

29a. Marcus Aurelius	29b. Valentinian III
29.1. Antoninus Pius' (Aetius' analogue) adopted son. ([134], p. 326)	29.1. Aetius' (Valentinian's custodian; see above) "adopted son"
29.2. Co-ruled with Lucius Verus (<i>ibid.</i>)	29.2. Co-ruled with Theodosius II in East [134]
29.3. Lucius Verus was younger (<i>ibid.</i>)	29.3. Theodosius II was younger (<i>ibid.</i>)
29.4. Lucius Verus completely dominated by Marcus Aurelius: "Marcus Aurelius, eldest of them, was the actual ruler ..." ([134], p. 326)	29.4. Theodosius II completely dominated by Valentinian III (<i>ibid.</i>)
29.5. Lucius Verus' death before Marcus Aurelius' rule came to end (Lucius Verus' being younger) ([134], pp. 326-327)	29.5. Theodosius' death before Valentinian's rule came to end (Theodosius being younger)
29.6. Great difficulties "turning almost all of their rule into epoch of ferocious wars and economic crisis" (<i>ibid.</i>)	29.6. Great difficulties turning almost all of his rule into epoch of ferocious wars and economic decrepitude. So-called fall of empire started [134], [124]
29.7. War with king Vologaeses (<i>ibid.</i>)	29.7. Hardest war with king Attila (<i>ibid.</i>)
29.8. War with varying success, and very long	29.8. War with varying success, and very long
29.9. Peace treaty with Vologaeses, but danger remained	29.9. Peace treaty with Attila, but danger remained
29.10. War with nomad tribes breaking through Roman frontier fortifications (<i>ibid.</i> , p. 280)	29.10. War with nomad tribes, "Barbarians", intruding into empire. Series of hard wars both in West and East ([128], p. 38)

We now come to the final phase of the parallel. In both empires, hard years of confusion start simultaneously. In the Third Empire, we mostly follow the events in the West. Starting with Theodosius II, the ties between East and West grow weak.

30a. Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus	30b. Ricimer
30.1. Came to power after Marcus Aurelius' death. His rule was remarkable for many "favorites" [146], ([146*], pp. 405-407)	30.1. Talented army commander advancing in 455 A.D. after Valentinian's death. Acquired enormous influence in Rome; was its actual ruler for several years. "Ricimer became the most powerful person in the Western Roman Empire" [146].