

# TCH2B Song Lyrics

## Unit I Song: The Roman Republic

### *Chorus*

Rome, oh Rome, the grandeur of Rome—  
A kingdom, a republic, an empire, too.  
From two rival brothers, a people was born  
And a very long history that no one foreknew.

*(Introduction Part I)* Romulus and Remus, saved by a wolf—  
Truth or fiction, how can we know?  
A town Romulus founded on Palatine Hill;  
We know it as Rome—and we'll watch it grow!

But maybe Aeneas, back from the war,  
Carrying his father, his son by his hand—  
Was it he who built this city of yore  
When he settled in a brand-new land?

*(Introduction Part II)* Oh! 7-5-3 Rome was founded . . . BC!  
Then for two hundred years kings ruled the land—  
Seven in all, and the last was a tyrant—  
Till the people said: “No more kings, we demand!”

*(Chapter 1)* With kings off the throne, the government changed.  
Now the people were ruled by an elected *senatus*—  
Leaders called consuls and *praetors* and *aediles*.  
And the people were glad and much less rebellious.

A republic created, a law code established,  
All citizens expected to vote and take part.  
Some were not pleased: the plebs had a walkout.  
New laws came to be. That was a good start!

*(Chapter 2)* To be a citizen, it was important!  
For conquered lands, it was quite easy:  
Pay your taxes, be loyal to Rome,  
And all able men join the Roman army.

The Roman legionary carried a shield,  
He had good armor and he carried a spear.  
Led by the centurion with a wide-crested helmet,  
All marched in formation, with no trepidation.

*(Chapter 3)* Rome and Carthage battled for power;  
They fought each other on land and sea.  
The Punic Wars are what they were called;  
the wars were numbered three.

First there was Sicily, the Romans won.  
Then Hannibal came with his elephants strong.  
But he could not beat Scipio the young,  
And finally Rome destroyed Carthage—it was gone.

(Chapter 4) Rome had its problems, something must change.

Two brothers were reformers, Gracchus their name.

The plebeians were happy when new laws came,

But the brothers were killed, oh what a shame!

Then the triumvirate, rulers three:

Julius Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey.

Each one was famous, in his own way,

But Julius Caesar is the best known today.

He was a soldier, the conqueror of Gaul.

He crossed the Rubicon; he said, "To Rome I will go!"

A civil war started when he took over Rome;

Then he was killed by his friends—oh no, no!

(Chapter 5) Caesar had secretly adopted Octavius,

Saying, "The next to rule will be this son!"

But with Caesar dead, then Marc Antony stepped in;

He strove to be emperor, and treated as one.

He traveled to Philippi to kill the assassins,

He split the Empire into one-thirds.

Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus, too—

So many rulers, it's almost absurd!

But this second triumvirate fell apart

With the exile of Lepidus and Antony's defeat—

Dead in Egypt with Cleopatra, his love—

Now Octavius ruled the empire complete.

Augustus Caesar, who was not a king,

Called himself *princeps*, the first of them all.

He ruled the empire for forty long years,

And when he died, he left Rome truly exceptional.

(Chapter 6) Remarkable Romans, of course there were many:

Both Livy and Tacitus, historians of note,

And Plutarch and Polybius, men who were Greek—

All men of renown that scholars still quote.

Virgil the poet wrote *The Aeneid* we know,

While Ovid was exiled for his love stories.

Horace was famous for his countryside poems;

With support from Maecenas, his life was a breeze.

The Plinys were two—the Elder, the Younger.

And each one was a writer and a curious fellow.

Strabo geography, Ptolemy astronomy,

They wrote down their findings in books that we know.

*Chorus*

## Unit II Song: The Roman Empire

### *Chorus*

Who were the emperors who ruled mighty Rome?  
From Augustus to Julian, their stories are told:  
Their victories, accomplishments, and names carved in stone.  
Listen as the stories of their reigns unfold!

*(Chapter 8)* Tiberius, the old man, never wanted to rule,  
Though his father, Augustus, thought he wasn't a fool.  
He spent his last years on an isle with no one by his side,  
And no one was sad when he finally died.

Caligula, called "little boots," had really strange ways.  
He killed many people, he was truly insane!  
But no one quite knows if the stories are true.  
A lot of money he spent and many pleasures pursued.

Claudius surprised them all in taking the throne,  
For conquering Britain, Claudius is well known,  
Despite all his problems he had a good reign.  
He built a new port for delivery of grain.

Nero was a young one when he came to the throne.  
He liked art and music and the chariots rollin'—  
When Rome burned down all the way to the ground,  
On the ashes he built a new palace golden.

Then four rulers—Galba, Otho, and Vitellius—  
Vespasian was the fourth one and the most famous.  
In Jerusalem, the Jewish Revolt was crushed by him.  
He started that dynasty we call Flavian.

Then Titus, ruler of Judea, took his turn,  
When Vesuvius erupted and Pompeii was burned.  
Domitian followed Titus, and he grew so cruel—  
The lessons of ancestors would not be the rule.

*(Chapter 9)* Nerva was an experienced old man;  
Many people liked him, but the army had other plans.  
Trajan was next, a fine ruler was he;  
He built a tall column that everybody could see.

Hadrian was a traveler; and a good ruler;  
He rebuilt the Pantheon, past its earlier grandeur,  
He traversed the empire as he visited his men.  
But his most famous work was the long wall in Britain.

Antoninus Pius was the longest to reign.  
In the land, there was peace; people didn't complain.  
Marcus Aurelius, a philosophical man—  
But attacked during his reign was the homeland.

Commodus was bad, evil was his plan—  
He spent money on pleasure, he killed many a man.

Some people say he was the worst of them all—  
In all that he did, he was diabolical.

*Chorus*

(Chapter 10) The Year of Five Emperors, what a mess of a time!  
Till Severus saved the chaotic empire.  
Superstitious he was, and the soldiers he praised,  
For he built up the army and he gave them a raise.

Caracalla came next—and he hated Geta.  
He fought with his brother, and he killed him later.  
Macrinus, Elagabalus, Alexander, unpopular men—  
The future of Rome: could it come to an end?

After many more emperors (who didn't stay long),  
Came Diocletian, he divided up Rome—  
Two augusti, two caesars, for east and for west—  
He took the homes of Christians; they were really oppressed.

*Chorus*

(Chapter 11) Slaves created profit for the masters in Rome;  
A large slave society the empire had grown.  
Slaves grew and harvested, they shipped and built homes;  
But the masters claimed absolute power for their own.

Of the women in Rome, we don't have much of a view,  
But we know some of their roles, and the names of a few,  
Like Cornelia and Julia and Fulvia, too,  
Perpetua and Marcella—credit is due.

(Chapter 12) Constantine changed the empire's way:  
From pagans to Christians; it was like night and day!  
He moved the capital from Rome to the east,  
And during his reign was the church's first creed.

Against Maxentius at Milvian Bridge, it would seem  
that Constantine got a message from God in a dream,  
Told his soldiers to draw Chi-Rho on their shields—  
And his enemy drowned in the stream by the field.

The Edict of Milan was written soon after;  
It was received by Christians with rejoicing and laughter.  
It gave everyone the freedom to choose their religion:  
The Christians rejoiced at this momentous decision.

After Constantine died, and his reign was done,  
His sons, they all argued until Constantius won.  
When he needed an heir, Constantius went to the school  
Where Julius was studying, and thought, "Hey, this cousin could rule!"

"The Apostate" was what Emperor Julian was called,  
For he rejected the Church and he loved the old gods.  
He was a skilled leader—a good general, he was—  
But he died young in battle and lost was his cause.

*Chorus*

## Unit III Song: Empires of the East

### *Chorus*

Separated from the West by steep mountain peaks,  
The ancient lands of the East were surely unique.  
In China we see the first empires bloom.  
For India, we find that the Middle Kingdoms are due.

*(Chapter 14)* In China we come to Warring States,  
A time when divisions were in debate.  
The seven states could not agree  
On which one should have more territory.

Three inner, four outer—  
Qin and Chu had the most power.  
The borders changed, but the states survived.  
Meanwhile, still, the arts, they thrived.

Unlike years before,  
Culture would advance in times of war—  
Music on a five-note scale,  
Lacquer and silk, bright or pale.

Farming, art, and economics grew—  
Technology and military too.  
The crossbow became a weapon of choice,  
And *The Art of War* even now has a voice.

Legalism became the government's tool,  
But many still thought that Confucius was cool.  
Ying Zheng united the states as one,  
And so the Qin Empire had begun.

*(Chapter 15)* Qin Shi Huangdi, First Emperor,  
Brought strict law and a harsh order.  
He built a great wall of rock and earth,  
And for his tomb, terra-cotta warriors.

The Han dynasty started with Emperor Gao.  
Western and Eastern Han (interrupted now  
By the “hiccup” dynasty of Xin)  
A brand new age was ushered in!

The Silk Road opened 'cause of Emperor Wu,  
While the empire, too, broadened and grew.  
The expansion south made rice the main crop,  
And the population soared right to the top.

*(Chapter 16)* In India, the Shungas fought many wars,  
And all the while, the arts did soar.  
The Bactrian Greeks their own kingdom began  
And became Indo-Greeks—their very own clan.

Nomadic Tribes threatened the empires;  
One called Kushana aimed even higher.

The Kushan Empire then was formed,  
And Kanishka was the most powerful lord.

Trade routes soon became even busier,  
Making Indian traders superior—  
North by land and south by sea,  
Playing the middleman, helping countries agree.

Goods exchanged, and ideas too.  
Buddhism spread, and the Hindu  
Teachings of *ahimsa* and rebirth  
Were welcomed at every Indian hearth.

In India's south, kingdoms still quarreled—  
Like the Pandyas and Cholas, who ruled quite a while.  
When Rome's trade went down, the Cheras fell too.  
Next come the Guptas, whom we look forward to!

*Chorus*

## Top 12 Things to Remember from TCH2B

*Lines in bold are repeated.*

1. At first in Rome the kings would have authority,  
But their reign over the people proved too cruel, you see.  
So the Romans said, "No kings!"  
From this the republic springs.
2. The Romans had their rights,  
Holding their citizenship so tight.  
The conquered could belong,  
Yet patricians, plebs didn't get along.
3. Rome expanded, borders grew,  
Lands were added, maps were new.  
Punic Wars—Macedonian, too,  
The Roman army—how it flew.  
**How it conquered—how it flew.**

*Instrumental refrain*

4. Crassus, Pompey, and Caesar  
The triumvirate arose.  
Caesar's men won!  
When he was killed, there were more wars.
5. The second triumvirate's civil war  
Octavian won, then changed his name  
To Augustus Caesar, the *princeps*.  
He ruled long and gained much fame.
6. Virgil, Horace, Ovid—poets.  
Livy, Tacitus—history.  
Strabo and Ptolemy studied  
Stars and geography.

7. Rome's first dynasty, Julio-Claudians—  
Only some ruled capably.  
Flavian Dynasty rose up next,  
**For thirty years it would be.**

*Instrumental refrain*

8. The Nerva-Antonine Dynasty  
Had Five Good Emperors.  
The Severan Dynasty started strong,  
'Til Crisis of the Third Century.
9. Diocletian restored order,  
Established the Tetrarchy.  
Constantine favored his faith,  
The Christians were finally safe!
10. The Warring States Period tore China apart,  
Yet the culture thrived.  
Qin Shi Huangdi brought China together  
And as First Emperor presided.
11. His reign did not last long.  
The Han dynasty righted some wrongs.  
Agriculture improved and trade increased,  
**Learning did not cease.**

*Instrumental refrain*

12. Through the Shunga, Kushan, and Chola,  
India was divided.  
World trade made the people flourish;  
Then the Middle Kingdoms were nourished.