Marcus Aurelius

Marcus Aurelius Antonius Augustus
Born: April A.D. 121
Died: March A.D. 180
16th emperor of Rome
Co-ruled with Lucius Verus from 161-169 (the death of Lucius Verus)
Married Faustina
Was recognized as a stoic philosopher.
Conquered the Sarmations and the Marcomanis
Last of the five good emperors

5 good emperors:
-Nerva
-Trajan
-Hadrian
-Antonius Pius
-Marcus Aurelius
These five emperors marked a time of relative peace for Rome. Nerva came into power after the reign of Domitian in 96 A.D which was the beginning. Commodus came into power as a co-ruler in 177 A.D. and became emperor after the death of Marcus Aurelius in 180 A.D. and marked the end of the reign of the five good emperors.

People to know:
-Marcus Aurelius = 16th emperor of Rome.
-Lucius Verus = Co-ruler with Marcus Aurelius at the beginning of his reign.
-Faustina = Wife of Marcus Aurelius. Marcus set up Monuments in her honor.

Terms to know:
Stoicism = School of philosophy that teaches one to not be burdened by bad emotions
Meditations = A series of writings by Marcus Aurelius outlining his thoughts on stoicism
Coregency = The ruling of two leaders where one is usually the norm. (started in Rome by Hadrian)

-Soon you'll be ashes or bones. A mere name at most—and even that is just a sound, an echo.
The things we want in life are empty, stale, trivial.
-Quote from the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius.
WebSite:
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Historia_Augusta/home.html
- This website is a link to the Historia Augusta. A collection of biographies written in the
  Roman period. This work has a biography of Marcus Aurelius that is split into two
  sections. Before the death of Lucius Verus and after the death of Lucius Verus. This work
  was used to gather background information on Marcus Aurelius.

Journal Article:
http://www.jstor.org/stable/4435105
- This article was discussing if the legislation of Marcus Aurelius was really as stoic as the
  man claimed to be. In this article the author takes a look at some of the legislation, mostly
  regarding children and tries to determine if they are of stoic values.

Discussion Questions:
- How do you think the fact that Marcus Aurelius was a stoic affected his rule as emperor?
- How do you think that Marcus Aurelius started his rule with a co-emperor affected his
  reign?
- Do you think that there was a correlation between the reactions of both Marcus Aurelius
  and Herodes Atticus over the deaths of their wives?
- Do you think that Marcus Aurelius was in part to blame for the end of the reign of good
  emperors?

Bibliography:

Marcus Aurelius, Emperor and Philosopher

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Quote: How ridiculous and unrealistic is the man who is astonished at anything that happens
in life- Marcus Aurelius.

Bust of Marcus Aurelius
Musee Saint-Raymond,
Toulouse