equal rights, Twelve Tables was created as a twelve stone tablets full of written laws that applied to every citizen of Rome. In 492 BC, Patricians allowed there to be tribunes, two representatives of the Plebeians. This Code reduced the scope for the arbitrary exercise of judicial authority by the **Patricians**. Later on, the number of tribunes increased giving plebeians the power to run other government positions. After that, they gained the power to veto, which let a tribune stop any official act. Veto means 'I forbid'. A law was passed in 326 BCE which prohibited the enslavement of Roman citizens for non-repayment of debts. So the, 'debt bondage' was abolished. In 445 BCE the right of intermarriage between Patrician and Plebeian was recognized and the wealthier Plebeian had a major grievance removed.

Significance of Changes in the Constitution

P. Anderson had pointed out that the interest of plebeians was shown just for time being and , despite the constitution undergoing popular modifications as

a result of fierce and long social struggle, it was never abrogated or replaced. But a hereditary nobility retained unbroken power through the complex constitution. The addition of the Tribune and Tribal assembly were simply done to the central existing institution of the Senate, Consulates and *Centuriate* Assembly. From shadowy origins of the two groups we do know that the Patricians clearly had a position of power and wealth which they abused over the Plebeian class to increase their own greed.

Second Phase of the Conflict

A series of campaigns won Rome its mastery of the Mediterranean world (the Punic, Macedonian, Jugurthine, Mithridatic and Gallic wars) in the last century of the Roman Republic. As for a century and a half the struggle between Orders went into abeyance. The conflict broke out again, which was based on new issues and with a new alignment of contestants. Because of this the import of war captives to be employed by the **senatorial aristocracy** as slaves. Many aggressive struggles were also fought in the country (the Hannibalic, Social and Civil wars) delivering into the hands of the senatorial oligarchy large territories appropriated from the defeated people. Also a new rural institution of '*Latifundia*' – groups of slaves were employed in emergence in vast tracts of land owned by the wealthy landowners.

REFORMS OF THE GRACCHI BROTHERS

Declining peasantry and merging military conflicts is marked by this phase.

Decline of the Peasantry or 'Assidui Class'

By the late 2nd century BC, Rome had established itself as the dominant force in the Mediterranean world – conquering Carthage, large parts of Spain, Macedonia and Greece. Born c. 168 BC, Tiberius Gracchus made a name for himself through his time in the military. A competent soldier, he participated in the Siege of Carthage (146) and held a Quaestorship in 137 – solidifying his reputation as a rising star back in Rome. Whilst travelling through Italy on his way to Spain, he noticed a growing trend within Roman society. Tiberius Gracchus saw the impact of this first-hand, with large estates across Italy being worked primarily by slave labour – as opposed to the traditional peasant class (who now saw themselves out of a job).

Upon becoming Tribune in 133 BC, Tiberius saw his chance to champion the cause of the peasantry. He introduced legislation to help alleviate economic inequality through a bill on land reform. This involved the redistribution of land in the form of allotments, with this land coming from the larger estates that dominated the Italian countryside.

Due to the controversial nature of his bill, Tiberius opted to bypass the Senate completely and take his law to the Popular Assembly. After much back and forth, including the deposition of his fellow tribune Octavius, his bill was passed and a commission was established.

The Senate once again vigorously opposed the reforms and Gaius Gracchus too was murdered (121 BCE) at the instigation of the Senate and his laws were

repealed. The peasant agitation for land came to be stifled by the suppression of the Gracchi brothers.

Moreover, the import of grain cheaply from abroad aggravated their misery further. Thus, peasant unrest sharpened the class conflict and contributed to the decline of the republic.

Growing Discontent Among the Soldiers

The lack of support in the organization of the Republic was also the result of the growing distress among the soldiers with the peasant distress. The profits were taken by the senatorial aristocracy from the wars of expansion and assets of a vast empire. The soldiers were completely disappointed with the state who were battling for the grant of land and allowances upon their discharge from service. As a result they had started looking up to their top generals in hope of some guarantee of ransack or contribution by their personal power. According to As P. Anderson, from the times of Gaius Marius (156-86 BCE) and Lucius Sulla (138-78 BCE) onwards, soldiers looked to their generals for economic rehabilitation and generals used their soldiers for political advancement. The army became an important factor in the politics of Roman society as a result of the outbreak of civil wars.

Role of Urban Poor in the Growing Unrest

The last century of the Republic was marked by the urban proletariat that forced considerable pressure in the civil wars. According to P. Anderson Roman expansionism had tended to reduce the number of 'assidui' provided the conscripts and casualties for the army, because of it a steady decline in the numbers of the 'assidui' and a sharp increase in the size of the 'proletarii' (property-less citizens) class had occurred. The increasing monopolisation of the land by the aristocracy was also the reason for it. By the end of the 3rd century BCE, the Roman society was modified and the majority of citizens were extended property-less.

THE LAST CENTURY OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE RISE OF SUCCESSFUL MILITARY COMMANDERS

As the tension between senatorial aristocracy and the common people grew during the final century of the Republic, ambitious politicians tried to take advantage by identifying with one or the other.

First 'Triumvirate'

The **First Triumvirate** was the alliance of Julius **Caesar**, **Pompey**, and Marcus Licinius **Crassus** formed in 60 B.C. This was not strictly a triumvirate, since the alliance had no official sanction. The three men were able to control Rome, and the alliance aided Caesar's rise to power by giving him the opportunity to pursue the **Gallic Wars**. Having assumed the powers of government, the members of the First Triumvirate distributed governmental posts in Rome and the provinces among themselves and their supporters and instituted laws in their own behalf. The death of Crassus in 53 B.C. and strained relations between Pompey and Caesar brought about the dissolution of the First Triumvirate, which Varro had called "the three-headed monster."

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Second 'Triumvirate'

Mark Antony and Lepidus, two of Caesar's lieutenants, joined forces with his adopted heir, Octavian, to lead a campaign against them. The victory of conspirators was not everlasting. Then the 'Second Triumvirate' was formed. The Second Triumvirate came to power after the significant victory achieved over their rivals and divided the empire between them. The Second Triumvirate differed from the first insofar as it was a legal entity explicitly endorsed by the Senate, not a private agreement among strongmen. Octavian decisively defeated Mark Antony in the battle of Actium (31 BCE) after depriving Lepidus of all his powers, which was the final war of the Roman Republic. So Octavian became master of the Roman world and the Republic came to an end and a new era started.

THE AUGUSTAN AGE

- By the first century B.C., Rome was already the largest, richest, and most powerful city in the Mediterranean world. During the reign of Augustus, however, it was transformed into a truly imperial city. A social and cultural program enlisting literature and the other arts revived time-honoured values and customs, and promoted allegiance to Augustus and his family. The emperor was recognized as chief state priest, and many statues depicted him in the act of prayer or sacrifice. Sculpted monuments, such as the Ara Pacis Augustae built between 13 and 9 B.C., testify to the high artistic achievements of imperial sculptors under Augustus and a keen awareness of the potency of political symbolism. Religious cults were revived, temples rebuilt, and a number of public ceremonies and customs reinstated. Craftsmen from all around the Mediterranean established workshops that were soon producing a range of objects – silverware, gems, glass – of the highest quality and originality. In general, the Augustan system worked fairly well, in fact, it lasted more than 200 years. It provided a material and political base of cultural achievement that rivaled the Greeks under Pericles. This is the age of the Pax Romana, the Roman Peace. But the Augustan reforms were not limited to political, economic and social issues alone.

The Reforms of Augustus

Augustus introduced reforms in different realms of the Roman empire:

- (i) Political and Constitutional,
- (ii) Administrative,
- (iii) Army,
- (iv) Society and Economy.

Political and Constitutional Reforms

The **Constitutional reforms of Augustus** were a series of laws that were enacted by the Roman Emperor Augustus between 30 BC and 2 BC, which transformed the Constitution of the Roman Republic

into the Constitution of the Roman Empire. The era that began when Augustus (then named Imp. Caesar Divi Filius, but often called Octavian by historians) defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra in the final war of the Roman Republic in 30 BC, and ended when the Roman Senate granted Augustus the title "*Pater Patriae*" in 2 BC. The Principate was largely dependent on the army, and it played a significant role in both aiding Augustus in gaining power and helping to maintain it. The role of the army at the beginning of the Principate centred around its control, which awarded Augustus power as the senate could never act truly independently.

Administrative Reforms

Perhaps the most important 'administrative' reform of the new Principate was Augustus's acceptance at the Senate's insistence of continued *imperium* over the 'disordered provinces', which meant, in effect, that the Emperor, as he was now, retained almost complete control of the armed forces of the empire. The remaining provinces were designated as Senatorial provinces.

In 7 BC he divided Rome into 14 regiones (wards) and these into vici (precincts), each with officials who performed both administrative and religious functions. Augustus organized a fire brigade in 21 BC: He sought to impose order in the often violent streets by creating three cohorts under the command of the urban prefect; their main duty was to keep order in the city, and they could call on the emperor's Praetorian Guard for help if necessary. Altogether, Augustus saw to it that the amateur system of Roman municipal administration was replaced by a more professional and permanent set of institutions – a work that probably contributed more to making Rome a great city than all his marble monuments.

A new bureaucracy was drawn from the Equestrian order with such titles as '*Praefecti*', '*Procurators*', or '*Praesides*'. He restructured the top tier of local government throughout the Italian peninsula, an action that facilitated the census and tax collection; and within Rome itself.

Reforms in the Army

Augustus created a standing army, made up of 28 legions, each one consisting of roughly 6000 men and a number of auxiliary troops. He allotted land to thousands of soldiers who were demobilized after the civil wars and fixed the length of time a soldier served. Augustus created a professional army with legions becoming permanent units composed of career soldiers. Julius Caesar had doubled the pay of the soldiers on active service which was maintained by the Principate. A legion on the march relied completely on its own resources for weeks. In addition to his weapons and armour, each man carried a marching pack. Weighed down by such burdens it is little wonder that the soldiers were nicknamed 'Marius' Mules'. Soldiers who came from the class of small-landholders or 'assidui' who were ruined by the long wars fought both outside and within Italy had brought Octavian to power.