

JJMUNC II

Roman Senate

Daniel Gordon Lucy Siegel

Co-Chair: Daniel Gordon

Co-Chair: Lucy Siegel

The year is 44 BCE, and Gaius Julius Caesar has just been stabbed to death. The conspiracy, headed by Gaius Cassius and Marcus Brutus resulted in the death of Rome's greatest emperor. Caesar had just been named dictator for life by the senate, making several senators uncomfortable with his sudden increase in tyrannical power. As Rome suddenly loses their strong leader, anarchy and chaos begin to infringe on society. It is imperative to fill the power vacuum that Caesar's death has created. Brutus and Cassius are unpopular in Rome and are building up an army from the territories in the East. It is important to maintain order and stability among the Roman citizens, and to decide on the next authority figures- and soon. Be careful to balance the needs of the people and the government with your own, or you may suffer a similar fate to Caesar.

Caesar's Rise to Power



The greatest Roman ruler, Julius Caesar, was born in 100 BCE. His family was part of the nobility, but faced a surprising lack of wealth. When Caesar was young, Sulla was the dictator of Rome. Sulla disliked Caesar, especially due to Caesar siding with the nobility on political and social issues. To remove himself from Sulla's disapproval, Caesar went away from Rome and he began a prosperous military career. Later, he wrote a famous series of books "Commentarii de Bello Gallico".

In one of the most famous stories relating to Julius Caesar, Caesar was captured by pirates at the age of 25. When the pirates told Caesar how much they were ransoming him for, Caesar laughed. He mocked them and told the pirates that he was worth much more than that, and after he was released, he would kill them all. After over one month, Caesar's increased ransom was paid and Caesar immediately embarked on a fleet of ships to conquer all of the pirates in the region in which he was captured and held. True to his word, he crucified all of his

previous captors, but slit their throats before their crucifixions as a sign of mercy due to their human treatment of him when Caesar was being ransomed.

Caesar went on to cultivate his love for politics, and studied philosophy in Rhodes. Caesar was allied with two of the most powerful men in Rome. Pompey was a Roman military hero, and the former boss of Caesar. His other ally, Marcus Licinius Crassus, was the wealthiest man in the Roman History, and the man who claimed fame by ending the slave rebellion incited by Spartacus. He lended Julius Caesar lots of money over the course of their friendship. Crassus and Pompey were political enemies, but formed an alliance through Caesar to form Rome's First Triumvirate. The three men ruled Rome's political scene until the death of Crassus in 53 BCE. Then, Pompey, jealous of Caesar's victories in Gaul, and Caesar, due to his great ambition, caused a civil war in Rome that started in 49 BCE. Caesar's military forces, however, destroyed Pompey's as the soldiers were more loyal to Caesar, than Rome. Caesar then pardoned all of the officials in Pompey's army, and allowed them to return to the senate.

Caesar created a position of a dictator for life, or a position that could veto anything passed by the senate. Caesar also increased the Senate membership to 900, and allowed many friends and some enemies to become senators. Roman coins depicted Caesar's image, and Caesar was the first to speak at every senate meeting. Caesar only was the dictator for one year before he was assassinated. Caesar was quite popular with the lower and middle classes, but the senators viewed Caesar to be similar to a king. The idea of a King is something that is scandalous and traitorous in the minds of the Romans. Over 500 years had passed since a King had ruled Rome. Cassius and Brutus, as well as many other senators, assassinated Caesar during the Ides of March.

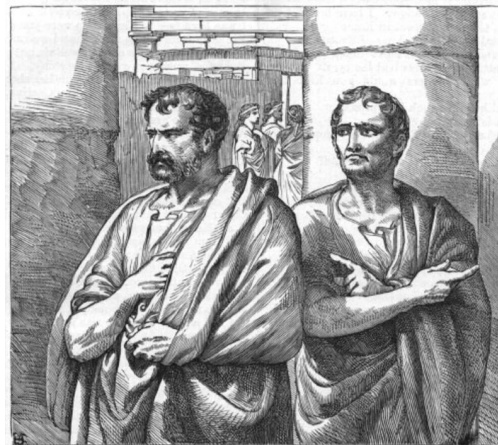
The Conspirators:

Marcus Junius Brutus Minor

Most commonly called “Brutus”, Marcus Junius Brutus Minor was one of the leaders in the successful assassination of Julius Caesar. Brutus previously sided with Pompey in the civil war between Caesar and Pompey. After the civil war, however, Brutus apologized to Caesar for choosing the wrong side, and Caesar immediately accepted him into his inner circle, while treating Brutus like a son. Caesar was romantically involved with the mother of Brutus around the time before Brutus’s birth.

During the day of Caesar’s murder, Caesar’s wife was distressed, and had nightmares in which Caesar was hurt. In addition, many of his other friends and advisors were warning Caesar to not attend the Senate meeting because they heard various rumors about assassinating Caesar. Caesar viewed Brutus as a close friend, and when Brutus told Caesar to attend the Senate meeting, he did. This led to Caesar’s assassination.

Although Brutus was not the first senator to stab Caesar, he is the most remembered due to the personal betrayal Caesar experienced when he discovered that Brutus also wanted him dead. Brutus felt that Caesar was becoming increasingly King-like and tyrannical. Once Caesar saw that Brutus was in the crowd of senators that was going to kill him, he is said to, in an account by Cicero and Plutarch, to have resigned to his fate by pulling his robe above his head. However, in more theatrical adaptations of Caesar’s death, Caesar commonly says either “Kai su, teknon.” (“Even you, son?”) or “Et tu, Brute” (“You too, Brutus?”), although neither were probably said in reality. [Cassius (left) and Brutus (right)]



Cassius. Will you go see the order of the course?
Brutus. Not I. Act I. Scene II.

Cassius

Cassius, like Brutus, also fought to remove Caesar from power due to beliefs that Caesar's rule was quite tyrannical, and that Caesar was looking to become a King. Cassius actually started the movement to kill Caesar, while Brutus eventually position himself to be the leader of the "Liberators". Cassius sided with Pompey in the Pompey-Caesar Civil war, and destroyed large portions of Caesar's armies during the war. His relations improved after the civil war because Caesar had offered Cassius to be the praetor peregrinus of Syria. However, Cassius reignited his anger towards Caesar when Caesar gave Brutus a higher position in the same territory.

Political Figures After Caesar's Death- Cicero and the Second Triumvirate:

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Marcus Tullius Cicero was a prominent orator and he had an ever-changing relationship with Julius Caesar. Cicero hailed from a wealthier family of the equestrian order, yet was still more or less middle class at birth. He rose to power by defeated the greatest lawyer at that time in a court battle which accused a corrupt politician. Cicero was elected to consul in 63 BCE, 19 years before Caesar's death. He played a major role in politics during his years in office, and he thwarted a conspiracy and assassination attempt led by Lucius Sergius Catilina. Eventually, Cicero had all of the conspirators executed, but he did not give them due process with lead to Cicero's exile. He returned to Rome a few years later. Julius Caesar reached out to Cicero in 17 BCE about joining the First Triumvirate, but Cicero denied the invitation. Cicero sided with Pompey during the war, but did not openly alienate Caesar, who still was looking to have Cicero on his side.

Marcus Antonius

Marcus Antonius, or Mark Antony, was Caesar's best friend during his life, and his most faithful general. Antony was one of Caesar's generals during the civil war in Rome, and before that, Caesar's conflicts in Gaul. Antony was in power when Caesar was creating his alliance in Egypt with the Queen Cleopatra. Mark Antony had an altercation with another Roman Senator, Publius Cornelius Dolabella, over a public relief fund. Antony rejected offers to join in on many unsuccessful plots attempting to assassinate Caesar. Antony was almost killed with Caesar, but Brutus persuaded Crassus to not have him included. However, once he learned of the plot, Antony failed in his attempt to save Caesar.

Octavian

Octavian was the nephew of Caesar, and also his adoptive son who was named heir to Caesar in his will. During Caesar's rule, Octavian and Caesar had a close relationship and Octavian made several attempts to fight by his uncle's side in the Caesar-Pompey war, but was eventually persuaded by his mother to support the war effort from the homefront. After Caesar was assassinated, Octavian sailed from his military training location in Greece to Rome. When in Rome, Octavian started to assert his political and legal power granted to him under Caesar's will.

Lepidus

Lepidus was one of Caesar's greatest allies and supporters. While Caesar fought the Caesar-Pompey war, Lepidus became praetor of Rome. Lepidus helped Caesar become dictator of Rome, and was rewarded with a high proconsul position. Throughout Caesar's reign and up to his assassination Lepidus was a firm supporter of Caesar's. After Caesar's death, Lepidus formed an alliance with Augustus and became the third member of Second Triumvirate.

Slavery in Rome

Unlike modern slavery, slavery within the Roman Empire was not based on racial barriers. However, it was still degrading to be a slave, and it was known that slaves were brutally beaten and abused. Slaves included (but were not limited to): POW (prisoners of war), sailors captured by pirates and also slaves bought outside Roman territory. Slavery was very common to modern slavery, as the owner ruled all aspects of their life. Slaves could even be rented out to other people, and could be sold easily. Owners created their



TOILETTE OF A ROMAN LADY OF RANK.

own rules around the household, and if the slave broke any rules he could be killed immediately without any consequence for the owner. Since some owners valued the work slaves did for them, some slaves were treated well in an attempt to make their work better. Not all slaves worked in private households; slaves were often used by Rome to work on government buildings, roads and aqueducts.

One very important aspect of Roman slavery was the ability of slaves to be freed, or manumission. The majority of slaves were slaves for their entire life, but occasionally one might be able to raise enough money to free themselves from their owner. To do this, they had to raise the exact amount that the owner paid for them. For some this would be harder than others; Roman slaves were bought at different prices depending on their profession. Chefs were very important to Romans, simply because entertainment was a very important part of Roman culture. After formal manumission, a slave had full citizenship rights, but could not hold a place in office.

Roman Territories

Sicilia:

With a Roman victory over Carthage in the second Punic War and the death of Hiero II, most of Sicily was consequently ruled by the Romans. Complete control of this province would be accomplished after the defeat of Hannibal. Sicily was very important in supplying Rome with grain.

Corsica et Sardinia

Corsica became a popular province for leaders to place their opposers in. In addition to this, exports included iron and silver. As for Sardinia, Rome was given control of this province after winning the first Punic War. Sardinia is commonly known for being a major source of grain as well as olives and wine.

Gallia

The people who lived in this region were Gauls. They lived in a vast region, spreading from modern-day northern Italy to modern France. After being defeated by the Romans, contributions to the world include glassmaking, woodcraft and lots of food. Caesar is known for his commentary called “De Bello Gallico” which details his military advances against the Gauls.

Hispania

Hispania is modern Spain and Portugal. After taking over Hispania, it was split into two provinces: Hispania Citerior and Hispania Ulterior. Under Roman rule, the economy prospered. Elements such as gold and iron were mined prosperously.

Illyricum

Illyricum prospered greatly under their new Roman rule, and it was considered a crossroad between western and eastern Europe. They were easily recruited soldiers, and were great at mining. An average amount of gold, silver and iron were found in this province.

Macedonia

Macedonia’s economy was based around livestock and agriculture. However, iron, copper and gold were vastly exported in addition to timber and fish. The people were completely Hellenized, and absorbed both Greek and Roman culture.

Africa

The beginning of Roman expansion into Africa began a power struggle between Rome and Carthage. It's ideal positioning along the Mediterranean made it a must own for such a powerful empire. Wild foods and animals were transported to the rest of the empire from Africa, along with slaves

Cyprus

A surplus of copper attracted traders and settlers from all over the east. As Strabo, a famous Roman historian, once said, "Cyprus is second to none of the islands of the Mediterranean; it is rich in wine and oil, produces grain in abundance and possesses extensive copper mines". This wealthy island had relatively few uprisings during the course of history, as the people were very content.

Italia

As everyone knows, present day Italy was the home of Rome itself. A large number of tribes and ethnicities populated this region. All 91,000 square miles of Italy were culturally advanced, with roads, aqueducts and public works everywhere. Legions protected Rome, and also spread it's influence.

Pontus

The northern coast of modern Turkey is where people of Pontus lived. This region was protected from attacks with mountains surrounding the area and the sea right next to it. Prior to the Romans, this area had been colonized by the Greeks for multiple centuries. The people of Pontus were well-known smiths; natural resources allowed for them to become great at making steel and iron.

Proscription in Ancient Rome:

Proscription was the barbaric, yet effective way that Romans caught their criminals. They would post a list of names outside the town hall and give a generous reward to whomever could kill or bring forward someone on the list. On the other hand, anyone giving refuge to a member of the list would face severe repercussions, that would continue to be inflicted on all members of the harborer's family. The concept of proscription also played a political role in the Roman Republic. Senators, specifically Caesar's assassins, would proscribe their enemies

and political rivals in an attempt to remove them. The proscribed would also have all of their property and belongings sold at auction, lose the ability for their sons to inherit any wealth, and make it so that their wives could not legally remarry.

Proscription was first introduced by Sulla in 82 BC as a way to reform the republic.

He displayed the decapitated heads of those who were brought forward as a threat to anyone illegally harboring criminals. Proscription made another appearance in 43 BC when the second triumvirate used proscription to eliminate political rivals.



Sources:

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/ancient-rome/roman-slaves/>

http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/slaves_freemen.html

http://www.ancient.eu/Roman_Empire/

<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/>

<http://www.britannica.com/topic/proscription>

<http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/sulla/g/proscription.htm>