The Roman World: Lecture 22
Flavian Rome
Civil War 69 CE

‘The Year of the Four Emperors’

Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian

Wellesley, The Long Year AD69
Civil War 69 CE

sources: Tacitus’ *Histories* (books 1-3)

Suetonius *Lives*

- a succession of emperors from the military

Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian
## Civil War 69 CE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galba</td>
<td>June 68-January 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otho</td>
<td>January 69-April 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitellius</td>
<td>April 69-December 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vespasian</td>
<td>December 69-79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sestertius of 69 CE showing Servius Sulpicius Galba with title *Caes[ar] Aug[ustus]* previously governor of Spanish province Tarraconensis

http://www.wildwinds.com/coins/ric/galba/i.html
Tacitus being sententious about Galba

The man ‘everyone thought able to rule—if he hadn’t ruled’

(Histories 1.49)
Marcus Salvius Otho
governor of Lusitania

http://jaysromanhistory.com/romeweb/empcont/e056.htm
Galba  

Otho  

Nero

http://blog.naver.com/PostView.nhn?blogId=ksydiva&logNo=140162874114&redirect=Dlog&widgetTypeCall=true
Aulus Vitellius

Titus Flavius Vespasianus

http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/arc/neapolis/portrait.htm
The Flavian Dynasty

**Vespasian**: Titus Flavius Vespasianus

sons: **Titus** & **Domitian**
Vespasian:
emperor 69-79 CE
Arch of Titus, interior relief
Triumph with Titus entering Rome
Arch of Titus, interior relief: bringing back the spoils from Jerusalem
The Arch of Titus, Forum Romanum
The Flavian Amphitheatre begun by Vespasian, opened 80 CE
Vespasian’s famous last words

*Vae, inquit, puto, deus fio* (Suet. 23)
Martial *De Spectaculis Liber* 2.5-6, 11-12

Where the august Amphitheatre now rises above our eyes, was once Nero’s lake.....

Rome has been returned to itself, and under your rule, Caesar,

the delights that belonged to a master, now belong to a people.
Titus (79-81)

http://ancientrome.ru/art/artworken/img.htm?id=3531

Domitian (81-96)

http://tl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domitian
The Arch of Titus, Forum Romanum
Titus’ Deification
- carried to Heaven by an eagle

http://www.umich.edu/~kelseydb/Exhibits/Empire/views/v08.html
Suetonius & the joke on Domitian’s numerous triumphal arches

ARKI = *arci* = ‘arches’
ARKEI (Greek) = ‘enough!’

(Suet. *Dom.* 13)
The Domus Augustana

http://net-guide.hu/map/roma/pix/DomusAugustana2.jpg
Domitian the Tyrant?

Dominus et Deus

‘Lord and God’ (Dio 67.66)
Domitian’s paranoia

- N.B. revolt of Saturninus, 89 CE

He became daily more anxious and had fitted with phengite stone the walls of the porticoes where he used to walk, so that he would be able to see in the images reflected by the gleaming surface whatever was happening behind him.

(Suetonius Dom. 14)
Life under Domitian

Even Nero forbore to witness the abominations he ordered. Under Domitian more then half our wretchedness consisted in watching and being watched, while our very sighs were scored against us, and the blanched faces of us all were revealed in deadly contrast to that one scowling blush behind which Domitian sheltered against shame.

Tacitus *Agricola* 45
What happened after Domitian’s death?

- Nerva 96-8 [consul 71 & 90 CE]

And two military emperors from Spain:
- Trajan 98-117 [fought under Titus]
- Hadrian 117-38