

### The Roman Republic

In reading the story here about Rome in the new edition of Langer, I will draw your attention to the more significant events. For instance, on page 85 we find that in 390 B.C. "Rome was sacked by the Gauls under Brennus, who defeated the defending at the Allia on July 18. According to tradition the Gauls held all Rome except the Capitol. Their withdrawal after seven months is attributed to Camillus, but they were probably bought off. The Latins and Hernici broke off their alliance with Rome."

I want to expound on this a bit. These Gauls were not primarily Frenchmen. In the first place, they were not Franks—the Franks came in much later, the end of the 3rd century A.D. (into Gaul). This was an event of 390 B.C. Historians would call these Celts, the Romans called them Gauls.

#### Who were these Gauls?

You should be aware of the fact that, generally speaking, the Greeks would call people Celts that the Romans would call Gauls. (In the same way, there was a problem relative to the Cimmeri and the Scythians—that some authors would call people Scythian who were Cimmeri, and so on.) Later on, you will discover that people who once were called Gauls or Celts turn out to be Germans. In the early records, when discussing the area north of Greece or north of Italy, there was no land called "Germania"—there was no such country. Not until the first century B.C. did this term develop. To the Greeks, all north and central Europe, as far as they had any record, was Celtica. To the Romans it was Celtica or all the people in the west were commonly called Gauls.

Now these Gauls who took Rome in 390 B.C. were Bavarians primarily. The entire history—that has not been preserved by the Romans—the entire history of these events is preserved only by the Bavarians who say that they themselves were the ones—because the Bavarians were in Gaul and, from this time on, they settled in northern Italy in the Po (they had already been there, for that matter); and for some period of time, all north Italy was settled by south Germans, the Bavarians (and/or kindred tribes). When we come to the story of earliest Germany in history in Chapter Two of Volume II of the Compendium we will discover this.

Now, in Bavarian history the anchor date is 390 B.C. That is, if we are not sure where German or Bavarian history starts, we can go back in a direct sequence with exact lengths of reign (and no missing reigns) to the year 2214 B.C. or 155 years after the Flood (131 plus 24—see pages 13-14 of vol. two of the Compendium). The Bavarian Chronicle shows that the German history does tie in—there is no question about the source—the Roman record would confirm it. And with this we can go in either direction in German history and have the first 2000 years (approximately) recorded and chronologically confirmed!

#### Who Were the Sammites?

Later here we have in the 4th century B.C. the beginning of a series of three wars which the Romans fought with the Sammites (pages 85-86 in Langer) as a part of the gradual expansion of Rome. We want to ask, Who were the Sammites? These were people who were living near Rome in a district basically where the Sabines of history were. The tradition, in my estimation, would seem to associate these with a Hebrew stock. I doubt that it will be other than the fact that a Chaldean, shall we call them Hebrew, people, the children of Sheba, the son of Joktan (Genesis 10: 26, 28) who originally settled on the Sabus or Save River, a tributary of the Danube

—that these are the people who are the Samnites of Roman history. And, of course, from this region of the Danube or Sabus River there was a migration into Italy proper. Then too, all the traditional gods of these people go back to a name that would be a Latin form of the name Sheba. (In this connection, notice also page 17 of volume two of the Compendium.)

### The Celts in Macedonia, Greece, Thrace and Asia Minor

At the time that the Celtic-Bavarian people controlled the northern part of Italy, we also read on page 90 here in Langer for the year 279 B.C., which was exactly 200 years after the Persians had warred in Greece under Xerxes, that, "The Celts ravaged Macedon(ia), defeated the Greeks at Thermopylae, and reached [the temple at] Delphi. A second band ruled Thrace until 210, while a third crossed to central Asia Minor and established the kingdom of Galatia." So we have much of Greece being ravaged during this 3rd century B.C. by the German expansion that is taking place here all the way down into the Greek peninsula.

We don't fully realize why it is possible for the Romans to tell the story of what is known as "great Germania," and bring the Germans all the way to the Black Sea, unless we realize to what extent Germanic tribes had already been expanding down into Italy, had expanded into Spain and Gaul, and had of course expanded all through Illyria into Greece and Asia Minor where other Assyrians were! The Kingdom of Galatia, in fact, joins up with the very area which the Romans will call Assyria proper (see page 9 of vol. two) which is the land on a map to the north-east of the Halys River in Asia Minor bordering on the southern shores of the Black Sea—the regions once known as Cappadocia and Pontus.

So here we have a complete link-up with what we would call the Assyrians in the east and those in the west—all the into central Asia Minor, the Kingdom of Galatia! Of course the Galatians to whom Paul wrote were mostly Greeks in the cities rather than Bavarians and others in the country. But as late as Jerome's day (he died in 420 A.D.) all the people in the country were still speaking the language of the city of Trier in the west—which I take it was Celtic because many south Germans were Celtic-speaking, not German-speaking. (But whoever has learned the ancient Celtic knows that it is rather similar in some ways in sound to German even though it has survived perhaps only in areas of the British Isles—Scotland, Wales, Ireland—although there were other dialects, undoubtedly, of this vast language group we call "Celtic.") The whole realm, in other words, was an expansion of these people from the north.

Now in this environment we have the struggle of the Seleucids and the Ptolemies on the eastern Mediterranean, then the rise of Italy, and finally this whole Celtic realm will break up. And the expansion of the Roman Empire will shatter all along the power of the German tribes in Europe, though the Romans never could conquer Europe to the north above the Danube or east of the Rhine—they could only defeat these people. And, ultimately, it was these people in the north of Europe, Germans and others, who finally ate away at Rome from the outside while Rome decayed from within! The Germans were finally able, due to disease, lack of population, wars and everything, to settle in the territory of the Empire—and, in many cases, to occupy the land that they once had held out of which the Romans drove them in previous centuries!

(Note: These comments selected from the lecture of 2-24-69, Monday A.M. The material on "Early Rome's Historical Setting" found in an earlier syllabus item is also taken from this same class lecture.)