

Name _____ Date _____

Critical Attributes of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire

Read the passage below. As you read, underline the similarities between the Roman Republic and Roman Empire.

The Roman Republic lasted from 509 BCE to 27 BCE. The republic was a system based on representation for the people of Rome. At the head of the republic were two consuls. These consuls were usually military generals who were in charge of Rome's army. The Senate was composed of Roman citizens who were responsible for advising both judges and the Roman people. There were two key assemblies during this time: the tribal assembly and the centuriate assembly. The tribal assembly was made up of civilians who elected judges who did not vote on military matters. The centuriate assembly elected judges who did vote on military matters.

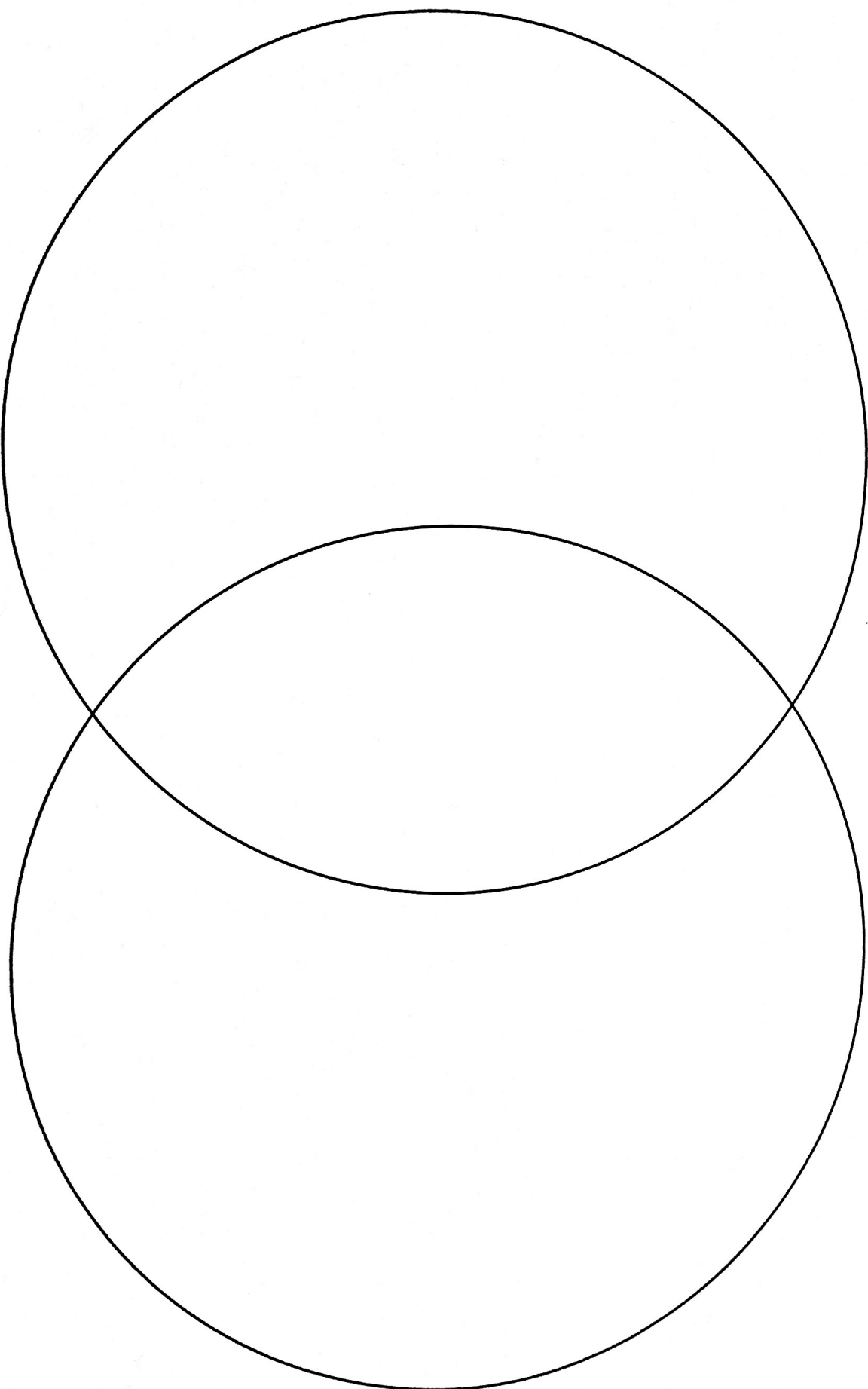
During the Republic, the Roman Army was often at war. Since Rome was concentrated outwardly—on war and trade with other nations—it was difficult for poor Romans to make enough money. This led to anger between poor Romans and rich Romans, who were benefitting from the money from war and trade.

This conflict set the stage for the end of the Roman Republic and the beginning of the Roman Empire. Since Rome was often at war, military leaders such as Julius Caesar were able to obtain power and influence. As a result of this military power, Augustus, a military leader, was crowned the first emperor of Rome in 31 BCE. The Roman Empire lasted from 27 BCE to the 5th century CE. Augustus set up a form of government known as a principate, which gave Augustus, as first citizen, control of the government, while keeping some parts, such as the Senate, of the Republic. The Senate was largely composed of wealthy men. Augustus brought great wealth to Rome. Due in part to this wealth, Augustus and the emperors after him were worshipped as gods after their deaths.

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Venn Diagram



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The Roman Republic vs. The Roman Empire

Answer the following in two paragraphs:

- *What did you learn about the critical attributes of the Roman Republic and Roman Empire? Did anything you learn surprise you? Explain.*
- *How did each system impact citizens' lives? Are there any new connections you can make to how your government impacts your own life?*