Where did the founding fathers of the United States get the idea for the three branches of government? Why does our money have stuff written on it in Latin? Why does watching the political intrigues and personal liaisons revealed in the HBO series Rome help us understand our current political and social culture? Find the answers to these questions as we begin with the myths and legends surrounding Rome's foundation in the eighth century B.C. and then explore how such a small city-state expanded to control one of the largest territorial empires ever known to the western world.