Chapter 6

Choice: Boudicca Chooses to Revolt Against Rome

This activity corresponds to the “Boudicca Chooses to Revolt Against Rome” feature in your textbook. The following questions are designed to help you understand the choice that Queen Boudicca made in opposing the Roman occupying forces in first-century C.E. Britain. Once you have answered the questions in the Comprehension section, submit your answers and move on to the questions in the Analysis and Outside Sources sections. Each section is designed to build upon the one before it, taking you deeper into the subject you are studying. After you have answered all of the questions, you will have the option of emailing your responses to your instructor.

Introduction

In the first century C.E., the Roman Empire was continuing to expand across Europe and into the British Isles, consolidating its early conquests. The system of client kings and puppet rulers served the Empire well, in places such as ancient Judaea and Britain. However, as rulers changed in Rome, emperors, such as Nero, allowed his armies more latitude to seize and rule lands that were perceived as wealthy, troublesome, or rebellious. By the end of the first century C.E., both Judaea and Britain were under direct Roman control.

Comprehension

1. Why did Prasutagus leave half of his kingdom to Nero?

2. What dilemma did Boudicca face in opposing the Roman occupation of Britain?

3. Why did Paulinus succeed in his final battle against Queen Boudicca?

Analysis

1. What were the risks of being a client king, such as Prasutagus, under the Romans?

2. What purpose does demoralization of an enemy, such as the case of Boudicca’s family, serve in subjugating an opposing force?

3. What factors prompted Boudicca’s decision to risk military opposition to the Romans?

Outside Sources

2. A more extensive account of Boudicca’s resistance can be found at: members.tripod.com/~ancient_history/boad.html. What additional knowledge concerning her revolt is added by this account?

3. You can find links to more material about life in Roman Britain at the time of Queen Boudicca at: www.britainexpress.com/History/Boudicca's_Revolt.htm. Explore this additional material and discuss your findings.
4. Outside Sources

1. The Hollywood film, *Spartacus*, is a romanticized version of the historical account of the story of Spartacus. However, several websites try to sift the legend and Hollywoodization of the history from the real man and his story.  
   [http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/spartacus.html](http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/spartacus.html)

2. A number of ancient texts treat the topic of Spartacus, including Appian of Alexandria and Plutarch. Their accounts can be found online:  
   [http://www.livius.org/so-st/spartacus/spartacus.html](http://www.livius.org/so-st/spartacus/spartacus.html)

3. Additional material on slave revolts from Roman times can be found on the Internet Sourcebook:  
   [http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/3slaverevolttexts.htm](http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/3slaverevolttexts.htm)