

Special Lecture series under MOU

“Ancient Rome”

10/05/2024

The poster is titled "Special Lecture Series" in a cursive font at the top right. It features the logos of Vidyasagar Metropolitan College and Prafulla Chandra College, with the text "in collaboration with" between them. The main title "ANCIENT ROME" is in large yellow letters. Below it, the speaker's name and title are listed: "DR. TUSHAR BARAN HALDAR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SUSHIL KAR COLLEGE". A circular inset photo shows Dr. Halidar, a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a light blue shirt. At the bottom, the date "10TH MAY, 2024", the platform "GOOGLE MEET", the time "12.30--2.30PM", and the meeting link "HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/ZPC-QC50-ORG" are provided.

Special Lecture Series

VIDYASAGAR
METROPOLITAN
COLLEGE

in collaboration with

PRAFULLA
CHANDRA
COLLEGE

ANCIENT ROME

DR. TUSHAR BARAN HALDAR
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SUSHIL KAR COLLEGE

10TH MAY, 2024
GOOGLE MEET
12.30--2.30PM

[HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/ZPC-QC50-ORG](https://meet.google.com/zpc-qc50-org)

Name of the Department: Department of History

Title of the activity: Special Lecture series under MOU

Topic of Lecture: Ancient Rome

Date: 10/05/2024

Participants: 22 participants

Speaker's Profile : Dr Tushar Baran Haldar, Associate Professor, Sushil Kar College

Synopsis of The Lecture:

Today's special lecture we deal with the Polity and society, Slavery, Agrarian economy, Urbanisation and Trade and commerce of Ancient Rome in brief.

Primary Descriptions: Ancient Rome, the land of poetry, painting and music - of bright skies, lovely sunsets and variegated scenery - now includes the whole of the large peninsula intervening between that of Spain on the west, and Turkey with Greece on the east, together forming the southern coast of Europe. Its total area was covered by sixty lakhs square k.m. Rome was established by Romulus in 753 BCE. According to the present syllabus our focus will be on the Republican period of Rome i.e. 509 BCE. to 27 BCE.

Political structure and Society: Roman society was divided into two Ordo (orders): (i) Patrician or the elite class and (ii) Plebian or the ordinary citizen. Roman republic was functioned through a council of elders called Senate. The Senate had limited constitutional powers as it could not pass laws or elect or state officials but had informal power which exercised by issuing decrees to the magistrates or consuls. consuls or magistrates were also known as Praetor. They had wielded civil and military powers. The first was the power to command (Imperium) and second was the power to consul the God on behalf of state (Auspicious). In this structure Dictator was recruited by the Consul at the request of Senate for six months. Again they had a authority to appoint his subordinates. Other administrative posts were hold by Aediles or junior officers, Quaestors or treasurers, Tribunes or spokemen of Plebians.

Slavery in ancient Rome: Greece and to a greater extent Rome had been considered as "slave societies". To describe a community where slaves constitute a chief labour force and majority of the population. Full potential of slave mode of production was first time unfold by Rome. They played a vital role in the accumulation of surplus that sustained the lifestyle of the elite Romans. The major sources of supply of the slaves were a large number of military captives , piracy and plundering raids and by birth. There was no leisure for slaves. Another feature of the slavery was the existence of Gladiator, was an armed combatant who entertained audiences in Rome in violent confrontation with other Gladiator or wild animals. Anyway the slave revolt had been weakened the republic.

Agrarian economy: It was essentially based on agricultural surplus generated in the countryside of Rome, particularly in the large slave latifundia . South Italy was the producer of horse ranches, where as north Italy was the producer of Millet. Cereals and other crops were produced in the western part of Italy. On the other hand Spain and Gaul was the major suppliers of wheat, vine and olive. The tax demands of the central Government full filled the needs of the Roman government, such as supplying and financing the military, bureaucracy and the court.

Urbanisation: Establishment of big latifundia and settlement of aristocracy in general in the countryside led to the growth of rural markets (foras) which were essentially a place of meeting and exchange of goods and ideas. This facilitated the growth of urbanisation in general and Italy in particular. The Roman policy of controlling the far-flung territories by assimilating their residents into common culture and political life on Rome led to extension of Urbanisation in the provinces of Spain, Gaul and Britain.

Trade and Commerce: Not only agriculture but Roman trade and industry were also affected to a great extent by the presence of a large slave labour force. According to an estimate, percent of the artisan in Roman itself were on slave origin. Such a large production of slaves engaged in handicraft production presupposes a well-developed network of exchange of market for the consumption of the surplus produce. A few scholars are argued in favour of expansion of trade backed by the following assumptions: Firstly, the imposition of money taxes in the provinces by the Roman government greatly increased the volume of trade in the Roman Empire. Secondly, greater incidence of shipwrecks shows more seaborne trade than before and thirdly there was a growth of supply of money to finance greater interregional trade.