Document C: Augustus

When Emperor Augustus felt ill and thought his life was coming to an end, he began writing down his accomplishments. This is a first person account of his life and accomplishments. Initially, it was carved into bronze and put in Augustus’ mausoleum. Later copies were distributed throughout the empire.

Here is an excerpt from the account:

I drove the men who slaughtered my father into exile, punishing their crime. Afterwards, when they waged war, I conquered them in two battles.

I often waged war, on the earth and sea, in the whole wide world, and as the victor I spared all the citizens who sought pardon. As for the foreign nations I conquered, I preferred to preserve them than to destroy the nations.

When the dictatorship was offered to me, I did not accept it.

I paid the towns for the fields, which I had assigned to soldiers. I was first and alone who did this among all who founded colonies.

When the taxes fell short, I gave out contributions of grain and money from my own supply, sometimes to 100,000 men, sometimes to many more.

I restored peace to the sea from pirates.

I extended the borders of all the provinces of the Roman people. I restored peace to the provinces of Gaul and Spain and Germany. I brought peace to the Alps.

I added Egypt to the rule of the Roman people.

Emissaries from the Indian kings were often sent to me, which had not been seen before that time by any Roman leader.