

Middle East Technical University
Econ107 - Social and Economic History
Problem Set 1

1. Assume that you were born emperor and had the chance to choose the empire you would rule. Which one would you prefer, Chinese or the Roman Empire?
2. How do economic institutions differ between the two empires?
3. Compare and contrast social life in both empires? (Especially consider gender dynamics)
4. The Han Chinese system was built on competence (scholar-bureaucracy), whereas the Roman system was driven by loyalty (personal patronage). How did this fundamental difference affect the empires' ability to make long-term administrative decisions?

Key Terms:

Social Stratification

Colonization

Monetization

Confucianism

Legalism