



**Crossing the Rubicon**  
Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #26

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**Upcoming Dates**

- Monday, May 18  
Images Essay Due
- Tuesday, May 26  
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Final Exam
- Sunday, May 17  
Responses for Week 15 Due
- Thursday, May 28  
**Ultimate Deadline**
  - No late papers or resubmissions for reversible deductions after this date
  - No exceptions
  - Incompletes owing to personal emergencies must be mutually agreed before this date

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**Four things today**

- Sulla's dictatorship
- Julius Caesar
- Caesar takes Rome
- Caesar's assassination

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# Questions about whatever



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## Marius and Cinna take over Rome

- One-party rule
  - Only populists allowed to hold office
- Proscriptions
  - Marius and Cinna make a list of Roman optimates to be killed
  - Must bring head
  - Murderers given share of killed man's estate
  - Heads mounted on spears in the Roman Forum

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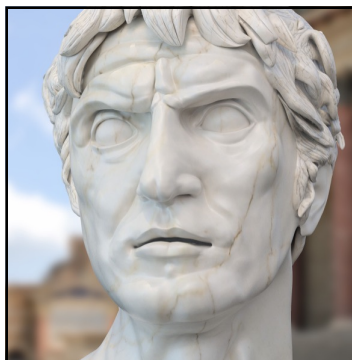
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## Sulla returns

- Cuts short war with Mithridates
- Civil War
  - Sulla marches on Rome in wrath
  - Fierce battle of Romans v. Romans at city gates
  - Sulla victorious
- Sulla has himself declared dictator
- New proscriptions
  - Populist leaders hunted down
- Reestablishes the Republic
  - Reforms designed to strength senate and institutions
  - Tribunes of the plebs, other populist elements weakened

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**Pompey**

- Inherits father's private army and offers it to Sulla
- After Sulla's death, refuses to disband
- Senate sends him on missions, in which he gains power and prestige

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**Cicero**

- Famed lawyer and orator
- Becomes consul
  - No military experience
  - Outsider from Arpinium
- Overcompensates by outdoing the conservative elite

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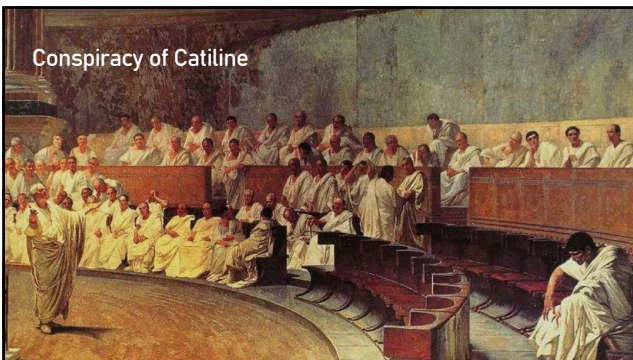
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# Julius Caesar

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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
- Feels Rome during Sulla's dictatorship and proscriptions

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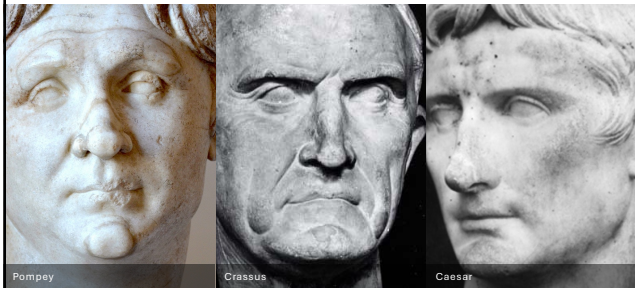


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The "First Triumvirate"



Pompey      Crassus      Caesar

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### Pompey in the east

- Reorganizes eastern provinces and consolidates Roman power
- Relied on by senate but not trusted

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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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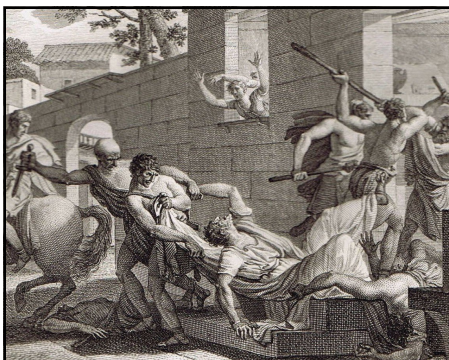
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### Turmoil in Rome

- Polarization of factions
- Brutal political rhetoric
- Fighting in the streets
- The murder of Clodius

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**The Senate turns on Caesar**

- Conservative elite senators blame populists
- Cato the Younger speaks out against Caesar
- Caesar named a public enemy

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**Caesar takes Rome**

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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"
- Defeats Pompey, who flees and is eventually killed

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### Caesar the Dictator

- Populist reforms and debt relief
- Hostility to the nobility and senate
- Holds the dictatorship 5 times in succession between 49 and 44
- Rarely in Rome
  - Antony and Lepidus rule Rome on his behalf
  - Most optimates have left Rome

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### Perpetual Dictator

- Fifth dictatorship in 44 is described as self-renewing
- Indicated his independence from the senate
- Enemies realize they must act or the Republic is dead

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### The Assassination (Ides of March, 44 BCE)

- Succession of events seems to lead into assassination
  - Offered crown at festival
  - "I am no king, I am Caesar"
  - Only a king can defeat the Parthians
  - Brutus's statue graffitied: "Do you sleep?"
- Conspiracy led by Cassius
- Recruits Brutus
  - Seen as honorable
  - Trusted by Caesar
- Stabbed during a meeting of the senate
  - "Et tu, Brute" - "Even you, Brutus?"

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# After Caesar

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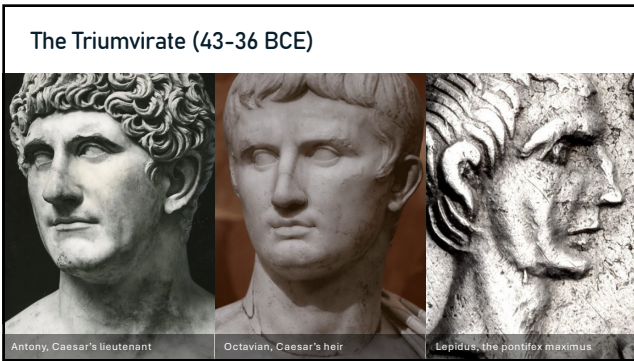
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### Cleopatra

- Arrangement with Caesar
  - Son named Caesarion
  - Would be a Roman pharaoh of Egypt
  - Caesar's death ends plan
- Antony falls for Cleopatra
  - Marries her, alienating Romans
  - Octavian uses against Antony, rallies Romans behind him

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### Battle of Actium (31 BCE)

- Naval battle
  - Roman fleet under Octavian, led by Agrippa
  - Egyptian armada under Cleopatra and Antony
- Cleopatra abandons battle, Antony follows
- Final victory for Octavian

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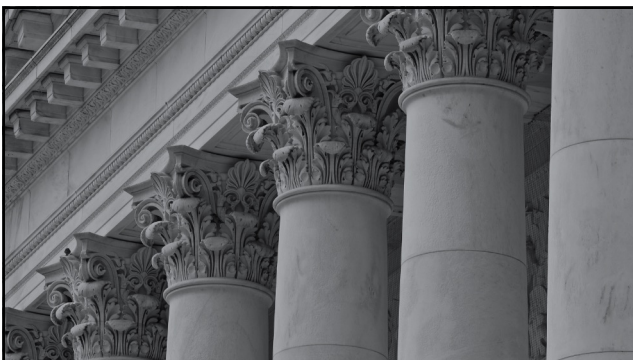
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