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Mr. Mills, Period 2

Writing Exercise

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Slavery's Impact on Roman Society (originally hand-written)

Slavery had a big impact upon Roman society and economy. Slaves had no rights, so they couldn't vote. There was an increased gap between the rich and the poor. Slavery influenced the creation of an entirely different class: proletariat. These were homeless, jobless people who could easily rebel against the Roman government.

This gave rise to the cautionary proverb "Every slave we own is an enemy we harbor." In fact, there were 3 major slave rebellions between 138 and 70 BC. In one of them, Spartacus' uprising destroyed the Italian countryside with his army of 70,000 slaves. It led to a great loss of life and property.

Labor for the latifundia (large farms composed of bunches of smaller farms) was cheap because of slave labor. The luxury that rich people enjoyed depended on the labor of slaves. Because of the First Punic War, Rome got 75,000 slaves. By 100 BC, one third of Rome's population was made up of slaves. Low-priced, uneducated, and unskilled slaves were assigned to manual labor jobs. Some slaves were cooks, teachers, musicians, secretaries, and messengers. Slaves took Punic War veterans' jobs on farms and other places. A rich Roman could have up to 11 slaves! In conclusion, slavery contributed to economic and social turmoil in Rome. It weakened Roman society.