# The Government of the Roman Provinces

**1. The Roman Empire reached its greatest extent during the reign of what emperor?**

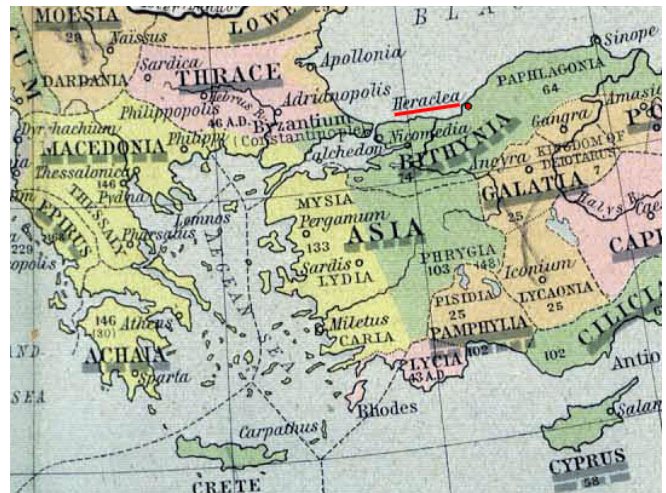      Trajan.

**2. What country became a Roman province after it was bequeathed to Rome in the will of its king?**

      Bithynia

**3. What was the difference between an "imperial province" and a "senatorial province"?**

An "imperial province" was generally more dangerous and required the garrisoning of many legions. The governor was appointed by the emperor and was called a "**lēgātus Augustī**".



"senatorial provinces" were more peaceful than "imperial provinces. The governor was selected by the senate and was called a "**proconsul**".

**4. What type of province did Pliny govern and how was he selected?**

Pliny was the governor of "Bithynia", a senatorial province, but was appointed by the emperor Trajan.

**5. What was a "praefectus"?**

A "praefectus" was a special imperial province which was considered so important to the running of the empire that senators were not even allowed to visit the province. These provinces were governed only by men of the "Equites class" who would not have the power or ambition to use the control of one of these "praefecti" to threaten the empire.

**6. Give two examples of "praefecti"?**

**Egypt** – because of its crucial role as the largest supplier of grain to Rome.
**Judaea** – because of its strategic position in the center of eastern trade routes.

**7. What was the most important responsibility of a governor?**

A governor's first responsibility was to protect his provinces from threats from without and from within. He had one or more **legions** or **auxilia** under his command to insure the safety of his province.

**8. How might a governor use the troops under his command?**

A governor was only supposed to use his troops for military or policing operations. They were not supposed to be used in situations that could be handled by civilians or slaves.

**9. Other than the safety of the province, for what else was a provincial governor responsible?**

The governor was also responsible for the administration of the law. His decisions could not be challenged, except by a Roman citizen, who could appeal to the emperor.

**10. What famous individual was arrested in Judaea, but being a Roman citizen, appealed to and was sent to the emperor in Rome?**

**St. Paul.**

**11. What happened if the governor was so busy with military matters that he could not find time to administer the courts?**

The emperor would send an "**iuridicus**" to take over the governor's judicial duties.

**12. Who in our stories served in the position of an "iuridicus"?**

**Salvius**, under the governor Agricola.

**13. What were "mandata", in reference to provincial governors?**

"**mandata**" were the orders the governor received from the emperor describing the work that the emperor wanted him to accomplish when he arrived at his province.
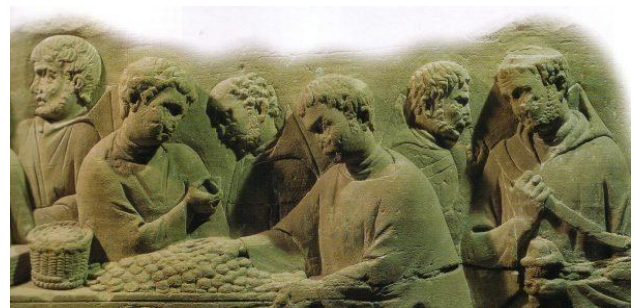
**14. What were two initiatives that Pliny was ordered to enact in his "mandata"?**

1. make a public announcement banning Political clubs

2. investigate the financing and construction of public buildings

**15. What was a "publicanus"?**

A "publicanus" was a tax collector. Provincial taxes were not collected by the Roman government. The right to collect taxes in each province was auctioned off at Rome to syndicates who then were licensed to collect the taxes in a province for one year. Any amount that the "publicani" collected over what was paid for the right to collect the taxes was the syndicates' profit. Great pressure was put on these "publicani" to collect over and above what was due. The system was inherently flawed and provincial governors often received bribes (too good to refuse) to support the "publicani" in their efforts to collect as much from the people of the province as possible, leading to wide spread abuses.

**16. How did provincial government differ in the early Empire from the time of the middle and late Republic?**

Whether from moral or self-serving reasons, provincial government became much fairer and humane in the early Empire. A well run and content province was less likely to irrupt in costly rebellions making the whole of the Empire safer and more stable.

**\*\*\* This is not all you need to know.  Re-read the reading. \*\*\***