

Roman Law and Life

- one of the lasting impacts of the Roman Empire was their legal system, much of which survives today

- called Civil Law

- under Civil Law:

- people were innocent until proven guilty

- laws applied to all regions of the Empire (consistent)

- judges based decisions on evidence

- followed set standards to make sure the accused had fair trials

- we still have all these things today!

- revolutionized the legal system at the time because it used to be quite archaic, inconsistent, and corrupt

- punishments were severe for wrongdoers

- serious criminals were often sent to death in the Coliseum

- usually mauled by wild animals

- lesser crimes were punished fairly in the eyes of Romans

- prison, slavery, fines, etc.

- under Roman rule, slaves and women gained rights

- set the limits of husbands and men as well

- very revolutionary!