



Classical Antiquity

Empire Without End: Hadrian's Wall

Different Emperors, Different Ideologies

When Emperor Hadrian took over from Emperor Trajan in 117 CE, he had some very different ideas about how the Roman Empire should be ruled.

Your task:

It is now the year 127 CE, ten years into Emperor Hadrian's rule. Construction of Hadrian's Wall is almost complete. Many of the policies and ventures that contrast his predecessor's, such as Romanization and long stints of nonviolent travel outside Italy, are in full swing.

Compare the reigns of Trajan and Hadrian. You should:

- comment on the mood of the people during both reigns.
- describe how the policies, actions, and ideologies of each ruler impacted the people and culture of the empire.
- come to a conclusion about who is the better emperor.

You can structure your piece in any format of your choosing. Some suggestions are:

- a conversation between two citizens—a soldier and a baker—who have lived through both reigns: one who favored Trajan's reign and one who prefers Hadrian's rule, respectively.
- a reflective news article for the 10th anniversary of Emperor Hadrian's reign.
- an essay or multimedia report from your own perspective.

