

CONCORDIA

The following pages contain historical information about the divinities, cities, and provinces that play a role in Concordia. In addition, a variant is presented.

VARIANT FOR CONCORDIA: START WITHOUT GOODS

In this variant the players do not own any goods at the start of the game. Their storehouse starts with only 4 colonists. Instead they start with more money: The start player has 25 sestertii, the 2nd player 26 sestertii etc. In their first turn players may buy goods as they like paying the prices as shown on the roof of the storehouses. This variant offers an even more flexible start of the game.

DEVELOPMENT NOTES FOR CONCORDIA

In more than 2 years of development, Concordia had many testers and helpers. Peter Dörsam as publisher and critical tester wholeheartedly supported the project from its very beginning. In private rounds basically Yvonne Lange, Stephan Borowski, and Jens Külpmann endured my manifold proposals and leded them ad absurdum over and over, so that everytime new changes became inevitable. In addition, Lars Brüggling, Claudia Barmbold, Frank Lamprecht, Kai Wilke, Rüdiger Kuntze, Benjamin Schönheiter, Bastian Völkel, Heike López, and Michael López tested the game as busy as a beaver. Gaming groups like the gamers from Rieckhof, Gert Wahlstedt's Urania club, the gamers of Wedel, or „Game with Pete“ in Jork also were engaged. For a broader public Concordia was presented in ever changing versions on the event at Burg Stahleck, the Bremer Spieletage, the Hamburger Fest der Spiele, the Hamburger Spieletage, and the Herner Spiewahnsinn. I visited Paulo Soledade in Portugal to present the game at LeiriaCon, and visited Pietro Cremona in Italy to present it at the Play in Modena and at his gaming club in Cesena, where it was played with great enthusiasm. Foreign test groups established themselves with Pietro Cremona in Italy, with Mark W. Bigney (USA), with Ralph H. Anderson (USA), and with Simmy Peerutin in South Africa. Without the quick and great help of Mark and Ralph the translation of the English texts would not exist. Finally, Marina Fahrenbach added the wonderful graphic design. I want to thank all the named and un-named testers and helpers, without them Concordia would not have come to existence!

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Mac Gerdt's

ROMAN GODS

AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN THE GAME

VESTA

is the goddess of home and hearth. She rewards the virtue of prosperity, which players demonstrate in their accumulated cash and stored goods.

JUPITER

is the mightiest Roman divinity and guardian of the Roman state. He rewards the the virtue of city building demonstrated by the number of non-brick cities built.

SATURNUS

is the divinity of sowing and agriculture. He rewards the virtue of agriculture demonstrated by the number of provinces in which players have built houses.

MERCURIUS

is the divinity of trade and thieves. He rewards the virtue of diversity demonstrated by the number of types of goods the player produces.

MARS

is the divinity of war and protector of growth. He rewards the virtue of colonization demonstrated by the number of colonists a player commands.

MINERVA

is the goddess of craft, wisdom, and arts. She rewards the virtue of craftsmanship demonstrated by the number of houses devoted to selected crafts.

CONCORDIA

is the goddess of harmony and patron of unity for the citizens of Rome. She rewards the virtue of harmony demonstrated by the player who finished the game by peaceful means.

ANCIENT CITIES NOWADAYS

(Cities on the board „Imperium“ in order of provinces from I Britannia to XII Aegyptus)

Ancient city	nowadays name	Ancient city	nowadays name
Isca Dumnoniorum	Exeter (GB, 118,000 inhabitants)	Napoca	Cluj-Napoca (RO, 325,000 inhabitants)
Londinium	London (GB, 8,300,000 inhabitants)	Sirmium	in ruins (Yugoslavia)
Lutetia	Paris (F, 12,000,000 inhabitants)	Tomis	Constanța (RO, 284,000 inhabitants)
Burdigala	Bordeaux (F, 1,100,000 inhabitants)	Dyrrhachium	Durrës (AL, 208,000 inhabitants)
Massilia	Marseille (F, 1,600,000 inhabitants)	Athenae	Athens (GR, 4,000,000 inhabitants)
Brigantium	La Coruña (E, 246,000 inhabitants)	Leptis Magna	in ruins (Lybia)
Olisipo	Lisbon (P, 2,800,000 inhabitants)	Cyrene	in ruins (Lybia)
Valentia	València (E, 1,700,000 inhabitants)	Bycantium	Istanbul (TR, 13,900,000 inhabitants)
Colonia Agrippina	Cologne (D, 1,010,000 inhabitants)	Sinope	Sinop (TR 39,000 inhabitants)
Vindobona	Vienna (A, 2,400,000 inhabitants)	Attalia	Antalya (TR 1,042,000 inhabitants)
Novaria	Novara (I, 105,000 inhabitants)	Antiochia	Antakya (TR, 217,000 inhabitants)
Aquileia	Aquileia (I, 3,500 inhabitants)	Tyros	Tyre (RL, 135,000 inhabitants)
Syracusae	Syracuse (I, 119,000 inhabitants)	Alexandria	Alexandria (ET, 4,500,000 inhabitants)
Rusadir	Melilla (E, 73,000 inhabitants)	Memphis	in ruins (Egypt)
Carthago	Carthage (TN, 21,000 inhabitants)	Petra	in ruins (Jordan)

ROMAN PROVINCES

The provinces as shown on the game board are not all really correct from the historians view, because the administrative composition of the Roman Empire was much more complex than depicted, and even more were an object of permanent changes. The historical information as compiled here follows a necessity from the game's perspective to limit the number of provinces to 12. I have to thank Mark W. Bigney for editing the text, because my English was awful!



In 55 and 54 BC Julius Caesar landed his troops in Britannia in order to cut the Belgian tribes off from their fresh supplies from the British Isles. After severe setbacks in the wars with the Germans, Emperor Augustus ceased his plans to occupy Britannia for a while. But in 43 AC the Romans landed again and began to gradually conquer the province. They benefited from internal conflicts between the British tribes and crushed one tribe after another. In order to secure the conquests they erected forts and military bases throughout Britannia. In 59 AC there was an upheaval that soon engulfed main parts of the Southeast, which the Romans could finally defeat. It was as late as 84 AC that the northern boundary of the province was determined.

After another upheaval of the Brigantes, Emperor Hadrian decided in 118 AC to fortify the northern frontier with a wall that later was named after him. This fortification reached about 130 km from current-day Newcastle in the east to Carlisle in the west and was equipped with 17 castles. Antonius' wall further north, which was erected later in 142 AC, had to be abandoned 40 years later, and again for a long time Hadrian's wall secured peace for the British provinces. Emperor Septimus Severus, who died in Eburacum (current-day York) in 211, strengthened this wall even more. Already in the first century, the residence of the Roman governor was moved from Camulodunum (Colchester) to Londinium (London).

Britannia was important for the Romans because of its wheat, cattle, gold, silver, pelts, slaves, and excellent hunting dogs. The gold mines were located in Wales, Scotland, and Cornwall. In addition there was considerable mining of copper and tin, which was used to produce bronze.

Beginning in 343, Britannia was increasingly becoming an object of Saxon, Pict, and Scot aggression. More and more regular troops were retreated from the island to protect the empire elsewhere, and the people had to defend themselves with own forces. The Hadrian Wall was abandoned around 400, and instead the remaining settlements were fortified. The last regular troops left Britannia in 410. Afterwards the Roman civil government decayed step by step as the Picts, Scots, and Saxons invaded. Formally, the Roman Empire never resigned on Britannia, as even as late as 540 the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I. claimed it to be part of his Empire



Since 125 BC Rome began to conquer the French Mediterranean coast as well as the valley of the river Rhone. It was the Roman commander Gaius Julius Caesar who undertook it from 58 to 51 BC to conquer the whole of Gallia. The Gallic chief Vercingetorix was finally smashed in the battle at Alesia. The new domain stretched up to the river Rhine and thus incorporated some German tribes as well. In the course of pacification a Roman civil government was installed and soon a Gallo-Roman mixed culture emerged. At first, only the local elites were awarded eligible Roman citizenship in order to incite them to cooperate. But after some time it became quite common to include Gallo-Romans to the Senate. In 212 AC Emperor Caracalla granted Roman citizenship to all inhabitants of the Empire and hence the Gallic people as well.

The first economic and cultural heyday stopped at the time of the Empire's crisis in the 3rd century. The province was devastated by Barbarian invaders and internal strife, and was virtually independent from Rome after 260 until Emperor Aurelian regained control.

In late antiquity the situation eased out again. Around 300 castles were modernized, and several Roman Emperors resided partly in Lutetia (Paris), Augusta Treverorum (Trier) and Vienne. Christian belief became common quite quickly, although pagan cults survived in rural areas until as late as the 5th century. Especially in the 4th century, when several Emperors stayed for longer times in Gallia, ancient culture experienced another golden age.

The following Migrations Period stopped prosperity and peace in Gallia for a long time. After crossing the Rhine in winter 406, mixed bands of Vandals, Alans, Goths and Suebi began to ravage Gaul. In the 5th century, the Franks, Burgundians and West Goths established their reign in Gallia, and acted as independent kingdoms after the collapse of the Roman Empire. In 470 the Roman commander Paulus fell in a battle against Saxon raiders. Up until 486/487 Sygarius, son of a Roman military leader, held position in the north, but his domain was incorporated with force into the Frankonian kingdom of Chlodwig I., which was eventually destined to gain control over the whole of Gaul.



After the Carthaginians had lost Sicily, Corsica, and Sardinia as a result of the first Punic war, they expanded on the Iberian peninsula and established a new power base until 218 BC. When Hannibal attacked the Iberian city of Saguntum that was allied to the Romans in 219 BC, the second Punic war began. In the Spring of 218 BC Hannibal gathered approximately 100,000 men and war elephants, and marched towards Italy crossing Gallia and the Alps. Only a small garrison of troops was left behind to protect Hispania.

A year later the Romans disembarked 60 vessels in Emporion to cut off Hannibal's supplies. They finally expelled the Carthaginians out of the region in 206 BC and integrated it into their empire. Hispania was a prosperous province and exported wood, vermilion, gold, iron, tin, lead, ceramics, marble, wine, and olive oil.

In the course of the Migrations Period the first big invasion of Germanic tribes of Alans, Suebi, and Vandals occurred in 409 AC. The Romans reacted and asked their allies the West Goths for help in 415, and they settled in Aquitaine in southern Gaul in 418 where they established their own kingdom. In 456 the West Goths invaded Hispania, where the Romans had asked them to smash the Suebi. But in 469 the west Goths rebelled against Roman rule and plundered the last regions still under Roman control in 472. That was the end of Roman history in Hispania for the time being.

In 551/52 the Byzantine Emperor Justinian sent an expeditionary corps to the south of Spain. Benefiting from internal conflicts between the Goths, he succeeded in conquering a considerable area, which was organized as a province named "Spania" with Cartagena as its capital. When the west Goths conquered Cartagena in 625, this time the Roman presence on the Iberian peninsula was definitively over.





The first contact between Roman troops and Germanic tribes inside the area later to be named “Germania” took place around 50 BC during the Gallic wars of Julius Caesar. The campaigns of Drusus beginning in 12 BC led the Romans over the Rhine heading East, and eventually under the command of Germanicus they went as far as the river Elbe. But in the Varian disaster 9 AC, the Romans were smashed and lost 3 legions. Because of the strong resistance of the Germans the expeditions past the Rhine were abandoned after 16 AC.

The Roman historian Tacitus lauded the Germans for their puritanical family life, their true and candid character, their courage when waging wars, and their sense of freedom. But he criticised their dullness, their addiction to games of dice, and their excessive drinking habits.

In the 2nd century the province was enlarged considerably east of the Rhine by advancing the fortified frontier (Limes). The importance of Germania did not derive from its size or economic basis, but rather more from their location at the threatened borders of the empire. Therefore Germania was dominated by the military. The commander of the Roman troops in the province of upper Germania had important military influence, because he could move his legions to Italy in quite a short time. It can be assumed that Traian became Roman Emperor in 97 AC easily because he commanded legions in Germania at that time.

Between 260 and 280 the Romans had to give up their territory east of the Rhine and to withdraw from the fortifications of the limes. The military frontier was withdrawn to the rivers Rhine and Danube.

In the winter of 406 German attackers crossed the Rhine as part of the Migrations Period and sacked several Roman cities. In the early 5th century (411-435) Burgundian troops controlled the area together with regular Roman forces until they finally revolted in 436 and were brutally defeated. After 455, first the Alemanni and later the Merovingian Franks followed the Roman reign at the Rhine. When Clovis I. succeeded his father as king in 482 he was formally assigned as administrator of the province Germania Prima, which after that time eventually became crown land of the Franks. Even Charles the Great was crowned by Pope Leo III in 800 at Rome as Emperor of the “Holy Roman Empire of German Nation” and thus wanted to continue the tradition of a Roman Empire.



Beginning in the 4th century BC, Rome created a widespread system of alliances during several wars in Mid-Italy. New colonies were founded at locations that were strategically important. From these times Rome emerged as a strong state with a powerful army and thus was prepared for its further rise to become a world power.

Perilous opponents were at first the Etruscan civilization up north, and later the Celts in the Po valley as well as the Greek colonies in the south. The Greek city states were conquered around 275 BC after their commander Pyrrhus, although he won his battles, had suffered devastating losses of troops against the Romans. This led Rome into conflict with Carthage, which was resolved in three bloody Punic Wars. During the first Punic War (264-241 BC) the Carthaginians were expelled out of Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. During the second Punic War (218-201 BC) their general Hannibal, who had invaded the Italian peninsula crossing the Alps, almost succeeded in subduing Rome. But the Roman commander Scipio sailed to Africa in 204 BC and beat Hannibal, who had returned home to protect his country, at the battle of Zama in 202 BC. Carthage lost all its domains outside Africa and its fleet. During the third Punic War Carthage was finally destroyed and erased in 146 BC.

However, in spite of the Roman successes overseas, the internal order of Italia was at stake. Because of the victorious military campaigns more and more coinage and slaves entered the country. Rich citizens acquired great land estates and the middle class could not compete economically any more. What followed was widespread poverty, rural exodus, and grave dissatisfaction among the people. There were attempts for political and economic reforms, but they all failed due to the landowners and the conservative senate who showed no willingness to alter things. Tension remained for many years and resulted in a period of bloody civil wars. After Caesar was murdered in 44 BC, the Roman Republic came to an end and was replaced by monarchy.

In the following Imperial Age Italia remained peaceful and reached a high level of prosperity. In late ancient times, Rome had far more than 1 million inhabitants who were distracted with bread and games. But the Migrations Period struck Italy hard. In 410 Rome, which had not been attacked for many hundreds of years before, was plundered by the West Goths and 455 again by the Vandals. Permanent depredation, intestine wars among invaders, and pestilence destroyed the ancient culture and economy of Italy. In Medieval times, Rome was diminished to no more than 20,000 inhabitants.



After Carthage was defeated in 146 BC, Rome established a minor colony in Northern Africa. Under the reign of Emperor Augustus, Roman culture and administration quickly spread from East to West following the Atlas mountain ranges, and a period of heavy urbanization began. Augustus as well founded a new Carthage on the ruins of the erased city that consistently prospered and reached a population of even 250,000 inhabitants. Between the 1st and 4th century the survival of Rome as an ancient mega-city depended on the delivery of grain and olives from Africa. The climate in ancient times was much more humid than today and promoted flourishing settlements in areas which currently are deserts. The street network in North Africa was the best developed in the whole empire. Apart from the important agricultural products, the province delivered crimson and precious timber as well.

Military presence of Romans in the province was generally low. Although there occurred occasional conflicts with nomads in the hinterlands, the cities were hardly affected. Only 15,000 auxiliary forces were stationed that were recruited mainly from locals. On the whole, the defence of the North African provinces was far easier to organize than the defence for the provinces in the North of the empire. Britannia alone, which was smaller by far, needed three legions to maintain up peace.

During the Migrations Period the Vandals entered Mauretania via the Iberian peninsula in May 429. They were granted land, but later broke the treaties and conquered Carthage in 439, where they also captured considerable naval forces. With the help of this fleet they started to conquer Sicily, Sardinia, and the Balearic islands. In 455 their king Genseric even plundered Rome, which was the origin of the expression “vandalism”. During the Arab expansion in the 7th century the whole province came under Islamic rule.





During the winter of 85/86 AC Dacian hordes of warriors crossed the river Danube and attacked the Romans completely unexpected. Their pillage and plunder could hardly be stopped. As a result, the Roman Emperor Domitian decided not only to throw them out of Roman domains again, but also to conduct a punitive expedition. The fighting against the obstinate enemy persisted for the whole year 86 AC. Finally it was Emperor Trajan who could fully conquer the Dacians as late as 106 after a long and bloody war. The bounty of war brought to Rome consisted of 331 tons of silver and 165 tons of gold. This was highly welcomed and helped among other things to build the Trajan Forum in Roma. During a period of Barbarian attacks in 117 and 118, the Romans considered giving up the province, but they decided against it because Dacia was of great strategic importance and was a source of plentiful mineral resources. Countless mines provided the Romans with gold, silver, lead, copper, iron, marble, and salt. The flourishing forestry and agriculture was also of high importance, and delivered wood, wool, cattle, pelts etc.

The province of Dacia consisted mainly of what is currently Romania, but after a re-organization also included areas south of the Danube river. With the exception of the South it was mainly surrounded at all frontiers by Barbarians. After a long period of peace, strong Barbarian hordes gathered to attack the province in 235. From then on, Dacia was a place of permanent unrest and battles, where the number of stationed Roman troops is estimated to have amounted to around 30,000 men. Finally Emperor Aurelian felt impelled in 271 to retreat his forces and administration to south of the Danube river. His intention was to create a buffer zone and indeed the Goths and other German tribes needed several decades to seize and control the region. Thus some protection for the empire against further Barbarians was secured for a while.

Even today the Roman heritage has survived in the Romanian language that is part of the Roman family of languages, and the name of the Province Dacia is also present as an internationally well-known brand of motorcars.



“Hellas” was the Greek word for their country, while the Romans themselves called the province Achaëa. The region was captured by the Romans in 146 BC and was initially part of the province of Macedonia. Under the reign of Emperor Augustus Achaëa was constituted as an independent senatorial province and covered the Greek mainland including the largest portion of the Greek islands. Some cities, such as Athenae and Sparta, could preserve a formal status as a free city.

The Greek people suffered under the Roman tax and leasehold system. The development of great land estates changed the character of the Greek agricultural structure considerably. The province exported mainly wine from the northern Peloponnes, honey and olive oil from Attica, and marble from Thessalia and several islands. Products of craftsmanship and art were manufactured mainly in Athens.

A very important export was education. Ancient Greece is often described as the cradle of Europe especially because of their contributions to civilization in the fields of philosophy, natural sciences, historiography, and literature. Many Romans visited the classical sites of Hellas and regarded the province as kind of an open air museum. Furthermore, Athens was the base of an academy and lecturing place of philosophers, where Romans like Cicero visited lectures on philosophy, rhetoric, and philology. Greek slaves were highly respected in Rome where they worked on a high educational level in professions like teachers and physicians. The attraction of the Olympic Games was still alive, where even Emperor Nero was among the participants.

At the partition of the Roman Empire in 395 AC, Achaëa became part of the Eastern half, later to be known as the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine “Thema Hellas” was largely identical with the former Roman province of Achaëa. The cultural influence of Greece remained strong and Greek became the uncontested official language in the Eastern Roman Empire. The philosophical academy in Athens was closed as late as 531 by an edict of Justinian I, which accelerated the decline of the city.



Tripolitania in the West and Cyrenaica in the East were conquered by the Romans in the first century BC. Only the Garamantes in the South of Lybia, who had their own Berber kingdom, remained independent. The Roman rule enhanced trade, especially since piracy was effectively suppressed. The cities took advantage of a prosperous agriculture that gained new markets throughout the lands around the Mediterranean Sea, and of the caravan trade with the Sahel zone, from where ivory, gold, and African slaves were imported. The province itself exported wine, olive oil, wheat, and horses. Emperor Septimius Severus (190–211) equipped his birth town Leptis Magna and other cities with gorgeous buildings. This enhanced the building industry and gave long lasting stimulus to the local economy.

At the end of the 2nd century Rome decided to protect the southern border with a chain of desert castles against the constant threat of warlike Berber tribes. The Limes Tripolitanus was built between 197 and 201 and since then was constantly enlarged and fortified further.

After the partition of the Roman Empire in 395, Lybia was a province of the Eastern Empire. At the turn of the 5th century desert tribes invaded. Justinian tried to recover and strengthen the lines of defense, but that measure was only successful in the short term. With the conquest of Cyrenaica by the Islamic expansion in 643, the province ceased to exist.





Pergamon became a Roman province thanks to a testamentary contract in 133 BC. The same statute was given to the remains of the Seleucid Empire, which finally collapsed in 63 BC and was divided between the Roman Empire and the Parthian Empire in the East. The Roman expansion to the East was stopped by the Parthians, who for centuries were a mighty empire on a par with the Romans.

Asia was a rich and prominent province, especially thanks to the many cities within it. Ephesos struggled mainly with Pergamon and Smyrna for the predominant status inside the province. The cities were populated mainly by Greeks, whereas the countryside contained a pre-Greek population. The "Pax Romana" under Emperor Augustus heralded a Golden Age that continued until the 2nd century. The emperors Traian and Hadrian visited Asia. As soon as 50 AC Christian belief began to flourish and some seats of bishopric were established. The first Christian councils were held in Asia as well.

In the 4th century Constantinople (formerly Byzantium) became the capital of the East Roman Empire. Thus Asia Minor was more politically central. After the conquest of Egypt, Palestine, and Syria by the Arabs in the 7th century, Asia was the main domain of the Byzantine Empire. In the middle of the 14th century most Byzantine cities were lost to the Turks. Finally in 1453 even Constantinople was conquered by them.

The Roman province of Syria was established in 63 AC after general Pompeius demolished the Seleucid Empire. The territory of Syria as it exists today is a little smaller than the former Roman province.

The mighty governor of Syria resided in Antiochia, as the capital of the province that was one of the biggest and most important cities of the empire. In addition strong military forces were stationed in the region to protect the Eastern border against the dangerous Parthian threat. Syria produced amongst other things olive oil, wine, cedar wood, purple cloth, glassware, and small pieces of furniture adorned with ivory. In addition Syria was the endpoint for the silk road from China and traded with silk from China and spices from India.

Herodes Archelaos, who controlled Judea, Samaria, and Edom, was banned by Emperor Augustus in 6 AC. His kingdom now became part of the empire. After the Great Jewish Revolt this area was reorganized and under the reign of Hadrian incorporated into Syria, then called Syria-Palaestina.

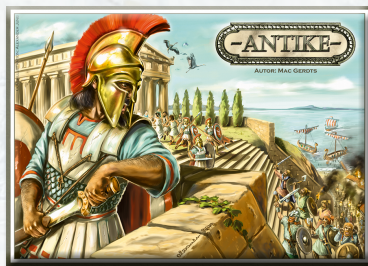
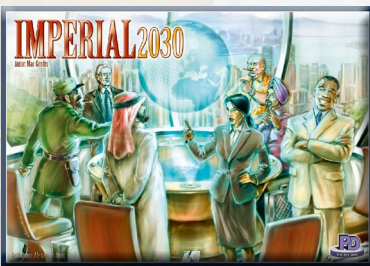
Although invaded now and then by the Sasanian Empire of Persia, the region flourished until the middle of the 6th century and was - apart from Egypt - of greatest importance to the empire. In the 7th century the Syrian provinces were overtaken by the Arab expansion.

The friendly relationship between Rome and Egypt was of an early origin. During the second Punic War, when a famine had developed in Italy, King Ptolemaios IV of Egypt sent a lot of corn as famine relief in 210 BC. It was then that the Romans finally realized the importance of the kingdom at the river Nile.

At the times of Caesar the Roman Empire tried to take a stronger political influence in Egypt. Rome intervened during a conflict about the successor to the throne and reinstated Ptolemaios XII who before had been expelled. From then on Roman military forces were stationed at the Nile, and the romance between Caesar and Cleopatra was certainly politically motivated as well. After the murder of Caesar in 44 BC it was Marcus Antonius who won Cleopatra's heart, and with her help he fought against his rival Octavius who later became Emperor Augustus. In 31 BC Cleopatra and Antonius fled from Rome back to Egypt, but because every military resistance against their pursuers proved to be in vain, both took their life. In 30 BC Egypt was finally incorporated as a province of the Roman Empire.

In comparison to other provinces, Egypt played a special role as a granary of the Roman Empire. Egypt alone shipped 150,000 tons of grain to the city of Roma each year. Apart from the cults, where the Roman Emperor used to represent a role of a Pharaoh, the traditions of the Ptolemaic monarchy were not perpetuated. At the beginning of the 2nd century Egypt experienced a big upheaval of the Jewish people that ended with the erasure of Jewish life in Egypt in 117 AC. After the partition of the Roman Empire in 395 the province was part of the East Roman Empire. From 640 Egypt was an object of Arab expansion, and with the fall of Alexandria in 642 the whole region fell under Islamic influence.

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