


# Transition from Monarchy to Republic

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**Geographical setting and early Rome:  
The Roman Civilization that  
emerged along the bank of Tiber  
River in central Italy succeeded  
Greeks as the most dominant  
among the major ancient  
civilizations of Europe.**



**The core area of this civilization  
may have been the Italian  
peninsula but its impact was felt  
in the entire Mediterranean  
world**




**The core area of Roman civilization was central Italy but the Roman Empire expanded in the entire Mediterranean. Surrounded by sea on three sides and High Mountain on the fourth, Italy was well protected from external invasions in early stages.**



**The geographical location of Italy in general and Rome in particular contributed in great measure towards the creation of a Mediterranean –wide empire controlled by Rome.**



**A number of indo- European speaking tribes, presumably after crossing the Alps, had settled in Italy during the so-called Late Bronze Age (1300-1100 BCE).**



**During Iron Age (1000-750 BCE), several Indo- European and non Indo- European tribes had entrenched themselves in several parts of Italy. While southern Italy was colonized by the Greeks, central, northern, eastern and western half of Italy was inhabited by several Indo and non Indo- European tribes.**




**Prominent among the non –Indo-European Tribes in Central Italy were the ones speaking Osco-Umbrian or Sabellic language such as Umbrians, Sabiens, Samnites, Volsci, Vestini, and Campani, to name a few, who inhabited**

**Apennine Mountain regions located at the centre of the Italian Peninsula.**


**Another important Indo- European  
Tribe to have settled in the  
western part of Italy was Latins (   
Romans) who inhabited the  
fertile and well –watered Latium  
region**




**The most prominent non- Indo- European Tribe of the Italian Peninsula was that of the Etruscans who dominated north western and central parts of Italy with the area of their influence extending up until the Latium and the fertile and well- watered regions of Campania.**




**Along with the expansion of Etruscan influence in the central part of the Italian Peninsula, an important parallel development in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE was the rapid rise of Rome as the dominant city of the Latium region**



**According to traditional accounts or archaeological evidences initially the Roman Government was a Monarchy wherein the king combined the functions of political and civil government but was above all, the commander-in-chief**



**Around 600 B.C., an Etruscan became king of Rome. In the decades that followed, Rome grew from a collection of hilltop villages to a city that covered nearly 500 square miles.**




The last king of Rome was Tarquin the Proud. A harsh tyrant, he was driven from power in 510 B.C.E The Romans declared they would never again be ruled by a king. Instead, they established a republic, from the Latin phrase *res publica*, which means “public affairs.”



**A republic is a form of government in which power rests with citizens who have the right to vote for their leaders. In Rome, citizenship with voting rights was granted only to free-born male citizens.**



**The republic was controlled by an oligarchy dominated by the Roman aristocracy. The Roman society was divided into two broad 'orders' or Classes, namely, Patricians and Plebeians.**



**Patricians were the rich aristocratic class who held this status based on birth, while plebeians consisted of all those who did not belong to the governing class and all other common masses. Patricians were the dominant social groups exercising control over political, social, economic and religious matters.**

**Patricians and Plebeians in the early republic, different groups of Romans struggled for power.**



**One group was the patricians, the wealthy landowners who held most of the power. The other important group was the plebeians, the common farmers, artisans, and merchants who made up the majority of the population**

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