Abortion was accepted in ancient Rome and Greece. Through much of Western history abortion was not criminal if it was carried out before the foetus moved in the womb (around 18-20 weeks into the pregnancy). On this page. Ancient Greece and Rome. Roman couple; 1st-century fresco from Pompeii ©. Abortion was accepted in both ancient Rome and Greece. The Romans and Greeks weren't much concerned with protecting the unborn, and when they did object to abortion it was often because the father didn't want to be deprived of a child that he felt entitled to. The early philosophers also argued that a foetus did not become formed and begin to live until at least 40 days after conception for a male, and around 80 days for a female.