

From Arcadius and Honorius to Flavius Aetius

1. Arcadius ruled in the East and Honorius ruled in the west Theodosius died in 395 A.D (469)
2. When Arcadius came to the throne he was either 17/18 but Honorius was very young at the age of ten (469)
3. When Arcadius died in 408 A.D he was succeeded by his seven year old son Theodosius II (469)
4. * gets complicated here since people are going to be succeeding in both the west and east, this is what makes the late empire so difficult
5. Honorius was succeeded in 423 by his nephew Valentinian III, who was only six. (469)
6. Because these people were so young when they ruled they were dependent upon others. They were unable to break away from these people as they matured(469)
7. Galla Placidia was the half sister of Honorius and Arcadius and mother of Valentinian III.
8. Pulcheria was the sister of Theodosius II
9. Eudocia was the wife of Arcadius
10. All 4 of these women had a big influence on the reign of Arcadius
11. In the later empire the idea of having Germanics as generals became extremely popular. Stilicho was a general under Honorius and he was a half-vandal (his mother was Roman)
12. Stilicho served in the Roman army under Theodosius I. He caught Theodosius' eye and soon married his niece Serena. He quickly became magister equitum and when Theodosius fought against Arbogast he was given the title magister utriusque militiae. (Master of Both Cavalry and Infantry.)
13. When Theodosius died he entrusted his children's welfare to him
14. Stilicho hoped to gain power for his son, Eucherius, by marrying him to Honorius' half sister, Galla Placidia. These ambitions brought conflict between Stilicho and the evil praetorian prefect of Arcadius, Rufinus
15. The initial struggle between Stilicho and Rufinus began in the spring of 395 over the question of who was to control the strategic Prefecture of Illyricum. They struggled over who got to keep it because if Honorius kept it, Arcadius would have like no land

16. The Visigoths did not think that they had been fairly treated for their services against Arbogast so they attacked Macedonia and Thrace
17. Alaric is a new king of Visigoths and goes west due to negotiations with Rufinus and is captured by Stilicho
18. After this Rufinus convinces Arcadius to make Stilicho send troops west to Constantinople. Stilicho also let Alaric go which is just a dumbass move
19. The eastern troops returned under the control of Gainas, an ostrogoth, with whom Stilicho had plotted to kill Rufinus
20. On November 27, 395, Rufinus appeared along with Arcadius to review the troops at Constantinople. Gainas and his accomplices crowded around Rufinus with friendly gestures and flattering talk. Then, with the trap closed tight, they cut him down. His severed head was mocked through the streets, and his severed right hand was shown to passers-by with requests for gifts, as a commentary on his notorious rapacity.
21. Alaric spent a year sacking Greece unstopped by Arcadius. Stilicho invades Greece in 397 to oppose Alaric.
22. As Stilicho opposed Alaric and fought against him, Arcadius encourages Gildo of Moorish county to revolt against Honorius and cut off grain supply. Stilicho is declared a public enemy by Arcadius and has to go back home to help with grain supply.
23. Mascezel, Gildo's brother defeats him
24. Stilicho married his daughter, Maria, to Honorius in 398 A.D
25. In 401 A.D Radagaisus ravaged Noricum and Rhaetia with the Vandals, Alans, and other Germans
26. things are getting real, in 401 A.D Alaric invades Italy Yikes!
27. Thankfully good old Stilicho comes in and saves the day by capturing Alaric's family and making him depart from Italy in exchange for their safety
28. He lost his family at the battle of Pollentia in 403 A.D
29. Alaric reinvaded Italy in 403 A.D and fought at Verona. Alaric is defeated again and is forced to help Stilicho besiege Illyricum and recapture it
30. Stilicho killed Radagaisus who became a leader of the Ostrogoths, in August 406 A.D
31. At the end of 406, large numbers of Vandals, Suevi, Alans, and other tribes crossed the frozen Rhine into Gaul.
32. In Britain another Constantine was proclaimed emperor

33. While Stilicho went and dealt with that stuff, a palace official named Olympius turned Honorius against Stilicho and brought about both his arrest and execution along with his son in August of 408 A.D
34. Now that Honorius had gotten rid of his good general and didn't listen to Alaric's terms anymore, Alaric invades Rome and Honorius goes and hides in Rome's swamps. Honorius hands over hostages and offers payments to Alaric
35. Honorius, being the bad emperor he is, didn't pay the ransoms and in 409 A.D, Alaric re-invaded Rome. Senate negotiated with him again.
36. With approval of Senate Priscus Attalus is made new emperor because he will listen to Alaric
37. Attalus' brother Athaulf became Count of the Domestics
38. All of Attalus' friends have positions of authority
39. Quintus Aurelius Symmachus was the leader of the senate at this time and had clashed with St. Ambrose
40. Honorius, scared offered to do a joint rule with Attalus but Attalus refused.
41. Attalus and Alaric had a disagreement about what to do with barbarian
42. Sarus was a Visigothic rival of Alaric
43. Alaric sacked Rome on August 24th 410 A.D and Galla Placidia was carried off
44. Alaric proceeded to die at Rhegium and he was buried near the Basentus river and The Visigoths elected Alaric's brother-in-law, Athaulf, as their new king.
45. They first supported a Roman rebel, Jovius and then switched to help Honorius to regain provinces. Honorius being the terrible emperor that he is refused to acknowledge their help and the visigoths attacked him and seized Narbone.
46. Athaulf married Galla Placidia recognition and cooperation from Honorius. Honorius sent out his Master of the Soldiers, Constantius, who had long wanted to marry Placidia, to dislodge the Visigoths. They fled to Spain, where Athaulf was assassinated
47. Wallia was elected to succeed Athaulf. Tried to lead people to Africa and faced starvation and had to negotiate with Constantius.
48. In these negotiations he agreed to send the widowed Galla Placidia back to Rome

49. Theodoric I succeeded Wallia and helped the Romans at the battle of Mauriac Plain with Aetius. With him their relationship with the Romans remained good
50. Alaric, the Vandals, Alans, and Suevi had taken advantage of the weakened defenses along the Rhine to invade Gaul. Constantine had used their needs to help fight against Rome in 409 A.D. They were negotiated with and were given land.
51. The king of the Vandals at this time was Gunderic and was defeated by Wallia.
52. In 428 A.D Gunderic was succeeded by Gaiseric and he wanted to sack Africa
53. A dispute had arisen between Boniface, Count of Africa, and Galla Placidia, regent for Valentinian III.
54. Gaiseric came into Africa but a peace treaty was negotiated in 435 A.D between him and Numidia
55. But Gaiseric proceeded to break it in 439 A.D by raiding Carthage
56. In 442 A.D Valentinian III recognized the Vandals as an independent kingdom and things were good until Valentinian was assassinated in 455 A.D
57. Gaiseric sacked Rome in 455 A.D and carried off Eudocia (Valentinian III's widow) and her daughters as hostages
58. Gaiseric married his eldest son, Huneric, to Eudocia's daughter Eudocia, but that did nothing to improve his relations with the Roman emperors of either the East or West.
59. The Burgundians worked under king Gundahar and helped the Roman usurpers Constantine and Jovinus
60. Aetius was the general of Valentinian III and had the Huns attack the Burgundians
61. Huns were a Germanic barbarian tribe to whom Theodocius II paid a yearly payment of 350 pounds of gold. The king of the Huns during this time was Rua
62. Rua helped Aetius to deal with his rivals Boniface and Sebastian
63. Attila and Bleda succeeded but Attila overtook Bleda because he was so aggressive
64. Attila demanded the hand of Honoria, sister of Valentinian III and went so far as to attack Rome
65. Pope Leo saves the day with the timely outbreak of pestilence upon the men of Attila

66. Attila in 454 A.D died while making love to the sister of the Burgundian king. Without Attila's evil leadership, the Huns were not as good
67. Aetius and Theodoric beat the Huns at Cautalanian plains/ Mauriac plains.
68. Valentinian III was 5 years old when he started ruling and ruled for 30 years and was a son of Galla Placidia and Constantius III
69. Aetius forced Galla Placidia to to appoint him as master of cavalry and infantry in 429 A.D
70. Son of Aetius was Gaudentius to Valentinian III's daughter, the younger Placidia
71. Placidia had Heraclius and Petronius Maximus to kill Aetius