



Nerva the Pragmatic Emperor

Practical and sensible

The Roman Empire

Existed from
27BC to 476AD

SPQR, an abbreviation for “**Senatus Populusque Romanus**” or “The Senate and the People of Rome,” is a famous Latin phrase that encapsulates the essence of the Roman Republic and its enduring legacy.



Roman Emperors

There were 194 Emperors
and 3 Empresses

The Julio-Claudian Dynasty (27 BC – 68 AD)

- [Augustus \(27 BC – 14 AD\)](#)
- [Tiberius \(14 AD – 37 AD\)](#)
- [Caligula \(37 AD – 41 AD\)](#)
- [Claudius \(41 AD – 54 AD\)](#)
- [Nero \(54 AD – 68 AD\)](#)

The Flavian Dynasty (69 AD – 96 AD)

- [Vespasian \(69 AD – 79 AD\)](#)
- [Titus \(79 AD – 81 AD\)](#)
- [Domitian \(81 AD – 96 AD\)](#)

The Nerva-Antonine Dynasty (96 AD – 192 AD)

- [Nerva \(96 AD – 98 AD\)](#)
- [Trajan \(98 AD – 117 AD\)](#)
- [Hadrian \(117 AD – 138 AD\)](#)
- [Antoninus Pius \(138 AD – 161 AD\)](#)
- [Marcus Aurelius \(161 AD – 180 AD\) & Lucius Verus \(161 AD – 169 AD\)](#)
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Domitian

Emperor
Sept 81
to Sept
96AD

Domitian succeeded his father Vespasian and brother Titus as Emperor in 81AD

He was authoritarian, cruel and paranoid. He reduced the power of the Senate, executed many of his rivals and demanded to be called 'master and god'.

The Senate hated him, the people feared him and some of his own officials plotted against him.

Jews and Christians were heavily persecuted toward the end of his reign. **John, the writer of the last book of the Bible, 'The Revelation', was exiled by Domitian to the island of Patmos** during the latter part of his reign.

Domitian became increasingly unpopular and was stabbed to death by conspirators including members of the Senate and his own household. He was 44 years old. He was succeeded by 65 year old Nerva who restored peace and stability to the empire.

John the Gospel writer



c.6 – c.100 AD



His tomb near Ephesus, Turkey

John - Was one of the close disciples of Jesus and the writer of the New Testament books of:- John's Gospel, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation

He was the son of Zebedee, a Galilean fisherman, and Salome. John and his brother James were among the first disciples called by Jesus.

Following the death and resurrection of Jesus, according to tradition, John took Jesus' mother Mary to Ephesus where he spent much of his life preaching and writing. His tomb was erected in the 6th century

In c.95 AD he was **exiled by Domitian to Patmos** an island off the coast of Ephesus where he had a vision and wrote it down as the Book of Revelation

The Book of Revelation



The cave where
John had his
vision

Patmos and the
Seven Churches



In Revelation Chapter 1 v9-10 John wrote “... *I was on the island of Patmos ... on the Lord’s Day... in the Spirit and I heard ...*”. The vision then starts with letters to the seven Christian churches in Asia minor. It then continues with images that foresee the end of the age.

This was intended to encourage the early Christians under persecution who would have understood it in terms of the Roman Empire

Much of the Revelation is difficult to understand but careful study reveals parallels to what is happening in the world today.

Gloucester has 2,000 years of history.
Roman soldiers and Traders were likely to have brought Christianity here.

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Nerva

Emperor
Sept 96 –
Jan 98 AD

Nerva became emperor when aged almost 66, after a lifetime of imperial service under Nero and the succeeding rulers of the Flavian Dynasty

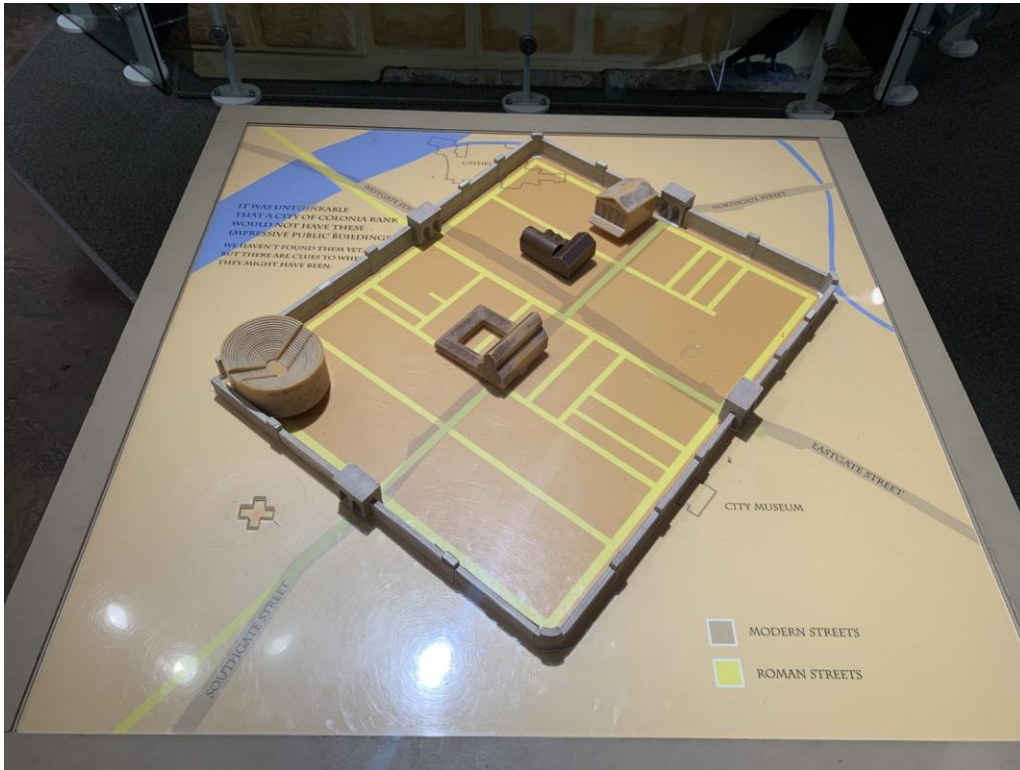
He was welcomed by the senators who had been harshly persecuted during Domitian's reign

He called an end to trials based on treason, released those who had been imprisoned under these charges and **granted amnesty to many who had been exiled**

Although much of his life remains obscure, Nerva was considered a wise and moderate emperor by ancient historians

He died of natural causes after only 15 months in office but before dying he elected Trajan as his successor.

Nerva's Legacy 1



Gloucester (Colonia Glevum)
Roman Settlement

Gave Gloucester Colonia Status

A colonia was the highest rank of a Roman city. Normally all citizens of a colonia were also Roman citizens. Throughout the Empire period, former legionary bases were often converted to colonia by granting land to retired *legionaries*. The thinking was that these legionaries would raise families and provide future recruits to the legions, which were only open to Roman citizens.

The first colonia established in Britain was at Camulodunum (Colchester), around 49 AD. Camulodunum was followed by Lindum (Lincoln), and **Glevum (Gloucester) in 97 AD.**

Each colonia was governed by an ordo (council), under the control of four quattuoviri (annually appointed magistrates).

Nerva's Legacy 2



The Book of Revelation

Gave the Apostle John his freedom

By freeing John from exile on Patmos allowing his return to Ephesus John was able to resume his mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus

We know little about John's later life and death from the Bible.

Tradition tells us that John lived into old age dying sometime after AD 98. He is thought to have died in Ephesus.

John's books are in the Bible and can be read throughout the world by many people in many languages – including Christians and others in Gloucester



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