



JCC I

The Liberators





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Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear faculty advisors, staff members, and fellow delegates,

My name is Dania Guerrero and this year I'm thrilled to be your secretary general. It is with the greatest pleasure to finally welcome you to CarMUN 2024! For more than a decade, Carmelitas Model United Nations has endeavored for the building of new ideas through the development of confidence and leadership skills, using diplomacy as a tool for the bettering of our world.

I joined CarMUN sometime around 2021 and 2022, the year after the pandemic, when everything was a fresh start for everyone, and it was not to be an exception for me. I became part of this "club" that I now call family in inspiration that my brother had before, and he also inspired me to better myself at this one thing. Today, I can objectively say that I've superseded him in this. At first, I was not really scared, but nervous of what was to come. The concept that surrounded MUN was such a positive environment that I was excited to finally see what the future was going to bring and what opportunities were to come. Being the youngest of our delegation was not easy, being the only one who didn't know a thing about the UN was even harder, nonetheless with the help of our faculties and coaches it came to be an entertaining and enriching experience where I was able to play a whole new persona. Now, after almost 3 years, I am able to say that the persona I used to play, is me! Finding myself and my path through MUN has been a blessing, and I know I'm not the only one who has done so as well.

Guided by our school's values, the secretariat is dedicated to extending our ethos globally. One where respect and diplomacy reign the dialogue between all, where the principles of the UN are followed and rightfully recognized. The lack of seriousness in today's reality reflects in every single aspect of our world, even, in MUN conferences, treating woeful issues with flippancy. That is why this year's conference theme is "Making diplomacy great again".

This year's conference aims to cultivate your skills as a delegate, encouraging you to perceive beyond mere words spoken. Regardless of your role within the conference, we aspire for every delegate, staff member, and faculty advisor to have their voice heard. Beyond fulfilling the procedural duties of the organization we emulate, our goal is to foster meaningful debate. Collaboration is key—working together to identify and achieve shared objectives paves the way for a brighter future. Every fire starts with a spark, and it begins with believing in your limitless potential.

Dania Guerrero,
Secretary General



Letter from the Committee Director

Good morning/afternoon/evening (depending on whenever you are reading this)!

My name is Mariano Alvites, I am 20 years old and I am currently studying International Relations at Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC). My MUN journey started in 2019 when I joined CarMUN's delegation. I started as a somewhat shy speaker and became a sociable Crisis committee lover, thanks to my amazing faculty advisors and delegation in general. I am who I am because of and thanks to them. It's kinda crazy it's already been a year since the last CarMUN. In the past months, I've managed to chair a handful of committees, meeting many of you. I feel like I've matured greatly thanks to your feedback and I hope I've made the same impact on you too. It is my pleasure to be a part of this JCC with Bruno. He's an absolute beast, so working with him has been a blast (actually, he's pretty much carried me throughout the preparation so props and thank you, Bruno).

I firmly believe history is something you can't say no to. It lets you dive into the minds of the world's greatest thinkers, helping you get an idea of how we got to where we currently are thanks to their early theories and developments. In this particular case, you will play the parts of well-known and significant historical individuals who had a significant impact on the third Roman Civil War after Julius Caesar's assassination. We will immerse ourselves in Rome's socio-political reality for the duration of the conference to feel the immediate aftermath of Caesar's killing as the Romans did.

Now, some advice: Bring whatever **you** have to contribute and base your contributions on who **you** are as a person. Lead by example, work as a team, and form ties with your fellow delegates to find common ground. Exercise your creativity! Let your creativity flow to create the greatest potential solutions (maintaining professionalism and etiquette). Finally, be as skeptical as you can. Always reflect on your approach to the problem and the resources you could have used to find solutions. You might be able to reveal several angles on the problem that could be beneficial to everyone.

Having said this, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, as I love to help whoever is in need of any tips or has any sort of doubts.

Can't wait to see y'all!

Mariano Alvites
Committee Director



1. Introduction

*"What is the best course of death? A sudden, unexpected one."
- Julius Caesar*

The Ides of March have come and gone, and the *dictator perpetuo, pontifex maximus*, military and political genius Gaius Julius Caesar has been assassinated. A mob of frenzied senators watches as the single most powerful man in the entire Roman Republic bleeds to death at the foot of a statue of Pompey, his old enemy. After a long, painful struggle, one of Rome's greatest men pulls his toga down over his face to preserve his last shred of dignity and perishes. The dictator is dead.

The senators then storm out of the building, proudly displaying their blood-stained weapons for all to see, while proclaiming their self-righteous "tyrannicide" to the passersby. They had intended to "save the republic" by eliminating the dictator, but the damage was done. Caesar had long undermined Rome's political systems, and his death would ultimately be the catalyst for a brutal civil war that would change Rome forever. The Roman Republic is doomed; its days, numbered.

The assassination of Julius Caesar on March 15th, 44 B.C. was perhaps one of the most pivotal moments in Roman history, and the subsequent power vacuum thereafter created a chaotic environment in which different parties scrambled to pick up the pieces - or to quickly seize power for themselves. For the duration of the conference, we will dive deep into Rome's socio-political reality to experience the immediate fallout of Caesar's assassination firsthand, just like the Romans did. You will be entrusted with the roles of famous and important historical figures, who were key players in deciding the outcome of the Third Roman Civil War.

The future of Rome is in your hands. Will you save the Republic, or follow in Caesar's footsteps and seize control?



2. Key Concepts

Before examining the context of Caesar's assassination and the historical developments leading to it, it is essential to comprehend the following key concepts. These concepts will be pivotal for any discourse within our committee and will enable you to navigate the complexities of the late Roman Republic.

The Roman Republic

Rome emerged as a small city-state along the Tiber River in Italy around 752 BC. Initially a constitutional monarchy, it was heavily influenced by Hellenic culture through early Greek settlers. This cultural influence, combined with Rome's superior organization, helped make it one of the most advanced states in its region.



A recreation of what the Roman emblem might have looked like. Although the Romans did not use flags, their legions used eagle standards like the one shown here.

Rome transitioned from monarchy to republic after a general revolt ousted its last king due to abuses by the nobility. Deeply opposed to monarchy, Romans established a system to prevent similar abuses and increase public influence in governance. This "Res Publica" ("public thing") concentrated most power in the Senate. Romans took pride in this system, which they saw as a defining aspect of their identity and a key difference from what they saw as lawless barbarians. Rome's official name, *Senatus Populusque Romanus* (SPQR), meaning "The Senate and People of Rome," reflected the alliance between the plebeians and the Senate. However, Rome was not a democracy as we know it today. The Senate was largely controlled by aristocrats and wealthy individuals, making the Republic oligarchic.

The Republic expanded rapidly, conquering most of the Italian peninsula and then extending its control across the Mediterranean. By 44 BC, Rome had conquered major powers like Carthage and Macedonia, and eventually the entire Mediterranean, which they referred to as *Mare Nostrum*, "Our Sea". However, Rome's expansion strained its institutions, leading to the decline of the Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire.



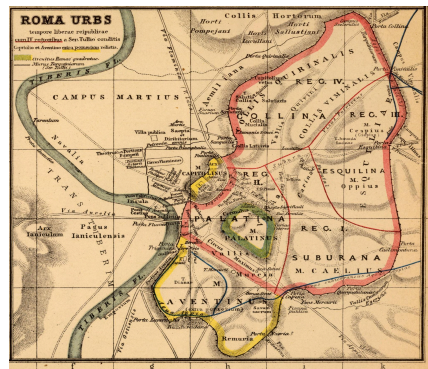
Imperium

Imperium is a Latin term that roughly translates to "command authority". It was the supreme authority in Rome, encompassing executive, military, and judicial powers, typically granted to individuals commanding armies. Only those with imperium, such as consuls, praetors, and dictators, could legally conduct military operations on behalf of the state. Marcus Tullius Cicero famously defined it as "that without which military affairs cannot be managed, armies can be maintained, and war cannot be waged".

An individual with imperium, known as an imperator, represented and channeled the sovereignty of Rome. The symbol of this power was the *fascis*—a bundle of sticks with an ax—symbolizing their absolute authority, including over life and death. Imperium also granted total immunity from legal prosecution.

The Pomerium

The Pomerium was a religious and legal boundary within the city of Rome, said to have been first marked by Romulus. To the Romans, Rome legally existed only within this line, and crossing it with arms or outside designated gates was punishable by death. Most of Rome's political life took place within this boundary.



A map of the city of Rome. The red line represents the rough area of the Pomerium.

The Pomerium also separated the military from the civic sphere. When Roman magistrates entered the Pomerium, their imperium instantly expired, turning them into nothing more than private citizens. In practice, this means that imperium only existed strictly outside the Pomerium and that imperators had to relinquish their command authority if they wished to enter Rome. The Pomerium's inviolability also somewhat extended into the province of Italy, whose border was marked by the Rubicon River to the north. The presence of any military force on the Italian peninsula (and within the



Pomerium) was illegal unless the Roman senate had specifically requested or allowed its presence.

The Roman Senate

The Roman Senate originated during the Roman Kingdom (753–502 BC) as an advisory council to the King. With the establishment of the Republic around 509 BC, it became the central governing body, advising magistrates and wielding influence through the collective prestige of its members, both patricians (nobles) and plebeians (non-nobles). Senators were appointed for life, typically at the start of their political careers. However, membership alone did not grant power, as influence was reserved for senior senators. Speaking order favored seniority, with consuls and former consuls speaking first, while junior senators had limited opportunities to speak, participating mainly in votes.



The Roman Senate. (Painting by C. Maccari)

Legislative proceedings began when consuls, praetors, tribunes of the plebs, or the princeps senatus (the most senior senator) convened the Senate. After a proposal was presented and debated, a vote followed. If approved, the consul would present the bill to the public assembly, often manipulating the outcome by filling the assembly with supporters, turning it into a rubber stamp for Senate decisions.

Throughout the Republic, Senate power dynamics revolved around the conflict between the *Optimates* and the *Populares*. The *Optimates*, the conservative elite, favored governance by a privileged few, while the *Populares* championed the rights of the poor and noncitizens, advocating for radical reforms. The conflict between these factions profoundly influenced Rome's internal politics.

Roman Consulship

The consul was Rome's chief executive officer. As the highest elected office in Rome, consuls held significant power over politics and had various responsibilities that included



setting the legislative agenda, overseeing elections, reading omens, managing holidays, and commanding the military. Two co-consuls were elected annually, alternating power each month, with the one who received the most votes holding fasces (authority) first. While consuls had veto power, it was rarely used against each other to avoid retaliation. To maintain influence, consuls often worked to ensure the election of allies and prevent the election of opponents. They oversaw the elections of their successors, creating opportunities for political manipulation and corruption. Additionally, consuls held ultimate command of Rome's armies, although it was the Senate who declared war.

Roman People's Tribuneship

The *tribuni plebis*, or tribunes of the plebs, were elected annually to represent plebeian interests and protect them from potential abuses by other magistrates. Ten plebeian-only tribunes served each year, wielding significant power, including the ability to veto motions from consuls, praetors, and senators alike, propose legislation, and prosecute offenders. Their office was highly desirable for those pursuing a political career. Interestingly, the bodies of elected tribunes were "sanctified" according to Roman traditions, meaning that harming a tribune was a religious offense.

Roman Dictatorship

In Rome, dictatorship was a temporary and extraordinary magistrate meant to empower an individual to guide the Republic and face a specific emergency, such as a war or a crisis of any sort. Appointed by the Senate for six months strictly, the dictator had supreme control over the military and could suspend laws and override vetoes. Dictatorships were meant to enable the Roman state to face threats easily by avoiding slow bureaucratic processes or political deadlock that often paralyzed the senate during emergencies. Although they were crucial during the Punic Wars, they were seen as disruptive and politically destabilizing. The role disappeared after the wars until its revival during Rome's civil conflicts by Sulla and later by Caesar.

Roman Elections

Elections were crucial in Rome's political system, typically initiated by a consul. They served to ratify legislation, conduct censuses, and elect public officials. Three main assemblies handled elections: the Assembly of the Centuries, the Tribal Assembly, and the Plebeian Assembly.

The Assembly of the Centuries, the largest and most prestigious, elected Rome's highest officials, including consuls and praetors. The Tribal Assembly elected military tribunes, quaestors (a key role for senatorial entry), and aediles. Voting in these assemblies was



complex, favoring the elite and dividing voters into wealth-based classes, with approximately 170 voting blocs. On election day, citizens gathered on the Field of Mars, organized into their voting blocs. Patrician blocs voted first, and plebeian blocs last. If patricians reached an early consensus the voting procedure would end, even if the other blocs hadn't voted yet. For this reason, plebeian votes were largely irrelevant unless the upper classes couldn't decide on a winner.

The Plebeian Assembly, reserved exclusively for plebeians, elected the Tribunes of the Plebs. Its simpler voting system involved a yes-or-no vote until a majority was reached. As the only assembly where the poorest citizens had influence, it often saw the election of radical and populist figures. This served as a counterbalance to the patrician politicians who had largely monopolized Roman politics.

The Roman Legion

Rome's military success stemmed from its adaptability. The Romans pragmatically discarded outdated systems and traditions, adopting new and effective ones. This adaptability was reflected in their military structure and ethos, which evolved to meet Rome's changing geopolitical needs. The pinnacle of this evolution was the legion system, Rome's ultimate military structure, which remained effective until the seventh century.

During the late Republic, the smallest unit in the Roman army was the century, composed of 80 legionaries and 20 auxiliary non-combatant personnel, led by a centurion. Six centuries formed a cohort of 480 men, with ten cohorts comprising a legion of around 4,800 soldiers, excluding cavalry and officers. A legate commanded the legion, supported by a camp prefect and military tribunes.



A Roman legion marching out of their fortified camp. (Marcos Weiss)

The Roman military structure was optimized for mobility and flexibility above all. Cohorts were largely identical, allowing them to switch roles seamlessly, something that was not



possible in armies with specialized units. This cohort-based structure enabled generals to reassign units quickly and empowered centurions to make battlefield decisions autonomously. Roman soldiers were self-sufficient, carrying their own gear, setting up camps, and performing tasks like hunting, foraging, and construction. They could quickly build bridges, walls, trenches, fortified camps, clear forests, divert rivers, and resume marching at a moment's notice if needed. Combined with advanced tactics like the testudo formation, this adaptability made the Roman legion a formidable force.

Legions played a key role in Rome's power dynamics, particularly during the late Republic and Empire. Soldiers were promised salaries and land, motivating many to enlist. The legionaries themselves often showed more loyalty to their general than to the Roman state, willing to follow them wherever they led as long as the general was charismatic and offered substantial rewards. This contributed to Rome's expansionist wars and undermined state institutions. Ambitious leaders like Sulla, Julius Caesar, and Augustus recognized that real power lay with the army, not the traditional political system.

The Senatus Consultum Ultimum

The Senatus Consultum Ultimum, or "final act," was Rome's version of martial law. Activated by a simple majority vote, it could not be vetoed by consuls or tribunes. This extreme measure empowered magistrates, typically consuls, to take any necessary actions to protect the Republic. Unlike the dictatorship, which had clear legal boundaries, the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* had no set duration, and its powers were vaguely defined.

The *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* was extremely dangerous and its haphazard use to face crises during the late republic and the early Empire reflected the decay of Rome's institutions and the fragility of Rome's legal systems, which were constantly co-opted by under-the-table politicking and sidestepped by influential individuals.

3. Historical Background

The next section of the study guide aims to give you a comprehensive overview of the events leading up to Caesar's assassination and its consequences. Understanding these events will help you grasp the current predicament more deeply and strategize effectively.



Gaius Julius Caesar

Born on July 13th, 100 BC, Gaius Julius Caesar raised from the patrician Julii family, reputed descendants of the legendary Aeneas and the goddess Venus. Though aristocratic, the Julii lacked political clout and wealth compared to other patrician families, and they were notably progressive in their outlook. From a young age, Caesar exhibited a remarkable aptitude for academics, literature, art, and above all, politics. It is said that his mother instilled in him an insatiable ambition and determination, driving him to restore his family's prestige and influence.



A bust of Julius Caesar, currently on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. (Andrea di Pietro)

In Rome, individuals distinguished themselves and their families through election to various magistracies. Caesar quickly distinguished himself as a skilled and astute politician, climbing the ranks from military tribune to *aedile*, and finally, praetor. He also secured the prestigious role of Pontifex Maximus, Rome's Chief Priest.

Despite early setbacks, including surviving the brutal proscriptions of the first Roman Civil War between Marius and Sulla, Caesar persevered. Upon entering the Senate, he immediately aligned with the radical *Populares* faction, advocating for the common people over the aristocratic *Optimates*. Despite being a Roman noble, Caesar was not one of the *Optimates*. Quite the opposite — he was perhaps Rome's greatest populist. Dark eyed and silver tongued, sensual and violent, Caesar possessed supreme practical ability. He used it to change the world, driven by his love for Rome and his lust for domination.

The first Triumvirate and Caesar's first term as consul

During his term as governor of Hispania Ulterior, Julius Caesar honed his political and military skills, building connections with local elites and observing Roman politics. By 60 BC, after his term, Caesar aimed for the consulship. To boost his chances, he forged a



secret alliance with the two most powerful figures in Rome: Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey) and Marcus Licinius Crassus.

Pompey, a celebrated former consul, was known for his military successes in Asia Minor and reorganizing the East, earning him comparisons to Alexander the Great. Crassus, a seasoned general and a billionaire, was one of the wealthiest men in Rome, with a fortune of 200 million sesterces (about 229 tons of silver). Despite their power, both men had struggled to pass legislation due to opposition from Optimates in the Senate. Frustrated, they turned to Caesar, whose populist appeal promised to advance their agendas. In exchange, they agreed to support Caesar's legislative efforts. This secret agreement, now called by historians as the First Triumvirate, allowed them to dominate Roman politics until the Second Roman Civil War.

With their backing, Caesar was elected consul in 59 BC at age 44. His term was marked by swift legislative action and an alarming authoritarian approach. His most controversial move was a radical land reform bill, redistributing land from wealthy landowners to the plebeians. Opposed by the Optimates, led by Senator Cato, Caesar bypassed the Senate and appealed directly to the public assembly, which was barely legal. His co-consul, Bibulus, attempted to veto the bill, but Caesar incited a mob to attack him and sidelined Bibulus for the rest of their term.

Caesar fulfilled his obligations to the Triumvirate, passing bills ratifying Pompey's eastern conquests and relieving Crassus' financial burdens. As Pontifex Maximus, Caesar manipulated Senate meetings and silenced opposition through intimidation. At one point, he even ordered the arrest of a senator who refused to stop talking during a debate. Using popular support, Caesar constrained the Senate's power, publishing accounts of its proceedings to sway public opinion and effectively creating a propaganda service.

The Optimates, alarmed by Caesar's actions and Pompey and Crassus' complicity, saw him as a threat to their standing. As his consulship ended, Caesar secured a five-year governorship of an unprecedented three provinces; Cisalpine Gaul, Transalpine Gaul, and Illyricum. This appointment not only removed him from Rome, appeasing the Senate's concerns, but also provided him a platform to further his ambitions and shield himself from political retribution.

Caesar's conquest of Gaul

In 58 BC, Julius Caesar left Italy, armed with proconsular authority over the three aforementioned provinces: Cisalpine Gaul, Transalpine Gaul, and Illyricum.



Commanding four veteran legions, approximately 20,000 legionaries, and leveraging the provinces' proximity to Italy, Caesar could maintain his influence in Rome despite his absence. To secure political control, Caesar and his allies ensured the *Populares* faction held the consulship, appointing his father-in-law and Pompey's former legate as consuls to counter the Optimates. He also renewed the Triumvirate, ensuring his allies would safeguard his interests in Rome while Pompey governed Hispania and Crassus pursued military campaigns in Parthia.

Upon arriving in Cisalpine Gaul as proconsular governor, Caesar immediately raised two additional legions with his own funds for his latest project: the conquest of Gaul. Caesar's new goal was to subjugate and Romanize the western territories through a prolonged military campaign. This effort aimed to expand his military power, amass wealth, and surpass his rivals, particularly Pompey, by subjugating the Gallic territories (modern-day France) and folding them into Transalpine Gaul.



A map of Gaul indicating the local tribes, regions, and cities at the time of Julius Caesar. (World History Encyclopedia)

The conquest opportunity arose when the Helvetii tribe, displaced by the Germanic King Ariovistus, began migrating across Roman territories. Caesar seized this as a pretext to intervene, claiming to protect Roman land and maintain regional balance. His campaign led to the Helvetii's subjugation and deeper Roman involvement in Gallic affairs, which was exactly what Caesar wanted.

Following the Helvetii's defeat, the Aedui Confederation, a key Roman ally, requested Caesar to further intervene against Ariovistus, whose expansion threatened regional stability. Caesar obliged happily, sent a diplomatic envoy to Ariovistus and promptly declared war when it was imprisoned. Portraying himself as the "Savior of the Gallic People," he defeated Ariovistus in September 53 BC. His legions then wintered in central Gaul when the campaign was over. By making his army stay in Gaul, Caesar was making a point and dropping his initial subtlety; the situation was beginning to appear less as an intervention and more like an occupation. This made many of the local tribes



uneasy, as it was increasingly clear that Germanic encroachment had only been replaced by Roman domination.

In response, the Belgae nations (modern Benelux) formed a confederation to resist Roman encroachment. Informed by his trusted general and friend Labienus, Caesar swiftly raised two more legions and crushed the Belgae, further expanding his control.

Unlike previous campaigns, Caesar did not bother to fabricate a *casus belli*. Observers in Rome noted the Republic's diminishing control over its generals, recognizing that Caesar's conquests served his ambitions more than Rome's interests. By 56 BC, most of Gaul was under Roman control. Caesar then turned to consolidating power and enhancing his prestige through campaigns beyond the Rhine and an amphibious invasion of Britannia. Although these expeditions held little strategic value, they boosted his reputation.

As Caesar's power grew, resentment among the Gallic tribes, including former allies like the Aedui, intensified. This led to revolts upon his return from Britannia. Caesar doubled down and responded with brutal force, attacking tribes that did not show blind loyalty and enslaving Gallic civilians. This ruthless approach signaled to Gallic leaders that annexation to Rome was imminent, prompting them to unite against Roman occupation. They agreed that something had to be done, and that Rome had to be expelled from Gaul permanently. A Gallic noble named Vercingetorix, a charismatic and intelligent leader with the ability to mobilize masses, took up the mantle of Gallic unity and rallied key Gallic tribes, proclaiming himself King of the Gauls. He launched a massive revolt that posed a significant threat to Caesar and Roman interests in Gaul. Caesar, who had just returned from a brief visit to Rome to extend his governorship five more years, immediately took up arms to face him.



Caesar and Vercingetorix

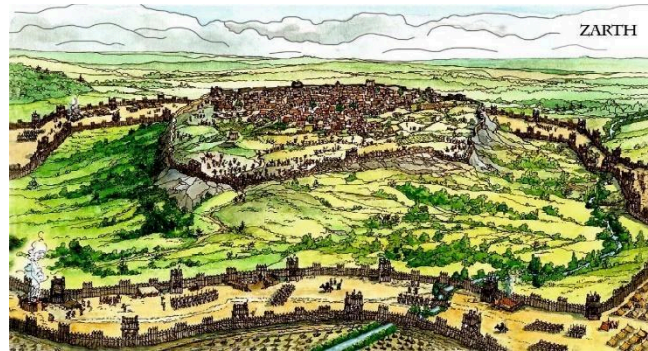
While I could easily gloss over the revolt and the conclusion of the Gallic Wars, I consider this final campaign to be an excellent example of Julius Caesar's military prowess and genius. This conflict embodies the Roman military doctrine and strategies and their ability to adapt and overcome even in the direst of situations. You may also draw inspiration from it for your own military directives. So, if you'll indulge me, let's discuss it in detail.

- a) **Initial Skirmishes and Attrition.** Vercingetorix launched his rebellion in the dead of the winter, using guerrilla tactics to harass Roman positions and cut off food supplies. Caesar, caught off guard, quickly mobilized eight legions, leaving two to protect dwindling reserves. As Caesar advanced into Gaul, Vercingetorix ordered the evacuation of villages and employed scorched earth tactics, denying the Romans any opportunity to resupply. Caesar and Labienus grew increasingly frustrated by this relentless strategy. Vercingetorix intended to wear down the Romans, weakening them enough for a decisive battle
- b) **Siege of Avaricum.** Desperate for supplies, Caesar led his legions to Avaricum, a fortified city surrounded by marshes. To overcome the city's defenses, Caesar ordered the construction of a massive wooden structure to build an earthen ramp, which would enable his troops to scale the walls. As the Roman ramp approached the height of the walls, the Gauls inside Avaricum used planks and wood to extend the walls even faster, and Vercingetorix sent his cavalry to harass Roman foraging parties, preventing them from gathering food. During the grueling 27-day-long siege, Caesar's forces faced constant rain, attacks from Vercingetorix and starvation, but Caesar led his legionaries with remarkable determination, making it known that he was in the same situation as all of them. The relentless Romans endured the siege and eventually captured the city, killing all its inhabitants and finally resupplying their forces.
- c) **Battle of Gergovia.** After Avaricum, Caesar replenished forces and targeted Gergovia, Vercingetorix's home city and tribal capital. Shadowed and harassed by the Gallic army, Caesar faced a formidable challenge. Gergovia was perched atop a plateau and defended by 30,000 Gallic warriors. Caesar established a camp in a strategic location and, after reconnaissance, captured a small fort near the city. This fort controlled a stream supplying Gergovia, which Caesar promptly cut off while fortifying his position with a trench. Vercingetorix responded by strengthening his defenses and fortifying surrounding hills. An attempted Roman assault on Gergovia failed, forcing Caesar to retreat and rendezvous with Labienus despite his initial victories.
- d) **Siege of Alesia.** Vercingetorix decided to regroup in the city of Alesia. Caesar followed closely, his legions weary but determined. Once in the fortified city,



Vercingetorix knew very well that he could afford to wait. He was well supplied, had numerical superiority, an advantageous position, and reinforcements coming to aid him very soon. He had lured Caesar into a trap; if he chose to lay siege to Alesia, the Gallic reinforcements would arrive and destroy him; if he abandoned the siege, his legions would face starvation again and Vercingetorix would only grow stronger.

In response, Caesar did the unthinkable. In a move that seemed more like madness than military strategy, he ordered his legionaries to build a circumvallation—a massive 18-kilometer-long wall that completely encircled the city, followed by a second outward-facing wall to defend against the incoming Gallic reinforcements. The scale and speed of the construction were staggering, baffling even Vercingetorix. This double siege, a masterpiece of Roman engineering, trapped Caesar's legions between two walls.



An illustration of the siege of Alesia. Caesar has surrounded the city.

When Vercingetorix's reinforcements finally arrived, the Gauls outnumbered the Romans 3 to 1. The Gauls launched a series of intense assaults on both the inner and outer walls, seeking to break through and relieve their trapped comrades. The Romans neared total collapse; they were outnumbered, isolated, and fighting on all fronts. The inner wall was nearly breached, and the Gallic forces outside had broken through the outer defenses at several points. Amidst the chaos, Caesar personally took command, rallying his men and reinforcing the most vulnerable sections of the defenses. It was in this critical moment that the Roman cavalry, under the leadership of centurions like Marcus Antonius (Mark Anthony), executed a counterattack. They charged out of the gates, circled the Gallic reinforcements and attacked them from behind, turning the tide of battle. The demoralized Gallic forces broke and fled. The next day, with all hope lost and out of supplies, Vercingetorix surrendered to Caesar, ending the siege.



Vercingetorix surrenders to Julius Caesar. (Lionel Royer)

The victory at Alesia, a testament to Caesar's strategic brilliance, demonstrated his ability to nullify enemy advantages while maximizing his own. His focus on the bigger picture, rather than on traditional tactics, secured a victory against overwhelming odds. It was a testament to the discipline, determination, and ingenuity of Caesar and his legions.

With the Gallic defeat at Alesia, the general revolt was crushed, and Rome consolidated its presence in the region. The Gallic tribes were annexed directly into the Republic as part of Transalpine Gaul, just as Caesar had planned. He had accomplished his objectives; he gained enormous wealth, an experienced and loyal army, and unparalleled prestige. This, however, would have significant repercussions back at the city of Rome.

Political Deadlock in Rome - The Republic Crumbles

While Julius Caesar pursued his conquest of Gaul, his fellow triumvir Marcus Licinius Crassus sought to expand Roman influence by conquering the Parthian Empire, a rival superpower in the Arabian peninsula. Crassus aimed to dominate key trade routes between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, ensuring Roman control over key trade routes to India and China. Confident, he mobilized over 40,000 men against a Parthian force of 10,000. Despite Rome's reputation and numerical advantage, the campaign ended in a catastrophic disaster at the Battle of Carrhae in 53 B.C. The Parthians, employing superior cavalry tactics, decisively defeated the Romans, leading to Crassus's death and the loss of the legion's eagle standards—a severe blow to Roman pride.

Crassus's defeat led to internal strife within the Republic. Gaius Cassius Longinus, one of Crassus's legates, managed to salvage the situation by retreating the surviving forces and defending Syria from a Parthian counterattack. However, the disaster at Carrhae



weakened Rome's geopolitical position and triggered significant political shifts. With Crassus gone, the Triumvirate crumbled, and the alliance between Caesar and Pompey deteriorated. Caesar's triumphs in Gaul, amplified by his self-aggrandizing commentaries, increased his popularity, unsettling the Senate.

Meanwhile, Rome itself was in turmoil. During Caesar's absence, the city was plagued by riots, political violence, and civil unrest. Pompey, who remained in Rome under various pretexts despite being assigned to govern Hispania, took advantage of the chaos to consolidate his power. Ambitious and pragmatic, Pompey aligned himself with the Optimates, positioning himself as the de-facto ruler of Rome.

Pompey becomes Consul

a) Pompey's Principate. Although appointed proconsular governor of Hispania, Pompey avoided the obligation to govern in person, unlike Caesar and Crassus. Instead, he stayed in Rome, delegating duties to his legates. He aimed to seize power if possible. By 54 BC, with Caesar in Gaul and Crassus dead, Pompey pursued his old ambitions, gaining influence among the Optimates. Pompey aspired to be *princeps*, the "first among equals," accumulating the powers of this role while remaining in Rome. Pompey distrusted Caesar and hoped the Senate would formally grant him supreme power amid Rome's growing chaos.

b) Anarchy in Rome. In 47 BC, political violence surged as the tribune Publius Clodius, a supporter of Caesar, disrupted the Senate and pushed controversial bills, leading to Cicero's banishment. After Clodius's term, Pompey supported lifting Cicero's banishment, despite not liking him personally. The Senate passed the bill, but Clodius disrupted the public assembly with a mob of his supporters and armed gladiators, resulting in violence that killed many and injured other tribunes. Titus Annius Milo, a conservative tribune, was disgusted by Clodius' actions and retaliated by assembling his own supporters and gladiators. This led to frequent street battles, and Rome descended into chaos, with political violence escalating and elections being impossible to hold. The situation worsened when Milo's gladiators killed Clodius, and Clodius's supporters burned the Senate house in protest. While the Senate house burned, calls for Pompey to restore order among the populace grew louder.

As chaos grew, Pompey, with his legions outside the pomerium, became the only authority left, deliberately refraining from intervention. Pompey hoped the overwhelmed senate would throw itself into his arms for salvation, and they did. In 52 BC, with elections impossible and the consulship vacant, the Senate, led by Cato, appointed Pompey as sole consul. This appointment was unconstitutional and against the spirit of the entire Roman legal system. The law required a ten-year gap between



consulships, and Pompey had last held office just three years earlier in 55 BC. Moreover, he was still exercising proconsular authority. Nonetheless, in the late Republic, one more illegality mattered little and the Senate did as they pleased.

- c) **Pompey Restores Order.** Pompey was empowered by the sole consulship the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum*. To end the violence and restore stability, he moved a legion across the pomerium into Rome and installed a de-facto military rule. The public hailed him as a savior despite the unconstitutional nature of his consulship. After restoring order, Pompey relinquished his extraordinary powers and enacted conservative reforms, including a prohibition on running for office in absentia—a direct attack on Caesar. This marked the end of the First Triumvirate, with Pompey abandoning Caesar's reformist agenda and aligning with the conservatives.

As Pompey consolidated power, his relationship with Caesar rapidly deteriorated. Caesar was reliant on re-election as consul, and his plans were thwarted by Pompey and the Optimates. The Senate's demand that Caesar disband his army and return as a private citizen exposed him to prosecution, particularly from Cato, who had sworn to punish him for crimes he committed during his first consulship in 59 BC. To protect himself, Caesar had been careful to ensure he had imperium—and thus legal immunity—after leaving office, but this immunity would expire when he re-entered the Pomerium to stand for election, leaving him vulnerable. Caesar's conquests in Gaul also required Senate approval for new legislation, such as compensating Gallic nobles, paying his legionaries, and managing newly acquired territories. However, with Pompey and the Optimates dominating the Senate, these measures were unlikely to pass, leaving election as Caesar's only viable option. Pompey and the Senate denied him this opportunity.

The conflict between Pompey's supporters and Caesar's followers polarized the Republic into two factions: the Pompeians and the Cesareans. While the nobility and senatorial oligarchy opposed Caesar, he garnered support from the populace, radical senators and his veterans. Despite repeated Senate demands to step down, Caesar refused, backed by his allies in Rome, leading to a stalemate. One night, elite senators met at Pompey's home to see if they could figure out a way out of this mess and find an informal agreement. Pompey, Cato and the two setting consuls represented the Pompeians, while Mark Antony, recently elected Tribune of the Plebs, along with other Tribunes, represented the Cesareans. Cicero cast himself in the middle, acting as a mediator. The two sides engaged in intense negotiations and were awfully close to reaching an agreement that would prevent war, but Cato's refusal to make any concessions doomed the negotiations and the Republic itself.

After the failed negotiations, the Senate passed a final bill declaring Caesar an enemy of the Republic if he did not step down by a third deadline. Mark Antony vetoed the bill, but it was ignored and he was almost beaten to death by a mob of angry Pompeians. On January 7th, the presumed deadline, the Senate passed the *Senatus Consultum*



Ultimum to empower Pompey once again. Three days later, Caesar, with the 13th legion in Cisalpine Gaul, learned of the events. He ordered his men to break camp and march south under the cover of the night. The legion stopped at the Rubicon River, and an insignificant body of water that marked the border between Cisalpine Gaul and Italy. By law, all armies and generals were forbidden from entering Italy without Senate approval. Caesar stared down at the Rubicon and reflected for several long moments. Finally, he declared:

"The die is cast."

With that, Caesar ordered his legion to march forward, towards Rome. The moment his boot was on the other side of the Rubicon, the Republic entered a state of civil war.

The Second Roman Civil War

When news of Caesar's march into Italy reached Rome, the city was sent into a panic. Those who could fled, fearing the worst—a conquering warlord approaching with vengeance. Cicero remarked that "even the rats were leaving.". The Senate, fearing Caesar's approach, turned to Pompey, urging him to defend Rome. However, Pompey only had three undermanned legions of inexperienced conscripts and faced slim odds against Caesar's hardened veterans from the Gallic Wars. Pompey chose to retreat and regroup, evacuating Rome with most of the Senate to Greece. His strategy was attrition, hoping to outlast Caesar's resources. Meanwhile, Caesar advanced through Italy, avoiding unnecessary bloodshed to maintain his image as a liberator. Despite this, he faced notable defections, including Labienus, who joined Pompey.

Upon reaching Rome, Caesar found it deserted and silent. His first move was to cross the Pomerium, declaring amnesty for all who laid down their arms. He summoned a nearly empty Senate, requested access to the treasury, and, facing no opposition, seized it. Caesar then established a provisional government, leaving Mark Antony in charge. Pompey was consolidating forces in Greece, but he had seven loyal legions in Hispania, so Caesar chose to secure Hispania first. However, on the way there he encountered resistance in Massalia, which sided with Pompey and blocked his legions' passage. Delegating the siege to an experienced commander named Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus, Caesar efficiently resolved the situation and made the enemy legions surrender in Hispania without direct conflict by using careful positioning and fortifications to cut their supply lines, and enacting mind games to undermine their morale.

With Hispania secured, Caesar turned his focus to Pompey in Greece, who had assembled an astounding 12 legions and 500 warships. Despite a naval blockade, Caesar landed his legions on the Balkan coast, though his navy was destroyed, leaving him stranded with limited supplies.



The Fall of Pompey

a) The battle of Dyrrhachium. Outnumbered and with scarce supplies, Caesar's forces rushed to Dyrrhachium to capture a supply depot but were forced into a defensive position by Pompey's pursuing army. To deter Pompey's attack, Caesar ordered trenches and a wall around his camp, prompting Pompey to build a counter-wall in an attempt to encircle Caesar. Soon enough, both armies descended into a frenzied race to see which one could build a wall faster to cut the other off. In the end, Caesar's legions built it faster; a 31-kilometer-long wall had surrounded Pompey's own. However, Pompey lured one of Caesar's legions into a trap, leading to heavy Cesarean casualties. Depleted of rations, Caesar's army was forced to retreat, but Pompey opted not to chase them. Later, Caesar would say to his officers: "The enemy would have won today if they were commanded by a winner."

b) The battle of Pharsalus.

Following their victory at Dyrrhachium, the Pompeians had an opportunity to sail back to Italy and take back Rome, but instead, Pompey at the Senate opted to force Caesar into a decisive battle to eliminate him and his officers once and for all. This decisive battle was fought on August 9th in Pharsalus, central Greece. Pompey's army, nearly double in size, planned to use a river on their right side as a shield and crush Caesar with superior cavalry on the left. However, Caesar's disciplined troops set a trap for Pompey's cavalry, baiting them into a spear wall. The ensuing rout of Pompey's cavalry allowed Caesar's forces to flank and overwhelm the Pompeian lines. The decisive victory at Pharsalus marked the end of Pompey's dominance and established Caesar as the sole ruler of Rome, forcing Pompey to flee Greece in a hurry, disguising himself as a civilian to avoid capture.

Despite Pompey's decisive defeat at Pharsalus, the civil war continued. Pompey fled to Egypt, while key figures like Labienus and Cato took refuge in Africa. Caesar sent Mark Antony to Rome while he himself sailed to Egypt in pursuit of Pompey. When Antony brought the news of the crushing Cesarean victory to what remained of the Senate back at the capitol, they immediately folded and decreed extraordinary honors for Caesar; they made him consul for five years, dictator for one, the right to unilaterally declare war and peace, permanent legal immunity, and so on.

In October 48 BC, Caesar arrived in Egypt and sought an audience with the young king Ptolemy XIII. Ptolemy presented Pompey's severed head, hoping to gain Caesar's favor



but instead horrified him. Caesar's ultimate goal had been to defeat and pardon Pompey to show both his military might and clemency. Ptolemy had denied him his ultimate victory. In retaliation, Caesar's legions occupied Alexandria and held Egypt's nobility hostage to secure payment of Egypt's debts to Rome, which would be necessary to fund the civil war. The occupation sparked an anti-Roman revolt, forcing the Romans to barricade themselves in the royal quarters. As the Romans were besieged by the Egyptians, Cleopatra, Ptolemy's sister and rightful queen, infiltrated the Roman position. Clever and charismatic, Cleopatra negotiated with Caesar and struck a deal with him: he would defeat Ptolemy and install her as queen in exchange for settling Rome's debt and supporting Caesar's armies. After a siege, Caesar succeeded in defeating Ptolemy and installing Cleopatra. Caesar remained in Egypt until June 47 BC, during which he began an unexpected romance with Cleopatra, who later bore him a son named Ptolemy Caesar, nicknamed "Caesarion" ("Little Caesar").

Caesar then focused on eliminating Pompeian remnants in the Mediterranean. He briefly returned to Rome. Turns out, Mark Antony had behaved appallingly in his absence: womanizing, drinking, mismanaging the Capitol and alienating the senate. Caesar dismissed Antony and appointed a senator named Marcus Aemilius Lepidus as his right-hand man instead. Caesar then defeated the remaining Pompeian forces in Africa at Thapsus in 46 BC, where Pompey's son was killed, and Cato committed suicide. Labienus fled to Hispania, and Caesar chased him. In the brutal final battle at Munda, Caesar narrowly defeated Labienus, whom he considered his only true equal. Caesar later admitted that the battle was a fight for his life. Labienus, unlike many of his adversaries, was buried with full military honors, marking the end of the Civil War. Caesar's final task was to return to Rome.

A New Order

In August of 45 BC, Caesar returned to Italy after a successful campaign in Hispania, having defeated his former ally, Labienus. Triumphant from the grueling four-year Civil War, Caesar entered the Italian cities in a grand procession, marking the end of the conflict. Leading the march in two chariots were Caesar and Mark Antony, who had recently regained Caesar's favor by mending his ways and marrying the influential Fulvia. Behind them were Decimus, Caesar's loyal admiral and governor of Gaul, and Octavius, his young, intelligent great-nephew. These men, though united under Caesar, bitterly competed for his favor, knowing only one could be his successor. On the way to Rome, Caesar stopped in Mediolanum to meet Marcus Junius Brutus, the young governor of Cisalpine Gaul. Brutus was not a longtime supporter of Caesar like Anthony or Decimus. He was a rehabilitated enemy, having sided with Pompey during the Civil War. Despite Brutus' past allegiance to Pompey, Caesar had pardoned him, and the two were said to be close friends. Brutus had excelled in his governance, earning Caesar's trust and securing his future.



Upon Caesar's return to Rome in October, he celebrated a Triumph, a lavish event that, while grand, dampened the spirits of the Roman people as it highlighted the defeat of fellow Romans. The Civil War was over, but uncertainty loomed. Many Romans were liberty lovers who clung hard to the ideas of the *Res Publica*, the most notable of which was Cicero who even proposed a detailed plan for its restoration. However, Caesar had different plans. He envisioned not a restored Republic but a vast Empire. He could afford to appoint his former enemies as consuls, praetors and governors, as those jobs had become irrelevant. Real power now laid with him, his armies, and his circle of friends. The republican constitution had died, and now it was time for something different. His only real challenge was to not make it obvious to the Roman populace and the resentful Senate.

The rift began to show. Cicero, who was now the face and soul of the decaying Senate, still loved his Republic, even affirming that nothing was comparable to it. Caesar reportedly called it "a nothing, a mere name without form or substance". Caesar believed he was destined to lead Rome, a city he intended to rebuild into a capital worthy of an empire, where citizens were valued, and the masses were seen as contributors to the public good. To solidify his power, Caesar used his wealth to gain popular support through lavish banquets, games, and gifts. He reformed the Senate, filling it with his loyal centurions and allies, ensuring that a significant portion of it was under his control. His popularity soared, with some even worshiping him as a god. However, despite his dominance, there were still those who longed for the Republic, hoping that once his ten-year dictatorship ended, the old order would be restored.

The breaking point came in February 44 BC when the Senate declared Caesar *Dictator In Perpetuo*, or "Dictator for Life." The issue wasn't power, since Caesar had long been the absolute master of the Roman state and no one held office without his approval. The issue was that the Romans, even those at the lowest social classes, understood that having an eternal dictator was practically the same as having a King. Those who were only alarmed by Caesar's undermining of Republican tradition and institutions were now in a full panic. Caesar had been deliberate to declare that he had no intentions to become a new King of Rome, but his behavior told otherwise.



Caesar wants Monarchy

The belief, or rather the realization, that Caesar pretended to overthrow the *Res Publica* and install a monarchy with him as King was stirred up by the following incidents, which marked a turning point. These were the last straws.

- a) **Vain and shameless displays of power.** The Senate, eager to appease Caesar, conferred numerous titles upon him, including "Liberator," "Imperator for life," "Prefect of morality" and "Father of the Fatherland." They permitted him to wear ceremonial attire reserved for Triumphs at Senate meetings and public festivals, and he acquired a special golden chair placed between the consuls. Despite claiming his chair was not a throne, its appearance suggested otherwise.
- b) **Caesar ignores a senatorial delegation.** The senate kept voting honor after honor to Caesar. Even several of his enemies had jumped on the bandwagon to embarrass him with all the nonsensical distinctions. In one instance, the senate decided to present such honors to Caesar personally. A large senatorial delegation, which included both consuls and hundreds of senators, left the Senate House and marched towards the Temple of Venus. Caesar had been overseeing a construction there, but when the senators arrived, he did not stand up nor greet them as etiquette called for. Not only that, but he also joked that the honors had to be cut back rather than increased. His disregard and mockery enraged the senators, fueling accusations of his desire for kingship.
- c) **"I am Caesar, not Rex!"** The Senate allowed Caesar to enter Rome on horseback, attracting large crowds when he did so. On one occasion, a random man in the crowd spontaneously cried out: "Rex!". Caesar responded: "I am Caesar, not Rex!". It was a pun that only worked in Latin; Rex meant "King", but was also a common name among the Latin speaking peoples of Italy, so Caesar was suggesting that the crowd had his name wrong. Caesar's joke had a double meaning, he was saying that he wasn't king, but he was also saying that he understood why they would be confused, as "Caesar" and "Rex" were the same thing to him. Caesar's quip was poorly received, leading to the arrest of the spectator and the exile of two tribunes who opposed Caesar. Cynics figured that the whole thing had been staged.
- d) **The Lupercalia Incident.** During the Lupercalia festival, Caesar, along with many of his officials and some senators, watched the festivities from an elevated platform. Before a massive crowd, Mark Antony presented Caesar with a diadem (a type of crown) out of the blue. Antony said: "The people of Rome give you this through me." The crowd fell dead silent. Many froze in fear; if Caesar crowned himself right there, that would be the definitive end of the



Republic. However, Caesar declined the diadem, stating "Jupiter is the sole king of the Romans," which sparked cheers. Later, cynics pointed out that the whole thing had unfolded too perfectly to not have been planned. Mark Antony assured that he had "randomly found the diadem on the street". Cicero reportedly asked him: "Would you have us believe that you found the diadem on the street? Or did you bring it from home?"

Over a span of only three months, Caesar had disrespected the Senate, grappled with tribunes of the plebs, and flirted with monarchy. By February, the conspiracy that would bring him down was already being born.

The Conspiracy

The conspiracy to kill Rome's dictator perpetuo began when Gaius Cassius Longinus visited his estranged brother-in-law, Marcus Junius Brutus. Despite their strained relationship, they reconciled and discussed a grave matter: Caesar's assassination. Although the exact origin of the plot is unclear, Brutus and Cassius were central figures, with some sources suggesting Decimus was involved from the start. Both Brutus and Cassius had previously fought for Pompey and were opposed to a permanent dictator. Decimus, once a loyal supporter of Caesar, along with other disillusioned Cesareans, believed they would be better off without him.

The conspiracy was instigated by Caesar's new project. He had begun preparing for a massive invasion of the Parthian Empire to finish what Crassus had attempted years ago. In 49 BC, Caesar seemed to some like a second Hannibal, the great general who rode from the west and invaded Italy. In 44 BC, Caesar seemed like a second Alexander the Great, like Pompey but worse - on the cusp of a great war in the east that would bring him back as an all-powerful king. Those who accompanied him like Mark Antony and Octavius would reap glory, wealth and power, while those that stayed at home feared eclipse and the prospect of being discarded even if they were loyalists. The conspirators, now numerous, felt it was their duty to act before Caesar embarked on the Parthian campaign. With Caesar already dismissive of the Senate and ruling as a king, the conspirators, who called themselves "liberators," set the date for his assassination: March 15th, during a Senate meeting.

Caesar's Assassination

Caesar planned to leave for Parthia on March 18th. On the evening of March 14th, Lepidus hosted a dinner with Caesar and Decimus. Decimus had maintained his rapport with Caesar to continue to relay intelligence to the conspirators. As the night progressed and the men became drunk, their conversation turned to death. Caesar, inebriated, remarked he wished to die "suddenly and unexpectedly," causing Decimus to pale.



On March 15th, the Ides of March, Caesar was awoken by the heart-wrenching cries of his wife, Calpurnia. She had dreamt a horrific vision: herself drenched in blood, clutching Caesar's maimed body. She begged him to stay home, and Caesar, feeling unwell, ordered Mark Antony to cancel the Senate meeting. Decimus immediately showed up, at Caesar's home, dismissed Calpurnia's dream as "superstitious nonsense," persuading Caesar to attend the meeting, thereby saving the conspiracy.

The Senate house was still under construction, so the Senate convened in the Theatre of Pompey. Caesar and Decimus arrived late, finding many senators waiting outside. A senator warned Decimus and Cassius to act promptly as others were aware of the plot.

Once the meeting started, Trebonius lured Mark Antony away, and Caesar took his seat in his "special golden chair." With only 200-300 senators present, including 60 conspirators, the attack began. At a prearranged signal, a group of conspirators encircled Caesar, one of them diverting his attention. Casca, moving into position behind Caesar, drew his dagger and stabbed down as hard as he could, but he missed and grazed Caesar's shoulder. Caesar cried out and grappled with Casca, the two men had known each other since childhood. "Casca! What are you doing?! This is violence!" For a moment, shock paralyzed everyone present, conspirators and non-conspirators alike. It wasn't until Casca yelled, "Brother, help me!" that the paralysis broke. His brother Titiedius stepped forward, but Caesar had already freed himself from Casca's grip and got on his feet. The first face he saw was Cassius, who immediately slashed at him, wounding his face. The faltered Caesar then stumbled into Titiedius, who then plunged a dagger between his ribs. The remaining conspirators attacked all at once; Decimus struck Caesar's thigh, and in the frenzy, Cassius accidentally cut Brutus's hand.



The assassination of Julius Caesar. (Painting by Vincenzo Camuccini)

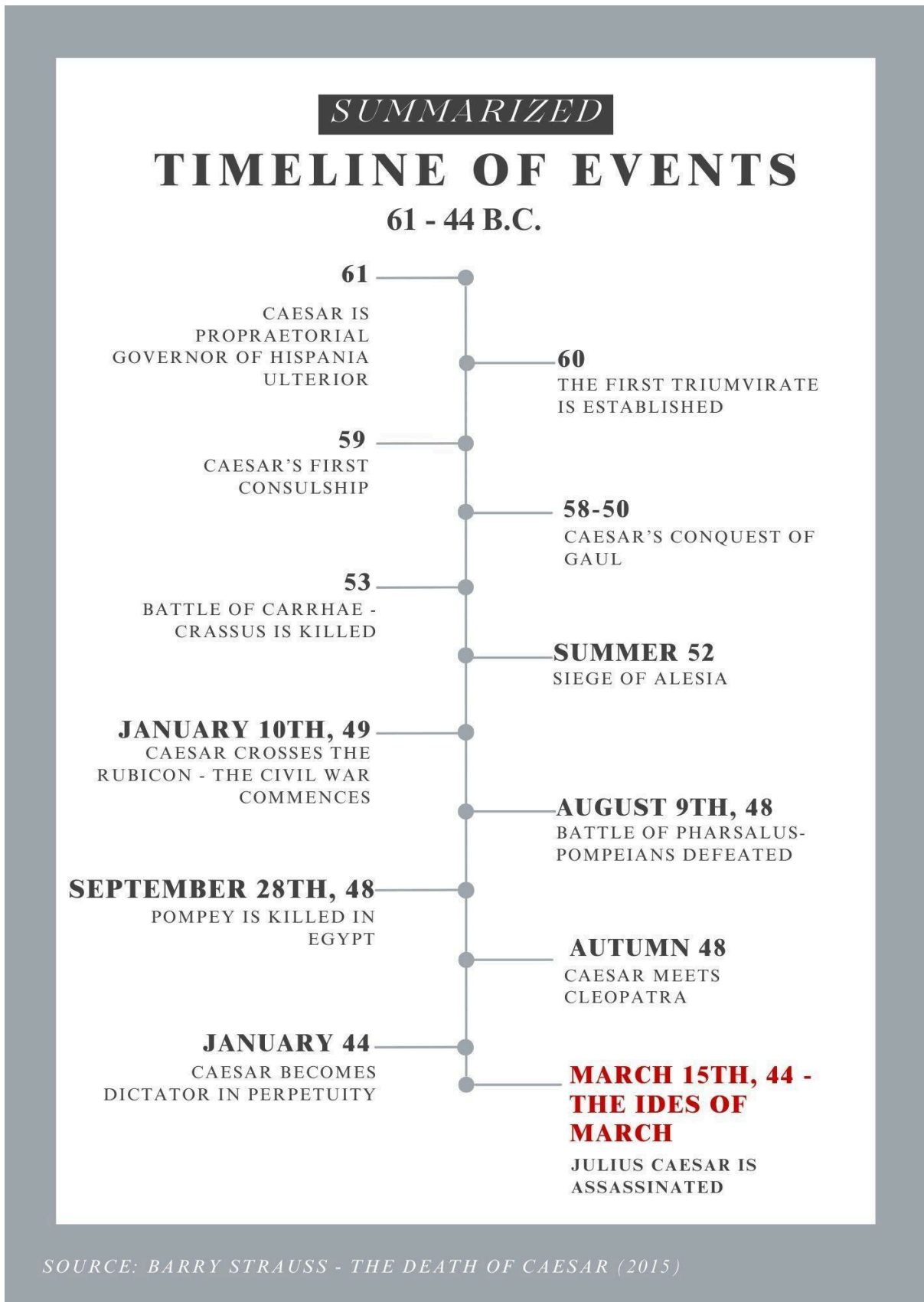


Caesar's strength waned, and he collapsed to the floor. The conspirators closed in, with Brutus kneeling beside him. Caesar's final words to Brutus were, "You too, my child?" In response, Brutus drove his dagger into Caesar's groin. With his last breath, Caesar drew his toga over his face and died at the base of Pompey's statue.

In the aftermath, those conspirators who had yet to act took turns stabbing Caesar's corpse, symbolically cementing their participation in the assassination. In total, Caesar suffered 23 wounds. The assassination happened so fast, many senators didn't even have the chance to leave their seats, they remained stunned and immobile. Rising from the center of the temple, Brutus, his hand still dripping with blood, addressed the assembly, "Countrymen, be not afraid! There is no harm intended to any man, but to Caesar. That, is done!".



Timeline



SOURCE: BARRY STRAUSS - THE DEATH OF CAESAR (2015)



4. Current Situation

The assassination of Julius Caesar has plunged Rome into chaos and uncertainty. Senators, shocked and fearful for their lives, fled the scene of the murder in a panic. Following their lead, the Liberators also escaped, crossing the Pomerium and heading to the Capitoline Hill under the protection of armed gladiators. When the death of Caesar was announced, the reaction from the populace was mixed; some were relieved, while others were enraged. Despite their differing emotions, all shared a sense of dread, fearing the onset of another civil war.

As news of Caesar's assassination spread hastily, Rome fell into an eerie silence. The citizens, gripped by fear, locked themselves in their homes, apprehensive of the armed Liberators and the potential for violence. The Liberators, uncertain of their next steps, decided to barricade themselves on the Capitoline Hill with their gladiators.

Political and Social Fallout

Caesar's death has created a power vacuum, leading to a fierce struggle for control over the Republic. Various factions are now vying for dominance, each with its own objectives and strategies.

I. The Liberators (Our Committee):

- **Objective:** Restore the traditional republican governance, dismantle Caesar's reforms, and eliminate any remaining supporters of Caesar.
- **Current Situation:** The assassins of Caesar are in a precarious position, facing widespread public outrage and fearing for their safety. They have taken a defensive stance on the Capitoline Hill, but their future remains uncertain. They are struggling to consolidate power amidst growing tension and instability.

II. The Cesareans (JCC 2):

- **Objective:** Avenge Caesar's death, maintain and expand his reforms, and ensure the survival of his legacy.
- **Current Situation:** The Cesareans were initially shocked by the news of Caesar's assassination. Most are scattered across Rome's provinces, having been preoccupied with preparations for Caesar's planned invasion of Parthia. Those in Rome on the Ides of March quickly regrouped on the Field of Mars to strategize their next move.

III. The Senate (Crisis Room):

- **Objective:** Stabilize the Republic, prevent civil war, and maintain their own positions of power within the political structure.
- **Current Situation:** The Senate is deeply divided. Some members support the Liberators, others align with the Cesareans, and many remain



undecided. Their primary concern is to avoid another destructive civil war and restore stability to the Republic.

Immediate Challenges for the Committee

I. **Maintaining Order:**

- Preventing the descent into an all-out civil war and controlling the escalating violence in Rome. The assassination of Caesar might lead to riots and demonstrations, with the public demanding justice and retribution against the assassins. The streets are tense, and the potential for violence is high.

II. **Political Maneuvering:**

- Navigating the chaotic political landscape to form alliances, secure power, and marginalize opponents. The divided Senate will be instrumental in gaining the upper hand over your enemies.

III. **Public Opinion:**

- Addressing the demands of the Roman populace and managing the intense public sentiment surrounding Caesar's death. Caesar was immensely popular among the plebeians and soldiers due to his reforms and military successes. Winning over the plebeian masses is crucial to legitimize your actions and consolidate power.

IV. **Military Strategy:**

- A. Strategizing the deployment of legions, securing military loyalty, and preparing for imminent conflict. Tensions continue to grow, and a direct confrontation may erupt between the Liberators' armed gladiators and the Cesareans' full legion, currently on standby on Tiber Island. Avoiding a confrontation until consolidating your position is essential.

Timeline Adjustment for the Committee

The start date of our committee will be March 16th, 44 BC. For the sake of the conference and the debate, the timeline has been modified to ensure that all key figures are present in Rome the day after the Ides. This adjustment means that all characters from JCC 1 will be on the Capitoline Hill, and all characters from JCC 2 will be on the Field of Mars.



5. Statement of the Problem

- I. ***Everyone wants to kill you.*** After having assassinated Caesar, the safety of the Liberators can not be guaranteed. This was not only the murder of a prominent political figure but also the killing of the head of state and the highest religious authority in the Republic. Caesar was a former consul, a dictator with Imperium, and the pontifex maximus, possessing tribune-like sanctity as decreed by the Senate. Caesar's supporters can and will seek to prosecute you in Rome's courts, where a guilty verdict would lead to your swift execution.

Aside from that, you can not ignore the fact that Caesar still was extremely popular among the plebeians of Rome, who viewed him almost like a god. Your actions have enraged hundreds of thousands of Romans that benefited from his populist policies and were swooned by his propagandist tales of conquest and glory. These Romans collectively itch to exact vigilante justice; putting you to death if you ever cross paths. Caesar's veteran legionaries and his officers, who are still armed to the teeth, might have similar intentions.

- II. ***There is a power vacuum.*** Caesar had concentrated almost all the state's power in his hands. His assassination has left a dangerous power vacuum that threatens the very existence of the Republic. Under Caesar's rule, the Senate's authority was diminished, the consulship rendered almost meaningless, senators turned into mere puppets, and public assemblies became rubber-stamps for his decisions. This vacuum makes Rome not only vulnerable to external threat, but also to warmongering warlords who might attempt to follow Caesar's footsteps and seize control for themselves.
- III. ***A civil war might be imminent.*** With the aforementioned power vacuum and the rising tensions with the Cesareans, a third Roman Civil war might be on the horizon. It is uncertain how Caesar's loyalists will respond, or whether they will allow a smooth transition to a restored republican regime. Many of Caesar's men have their own interests, and they are more than willing to use violence to protect them. A civil war must be avoided at all costs, but if the worst possible scenario becomes reality, you must be prepared to go to war to protect the Republic.



6. Points of Contention

- I. **Republican restoration.** Although not all the characters present in the committee were directly involved in the plot to assassinate Julius Caesar, they are united by a vague notion of restoring the *Res Publica* to its former glory. However, there is not a consensus on how exactly this should be done. Some individuals advocate for a return to the pre-civil war status quo, where Rome was governed by a conservative, patrician dominated Senate. Other's point out the inefficiency and flaws of the previous system and argue that significant *Populares*-oriented reforms to strengthen the Roman state and empower the Roman people are needed to ensure the survival of the Republic. It comes down to tradition versus pragmatism.

- II. **Amnesty and Ratification.** It is clear that it is crucial for the survival of the Liberators to find a way to justify and legitimize their actions. One way of achieving this would be making the Senate formally declare Caesar a tyrant, which would vindicate the Liberators and prevent them from being prosecuted by Caesar's supporters. However, this would prove to be highly problematic, since declaring Caesar a tyrant would instantly make all the legislation he passed null. Repealing decades of reforms is unprecedented, extremely disruptive, and would upset a large portion of the population, who greatly benefited from Caesar's policies. Moreover, even some of the Liberators acknowledge the necessity of keeping some of Caesar's reforms intact to not undermine the Roman state, but others absolutely despise the idea of ratifying Caesar's tyrannical actions. You must find a different way to make the Senate grant you amnesty, even if it's partly dominated by disgruntled cesareans.



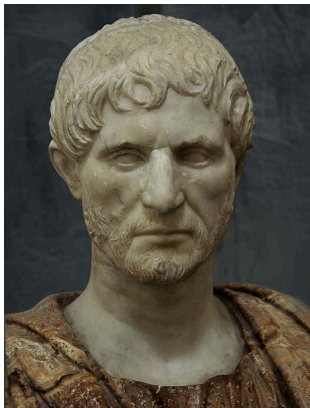
7. Character Portfolios

I. **Marcus Junius Brutus**



Marcus Junius Brutus's life was characterized by his enduring values and significant historical significance. Brutus was born into the prestigious Junia gens in around 85 BC, however, this ended up being a double-edged sword. In his youth, he had to overcome hardship when Pompey assassinated his father, while Sulla was enforcing his prohibitions. He was eventually given the name Quintus Servilius Caepio Brutus after being posthumously adopted by Quintus Servilius Caepio. After initially supporting Caesar and even fighting under him in the Gallic battles, Brutus grew more and more concerned about Caesar's growing authority and the potential threat it posed to the Republic's freedoms. His significant involvement in the conspiracy to assassinate Caesar on the Ides of March, 44 BC, was the result of this. Brutus thought he was protecting the Roman Republic against Caesar's rising tyranny alongside other accomplices.

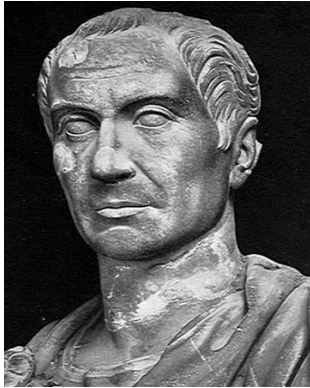
II. **Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus**



Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus, a well-known Roman commander, is most remembered for being a major conspirator in Julius Caesar's assassination. Decimus was born into a renowned family; his parents were Sempronia, a conspirator in the Catilinarian plot, and senator Decimus Junius Brutus. Significant military action under Caesar throughout the Gallic Wars characterized his early years. In 56 BC, he led the navy against the Veneti and won the Battle of Morbihan decisively. Decimus supported Caesar during the Republican Civil War and led naval operations at the siege of Massilia with success. Decimus subsequently joined the plot against Caesar in spite of his allegiance, motivated by a complicated combination of political and personal reasons. He believed that by killing Caesar, he could liberate Rome from tyranny. Decimus convinced Caesar to go to the Senate meeting on the Ides of March in 44 BC, which eventually resulted in Caesar's murder. Decimus had been a close friend of Caesar despite his treachery; in fact, Caesar had designated Decimus as an heir in his will. Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus left behind a legacy characterized by a dichotomy of devotion and treachery. His acts had a profound impact on the development of Roman history.



III. Gaius Cassius Longinus



Born into the well-known gens Cassia, Gaius Cassius Longinus was a significant person in the late Roman Republic, most remembered for his crucial part in Julius Caesar's assassination. Though little is known about his early years, he was believed to have shown a great dislike of dictatorship, as demonstrated by a fight he had in school with the dictator Sulla's son. He married Junia Tertia, a fellow conspirator, and studied philosophy at Rhodes. He also became proficient in Greek. During Marcus Licinius Crassus's disastrous expedition against the Parthian Empire, Cassius acquired military expertise. He is most known for having led a successful withdrawal and defense following the Battle of Carrhae in 53 BC. In 51 BC, Cassius demonstrated his strategic prowess once again when he attacked and routed Prince Pacorus's Parthian army. As a civil war between Pompey and Caesar erupted, Cassius returned to Rome, taking command of a portion of Pompey's navy and supporting with the *Optimates*. Cassius submitted to Caesar following Pompey's defeat, although he was later named a legate and took part in the Alexandrian War. But instead of fighting Cato and Scipio, he chose to fortify his partnership with Cicero in Rome. When Brutus was named *praetor urbanus* in 44 BC, Cassius, who had been appointed *praetor peregrinus*, was extremely insulted.

IV. Marcus Tullius Cicero



From 60 BC to 44 BC, Marcus Tullius Cicero experienced intense political unrest and personal hardship. Cicero maintained his unwavering dedication to republican ideas by turning down Julius Caesar's request to join the First *Triumvirate* in 60 BC, recognizing that the coalition posed a threat to Rome's constitution. Due to his opposition to populist policies backed by Clodius Pulcher, Cicero became isolated and was banished in 58 BC as a result of this decision. Having had his belongings seized and been forced into self-imposed exile in Greece, Cicero pondered on the unstable political climate in Rome, and his own uncertain future, while being encouraged by supporters such as his trusted Atticus. Public acclaim greeted his victorious return in 57 BC, but handling the fallout from Caesar's ascent to dictatorship and the ensuing civil war between Caesar and Pompey proved difficult. Cicero advocated reconciliation to protect stability, even though he had initially opposed Caesar. Despite this, he regarded Caesar's killing in 44 BC as an opportunity to bring the Republic back.



V. Marcus Favonius



Politician Marcus Favonius was well-known for upholding the fundamentals of the Roman Republic throughout its turbulent latter years. Raised through the ranks of Roman politics under the tutelage and encouragement of Cato the Younger, whom he strongly modeled after, Favonius was born in Tarracina (modern-day Terracina). Throughout his career, he held roles as a quaestor and an aedile, exhibiting a dedication to honesty and public service. Favonius sided with Cato in support of republican principles and fiercely opposed the establishment of the First *Triumvirate* as well as the corruption of Rome's elite.

Because of his audacious and vocal demeanor, he was given the moniker "Cynic," which reflected his unwavering disapproval of Caesar's consolidation of power. He and Cato finally gave in to political pressure, despite their best efforts; this served as a symbol of the waning opposition to the expanding authoritarianism. Like Cicero, Favonius disagreed with Caesar, but Brutus and Cassius did not extend an invitation for him to take part in their assassination conspiracy in 44 BC.

VI. Porcia

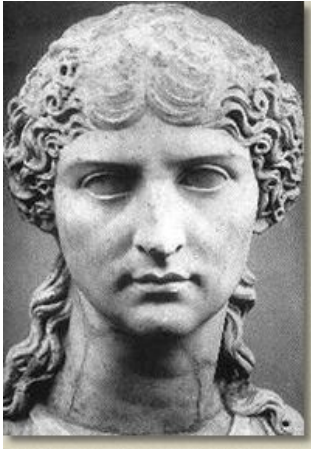


Porcia was a well-known Roman lady of the late Republic who was respected for her bravery, intelligence, and steadfast devotion to her husband, Marcus Junius Brutus. As the daughter of Cato the Younger, she was born into the powerful Cato family. Her first husband was Marcus Calpurnius Bibulus, with whom she had children, potentially including Lucius Calpurnius Bibulus. Porcia's union with Brutus in 45 BC, following the demise of Bibulus, was a momentous relationship fueled by kinship and political ties. Porcia replaced Brutus' former wife Claudia, whose divorce from him caused uproar, but Porcia showed unwavering loyalty to her husband. Her well-known deed of putting herself to the

test during the Julius Caesar plan by cutting her thigh to demonstrate her capacity to keep secrets from him highlights her intense devotion. Porcia's life and deeds demonstrated her fortitude in turbulent political times and her crucial role in assisting Brutus in his crucial choices and deeds, such as the assassination of Caesar in 44 BC, which shook Rome to its core.



VII. Servilia



During the turbulent late Republic, Servilia, who was born into the wealthy Servilii Caepiones family, had a big influence on Roman politics and culture. Servilia, the half-sister of Cato the Younger and the daughter of Quintus Servilius Caepio and Livia, negotiated her existence through powerful unions and calculated partnerships. Marcus Junius Brutus, who is well-known for his role in Julius Caesar's assassination, was the product of her first marriage to Brutus. Following the betrayal and eventual death of Brutus' father, Servilia was instrumental in ensuring her son's advancement in the family's political hierarchy. Afterward, she wed Decimus Junius Silanus, establishing more political ties when her daughters married into well-known families such as the Servilii and Aemilii. A well-known

affair that lasted through political rifts between Caesar and Servilia's family members who supported Pompey characterized her private life. Even after Caesar was killed, her home acted as a meeting place for the conspirators, even though she was probably not aware of their schemes. Servilia's life serves as an example of the intricate relationship that existed between political unrest, familial ambition, and personal devotion in the latter years of the Roman Republic.

VIII. Sextus Pompeius Magnus Pius



During the last civil wars of the Roman Republic, Sextus Pompeius Magnus Pius, also referred to as Sextus Pompey, was a well-known Roman military commander who steadfastly preserved the heritage of his father, Pompey the Great, against Julius Caesar and his allies. Growing up during a time of great political and military turmoil, Sextus was the younger son of Pompey the Great and Mucia Tertia. When the civil war broke out in 49 BC with Caesar's crossing of the Rubicon, Sextus remained in Rome with his stepmother Cornelia Metella, while his father and older brother fled east. Sextus joined the African resistance movement against Caesar after seeing his father assassinated in Egypt in 48 BC.

He took part in important battles including Thapsus in 46 BC and Munda in 45 BC. After his brother Gnaeus was defeated and died, Sextus withdrew to Sicily, where he founded his own kingdom and persisted in his opposition to the Second *Triumvirate*. As the head of the final coordinated opposition to the *Triumvirate*, Sextus will be remembered for his valiant efforts against Caesar's political successors.



IX. Pacuvius Labeo

Senator and lawyer Pacuvius Labeo was acknowledged as one of Julius Caesar's assassins. As a student of the renowned jurist Servius Sulpicius Rufus, Labeo belonged to a distinguished intellectual family that made a substantial contribution to Roman legal philosophy. Aufidius Namusa later collected and arranged his academic writings and those of his colleagues, indicating his influence on Rome's legal customs. References to Labeo in Aulus Gellius's works further demonstrate his legal acumen and show how well-known he is in modern discussions of grammar and law. Even though his early career is not well documented, it is certain that Labeo had become a senator by the time of Caesar's death and was heavily involved in the political intrigues of the day. He was one of the most ardent conspirators against Caesar, and he actively helped to enlist others in the cause, which emphasizes the importance of his position in this crucial period of Roman history.

X. Gaius Trebonius



During the latter years of the Roman Republic, Gaius Trebonius was a prominent military leader and statesman who finally held the position of supreme consul in 45 BC. Trebonius was a "new man" in Roman politics, since he came from an equestrian family that was not magisterial. He held positions as quaestor in 60 BC and plebeian tribune in 55 BC, early in his career. It was then that he presented the Lex Trebonia, which granted Pompey and Crassus wider provincial responsibilities. Trebonius was a trusted legate of Julius Caesar from 54 BC, and he proved his military might throughout Caesar's Gallic operations, such as the siege of Massilia and the second voyage to Britain. After these victories, he was chosen to be the 48 BC urban praetor, overseeing Caesar's debt laws in the face of opposition from the political class. Trebonius remained devoted to Caesar, but he became disillusioned and joined the plot to kill him. Trebonius was instrumental in keeping Mark Antony preoccupied on March 15, 44 BC, which allowed for the effective execution of Caesar's assassination. His behavior was indicative of the shifting political climate and conflicting allegiances of the late Republic.



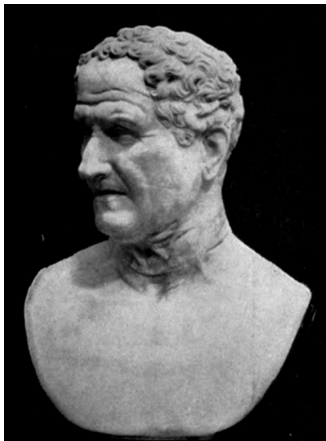
XI. Publius Servilius Casca Longus



Publius Servilius Casca Longus, who was formerly Julius Caesar's childhood friend, was crucial to the conspiracy to assassinate the dictator. Joining the conspirators were Casca and his brother Titedius; on the Ides of March, 44 BC, Casca delivered the first blow in the assassination. Casca launched a surprise attack, striking Caesar's bare shoulders, while Tillius Cimber used his toga to divert Caesar's attention. Caesar reportedly cried out, "Casca, you villain, what are you doing?" in response. There was a brief altercation during which Casca yelled, "Brother, help me!" in Greek to his brother.

As soon as the other assassins came in, Caesar was brutally murdered. The deep-seated rivalries and betrayals that marked the latter years of the Roman Republic are highlighted by Casca's involvement.

XII. Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus



In the first century BC, Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus was a well-known Roman commander and statesman. He was present in the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 BC, however he did not further take part in the fighting. He was taken at Corfinium in 49 BC during Caesar's civil war with his father, Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus. Initially, he opposed Caesar, however in 46 BC he was pardoned and sent back to Italy. Regarding his role in the assassination of Caesar, there is some controversy surrounding it. Some accounts claim he could have been a conspirator, although this is still up for debate. The volatile political climate of late Republican Rome, characterized by shifting allegiances and intricate power relations, is reflected in

Ahenobarbus' career.



Characters from JCC 2

The following characters will be present in JCC 2, our opposing cabinet featuring Caesar's supporters. These characters will severely influence the overall crisis arc and might attack or undermine our positions, so It's crucial to research them thoroughly to find strategies to deal with them. You will also be able to contact them using trans-JCC diplomatic letters, which will be explained in the crisis procedures section of the study guide.

- Marcus Antonius
- Gaius Octavius
- Marcus Aemilius Lepidus
- Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa
- Lucius Antonius
- Fulvia Flacca Bambulia
- Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus
- Gaius Norbanus Flaccus
- Lucius Decidius Saxa
- Gnaeus Domitius Calvinus
- Lucius Marcus Censorinus



8. Crisis Procedures

Our committee will have similar rules of procedure to that of traditional MUN general assemblies. However, since this is a Joint Crisis Cabinet, the flow of debate will be significantly different to that of a regular committee, and you will have special tools at your disposal to navigate the crisis environment effectively.

I. Directives

Directives are collective efforts made by the committee to address specific issues, respond to crisis situations, or advance goals. Approved directives will have a direct impact on the committee, either positive or negative, that you will perceive through updates. Therefore, it is crucial to write and approve directives strategically to ensure the situation remains under control. For example, if a problematic situation arises that concerns the entire committee, a directive can be used to devise a course of action to resolve it.

Directives do not have a prescribed format; you may write them in any style. However, adding as much detail as possible and being specific ensures the directive functions as intended. Poorly written directives can and will backfire badly. To avoid this, always respond to the five traditional QARMAs:

- What is going to be done?
- When is this going to happen?
- Where is this going to happen? (place and/or context)
- Why is this going to happen? Why is it necessary?
- How is this going to be done?

For clarity, we do recommend using the traditional draft resolution format. To approve a directive, it must be formally introduced, debated, and voted on by the committee through specific motions.

II. Secret Actions

Secret Actions represent what your character wishes to do covertly. Like directives, they can have a direct impact on the committee's course. Delegates often write multiple Secret Actions to achieve their characters' visions for a *favorable crisis outcome*. Since a character's goals may differ from the rest of the committee, developing a structured and consistent "arc" that is perceivable by the crisis room is crucial. All written actions should answer the same five questions to make them comprehensible and effective:

- What is my character going to do?
- When is this going to happen?



- Where is this going to happen? (place and/or context)
- Why is my character doing this?
- How is my character going to do it? (MAXIMUM detail required)

Remember, each character has specific abilities, resources at their disposal and limitations, which are briefly mentioned in the Portfolio section, so use them to your advantage. Writing secret actions overnight is prohibited and will be sanctioned.

III. Press Releases

Press releases are written statements about committee events meant to be communicated to the population. The process of drafting and approving a press release will be like that of a directive. Press releases are used mainly to influence the public opinion and specific actors, which will be an effective tool in our current situation. Be reminded that the delegates from the other JCC will be able to read your press releases.

IV. The Crisis Room

All directives and secret actions from both crisis cabinets are sent to the *Crisis Room*, which will evaluate them and determine if they will be approved or rejected, or if they'll have direct effect on the committee through an update. To maximize the chance of having the Crisis Room approving your directives and secret actions, it is of utmost importance to make them easy to understand, pertinent, in-policy, and to respond to the 5 Questions. Our Crisis Room in particular tends to favor "historically accurate" directives and secret actions, as well as well-thought-out and tactical secret actions that build up gradually rather than sudden "Hail Mary" style secret actions.

V. Joint Crisis Cabinet Dynamic

As was mentioned previously, there will be two crisis cabinets (JCC 1 - Liberators and JCC 2 - Caesareans) running in parallel. The two cabinets will affect each other as the debate progresses; delegates from one cabinet can influence the other using Secret Actions and directives. Both cabinets will have the same Crisis Room and will receive common updates.

Given the complexity of the current situation, we will allow trans-JCC diplomatic notes, meaning that you will be able to send letters to characters from the other cabinet to negotiate and establish alliances. However, contacting a character from the other cabinet requires deploying a strategic Secret Action to establish communication, which the Crisis Room will evaluate. Upon approval, you may write a letter (in Secret Action format) to be reviewed and approved by your director before being delivered to the recipient.



VI. Non-traditional Motions

Round Robin

- Each present delegate is given a set amount of time (determined by the proposer) to speak on a specific topic.
- "Motion for a [X] minute per speaker Round Robin on the topic of _____."

Open Debate

- A hybrid of an unmoderated caucus and a consultation of the whole. Delegates discuss without a specific topic for a set time, without needing to yield the floor. Interruptions are allowed, but the chair may call for "decorum" and suspend the motion if the debate becomes undiplomatic.
- "Motion for a [X] minute open debate."

Motion to Introduce Directives/Documents

- Directives or press releases are acknowledged by the chair only after this motion is passed. Upon acceptance, the document undergoes standard debating procedures, including "for and against" speeches, followed by a voting process. Before voting on a directive, only the following motions are permitted:
 - **Panel of Authors/ Questions and Answers (Q&A):** The traditional motion to discuss documents in general assemblies. A chosen delegate, usually the main sponsor/writer of the document, briefly explains its contents and then answers the questions from the other delegates.
 - **For and Against:** Another classic motion, one delegate speaks in favor of the document and another against it for a set period.
 - **Opinion Poll:** Used to gauge support for a directive.
 - **Division of the Question:** Allows for voting on separate parts of the directive individually. The default division is clause by clause unless the delegate proposes a different division, subject to the chair's approval.
 - **Voting by List:** Votes are cast by calling each delegate individually. The delegates may vote in favor, against, or abstain depending on their status as present or present and voting.
 - **Voting by Placard:** A faster voting procedure, delegates in favor of the document raise their placards until an absolute majority is achieved.
 - **Reopen Debate:** Resumes normal debate on the directive.



11. Position Papers:

For this year's edition, CarMUN will have position papers. This document, standard in Model UN preparation, allows delegates to research the policy of their country (or character), while putting their writing skills in practice. It should mention previous actions towards the committee date, and propose solutions.

Delegates should send their position papers via the Committee's email: jcc1@carmelitas.edu.pe

When sending the document, delegates must indicate their name, school (or delegation), and the country they're representing. It should be attached as a Word file. Furthermore, all documents must be written in Times New Roman 11, single interspace, and standard margins.

The deadline for sending position papers is October 11th until 11:59 p.m. Punctuality will be part of the evaluation.

a. Structure of the Position Papers:

Header: It should include the name of the committee, topic, delegate, and school. Next to this information, there should be images of the coat of arms and flag of the country to be represented.

First Paragraph: This paragraph should serve as an introduction to the topic, as well as your country's policy. Usually, this is the shortest paragraph on a position paper, so delegates need to summarize their ideas. The beginning and end of the paragraph must provoke interest in the reader. To do so, you can use a quote, question, or storytelling, among others.

Second paragraph: This paragraph comprehends your country's relations to the topic and committee, through past actions on the matter. It is a substantive paragraph, as delegates will mention what they have discovered during their research such as legislations, and resolutions, among others. The aforementioned does not mean that this paragraph should consist only of copy-paste, on the contrary, the country's opinion should be present. Take into account this is the largest paragraph of a position paper.



Third paragraph: This paragraph gives a purpose to the position paper, as it focuses on proposals. Delegates will be able to create solutions to the committee's topic, taking into consideration their country's policy. Also, there should be a strong closing sentence, since this is the last paragraph of the document.

Sources: On a second sheet delegates must cite all resources used in the preparation of the document, in APA 7 format. If a source is omitted, it will be considered plagiarism and will be sanctioned by the chair. It is recommended to read official, primary sources, such as the websites of international organizations, governments, or the United Nations itself.



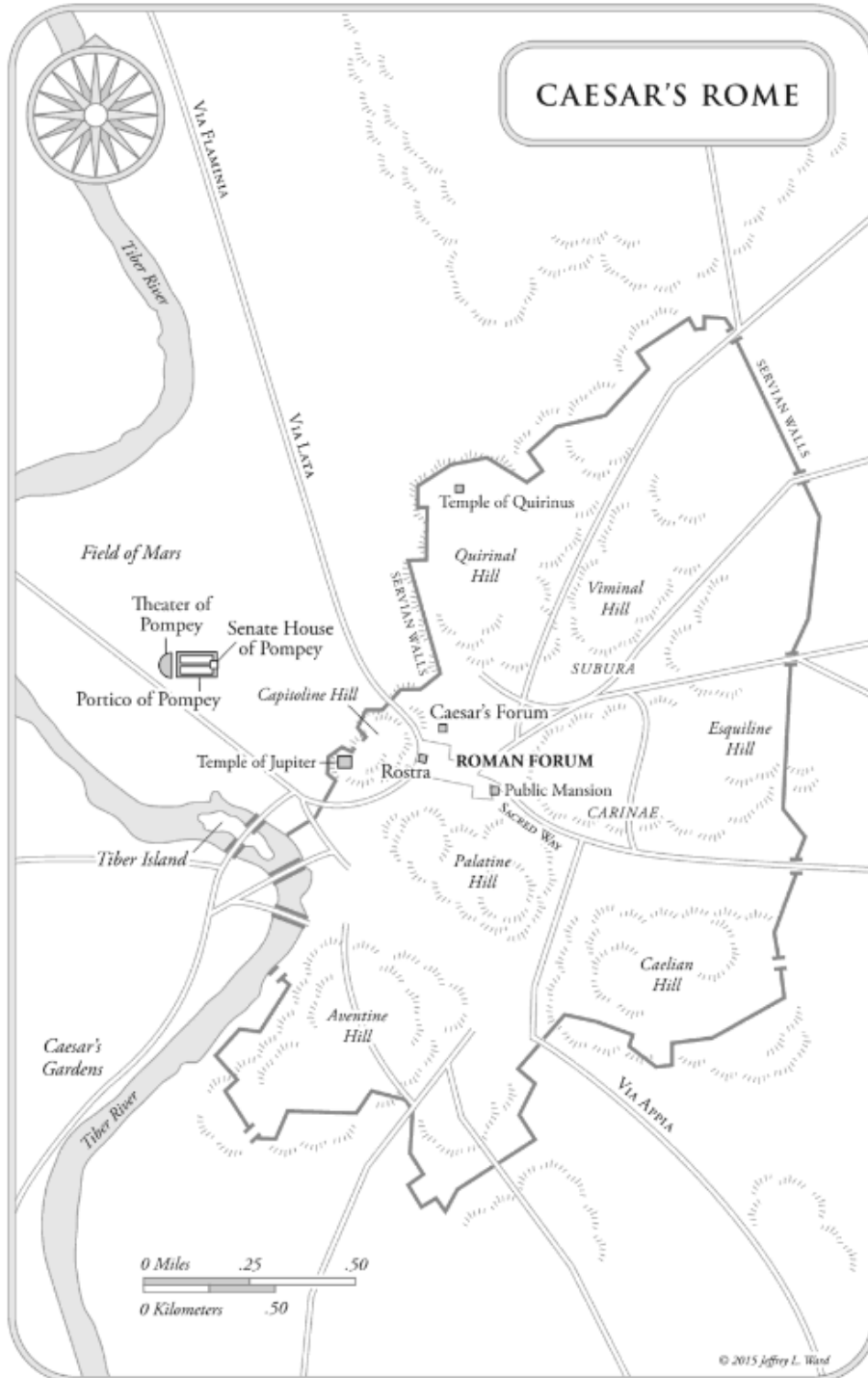
Final remarks & recommendations

Some final comments. First and foremost, thank you for reaching the end of the position paper Bruno (mostly) and I prepared for you guys. We understand that 40+ pages might seem like way too much, yet the document's content is key for a complete understanding of the topic. We prefer to give you as much information as possible rather than throwing you guys into a shark tank of a committee like this one. In addition, most of this data has been extracted from physical books we could not find as PDFs, so we thought it could be useful for the purposes above. Having said this, we recommend you broaden your research to build solid proposals and plans of action, as well as a defined crisis arc. Remember, there is always room for new knowledge and improvement.

Furthermore, when it comes to your performance in-committee, I would like to emphasize the following tips. Firstly, remember to answer all the key questions a directive and secret action must answer for them to be considered complete. Just as a reminder, those would be: what, where, when, why, who, and how. Then, I encourage you guys to propose more than a single type of motion when debating, meaning that I expect a variety of motions to be on the floor, rather than just passing consultations or unmods for a whole session. This will also help you develop as delegates as you exit your comfort zones to participate in different ways. Finally, if you ever have a doubt about anything committee or procedure-wise, please reach out. I have no problem answering your questions (though you must consider I'm a student as well so I'll try to respond as fast as possible). Having said this, good luck with your preparation. See you soon!



Exhibit







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