**List of Roman Emperors**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about emperors until Justinian dynasty. For a complete list including the* [*Eastern Roman Emperors*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Byzantine_Emperors)*, see* [*General list of Roman emperors*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_list_of_Roman_emperors)*. For more information, see* [*History of the Roman Empire*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Roman_Empire)*.*

Augustus, first Roman Emperor in the Principate Era.

The title of *Roman Emperor*, although in some ways a modern concept, effectively summarizes the position held by those individuals who wielded power in the [Roman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire). The Roman Empire developed from the [Roman Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Republic) after its ascent to the dominant power in Europe, and is characterized by the concentration of power in one individual, rather than the "Senate and People of Rome". However, [Augustus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus_Caesar), universally accepted to have been the first emperor, was careful to maintain the facade of republican rule, and took no specific title to mark his rule (which began in 27 BC). Instead, he simply concentrated the pre-existing powers of [Roman magistrates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_magistrate) upon his own person, taking the existing honorific of '[Princeps Senatus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princeps_Senatus)' (the first man of the senate). This style of government, which lasted for nearly 300 years, is thus called the '[Principate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principate)'. The modern word 'emperor' derives from the title '[Imperator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperator)', which was granted by an army to a successful general; as such, during the initial phase of the Roman Empire, it still had to be earned by the 'Princeps'. The term 'emperor', though modern, is used when describing rulers of the Roman Empire, since (a) it emphasises the strong links between the ruler and the army (on whose support the ruler's power depended), and (b) does not discriminate between the style of rule in different phases of the Empire.

In the late 3rd century AD, after the [Crisis of the Third Century](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis_of_the_Third_Century), [Diocletian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian) formalized and embellished the recent manner of imperial rule, establishing the so-called '[Dominate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominate)' period of the Roman Empire. This was characterized by the explicit decrease of authority in the person of the Emperor, and the use of the style 'Dominus Noster' ('Our Lord'). From Diocletian onwards, there were often multiple simultaneous emperors, dividing the rule of the vast territories between them. After 395 AD, and the death of [Theodosius I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_I), the Empire became more firmly split into [Western](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire) and [Eastern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Roman_Empire) halves They were not legally separate however, and the Emperor of the more stable Eastern Empire often imposed his authority over the Western half. The Western Empire was heavily troubled after 395 AD, and collapsed completely after 455 AD, the last Western Emperor abdicating in 476 AD; after which the Emperor in Constantinople ruled without partner and maintained claim to the territories in the west. The Empire would continue until 1453, and the capture of [Constantinople](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantinople) by the [Ottoman Turks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Turks). Later Emperors in the east have been called [Byzantine Emperors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Emperor) by Western scholars since at least the 18th century, but were considered by themselves and their contemporaries to continue an unbroken succession of Roman Emperors. The listing of the Eastern Emperors in this article ends at the start of the 7th century with [Maurice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_%28emperor%29), last of the [Justinian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_dynasty), and the last Emperor whose Empire still bore a strong resemblance to the Roman Empire of previous centuries and whose reign concludes the final era of [Late Antiquity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Antiquity).

The emperors listed in this article are those generally agreed to have been 'legitimate' emperors (e.g. not usurpers, etc.). However, since the emperorship was rather vaguely defined legally, which persons were 'legitimate' is not easy to define; many of the 'legitimate' emperors accessed to the position by usurpation, and many 'illegitimate' claimants had a legitimate claim to the position. The following criteria can be used to derive the list:

* Any individual who undisputedly ruled the whole Empire, *at some point*, must, in point of fact, be a 'legitimate emperor'(1).
* Any individual who was nominated as heir *or* co-emperor by a legitimate emperor (1), and who succeeded to rule *in his own right*, is a legitimate emperor (2).
* Where there were multiple claimants, and none were legitimate heirs, the claimant accepted by the [Roman Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate) as emperor is the legitimate emperor (3), at least during the [Principate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principate).

So for instance, [Aurelian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurelian), though acceding to the throne by usurpation, was the sole and undisputed monarch between 274–275 AD, and thus was a legitimate emperor. Gallienus, though not in control of the whole Empire, and plagued by other claimants, was the legitimate heir of (the legitimate emperor) [Valerian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerian_%28emperor%29). [Claudius Gothicus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudius_Gothicus), though acceding illegally, and not in control of the whole Empire, was the only claimant accepted by the Senate, and thus, for his reign, was the legitimate emperor. Equally, during the [Year of the Four Emperors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Four_Emperors), all claimants, though not undisputed, were at some point accepted by the Senate and are thus included; conversely, during the [Year of the Five Emperors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Five_Emperors) neither [Pescennius Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pescennius_Niger) nor [Clodius Albinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clodius_Albinus) were accepted by the Senate, and are thus not included. There are a few examples where individuals were made co-emperor, but never wielded power in their own right (typically the child of an emperor); these are legitimate, but are listed together with the 'senior' emperor.

The above formula holds until 395, when the Western and Eastern halves of the Empire split. After that, it continues to hold, with the caveat that a legitimate emperor had undisputed control over one half of the Empire. Towards the end of the Western Empire (after 455), the Western emperor ceased to be a relevant figure and there was sometimes actually no claimant. Some of Western Emperors were not recognized by the Eastern Empire, but for the sake of historical completeness, all Western Emperors after that point are included. For instance, [Romulus Augustus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romulus_Augustus) was technically a usurper who ruled only the Italian peninsula and was never legally recognized. However, he was traditionally considered the "last Roman Emperor" by 18th and 19th century western scholars and his overthrow by [Odoacer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoacer) used as the marking point between historical epochs. However, modern scholarship has confirmed that Romulus Augustus' predecessor, [Julius Nepos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Nepos) continued to rule as Emperor in the other Western holdings and as a figurehead for Odoacer's rule in Italy until Nepos' death in 480. Since the question of what constitutes an emperor can be ambiguous, and dating the "fall of the Western Empire" arbitrary, this list includes details of both figures.

**The Principate Period**

Main article: [Principate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principate)

**Julio-Claudian dynasty**

Main article: [Julio-Claudian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julio-Claudian_dynasty)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Augustus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus)IMPERATOR CAESAR DIVI FILIVS **AVGVSTVS** | September 23 63 BC, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Became *de facto* emperor as a result of the 'first settlement' between himself and the [Roman Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate). | January 16, 27 BC – August 19, 14 AD | August 19, 14 AD[Natural causes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_causes). | 40 Years, 7 Months |
|  | [**Tiberius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius)**TIBERIVS** IVLIVS CAESAR AVGVSTVS | November 16 42 BC, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) | Son of [Augustus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus)'s wife [Livia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livia) by a previous marriage; adopted son of [Augustus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus). | September 18, 14 AD – March 16, 37 AD | March 16, 37 ADProbably natural causes, possibly assassinated by [Caligula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caligula) | 22 Years, 6 Months |
|  | [**Caligula**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caligula)**GAIVS** IVLIVS CAESAR AVGVSTVS GERMANICVS | August 31, 12 AD, [Antium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anzio), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | [Tiberius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius)'s great-nephew and adopted grandson; great-grandson of [Augustus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus). | March 18, 37 AD – January 24, 41 AD | January 24, 41 ADAssassinated in a conspiracy involving senators and [Praetorian Guards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard). | 3 Years, 10 Months |
|  | [**Claudius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudius)TIBERIVS **CLAVDIVS** CAESAR AVGVSTVS GERMANICVS | August 1, 10 BC, [Lugdunum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lugdunum), [Gallia Lugdunensis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallia_Lugdunensis) | Nephew of [Tiberius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius), brother of [Germanicus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanicus) and uncle of [Caligula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caligula); proclaimed emperor by the [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard). | January 25/26, 41 AD – October 13, 54 AD | October 13, 54 ADProbably poisoned by his wife [Agrippina the Younger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agrippina_the_Younger), in favour of her son [Nero](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nero), possibly natural causes. | 13 Years, 9 Months |
|  | [**Nero**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nero)**NERO** CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVGVSTVS GERMANICVS | December 15, 37 AD, [Antium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anzio), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Grandson of [Germanicus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanicus), nephew of Caligula, step- and adopted son of [Claudius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudius); great-great-grandson of [Augustus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus). | October 13, 54 AD – June 9, 68 AD | June 9, 68 ADCommitted suicide after being declared a public enemy by the Senate. | 13 Years, 8 Months |

**Year of the Four Emperors and Flavian Dynasty**

Main articles: [Year of the Four Emperors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Four_Emperors) and [Flavian Dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flavian_Dynasty)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Galba**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galba)SERVIVS SVLPICIVS **GALBA** CAESAR AVGVSTVS | December 24 3 BC, Near [Terracina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terracina), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Seized power after [Nero](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nero)'s suicide, with support of the Spanish legions | June 8, 68 AD – January 15, 69 AD | January 15, 69 ADMurdered by [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) in coup led by [Otho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otho). | 7 Months |
|  | [**Otho**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otho)MARCVS SALVIVS **OTHO** CAESAR AVGVSTVS | April 28, 32 AD, [Ferentinum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferentinum), [Etruria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etruria), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Appointed by [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) | January 15, 69 AD – April 16, 69 AD | April 16, 69 ADCommitted suicide after losing [Battle of Bedriacum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Bedriacum) to [Vitellius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitellius) | 3 months 1 day (91 days) |
|  | [**Vitellius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitellius)AVLVS **VITELLIVS** GERMANICVS AVGVSTVS | September 24, 15 AD, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) | Seized power with support of German Legions (in opposition to [Galba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galba)/[Otho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otho)) | April 17, 69 AD – December 20, 69 AD | December 20, 69 ADMurdered by [Vespasian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespasian)'s troops | 8 Months |
|  | [**Vespasian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespasian)TITVS FLAVIVS CAESAR **VESPASIANVS** AVGVSTVS | November 17, 9 AD, [Falacrine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falacrina), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Seized power with the support of the eastern Legions (in opposition to [Vitellius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitellius)) | July 1, 69 AD – June 24, 79 AD | June 24, 79 ADNatural causes | 10 years |
|  | [**Titus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus)**TITVS** FLAVIVS CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVGVSTVS | December 30, 39 AD, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) | Son of [Vespasian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespasian) | June 24, 79 AD – September 13, 81 AD | September 13, 81 ADNatural causes (Plague) | 2 years, 3 months |
|  | [**Domitian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domitian)TITVS FLAVIVS CAESAR **DOMITIANVS** AVGVSTVS | October 24, 51 AD, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) | Son of [Vespasian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespasian) | September 14, 81 AD – September 18, 96 AD | September 18, 96 ADAssassinated by court officials | 15 years |

**Nervan-Antonian dynasty**

Main article: [Nervan-Antonian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nervan-Antonian_dynasty)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Nerva**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerva)MARCVS COCCEIVS **NERVA** CAESAR AVGVSTVS | November 8, 30 AD, [Narni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narni), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Appointed by the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate) | September 18, 96 AD – January 27, 98 AD | January 27, 98 ADNatural causes | 1 year, 4 months |
|  | [**Trajan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan)CAESAR MARCVS VLPIVS NERVA **TRAIANVS** AVGVSTVS | September 18, 53 AD, [Italica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italica), [Hispania Baetica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispania_Baetica) | Adopted son and heir of [Nerva](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerva) | January 28, 98 AD – August 7, 117 AD | August 7, 117 ADNatural causes | 19 years, 7 months |
|  | [**Hadrian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian)CAESAR PVBLIVS AELIVS TRAIANVS **HADRIANVS** AVGVSTVS  | January 24, 76 AD, [Italica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italica), [Hispania Baetica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispania_Baetica) (or [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome)) | Adopted son and heir of [Trajan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan) | August 11, 117 AD – July 10, 138 AD | July 10, 138 ADNatural causes | 21 years |
|  | [**Antoninus Pius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoninus_Pius)CAESAR TITVS AELIVS HADRIANVS **ANTONINVS** AVGVSTVS PIVS | September 19, 86 AD, Near [Lanuvium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lanuvium), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Adopted son and heir of [Hadrian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian) | July 10, 138 AD – March 7, 161 AD | March 7, 161 ADNatural causes | 22 years, 7 months |
|  | [**Lucius Verus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucius_Verus)CAESAR **LVCIVS** AVRELIVS **VERVS** AVGVSTVS | December 15, 130 AD, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) | Adopted son and heir of [Antoninus Pius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoninus_Pius); Co-emperor with [Marcus Aurelius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Aurelius) until death | March 7, 161 AD – ? March 169 AD | March 169 ADNatural causes (Plague) | 8 years |
|  | [**Marcus Aurelius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Aurelius)CAESAR **MARCVS AVRELIVS** ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS | April 26, 121 AD, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) | Adopted son and heir of [Antoninus Pius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoninus_Pius); Co-emperor with [Lucius Verus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucius_Verus) until 169 AD | March 7, 161 AD – March 17, 180 AD | March 17, 180 ADNatural causes | 19 years |
|  | [**Commodus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commodus)CAESAR MARCVS AVRELIVS **COMMODVS** ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS  | August 31, 161 AD, [Lanuvium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lanuvium), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Natural son of [Marcus Aurelius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Aurelius); joint emperor from 177 AD | 177 AD – December 31, 192 AD | December 31, 192 ADAssassinated in palace, strangled to death | 15 years, |

**Year of the Five Emperors & Severan dynasty**

Main articles: [Year of the Five Emperors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Five_Emperors) and [Severan dynasty family tree](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severan_dynasty_family_tree)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Pertinax**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pertinax)CAESAR PVBLIVS HELVIVS **PERTINAX** AVGVSTVS | August 1, 126 AD, [Alba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alba_%28CN%29), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Proclaimed emperor by [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) | January 1, 193 AD – March 28, 193 AD | March 28, 193 ADMurdered by [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) | 3 months |
|  | [**Didius Julianus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Didius_Julianus)CAESAR MARCVS **DIDIVS** SEVERVS **IVLIANVS** AVGVSTVS | 133 or 137 AD, [Milan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milan), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Won auction held by the [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) for the position of emperor | March 28, 193 AD – June 1, 193 AD | June 1, 193 ADExecuted on orders of the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate) | 2 months 4 days (65 days) |
|  | [**Septimius Severus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septimius_Severus)CAESAR LVCIVS **SEPTIMIVS SEVERVS** PERTINAX AVGVSTVS | April 11, 145 AD, [Leptis Magna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leptis_Magna), [Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_Province) | Seized power with support of [Pannonian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pannonia) legions | April 9, 193 AD – February 4, 211 AD | February 4, 211 ADNatural causes | 17 years, 10 months |
|  | [**Caracalla**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caracalla)CAESAR **MARCVS AVRELIVS** SEVERVS **ANTONINVS** PIVS AVGVSTVS | April 4, 188 AD, [Lugdunum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lugdunum), [Gallia Lugdunensis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallia_Lugdunensis) | Son of [Septimius Severus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septimius_Severus); co-emperor with Severus from 198 AD; with Severus and [Geta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Publius_Septimius_Geta) from 209 AD until February 211 AD; co-emperor with Geta until December 211 AD | 198 AD – April 8, 217 AD | April 8, 217 ADMurdered by a soldier as part of a conspiracy involving [Macrinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macrinus) | 19 years |
|  | [**Geta**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Publius_Septimius_Geta)CAESAR PVBLIVS SEPTIMIVS **GETA** AVGVSTUS | March 7, 189 AD, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) | Son of [Septimius Severus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septimius_Severus); co-emperor with Severus and [Caracalla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caracalla) from 209 AD until February 211 AD; co-emperor with Caracalla until December 211 AD | 209 AD – December 26, 211 AD | December 19, 211 ADMurdered on the orders of [Caracalla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caracalla) | 3 years |
|  | [**Macrinus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macrinus)MARCVS OPELLIVS SEVERVS **MACRINVS** AVGVSTVS PIVS FELIX*with*[**Diadumenian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diadumenian)MARCVS OPELLIVS ANTONINVS **DIADUMENIANVS** | c. 165 AD, [Iol Caesarea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iol_Caesarea), [Mauretania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauretania) | [Praetorian Prefect](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Prefect) to [Caracalla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caracalla), probably conspired to have Caracalla murdered and proclaimed himself emperor after Caracalla's death; appointed his son [Diadumenian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diadumenian) junior emperor in May 217 | April 11, 217 AD – June 8, 218 AD | June 8, 218 ADBoth executed in favour of [Elagabalus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elagabalus) | 1 year, 2 months |
|  | [**Elagabalus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elagabalus)MARCVS AVRELIVS ANTONINVS AVGVSTVS | c. 203 AD, [Emesa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emesa), [Syria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria_%28Roman_province%29) | Grandson of [Septimius Severus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septimius_Severus)'s sister-in-law, alleged illegitimate son of [Caracalla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caracalla); proclaimed emperor by Syrian legions | June 8, 218 AD – March 11, 222 AD | March 11, 222 ADMurdered by [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) | 3 years, 9 months |
|  | [**Severus Alexander**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severus_Alexander)CAESAR MARCVS AVRELIVS **SEVERVS ALEXANDER** AVGVSTVS | October 1, 208 AD, [Arca Caesarea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arqa), [Iudaea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iudaea_province) | Grandson of [Septimius Severus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septimius_Severus)'s sister-in-law, cousin and adoptive heir of [Elagabalus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elagabalus) | March 13, 222 AD – March 18, 235 AD | March 18, 235 ADMurdered by the army | 13 years |

**Emperors during the Crisis of the Third Century**

Main article: [Crisis of the Third Century](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis_of_the_Third_Century)

Main article: [Roman Emperor (Crisis of the Third Century)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Emperor_%28Crisis_of_the_Third_Century%29)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Maximinus I**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_Thrax)CAESAR GAIVS JVLIVS VERVS **MAXIMINVS** AVGVSTVS | c.[173 AD](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/173_AD), [Thrace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thrace) or [Moesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia) | Proclaimed emperor by German legions after the murder of [Severus Alexander](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severus_Alexander) | March 20, 235 AD – June 238 AD | June 238 ADAssassinated by [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) | 3 years, 3 month |
|  | [**Gordian I**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_I)CAESAR MARCVS ANTONIVS **GORDIANVS** SEMPRONIANVS AFRICANVS AVGVSTVS | c. 159 AD, [Phrygia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrygia)? | Proclaimed emperor, whilst Pro-consul in Africa, during a revolt against [Maximinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_I). Ruled jointly with his son [Gordian II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_II), and in opposition to Maximinus. Technically a usurper, but retrospectively legitimised by the accession of [Gordian III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_III) | March 22, 238 AD – April 12, 238 AD | April 238 ADCommitted suicide upon hearing of the death of [Gordian II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_II). | 21 days |
|  | [**Gordian II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_II)CAESAR MARCVS ANTONIVS **GORDIANVS** SEMPRONIANVS ROMANVS AFRICANVS AVGVSTVS | c. 192 AD, ? | Proclaimed emperor, alongside father [Gordian I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_I), in opposition to [Maximinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_I) by act of the Senate. | March 22, 238 AD – April 12, 238 AD | April 238 ADKilled during the [Battle of Carthage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Carthage_%28238%29), fighting a pro-[Maximinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_I%22%20%5Co%20%22Maximinus%20I) army | 21 days |
|  | [**Pupienus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pupienus)CAESAR MARCVS CLODIVS **PVPIENVS MAXIMVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 178 AD, ? | Proclaimed joint emperor with [Balbinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balbinus) by the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate) in opposition to [Maximinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_I); later co-emperor with Balbinus. | April 22, 238 AD – July 29, 238 AD | July 29, 238 ADAssassinated by the [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) | 3 Months |
|  | [**Balbinus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balbinus)CAESAR DECIMVS CAELIVS CALVINVS **BALBINVS** PIVS AVGVSTVS | ? | Proclaimed joint emperor with [Pupienus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pupienus) by the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate) after death of [Gordian I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_I) & [II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_II), in opposition to [Maximinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_I); later co-emperor with Pupienus and [Gordian III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_III) | April 22, 238 AD – July 29, 238 AD | July 29, 238 ADAssassinated by [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) | 3 Months |
|  | [**Gordian III**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_III)CAESAR MARCVS ANTONIVS **GORDIANVS** AVGVSTVS | January 20, 225 AD, [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) | Proclaimed emperor by supporters of [Gordian I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_I) & [II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_II), then by the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate); joint emperor with [Pupienus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pupienus) and [Balbinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balbinus) until July 238 AD. | April 22, 238 AD – February 11, 244 AD | February 11, 244 ADUnknown; possibly murdered on orders of [Philip I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_the_Arab) | 6 Years |
|  | [**Philip I**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_the_Arab)CAESAR MARCVS IVLIVS **PHILLIPVS** AVGVSTVS*with* [**Philip II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippus_II) | c. 204 AD, [Shahba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahba), [Syria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria_%28Roman_province%29) | [Praetorian Prefect](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Prefect) to [Gordian III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_III), took power after his death; made his son [Philip II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippus_II) co-emperor in summer 247 AD | February 244 AD – September/October 249 AD | September/October 249 ADKilled in battle against [Trajan Decius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan_Decius), near [Verona](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verona) | 5 Years |
|  | [**Trajan Decius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan_Decius)CAESAR GAIVS MESSIVS QVINTVS TRAIANVS **DECIVS** AVGVSTVS*with* [**Herennius Etruscus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herennius_Etruscus) | c. 201 AD, [Budalia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budalia), [Lower Pannonia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Pannonia) | Governor under [Philip I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_the_Arab); proclaimed emperor by Danubian legions and defeated Philip in battle; made his son [Herennius Etruscus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herennius_Etruscus) co-emperor in early 251 AD | September/ October 249 AD – June 251 AD | June 251 ADBoth killed in the [Battle of Abrittus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Abrittus) fighting against the [Goths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goths) | 2 Years |
|  | [**Hostilian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostilian)CAESAR CAIVS VALENS **HOSTILIANVS** MESSIVS QVINTVS AVGVSTVS | Rome | Son of [Trajan Decius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan_Decius), accepted as heir by the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate) | June 251 AD – late 251 AD | September/October 251 ADNatural causes (Plague) | 4-5 Months |
|  | [**Trebonianus Gallus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trebonianus_Gallus)CAESAR GAIVS VIBIVS **TREBONIANVS GALLVS** AVGVSTVS*with*[**Volusianus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volusianus) | 206 AD, [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Governor of [Moesia Superior](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia_Superior), proclaimed emperor by Danubian legions after [Trajan Decius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan_Decius)'s death (and in opposition to [Hostilian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostilian)); made his son [Volusianus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volusianus) co-emperor in late 251 AD. | June 251 AD – August 253 AD | August 253 ADAssassinated by their own troops, in favour of [Aemilian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aemilian) | 2 Years |
|  | [**Aemilian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aemilian)CAESAR MARCVS **AEMILIVS AEMILIANVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 207 AD [Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_Province) | Governor of [Moesia Superior](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia_Superior), proclaimed emperor by Danubian legions after defeating the [Goths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goths); accepted as emperor after death of [Gallus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trebonianus_Gallus) | August 253 AD – October 253 AD | September/October 253 ADAssassinated by his own troops, in favour of [Valerian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerian_%28emperor%29) | 2 Months |
|  | [**Valerian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerian_%28emperor%29)CAESAR PVBLIVS LICINIVS **VALERIANVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 195 AD | Governor of [Noricum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noricum) and [Raetia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raetia), proclaimed emperor by Rhine legions after death of [Gallus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trebonianus_Gallus); accepted as emperor after death of [Aemilian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aemilian) | October 253 AD – 260 AD | After 260 ADCaptured in [Battle of Edessa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Edessa) against [Persians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire), died in captivity | 7 Years |
|  | [**Gallienus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallienus)CAESAR PVBLIVS LICINIVS EGNATIVS **GALLIENVS** AVGVSTVS*with* [**Saloninus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saloninus) | 218 AD | Son of [Valerian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerian_%28emperor%29), made co-emperor in 253 AD; his son [Saloninus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saloninus) is very briefly co-emperor in c. July before assassination by [Postumus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postumus). | October 253 AD – September 268 AD | September 268 ADMurdered at [Aquileia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquileia) by his own commanders. | 15 Years |
|  | [**Claudius Gothicus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudius_Gothicus)CAESAR MARCVS AVRELIVS CLAVDIVS AVGVSTVS | May 10, 213 AD/214 AD, [Sirmium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirmium) | Victorious general at [Battle of Naissus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Naissus), seized power after [Gallienus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallienus)'s death | September 268 AD – January 270 AD | January 270 ADNatural causes (Plague) | 1 Year, 4 Months |
|  | [**Quintillus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quintillus)CAESAR MARCVS AVRELIVS CLAVDIVS QVINTILLVS AVGVSTVS | ?, [Sirmium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirmium) | Brother of [Claudius Gothicus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudius_Gothicus), seized power after his death | January 270 AD – 270 AD | 270 ADUnclear; possibly suicide or murder | Unknown |
|  | [**Aurelian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurelian)CAESAR LVCIVS DOMITIVS AVRELIANVS AVGVSTVS | September 9, 214 AD/215 AD, [Sirmium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirmium) | Proclaimed emperor by Danubian legions after [Claudius II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudius_II)'s death, in opposition to [Quintillus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quintillus) | September(?) 270 AD – September 275 AD | September 275 ADAssassinated by [Praetorian Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard) | 5 Years |
|  | [**Tacitus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Claudius_Tacitus)CAESAR MARCVS CLAVDIVS TACITVS AVGVSTVS | c. 200, [Interamna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terni) | Elected by the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate) to replace [Aurelian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurelian), after a short [interregnum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interregnum) | September 25, 275 AD – June 276 AD | June 276 ADNatural causes (possibly assassinated) | 9 Months |
|  | [**Florian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florianus)CAESAR MARCVS ANNIVS FLORIANVS AVGVSTVS | ? | Brother of [Tacitus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tacitus), elected by the army in the west to replace him | June 276 AD – September? 276 AD | September? 276 ADAssassinated by his own troops, in favour of Probus | 3 Months |
|  | [**Probus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Aurelius_Probus)CAESAR MARCVS AVRELIVS PROBVS AVGVSTVS | 232 AD, [Sirmium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirmium) | Governor of the eastern provinces, proclaimed emperor by Danubian legions in opposition to [Florian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florian) | September? 276 AD – September/ October 282 AD | September/ October 282 ADAssassinated by his own troops, in favour of [Carus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carus) | 6 Years |
|  | [**Carus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carus)CAESAR MARCVS AVRELIVS CARVS AVGVSTVS | c. 230 AD, [Narbo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narbo) | [Praetorian Prefect](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Prefect) to [Probus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Aurelius_Probus); seized power either before or after Probus was murdered | September/ October 282 AD – late July/ early August 283 AD | Late July/early August 283 ADNatural causes? (Possibly killed by lightning) | 10-11 Months |
|  | [**Numerian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numerian)CAESAR MARCVS AVRELIVS NVMERIVS NVMERIANVS AVGVSTVS | ? | Son of [Carus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carus), succeeded him jointly with his brother [Carinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carinus) | Late July/early August 283 AD – 284 AD? | 284 ADUnclear; possibly assassinated | 1 Year |
|  | [**Carinus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carinus)CAESAR MARCVS AVRELIVS CARINVS AVGVSTVS | ? | Son of [Carus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carus), succeeded him jointly with his brother [Numerian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numerian) | Late July/early August 283 AD – 285 AD | 285 ADDied in battle against [Diocletian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian)? | 2 Years |

**The Dominate Period**

Main article: [Dominate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominate)

**Tetrarchy and Constantinian dynasty**

Main article: [Tetrarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetrarchy)

Main article: [Constantinian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantinian_dynasty)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Diocletian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian)CAESAR GAIVS AVRELIVS VALERIVS **DIOCLETIANVS** AVGVSTVS | c. December 22, 244 AD, [Salona](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salona) | Proclaimed emperor by army after death of [Numerian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numerian), and in opposition to [Carinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carinus); adopted [Maximian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximian) as senior co-emperor in 286 AD | November 20, 285 AD – May 1, 305 AD | 3 December 311 ADAbdicated; died of natural causes in [Aspalatos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Split_%28city%29) | 20 years |
|  | [**Maximian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximian)CAESAR GAIVS AVRELIVS VALERIVS **MAXIMIANVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 250 AD, near [Sirmium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirmium), [Pannonia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pannonia) | Adopted as senior co-emperor ('Augustus') in the west by [Diocletian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian) in 286 AD | April 1, 286 AD – May 1, 305 AD | 310 ADAbdicated with [Diocletian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian); twice tried to regain throne with, and then from [Maxentius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxentius); captured by [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I) and committed suicide at his behest | 19 years |
|  | [**Constantius I Chlorus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_Chlorus)CAESAR GAIVS FLAVIVS VALERIVS **CONSTANTIVS** AVGVSTVS | March 31 c. 250 AD, [Dardania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardania_%28Europe%29), [Moesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia) | Adopted as junior co-emperor ('Caesar') and heir by [Maximian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximian) in 293 AD | May 1, 305 AD – July 25, 306 AD | 306 ADNatural causes | 1 year and 2 months |
|  | [**Galerius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galerius)CAESAR **GALERIVS** VALERIVS MAXIMIANVS AVGVSTVS | c. 260 AD, [Felix Romuliana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamzigrad), [Moesia Superior](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia_Superior) | Adopted as junior co-emperor ('Caesar') and heir by [Diocletian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian) in 293 AD | May 1, 305 AD – May 311 AD | 311 ADNatural causes | 6 years |
|  | [**Severus II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severus_II)**FLAVIVS VALERIVS SEVERVS** AVGVSTVS | ? | Adopted as junior co-emperor ('Caesar') and heir by [Constantius I Chlorus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_I_Chlorus) in 305 AD; succeeded as Augustus in 306; opposed by [Maxentius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxentius) and [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I) | Summer 306 AD – March/ April 307 AD | September 16, 307 ADCaptured by [Maxentius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxentius) and forced to commit suicide (or murdered) | 1 year |
|  | [**Constantine I**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I)CAESAR FLAVIVS **CONSTANTINVS** VALERIVS AVGVSTVS | February 27 c. 272 AD, [Naissus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naissus), [Moesia Superior](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia_Superior) | Son of [Constantius I Chlorus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_I_Chlorus), proclaimed emperor by his father's troops; accepted as Caesar (west) by Galerius in 306 AD; promoted to Augustus (west) in 307 AD by Maximian after death of [Severus II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flavius_Valerius_Severus); refused relegation to Caesar in 309 AD | 25 July 306 AD – May 22, 337 AD | May 22, 337 ADNatural causes | 31 years |
|  | [**Maxentius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxentius)MARCVS AVRELIVS VALERIVS **MAXENTIVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 278 AD, ? | Son of [Maximian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximian), seized power in 306 after death of [Constantius I Chlorus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_I_Chlorus), in opposition to [Severus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flavius_Valerius_Severus) and [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I); made Caesar (west) by Maximian in 307 AD after the death of Severus | 28 October 306 AD – October 28, 312 AD | October 28, 312 ADDied at the [Battle of the Milvian Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Milvian_Bridge), against [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I) | 6 years |
|  | [**Maximinus II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_II)CAESAR GALERIVS VALERIVS **MAXIMINVS** AVGVSTVS | November 20 c. 270 AD, [Dacia Aureliana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dacia_Aureliana) | Nephew of Galerius, adopted as Caesar and his heir in 305 AD; succeeded as Augustus (shared with Licinius I) in 311 AD | May 1, 311 AD – July/August 313 AD | July/August 313 ADDefeated in civil war against [Licinius I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Licinius_I); probably committed suicide thereafter | 2 years |
|  | [**Licinius I**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Licinius_I)CAESAR GAIVS VALERIVS **LICINIVS** AVGVSTVS*with*[**Valerius Valens**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerius_Valens)[**Martinian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sextus_Martinianus) | c. 250 AD, [Felix Romuliana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Romuliana), [Moesia Superior](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia_Superior) | Appointed Augustus in the west by [Galerius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galerius) in 308 AD, in opposition to [Maxentius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxentius); became Augustus in the east in 311 AD after the death of Galerius (shared with [Maximinus II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_II)); defeated Maximinus in civil war to become sole eastern Augustus in 313 AD; appointed [Valerius Valens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerius_Valens) in 317 AD, and [Martinian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sextus_Martinianus) in 324 AD as western Augustus, in opposition to Constantine, both being executed within weeks. | November 11, 308 AD – September 18, 324 AD | 325 ADDefeated in civil war against [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I) in 324 AD and captured; executed on the orders of Constantine the next year | 16 years |
|  | [**Constantine II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_II_%28emperor%29)CAESAR FLAVIVS CLAVDIVS **CONSTANTINVS** AVGVSTVS | 316 AD, [Arles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arles) | Son of [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I); appointed Caesar in 317 AD, succeeded as joint Augustus with his brothers [Constantius II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_II) and [Constans I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constans_I) | May 22, 337 AD – 340 AD | 340 ADDied in battle against [Constans I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constans_I) | 3 years |
|  | [**Constantius II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_II)CAESAR FLAVIVS IVLIVS **CONSTANTIVS** AVGVSTVS | August 7, 317 AD, [Sirmium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirmium), [Pannonia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pannonia) | Son of [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I); succeeded as joint Augustus with his brothers [Constantine II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_II_%28emperor%29) and [Constans I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constans_I); sole emperor from 350 AD | May 22, 337 AD – November 3, 361 AD | 361 ADNatural causes | 24 Years |
|  | [**Constans I**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constans_I)CAESAR FLAVIVS IVLIVS **CONSTANS** AVGVSTVS | 320 AD, ? | Son of [Constantine I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I); succeeded as joint Augustus with his brothers [Constantine II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_II_%28emperor%29) and [Constantius II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_II) | May 22, 337 AD – 350 AD | 350 ADAssassinated on the orders of the usurper [Magnentius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnentius) | 13 Years |
|  | [**Vetranio**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vetranio) | ?, [Moesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia) | General of [Constans I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constans_I), proclaimed Caesar against [Magnentius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnentius) and temporarily accepted as Augustus of the west by [Constantius II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_II). | March 1 – December 25, 350 AD | c. 356As a private citizen, after abdication. | 9 Months |
|  | [**Julian II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_the_Apostate)CAESAR FLAVIVS CLAVDIVS **IVLIANVS** AVGVSTVS | 331 AD/332 AD, [Constantinople](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantinople), [Thracia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thracia) | Cousin of [Constantius II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_II); made Caesar of the west in 355 AD; proclaimed Augustus by his troops in 360; sole emperor after the death of Constantius | February 360 AD – June 26, 363 AD | June 26, 363 ADMortally wounded in battle | 3 Years |
|  | [**Jovian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jovian_%28emperor%29)CAESAR FLAVIVS **IOVIANVS** AVGVSTVS | 331 AD, [Singidunum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singidunum), [Moesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia) | General of Julian's army; proclaimed emperor by the troops on Julian's death | June 26, 363 AD – February 17, 364 AD | February 17, 364 ADNatural causes (suffocated on fumes) | 1 Year |

**Valentinian dynasty**

Main article: [Valentinian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_dynasty)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Valentinian I**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_I)FLAVIVS **VALENTINIANVS** AVGVSTVS | 321 AD, [Cibalae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cibalae), [Pannonia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pannonia) | Elected to replace [Jovian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jovian_%28Emperor%29) by the army | February 26, 364 AD – November 17, 375 AD | November 17, 375 ADNatural causes | 11 Years |
|  | [**Valens**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valens)FLAVIVS IVLIVS **VALENS** AVGVSTVS | 328 AD, [Cibalae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cibalae), [Pannonia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pannonia) | Brother of [Valentinian I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_I), appointed co-augustus (for the east) by him | March 28, 364 AD – August 9, 378 AD | August 9, 378 ADKilled in [Battle of Adrianople](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Adrianople) against the [Goths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goths) | 14 Years |
|  | [**Gratian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gratian)FLAVIVS **GRATIANVS** AVGVSTVS | April 18/May 23, 359 AD, [Sirmium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirmium), [Pannonia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pannonia) | Son of [Valentinian I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_I), appointed 'junior' Augustus by him in 367, became 'senior' augustus (for the west) after Valentinian's death. | August 4, 367 AD – August 25, 383 AD | August 25, 383 ADMurdered by rebellious army faction | 16 Years |
|  | [**Valentinian II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_II)FLAVIVS **VALENTINIANVS** INVICTVS AVGVSTVS | 371 AD, [Milan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milan), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Son of [Valentinian I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_I), proclaimed emperor by Pannonian army after Valentinian's death; accepted as co-Augustus for the west by [Gratian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gratian) | November 17, 375 AD – May 15, 392 AD | May 15, 392 ADUnclear; possibly murdered or committed suicide | 17 Years |

**Theodosian dynasty**

Main article: [Theodosian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosian_dynasty)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Theodosius I**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_I)FLAVIVS **THEODOSIVS** AVGVSTVS | January 11, 347 AD, [Cauca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coca%2C_Segovia), [Hispania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispania) | Appointed as Augustus for the east by [Gratian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gratian) after the death of [Valens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valens); became sole 'senior' Augustus after death of [Valentinian II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_II) | January 1, 379 AD – January 17, 395 AD | January 17, 395 ADNatural causes | 16 Years |
|  | [**Arcadius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arcadius)FLAVIVS **ARCADIVS** AVGVSTVS*EAST* | c. 377 AD, [Hispania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispania) | Son of [Theodosius I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_I); appointed as 'junior' Augustus for the east by Theodosius in 383 (after the death of [Gratian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gratian)); became 'senior' Augustus for the east after his father's death | January 383 AD – May 1, 408 AD | May 1, 408 ADNatural causes | 25 Years |
|  | [**Honorius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honorius_%28emperor%29)FLAVIVS **HONORIVS** AVGVSTVS*WEST* | September 9, 384 AD, ? | Son of [Theodosius I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_I); appointed as 'junior' Augustus for the west by Theodosius in 393 (after the death of [Valentinian II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_II)); became 'senior' Augustus for the west after his father's death | January 23, 393 AD – August 15, 423 AD | August 15, 423 ADNatural causes | 30 Years |
|  | [**Theodosius II**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_II)FLAVIVS **THEODOSIVS** AVGVSTVS*EAST* | April 10, 401 AD, [Constantinople](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantinople)? | Son of [Arcadius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arcadius); appointed as 'junior' Augustus for the east by Arcadius in 402; became 'senior' Augustus for the east after his father's death | January 402 AD – July 28, 450 AD | July 28, 450 ADNatural causes | 48 Years |
|  | [**Constantius III**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_III)FLAVIVS **CONSTANTIVS** AVGVSTVS*WEST* | ?, [Naissus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naissus), [Moesia Superior](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moesia_Superior) | Married to [Theodosius I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_I)'s daughter [Galla Placidia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galla_Placidia), elevated to co-Augustus for the west by [Honorius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honorius_%28emperor%29) | February 8, 421 AD – September 2, 421 AD | September 2, 421 ADNatural causes | 7 Months |
|  | [**Joannes**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joannes)*WEST* | ? | A senior civil servant under [Honorius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honorius_%28emperor%29), proclaimed emperor by [Castinus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castinus); not recognized by the Eastern Empire | August 27, 423 AD – May 425 AD | June or July 425 ADDefeated in battle by [Theodosius II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_II) and [Valentinian III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_III), captured and executed | 2 Years |
|  | [**Valentinian III**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_III)FLAVIVS PLACIDIVS **VALENTINIANVS** AVGVSTVS*WEST* | July 2, 419 AD, [Ravenna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ravenna), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Son of [Constantius III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantius_III), appointed Caesar for the west by [Theodosius II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_II) after the death of [Honorius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honorius_%28emperor%29), in opposition to the [Johannes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes); became Augustus for the west after the defeat of Johannes | October 23, 424 AD – March 16, 455 AD | March 16, 455 ADAssassinated, possibly at the behest of [Petronius Maximus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petronius_Maximus) | 31 Years |
|  | [**Marcian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcian)FLAVIVS **MARCIANIVS** AVGVSTVS*EAST* | 396, [Thrace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thrace) or [Illyria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illyria) | Nominated as successor (and husband) by [Pulcheria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulcheria), sister of [Theodosius II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_II) | Summer 450 AD – January 457 AD | January 457 ADNatural causes | 7 Years |

**The last emperors of the Western Empire**

Main article: [Western Roman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Portrait** | **Name** | **Birth** | **Succession** | **Reign** | **Death** | **Time in Office** |
|  | [**Petronius Maximus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petronius_Maximus)FLAVIVS ANICIVS **PETRONIVS MAXIMVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 396 AD, ? | Proclaimed himself emperor with the support of the army, after the death of [Valentinian III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_III). Not recognized by the Eastern Empire. | March 17, 455 AD – May 31, 455 AD | May 31, 455 ADMurdered, probably stoned to death by the Roman mob | 2 Months |
|  | [**Avitus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avitus)EPARCHIVS **AVITVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 385 AD, ? | [*Magister militum*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magister_militum) under [Petronius Maximus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petronius_Maximus), proclaimed emperor by the [Visigoth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visigoth) king [Theoderic II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theoderic_II) after Petronius's death | July 9, 455 AD – October 17, 456 AD | after 17 October 456 ADDeposed by his *Magister militum*, [Ricimer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricimer); became bishop of [Placentia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piacenza); murdered at some point afterwards | 1 Year |
|  | [**Majorian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majorian)IVLIVS VALERIVS **MAIORIANVS** AVGVSTVS | November 420 AD, ? | Appointed emperor by [Ricimer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricimer) | April 457 AD – August 2, 461 AD | August 7, 461 ADDeposed by his troops (probably at the behest of [Ricimer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricimer)); beheaded on the orders of Ricimer | 4 Years |
|  | [**Libius Severus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libius_Severus)LIBIVS SEVERVS AVGVSTVS | ?, [Lucania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucania), [Italia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia_%28Roman_province%29) | Appointed emperor by [Ricimer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricimer). Not recognized by the Eastern Empire. | November 461 AD – August 465 AD | August 465 ADProbably poisoned by Ricimer | 4 Years |
|  | [**Anthemius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthemius)PROCOPIVS **ANTHEMIVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 420 AD | Appointed emperor by [Ricimer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricimer), with the backing of the eastern emperor [Leo I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_I_the_Thracian) | April 12, 467 AD – July 11, 472 AD | July 11, 472 ADExecuted by Ricimer | 5 Years |
|  | [**Olybrius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olybrius)FLAVIVS ANICIVS **OLYBRIVS** AVGVSTVS | c. 420 AD | Son-in-law of [Valentinian III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinian_III); appointed emperor by [Ricimer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricimer). Not recognized by the Eastern Empire. | July 11, 472 AD – November 2, 472 AD | November 2, 472 ADNatural causes | 4 Months |
|  | [**Glycerius**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glycerius)FLAVIVS(?) **GLYCERIVS** AVGVSTVS | ? | Appointed emperor by [Gundobad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gundobad) ([Ricimer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricimer%22%20%5Co%20%22Ricimer)'s successor). Not recognized by the Eastern Empire. | March 473 AD – June 474 AD | after 480 ADDeposed by [Julius Nepos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Nepos), became Bishop of [Salona](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salona), time and manner of death unknown | 1 Year |
|  | [**Julius Nepos**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Nepos)FLAVIVS **IVLIVS NEPOS** AVGVSTVS | c. 430 AD - 480 AD | Nephew-in-law of the eastern emperor [Leo I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_I_the_Thracian), appointed emperor in opposition to [Glycerius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glycerius) | June 474 AD – August 28, 475 AD (in Italy); – Spring 480 AD (in Gaul and Dalmatia) | 480 ADDeposed in Italy by [Flavius Orestes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flavius_Orestes), ruled in balance of Western Empire until assassination in 480. Maintained as figurehead in Italy by [Odoacer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoacer) to his death in 480. | 1 Year/6 Years |
|  | [**Romulus Augustus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romulus_Augustus)FLAVIVS **ROMVLVS AVGVSTVS** | ? | Appointed by his father, [Flavius Orestes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flavius_Orestes). Not recognized by the Eastern Empire. | October 31, 475 AD – September 4, 476 AD (in Italy) | Unknown.Regarded as emperor more from historical convention than accuracy, his rule never extended beyond portions of Italian peninsular and was not recognized by Eastern Emperor Zeno. Deposed by [Odoacer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoacer), who then ruled in the name of [Julius Nepos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Nepos) until the latter's death in 480, which formally ended the separate western empire; most likely lived out his life on a private villa in obscurity. | 1 Year |

**Eastern emperors**

Main articles: [Eastern Roman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Roman_Empire) and [List of Byzantine Emperors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Byzantine_Emperors)

**Leonid dynasty (457–518)**

See also: [Leonid dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonid_dynasty)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Reign** | **Comments** |
|  | [Leo I "the Thracian", "the Butcher", or "the Great"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_I_%28emperor%29)(Λέων Α' ο Θράξ, ο Μακέλλης, ο Μέγας, *Flavius Valerius Leo*) | 7 February 457 –18 January 474 | Born in [Dacia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dacia_Aureliana) ca. 400, and of [Bessian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bessian) origin, Leo became a low-ranking officer and served as an attendant of the Gothic commander-in-chief of the army, [Aspar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aspar), who chose him as emperor on Marcian's death. He was the first emperor to be crowned by the Patriarch of Constantinople. His reign was marked by the pacification of the Danube frontier and peace with Persia, which allowed him to intervene in the affairs of the [western empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire), supporting candidates for the throne and dispatching an [expedition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Cape_Bon_%28468%29) to recover [Carthage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthage) from the [Vandals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandals) in 468. Initially a puppet of Aspar, Leo began promoting the [Isaurians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaurians) as a counterweight to Aspar's Goths, marrying his daughter [Ariadne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ariadne_%28empress%29) to the Isaurian leader [Tarasicodissa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarasicodissa) (Zeno). With their support, in 471 Aspar was murdered and Gothic power over the army was broken.  |
|  | [Leo II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_II_%28emperor%29) "the Little"(Λέων Β' ο Μικρός, *Flavius Leo*) | 18 January –17 November 474 | Born ca. 467, he was the grandson of Leo I by Leo's daughter Ariadne and her Isaurian husband, Zeno. Raised to *Caesar* and then co-emperor in autumn 473, soon after his accession Leo II crowned his father Zeno as co-emperor and effective regent. Died shortly after, possibly poisoned.  |
|  | [Zeno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeno_%28emperor%29)(Ζήνων, *Flavius Zeno*) | 17 November 474 –9 April 491 | Born ca. 425 in [Isauria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isauria), originally named Tarasicodissa. As the leader of Leo I's Isaurian soldiers, he rose to [*comes domesticorum*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comes_domesticorum), married the emperor's daughter Ariadne and took the name Zeno, and played a crucial role in the elimination of [Aspar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aspar) and his Goths. He was named co-emperor by his son on 9 February 474, and became sole ruler upon the latter's death, but had to flee to his native country before [Basiliscus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basiliscus) in 475, regaining control of the capital in 476. Zeno concluded peace with the [Vandals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandals), saw off challenges against him by [Illus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illus) and [Verina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verina), and secured peace in the [Balkans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkans) by enticing the [Ostrogoths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostrogoths) under [Theodoric the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodoric_the_Great) to migrate to Italy. Zeno's reign also saw the end of the [western line of emperors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire). His pro-[Monophysite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monophysite) stance made him unpopular and his promulgation of the [Henotikon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henotikon) resulted in the [Acacian Schism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acacian_Schism) with the papacy.  |
|  | [Basiliscus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basiliscus)(Βασιλίσκος, *Flavius Basiliscus*) | 9 January 475 –August 476 | General and brother-in-law of Leo I, he seized power from Zeno but was again deposed by him. Died in 476/477 |
|  | [Anastasius I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anastasius_I_%28emperor%29)(Αναστάσιος Α' ο Δίκορος, *Flavius Anastasius*) | 11 April 491 –9 July 518 | Born ca. 430 at [Dyrrhachium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dyrrhachium), he was a palace official (*[silentiarius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silentiarius%22%20%5Co%20%22Silentiarius)*) when he was chosen as her husband and Emperor by Empress-dowager [Ariadne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ariadne_%28empress%29). He was nicknamed "*Dikoros*", because of his [heterochromia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heterochromia_iridum). Anastasius reformed the tax system and the [Byzantine coinage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_coinage) and proved a frugal ruler, so that by the end of his reign he left a substantial surplus. His Monophysite sympathies led to wideaspread opposition, most notably the [Revolt of Vitalian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolt_of_Vitalian) and the [Acacian Schism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acacian_Schism). His reign was also marked by the first [Bulgar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgars) raids into the [Balkans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkans) and by a [war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anastasian_War) with Persia over the foundation of [Dara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dara_%28Mesopotamia%29). He died childless.  |

**Justinian dynasty (518–602)**

See also: [Justinian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_dynasty)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Reign** | **Comments** |
|  | [Justin I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_I)(Ιουστίνος Α', *Flavius Iustinus*) | July 518 –1 August 527 | Born c. 450 at Bederiana ([Justiniana Prima](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justiniana_Prima%22%20%5Co%20%22Justiniana%20Prima)), [Dardania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardani#Byzantine_Dardania). Officer and commander of the [Excubitors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Excubitors) bodyguard under Anastasius I, he was elected by army and people upon the death of Anastasius I. |
|  | [Justinian I "the Great"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_I)(Ιουστινιανός Α' ο Μέγας, *Flavius Petrus Sabbatius Iustinianus*) | 1 August 527 –13/14 November 565 | Born in 482/483 at [Tauresium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tauresium) (Taor), [Macedonia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_%28Roman_province%29). Nephew of Justin I, possibly raised to co-emperor on 1 April 527. Succeeded on Justin I's death. |
|  | [Justin II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_II)(Ιουστίνος Β', *Flavius Iustinus Iunior*) | 14 November 565 –5 October 578 | Born c. 520. Nephew of Justinian I, he seized the throne on the death of Justinian I with support of army and Senate. Became insane, hence in 573–574 under the regency of his wife [Sophia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_%28empress%29), and in 574–578 under the regency of Tiberius Constantine. |
|  | [Tiberius II Constantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius_II_Constantine)(Τιβέριος Β', *Flavius Tiberius Constantinus*) | 5 October 578 –14 August 582 | Born c. 535, commander of the [Excubitors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Excubitors), friend and adoptive son of Justin. Was named [*Caesar*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caesar_%28title%29) and regent in 574. Succeeded on Justin II's death. |
|  | [Maurice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_%28emperor%29)(Μαυρίκιος, *Flavius Mauricius Tiberius*) | 14 August 582 –22 November 602 | Born in 539 at [Arabissus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabissus), [Cappadocia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cappadocia). Became an official and later a general. Married the daughter of Tiberius II and succeeded him upon his death. Named his son [Theodosius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_%28son_of_Maurice%29) as co-emperor in 600. Deposed by Phocas and executed on 27 November 602 at [Chalcedon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chalcedon). |

**Non-dynastic (602–610)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Reign** | **Comments** |
|  | [Phocas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phocas)(Φωκάς, *Flavius Phocas*) | 23 November 602 –4 October 610 | Subaltern in the Balkan army, he led a rebellion that deposed Maurice. Increasingly unpopular and tyrannical, he was deposed and executed by Heraclius. |

**Heraclian dynasty (610–695)**

See also: [Heraclian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraclian_dynasty)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Reign** | **Comments** |
|  | [Heraclius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraclius)(Ηράκλειος, *Flavius Heraclius*) | 5 October 610 –11 February 641 | Born c. 575 as the eldest son of the [Exarch of Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exarch_of_Africa), [Heraclius the Elder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraclius_the_Elder). Began a revolt against Phocas in 609 and deposed him in October 610. Brought the [Byzantine-Sassanid War of 602–628](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine-Sassanid_War_of_602%E2%80%93628) to successful conclusion but was unable to stop the [Muslim conquest of Syria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Syria). |
|  | [Constantine III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_III_%28Byzantine_emperor%29)formally Heraclius New Constantine(Ηράκλειος νέος Κωνσταντίνος, *Heraclius Novus Constantinus*) | 11 February –24/26 May 641 | Born on 3 May 612 as the eldest son of Heraclius by his first wife [Fabia Eudokia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fabia_Eudokia). Named co-emperor in 613, he succeeded to throne with his younger brother Heraklonas following the death of Heraclius. Died of tuberculosis, allegedly poisoned by Empress-dowager [Martina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martina_%28empress%29). |
|  | [Heraklonas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraklonas)(Ηρακλωνάς, *Heraclianus*)formally Constantine Heraclius(Κωνσταντίνος Ηράκλειος, *Constantinus Heraclius*) | 11 February 641 –September 641 | Born in 626 to Heraclius' second wife [Martina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martina_%28empress%29), named co-emperor in 638. Succeeded to throne with Constantine III following the death of Heraclius. Sole emperor after the death of Constantine III, under the regency of Martina, but was forced to name [Constans II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constans_II) co-emperor by the army, and was deposed by the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Senate) in September 641. |
|  | [Constans II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constans_II)(Κώνστας Β', *Constantus II*)formally Constantine "the Bearded",(Κωνσταντίνος ο Πωγωνάτος) | September 641 –15 September 668 | Born on 7 November 630, the son of Constantine III. Raised to co-emperor in summer 641 after his father's death due to army pressure, he became sole emperor after the forced abdication of his uncle Heraklonas. Baptized Heraclius, he reigned as Constantine. "Constans" is his nickname. Moved his seat to [Syracuse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syracuse%2C_Sicily), where he was assassinated, possibly on the orders of [Mezezius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mezezius). |
|  | [Constantine IV "the Bearded"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_IV)(Κωνσταντίνος Δ' ο Πωγωνάτος) | 15 September 668 –September 685 | Born in 652, he succeeded following the murder of his father Constans II. Erroneously called "Constantine the Bearded" by historians through confusion with his father. He repelled the [First Arab Siege of Constantinople](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Arab_Siege_of_Constantinople), and died of dysentery. |
|  | [Justinian II "the Slit-nosed"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_II)(Ιουστινιανός Β' ο Ρινότμητος) | September 685 –695 | Born in 669, he was named co-emperor in 681 and became sole emperor upon Constantine IV's death. Deposed by military revolt in 695, mutilated (hence his surname) and exiled to [Cherson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherson_%28theme%29), whence he recovered his throne in 705. |

**Twenty Years' Anarchy (695–717)**

Main article: [Twenty Years' Anarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty_Years%27_Anarchy)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Reign** | **Comments** |
|  | [Leontios](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leontios)(Λεόντιος) | 695–698 | General from [Isauria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isauria), he deposed Justinian II and was overthrown in another revolt in 698. He was executed in February 706. |
|  | [Tiberius III (II) Apsimar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberios_III)(Τιβέριος Γ' Αψίμαρος) | 698–705 | Admiral of Germanic origin, originally named Apsimar. He rebelled against Leontios after a failed expedition. Reigned under the name of Tiberius until deposed by Justinian II in 705. Executed in February 706. |
|  | [Justinian II "the Slit-nosed"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_II)(Ιουστινιανός Β' ο Ρινότμητος) | August 705 –December 711 | Returned on the throne with [Bulgar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Bulgarian_Empire) support. Named son [Tiberius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius_%28son_of_Justinian_II%29) as co-emperor in 706. Deposed and killed by military revolt. |
|  | [Philippikos Bardanes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippikos_Bardanes)(Φιλιππικός Βαρδάνης) | December 711 –3 June 713 | A general of [Armenian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenians) origin, he deposed Justinian II and was in turn overthrown by a revolt of the [Opsician](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opsician) troops. |
|  | [Anastasios II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anastasios_II)(Αναστάσιος Β') | June 713 –November 715 | Originally named Artemios. A bureaucrat and secretary under Philippikos, he was raised to the purple by the soldiers who overthrew Philippikos. Deposed by another military revolt, he led an abortive attempt to regain the throne in 718 and was killed. |
|  | [Theodosios III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosios_III)(Θεοδόσιος Γ') | May 715 –25 March 717 | A fiscal official, he was proclaimed emperor by the rebellious Opsician troops. Entered Constantinople in November 715. Abdicated following the revolt of Leo the Isaurian and became a monk. |

**Isaurian dynasty (717–802)**

See also: [Isaurian dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaurian_dynasty)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Reign** | **Comments** |
|  | [Leo III "the Isaurian"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_III_the_Isaurian)(Λέων Γ΄ ο Ίσαυρος) | 25 March 717 –18 June 741 | Born c. 685 in [Germanikeia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kahramanmara%C5%9F), [Commagene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commagene), he became a general. Rose in rebellion and secured the throne in spring 717. Repelled the [Second Arab Siege of Constantinople](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Arab_Siege_of_Constantinople) and initiated the [Byzantine Iconoclasm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Iconoclasm). |
|  | [Constantine V "the Dung-named"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_V)(Κωνσταντίνος Ε΄ ο Κοπρώνυμος) | 18 June 741 –14 September 775 | Born in July 718, the only son of Leo III. Co-emperor since 720, he succeeded upon his father's death. After overcoming the usurpation of Artabasdos, he continued his father's iconoclastic policies and won several victories against the Arabs and the Bulgars. He is given the surname "the Dung-named" in hostile later chroniclers. |
|  | [Artabasdos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artabasdos)(Αρτάβασδος) | June 741/742 –2 November 743 | General and son-in-law of Leo III, [Count of the Opsician Theme](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opsikion). Led a revolt that secured Constantinople, but was defeated and deposed by Constantine V, who blinded and tonsured him. |
|  | [Leo IV "the Khazar"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_IV_the_Khazar)(Λέων Δ΄ ο Χάζαρος) | 14 September 775 –8 September 780 | Born on 25 January 750 as the eldest son of Constantine V. Co-emperor since 751, he succeeded upon his father's death. |
|  | [Constantine VI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_VI)(Κωνσταντίνος ΣΤ΄) | 8 September 780 –August 797 | Born in 771, the only child of Leo IV. Co-emperor in 776, sole emperor upon Leo's death in 780, until 790 under the regency of his mother, Irene of Athens. He was overthrown on Irene's orders, blinded and imprisoned, probably dying of his wounds shortly after. |
|  | [Irene of Athens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irene_of_Athens)(Ειρήνη η Αθηναία) | August 797 –31 October 802 | Born c. 752 in [Athens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athens), she married Leo IV. Regent for her son Constantine VI in 780–790, she overthrew him in 797 and became empress-regnant. Deposed in a palace coup in 802, she was exiled and died on 9 August 803. However, she was not recognized by Pope Leo III, who crowned [Charlemagne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlemagne) Roman Emperor in 800. |

**See also**

* [List of Roman dictators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_dictators)
* [List of Roman usurpers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_usurpers)
* [Roman Emperors family tree](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Emperors_family_tree)
* [General list of Roman emperors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_list_of_Roman_emperors)

This page was last modified on 3 April 2013 at 01:45.