Ancient Age -- up to 476 ce

**Bronze Age**

The Veneti are traders and horse breeders in the north-east of Italy.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_equi_veneti.pdf>

**218-203 bce**

The Veneti are *socii* of the Romans in the Punic wars against the Carthaginians.

**49 bce -- Roman Republic**

***Lex Roscia***: Roman citizenship granted by privilege to the whole *of Gallia Cisalpina* = more or less the Po plain.

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f7/Gallia_cisalpina_-_Shepherd_png.png>

The efficient, developing Roman law system is applied on a personal basis to the citizens of the territory, with advantages for trade and the protection of rights

**7 ce -- Roman Empire**

The first Roman emperor of antiquity, Augustus, divides Italy into *regiones* = regions; the north-east of Italy is *X Regio* = the tenth region, also called *Venetorum angulus* = the corner of the Veneti or *Venetia et Histria.*

The majority of the people live on the mainland, in villages and in the Roman cities *(Patavium, Vicetia, Tarvisium...)* and are called *Veneti* proper, while a minority lives in the coastal area and on the islands and lidi of the lagoons, working as fishermen, small traders, vegetable gardeners and salters.

Salt, the main means to preserve food, was of course a very important resource and a prized merchandise in antiquity and the middle ages.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_regiones.pdf>

**212 ce**

**Edict of Caracalla** = *constitutio Antoniniana:* all inhabitants of the Empire are Roman citizens.

The Roman law system is now applied on a territorial, non anymore a personal, basis; this allows for uniformity and consistency in government of the disparate provinces of the Empire and in the enforcement of the legal system, which is now seen as more efficient than preservation of the rules and ways of life of local peoples and cultures.

<https://cdn.gelestatic.it/limesonline/www/2020/03/impero_romano_edito_220_corretta.jpg>

**285-293 ce**

Emperor Diocletian introduces a division of the Empire in an Eastern and a Western part, each with an Augustus (emperor) and a Caesar (second-in-command and prospective successor), but the reform, called **tetrarchy** = rule of four is short-lived.

<http://www.capitolivm.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Prima_tetrarchia_Diocletianus.jpg>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portrait_of_the_Four_Tetrarchs>

**313 ce**

**Edict of Milan**: emperor Constantine allows free practice of the Christian religion.

A VIII century forgery, the ***Donatio Constantini***, in the form of an edict dated 315 ce, mentions the gift of Rome and the surrounding territory to the popes, together with the declaration of their primacy among bishops. Humanist scholar Lorenzo Valla will prove the deed a forgery in 1440, but it was widely taken as genuine in the West in the Middle Ages and even later.

On its basis, the popes will be taken to be not only the sovereigns of the Christian Church in the ancient Western Roman Empire, but also secular sovereigns of Rome and a growing number of adjoining territories in Italy.

[http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX\_doRoman natio\_constantini.pdf](http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_donatio_constantini.pdf)

**380 ce**

**Edict of Thessalonica** = *Cunctos populos:* Gratianus and Theodosius I prescribe Christianism as the official religion of the Empire.

The Empire acquires powers of government over the secular practice of Christianism; it also encroaches on the regulation of theological matters.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_edict_thessalonica.pdf>

**395 ce**

Theodosius II re-establishes the division of the Empire in a Western and an Eastern part.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_empire_395aD.jpg>

**from about 400 ce**

Incursions of Goths and other Germanic peoples from north-eastern Europe, Huns from central Asia and Vandals from the Iberian peninsula (they gave the name to Andaluçìa).

These and other "barbarians" are not necessarily uncivilised, but foreign poeples moving through Europe without establishing any permanent organisation of government. The migration began in Central Asia for reasons still unclear, and involved diverse peoples pushing their neighbours to the west like cars in a .pileup.

The *Veneti* of the mainland join the *Venetici* on the lagoons during the incursions, but return to their homes in the cities when the invaders move on.

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/df/fb/51/dffb51d0262ce308e11458611aafc1fd.jpg>

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_porfirogenitos.pdf>

**421 ce**

Alleged date of the foundation of the city of Venice by deliberation of the city Council of Patavium (which would not actually exist until the XII century!).

This was, in fact, a myth circulated against a rising Venice for political reasons in the early XII century, reprised in the XIV by chronicler Jacopo Dondi, and forged into an official document by the secretaries Jacopo Savonarola and Zuan Domanico Spazzarini in 1446, when civic records had to be rewritten after a fire destroyed the archives in Padua in 1420, fifteen years after its annexion by the Venetians.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_legends_421.pdf>

**426 ce**

**Edict of quotations**: emperors Theodosius II and Valentinian III impose as rules of law the whole doctrinal works of jurists Papinian, Paulus, Ulpianus, Modestinus and Gaius.

Consolidation of the part of the Roman law system formed by *iura* = answers to official questions about difficult cases, given by noted jurists on behalf of the emperors. This consolidation "by referral" ensures consistency of decisions by Roman judges throughout the Empires.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_theodosius_ii.pdf>

**438-439 ce**

***Codex Theodosianus****:* Theodosius II consolidates the whole of the *leges* = imperial legislation still in force *(edicta, constitutiones, pragmaticae)* in a compilation.

Now each civil servant sent to govern the different parts of the Empire is equipped with a whole, exhaustive, portable library of rules, composed of the *Codex Theodosianus* and the works of the approved jurists, enabling them to apply them consistently anywhere in the territories under Roman rule.

**476 ce**

**Odoacer**, commander of the Heruls engaged as troops in the Roman army, deposes in Rome the last Western emperor Romulus Augustulus.

Commanders of foreign troops had more than once seized the imperial power in the Western Empire, but Odoacer refuses to assume the imperial title offered by the Eastern Emperor. For this reason the date is conventionally taken as the end of the Western Roman Empire, as well as of the ancient age.

There will be **no more Roman government**: no magistrates, governors, judges and civil servants enforcing the Roman legal system.

Legislation turns into custom as former Roman and Latinised peoples, for want of better, keep following the old rules and begin updating them as necessary, in the same way as the Latin language slowly turns into vernacular speeches.

Different law systems coexist in the same territories and are applied on a personal, not territorial, basis according to ethnical and cultural membership. The newcomers keep their own customs during their (usually short) stay in the different areas of the former Western Roman Empire, while the conquered Latin peoples keep theirs.