



Crossing the Rubicon

History of Ancient Rome | Meeting #8

1



Upcoming Dates

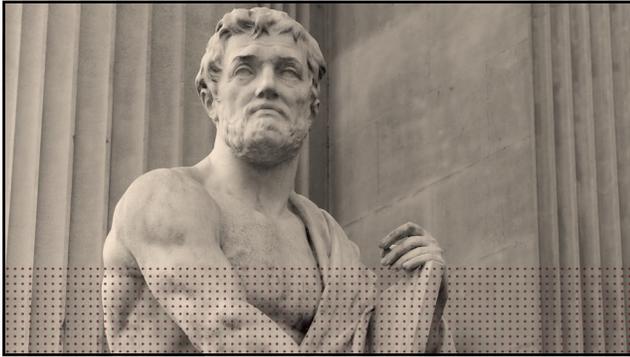
- Monday, March 23
Proposal Due
- Thursday, April 2, 9
No class meeting (Spring Break)
- Tuesday, April 21
Thursday classes meet
- Sunday, March 29
Responses for Week 8 Due

2

Five things today

- Marius and Sulla
- Pompey and Cicero
- The First Triumvirate
- Crossing the Rubicon
- Dictator Perpetuo

3



4

Quiz #6 | Crossing the Rubicon

1. The famous orator Cicero, in his long career, was known for all of the following **EXCEPT**:

- a. as a lawyer, successfully prosecuting a corrupt governor, Verres
- b. as a general, engineering the defeat of Marius's ally, Sertorius, in Spain
- c. as a consul, openly denouncing the conspirator Catiline in a meeting of the senate
- d. as an ex-consul, suffering exile for executing the Catilinian conspirators

2. "Crossing the Rubicon" was such a fateful decision for Caesar because it involved

- a. recklessly defying the Roman god of vengeance, Rubicon
- b. stirring up a nation of vicious Gallic warriors, the Rubicon tribe
- c. murdering a beloved ally of the senate, Sestius Pompeius Rubicon
- d. illegally violating the boundary between Gaul and Italy, the river Rubicon

3. Speaking of crucifixion, whom did Crassus crucify along the Appian Way (the road to Rome)?

- a. Spartacus
- b. Spartacus's captured rebel army (but not Spartacus)
- c. Athenicus, Spartacus's estranged brother
- d. Yeshua bar Yosef, king of the Jews

4. All of the following are true of Caesar's dictatorships (49 to 44 BCE) **EXCEPT**:

- a. He was cruel and vengeful to his political opponents, refusing to extend any magnanimity and clemency (clementia)
- b. His reforms included weakening the senate, debt relief, free grain, expanded colonization, and calendar reform
- c. He spent a lot of this time at war away from Rome, in Egypt, Africa, Thessaly, Spain, and elsewhere
- d. Before his death he had himself declared dictator perpetuus (dictator unending)

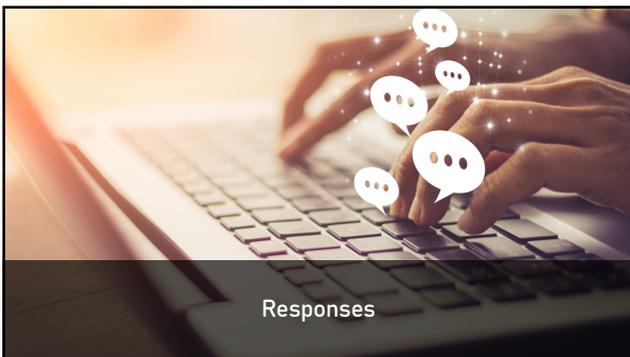
5. Caesar's assassins on the Ides of March, 44 BCE, included all of the following **EXCEPT**:

- a. Brutus (M. Junius Brutus)
- b. Cassius (C. Cassius Longinus)
- c. Cato (P. Servilius Gaius Longus)
- d. Antony (M. Antonius)

Extra Credit

EC: What role does Pompey the Great play in the civil war? How would you describe his motivations?

5



Responses

6

Questions about whatever



7

Gaius Marius



8

The optimates and the senate



- Senate polarized into populares, optimates, and neutrals
- Fiery speeches and group action
 - System of clients and patrons leveraged
 - Clans and families create friendships and alliances

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Marius

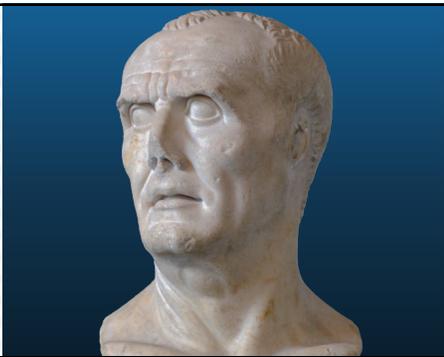
- Novus homo
 - No ancestors who were consuls = "new man"
 - Outsider from Arpinium
 - No cognomen
- Fierce opponent of optimates

C. Marius

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Primary Source Reading

Sallust
Speech of Marius Against the Nobility



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Client kingdoms

- Two forms of administration
 - Governed directly
 - Proconsul, tax collection, legion
- Client-kingdom
 - King left in place
 - Pays tribute
 - Fights for Rome

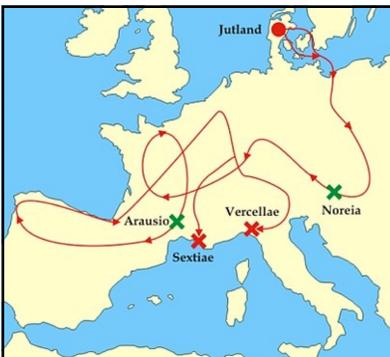
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Jugurthine War

- Jugurtha seizes Numidia
- Romans slaughtered
- Roman war goes badly
- Marius takes over
 - Wins consulship
 - Tricks Jugurtha into being captured
 - War ended immediately
- Marius now a popular hero

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Cimbri and Teutones

- Massive migration of German tribes
- Romans annihilated at Battle of Arausio (105 BCE)
 - Incompetent generals
 - Exploitation of Italian allies
 - Italy exposed to invasion
- People demand Marius

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Critical Marian military reforms

- The head count army
- The eagle standard
- Other reforms
 - Minimal baggage train
 - The one-use javelin

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Italy and the Social War

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Italian citizenship

- Increasing anger
- Inflamed by Arausio

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Primary Source Reading



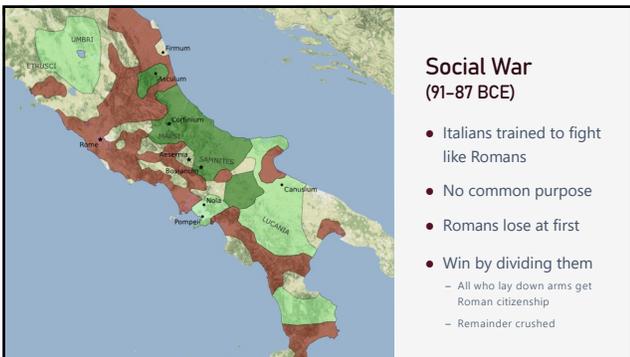
Appian
Drusus and his Enemies

M. Livius Drusus

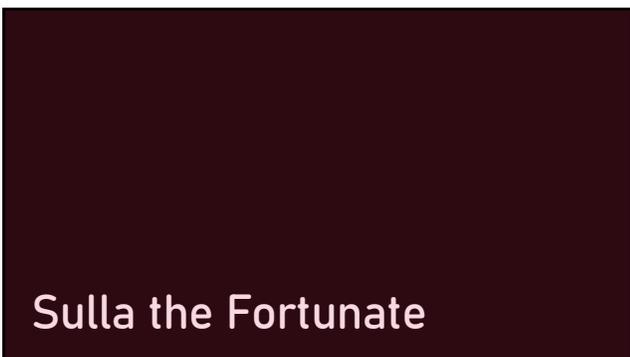
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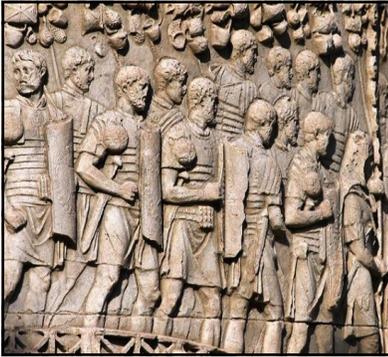
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Sulla's march on Rome

- Pro-Marius riots in the city
- Sulla leads army from camp
- Crosses pomerium at arms
- Restores order, then leaves to fight Mithridates as planned

25



Marian revolution

- Marius and Cinna take over Rome by force
 - Marius "elected" to 7th consulship
 - Dies shortly thereafter, still a beloved hero of the people
- Proscriptions
- One-party rule
- Sulla declared an outlaw

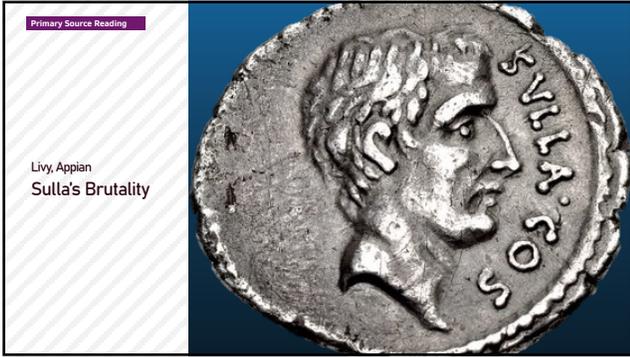
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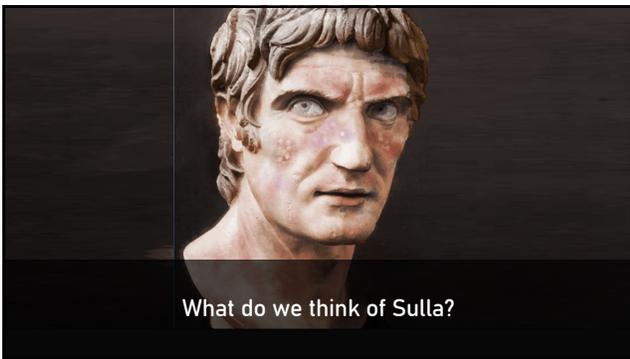
Sulla the dictator

- Sulla storms back to Italy with his armies
- Brutal battle before the gates of Rome
 - Sullan vs. Marian forces
- Sulla is made dictator to restore the state

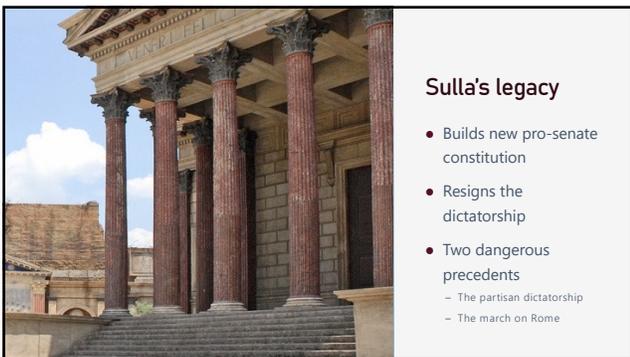
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Pompey and Cicero

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Pompey "the Great"

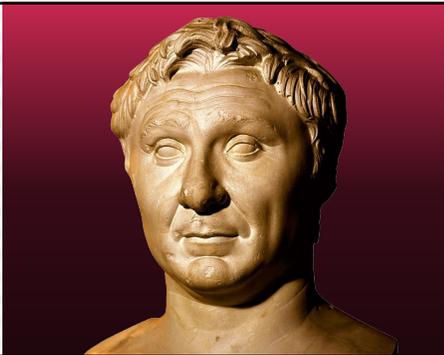
- Son of a civil war opportunist
- Inherits his father's illegal private army and refuses to disband it
- Sulla uses him to hunt down Marians
- After Sulla's death... now what?

Cn. Pompeius Magnus

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Primary Source Reading

Sallust
Pompey's Letter to the Senate



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Pompey's commands

- In Sicily and North Africa against Carbo 82 BCE
- In Spain against Sertorius 76-71
- In the Mediterranean against piracy 67
- In Anatolia against Mithridates 66-64
- Annexation of Syria and Phoenicia 64-63
- Arrangements in the East 62

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Primary Source Reading

Appian
Pompey's
Conquest of the
East



35



Cicero

- Famous orator, lawyer, and essayist
- Like Marius, a "novus homo" from Arpinum
- Conservative constitutionalist
 - More traditionalist than the old-family optimates
 - They consider him an attention-seeking outsider

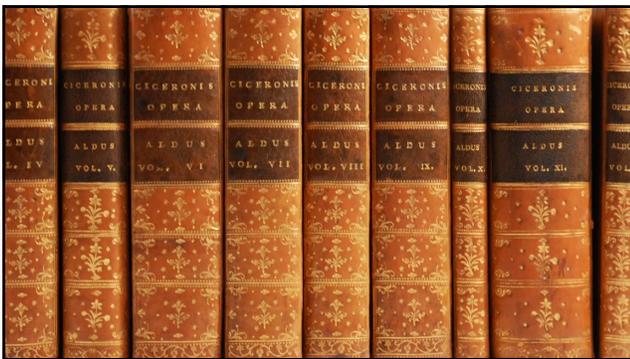
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Primary Source Reading

Cicero
Against Catiline

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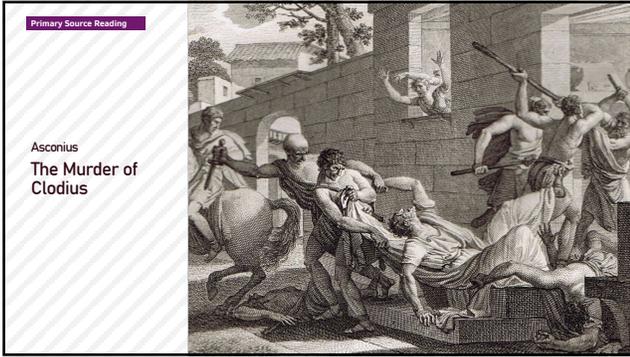


Clodius

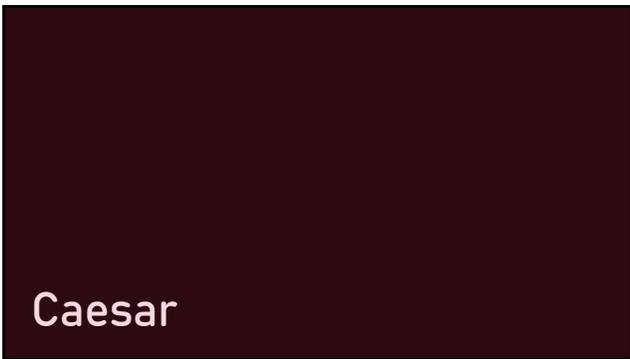
- Abandons the old patrician Claudius gens
 - Renames himself Clodius and a plebeian
- Seeks fame as tribune of the plebs
 - Expands the grain dole
 - Exiles his enemy Cicero
 - Defiles the festival of the Good Goddess

P. Clodius Pulcher

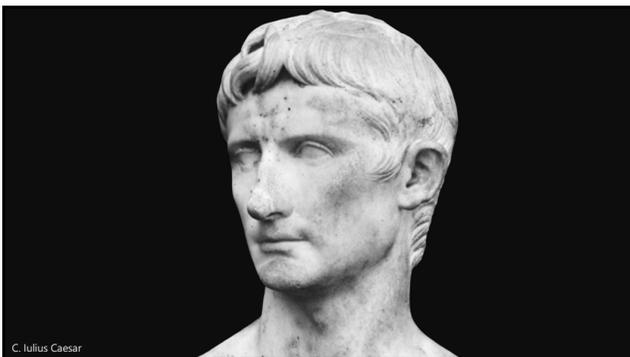
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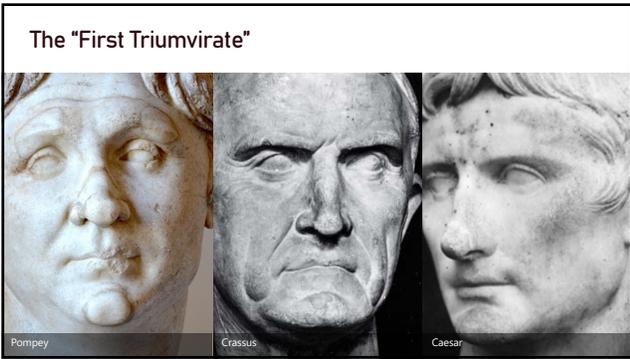


Caesar

- Handsome, popular youth of a good name
 - Eldest son of a noble and ancient family
- Marius's nephew and heir
- Flees Rome during Sulla's dictatorship and proscriptions

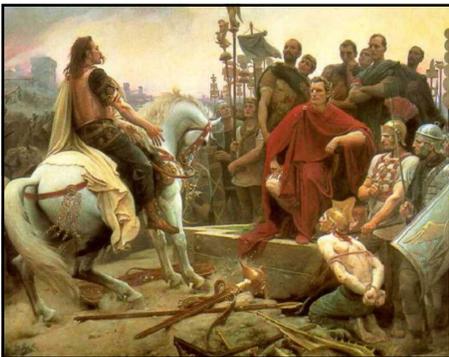
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The "First Triumvirate"



Pompey Crassus Caesar

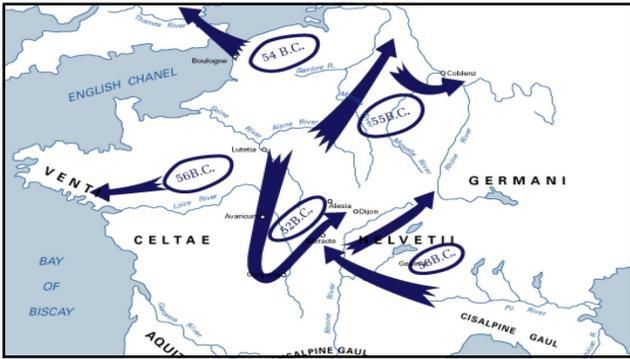
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Caesar in Gaul

- Expands Roman rule
- Builds reputation as great general
- Grows and directs the populist faction in Rome through agents

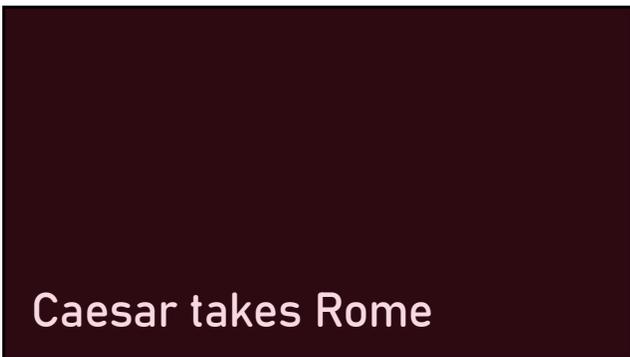
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Crossing the Rubicon

- Caesar is governor of Gaul
 - Boundary between Gaul and Italy is the Rubicon River
 - Illegal for governors to leave their provinces at arms
- Caesar decides Rome needs him
- Irrevocable decision: "The die is cast"

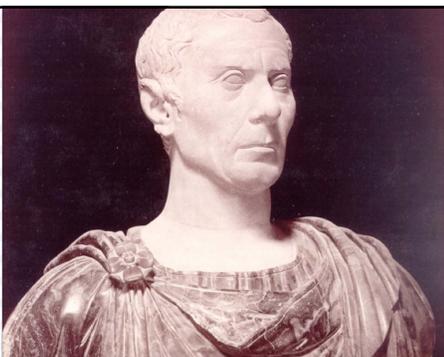
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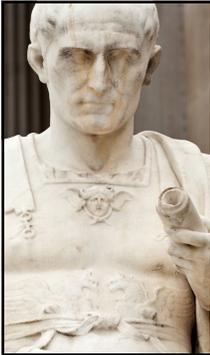
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Primary Source Reading

Suetonius
On Julius Caesar



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Caesar the dictator

- Five dictatorships, four consulships between 49 and 44
- Reforms:
 - Debt relief, remissions of rent
 - Enrollment of new citizens
 - Revised calendar and related religious reforms
 - Promagistrates' terms limited
 - Distributions of grain and oil; banquets, public entertainments
- Consolidation of power:
 - Took control over elections (current and future)
 - Appointment of governors, priests
 - Increased number of magistrates and priests
- Campaigns in the Aegean, Egypt, Anatolia, Africa, Spain
- Seldom in Rome until the last 5 months

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Rome under Caesar's lieutenants

- Caesar seldom in Rome
- Governs through his agents
- M. Antonius: surly drunkard nobody
- M. Aemilius Lepidus: ineffectual toady

53



The final five months in Rome

- Incident at the temple of Venus
- The incident of the the white-filleted laurel
- "I am no king, I am Caesar"
- The festival of Lupercalia (Feb 15)
- The Parthian prophecy
- Statue of Brutus the Liberator graffitied
- Caesar prepares to leave for war by the end of March

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Dictator perpetuo

- Previous dictatorships required renewal
 - Set to last one year
 - Granted by senate along with many other honors
- In early 44 BCE, Caesar becomes dictator perpetuo

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