Church History



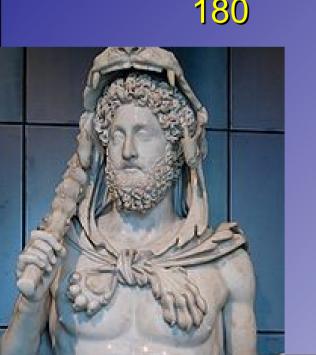
Church History

- Introduction to Church History
- The Ancient Church
- The Rise of Christendom
- The Early Middle Ages
- The Age of Crusades
- The Renaissance
- Conquest and Reformation
- The Age of Enlightenment
- The Age of Revolution
- The Modern Age
- The Postmodern Age

- AD 1st-3rd centuries
- AD 4th-5th centuries
- AD 6th-10th centuries
- AD 11th-13th centuries
- AD 14th-15th centuries
- AD 16th century
- AD 17th-18th centuries
- AD 19th century
- AD 20th century
- AD 21st century



The Second Century saw the beginnings of power struggles with Rome, and the endings of power struggles with Judaism 117 Hadrian becomes emperor after Trajan Antoninus Pius becomes emperor Marcus Aurelius becomes emperor Polycarp is martyred around 165 165-180 The Antonine Plague devastates the Roman Empire, killing five million people Commodus becomes emperor Or, as he liked to call himself, "Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus Augustus Herculeus Romanus Exsuperatorius Amazonius Invictus Felix Pius"





Funky little teaching moment—
Commodus marked a massive turning point in Roman culture and politics
At least two famous movies show Commodus as the precipitant of the fall of the Roman Empire (including The Fall of the Roman Empire)

Empire)
Commodus was the son of Marcus Aurelius, and common thinking of the day was that he only got the job because of his dad





Funky little teaching moment—
Commodus marked a massive turning point in Roman culture and politics
But unlike Marcus Aurelius, Commodus

rejected Stoicism completely, embracing a vibrant and chaotic lifestyle

He was physically strong and attractive, so he saw himself as a reincarnation of the lusty demigod, Hercules

He bled the economy dry with more taxes

to satisfy his sensualism, so when a grain blight brought about rioting for bread, he reinstituted the gladiatorial games and gave out free bread out to the people He himself fought in several (fixed) gladiatorial combats (usually naked), including fighting cripples, slaves, and injured Roman soldiers

He also frequently had citizens killed simply because he didn't like them... or thought that he might not like them



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But he also was ironically friendly toward Christians—in part because his father wasn't widow of his sister Lucilla's lover, Quadratus (whom Commodus had executed in 182), and a closeted Christian herself—asked for leniency toward Christians
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So, for instance, Christians were no longer executed for their faith or forced to work in the mines in Sardinia



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He also changed the names of the

He also changed the names of the months of the Roman calendar to reflect each of his twelve personal names



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Once he began threatening the lives of the
senators themselves, they'd had too much
They hired his personal trainer,
Narcissus, to assassinate him in 192

Marcia drugged Commodus, then
secretly let Narcissus into the
emperor's chambers, where he

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Contemporary Roman historian Cassius Dio
wrote that, because of Commodus, Rome
had descended "from a kingdom of gold to
one of iron and rust"

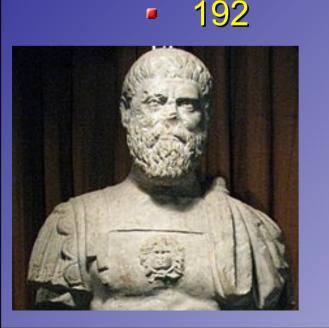


The Second Century saw the beginnings of power struggles with Rome, and the endings of power struggles with Judaism
117 Hadrian becomes emperor after Trajan
138 Antoninus Pius becomes emperor
161 Marcus Aurelius becomes emperor

Polycarp is martyred around 165
165-180 The Antonine Plague devastates the Roman Empire, killing five million people Commodus becomes emperor Pertinax becomes emperor for 3 months

He was a good man who tried to institute reforms to fix what Commodus had done to Rome...

and was thus murdered by his own corrupt Praetorian guards, who were upset to no longer be getting bribes





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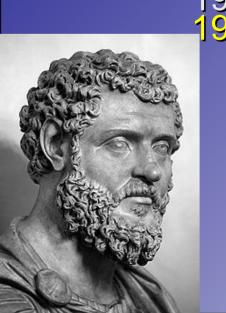
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Julianus becomes emperor for 3 months

Didius Julianus is a rich idiot who bought the throne from those same corrupt

Praetorian guards

He's regularly booed by crowds and hated by soldiers—the Eastern legions proclaim Pescennius Niger emperor, and the Western legions proclaim Clodius Albinus emperor instead



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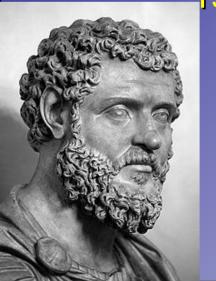
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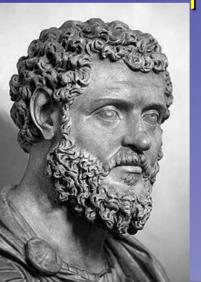
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Didius Julianus is a rich idiot who bought the throne from those same corrupt

Praetorian guards
He's finally killed by General Septimius
Severus (commanding the legions of
Eastern Europe)

Severus gets to Rome before the other two legion-backed generals and defeats the Praetorians, so...





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Septimus Severus becomes emperor (the fifth in the "Year of Five Emperors")

As part of his imperial house-cleaning attempting to build a peaceful, stable empire, he begins the most intense persecution of Christians yet—making conversions punishable by torture and public exection...





