The 3rd century

Crisis, and Plotinus.

Fifty years of civil war, plague and invasion nearly broke the Empire. Plotinus founded Neoplatonism, and Diocletian restored order at the century's end.

What rose

212. Caracalla extends Roman citizenship to nearly all free people of the Empire. Source: Constitutio Antoniniana

c. 250. Plotinus teaches in Rome. Source: Plotinus

284. Diocletian ends the crisis. Source: Diocletian

What fell or stalled

The Crisis of the Third Century: civil war, plague, and a debased currency. Source: Crisis of the Third Century

Version 1, November 16, 2026. Drafted with AI from public sources and checked against the source linked for each entry. Not yet reviewed by Nicholas Niehaus. Corrections are welcome and are logged publicly.
ascentofthewest.com/years/3rd-century/