

The Decline of the Republic

Rome is in turmoil - various individuals seeking power.

How do you seize power?

- gain control of the army by using it for imperial cause to gain booty for you and your soldiers thereby winning their undying loyalty.

Sep 15 - 4:32 PM



Sulla (138-78 BC)

First general to use army to seize power.

He was a rival of Marius. Marius had killed many of Sulla's supporters while Sulla was fighting in Asia Minor.

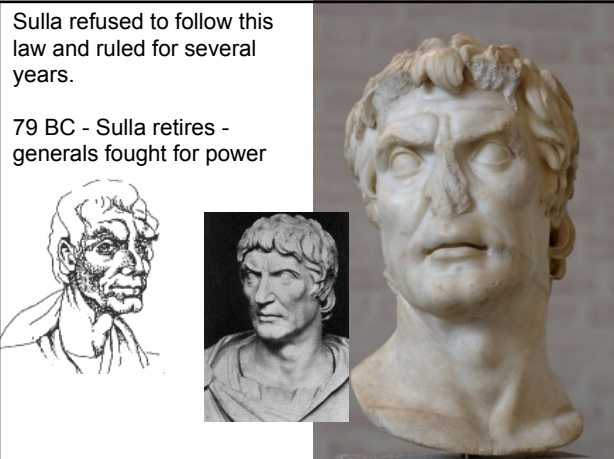
82 BC - Sulla returned - seized power - executed supporters of Marius - became **dictator**

Roman law - in case of emergency a dictator could be appointed for a term not to exceed six months.

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Sulla refused to follow this law and ruled for several years.

79 BC - Sulla retires - generals fought for power



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Julius Caesar (103-44 BC)



- an accomplished military leader
- conquered Gaul, invaded Britain
- Caesar was loved by his army as a hero
- 60 BC - Caesar seized power.

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Caesar formed an alliance with **Pompey** (a Roman general) and **Crassus** (richest man in Rome)

1st Triumvirate was born - these three men controlled Rome - disregarded principles of the republic

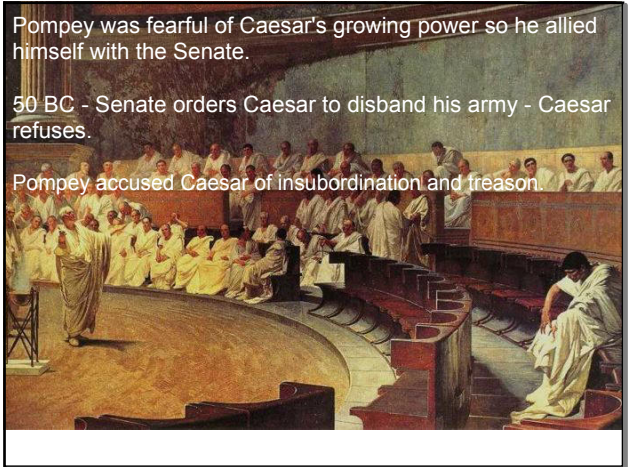
1st Triumvirate lasted until 49 BC - death of Crassus



Pompey was fearful of Caesar's growing power so he allied himself with the Senate.

50 BC - Senate orders Caesar to disband his army - Caesar refuses.

Pompey accused Caesar of insubordination and treason.



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49 BC - Caesar marches towards Rome - stops at the **Rubicon River**.

Legally a general could not cross this river without the permission of Rome - Caesar crossed - this could be considered treason - could lead to civil war.

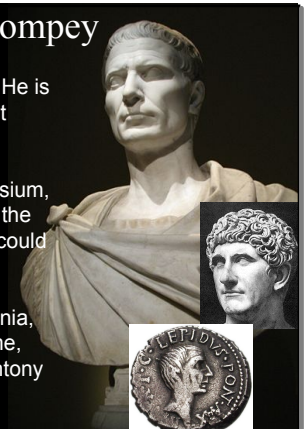
As he approached Rome, Caesar did not know if he would be treated as a traitor or a hero.

Caesar vs. Pompey

Caesar sets out to stop Pompey. He is outnumbered, but Pompey doesn't want to fight.

Caesar pursued Pompey to Brindisium, hoping to capture Pompey before the trapped Senate and their legions could escape. Pompey escapes.

Caesar decided to head for Hispania, leaving Lepidus as prefect of Rome, and the rest of Italy under Mark Antony as tribune.



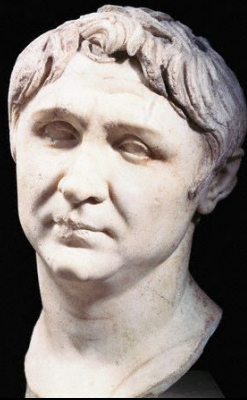
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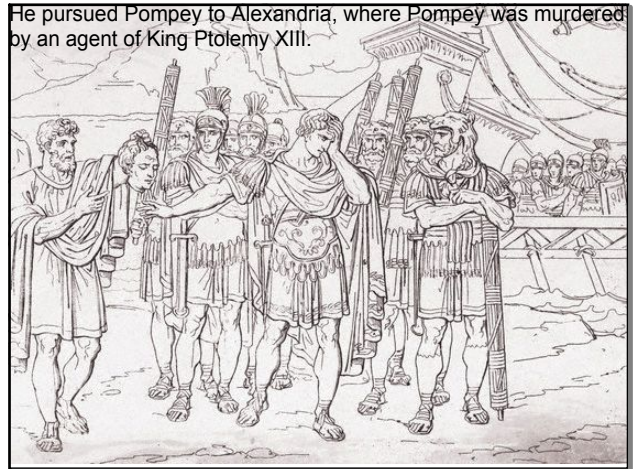
Caesar marches for 27 days to Hispania, rejoining two of his Gallic legions, where he defeated Pompey's lieutenants.

He then returned east, to challenge Pompey in Greece.

On July 10, 48 BC Caesar defeated Pompey, despite Pompey's numerical advantage (nearly twice the number of infantry and cavalry), at Pharsalus.

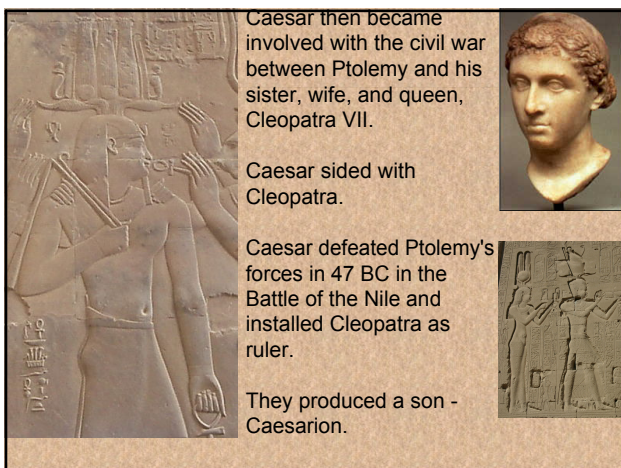


He pursued Pompey to Alexandria, where Pompey was murdered by an agent of King Ptolemy XIII.



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Caesar then became involved with the civil war between Ptolemy and his sister, wife, and queen, Cleopatra VII.

Caesar sided with Cleopatra.

Caesar defeated Ptolemy's forces in 47 BC in the Battle of the Nile and installed Cleopatra as ruler.

They produced a son - Caesarion.

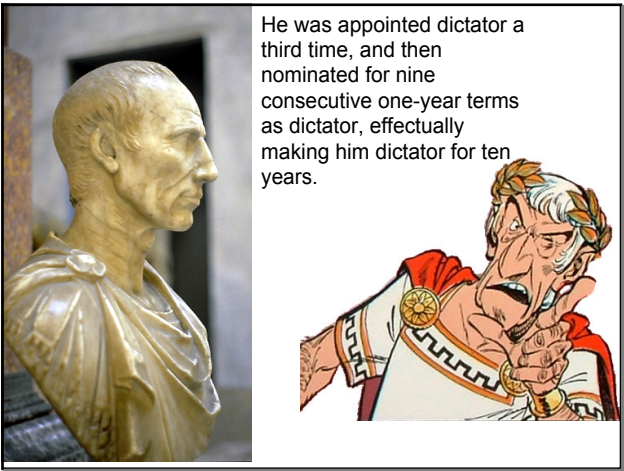
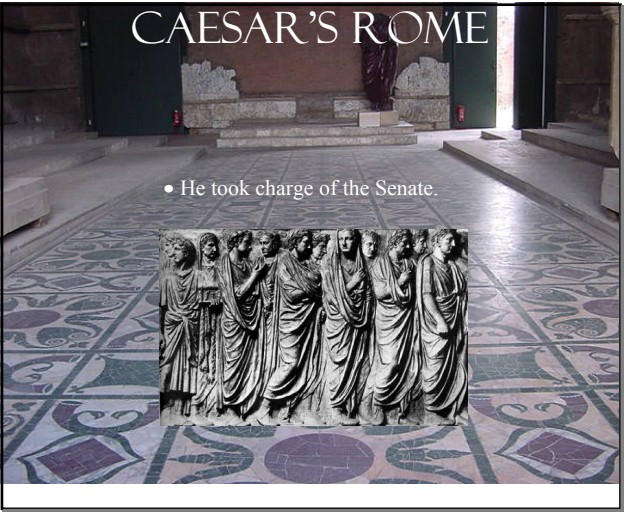
Caesar and Cleopatra never married: they could not do so under Roman Law.

The institution of marriage was only recognized between two Roman citizens; Cleopatra was Egyptian.



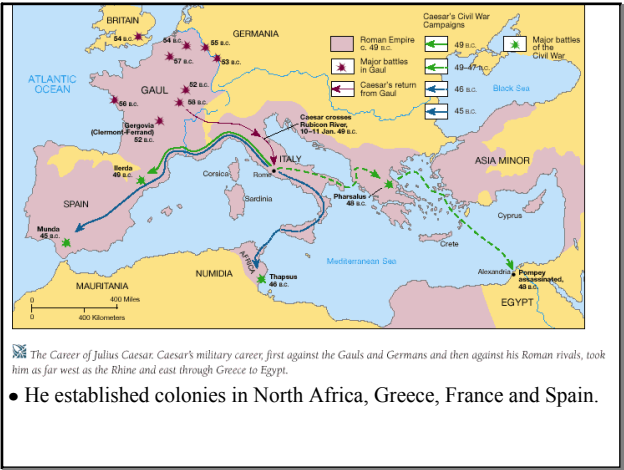
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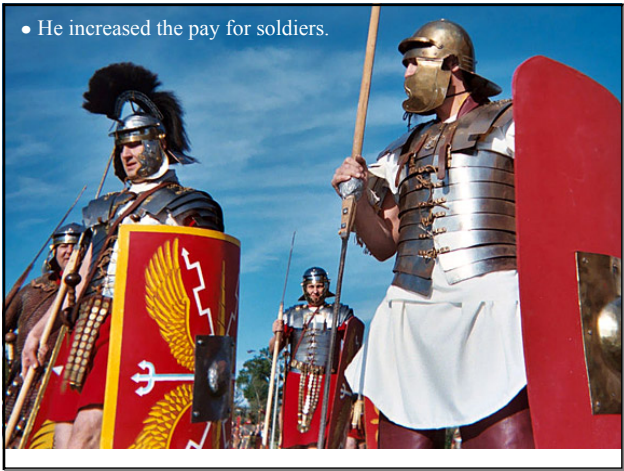
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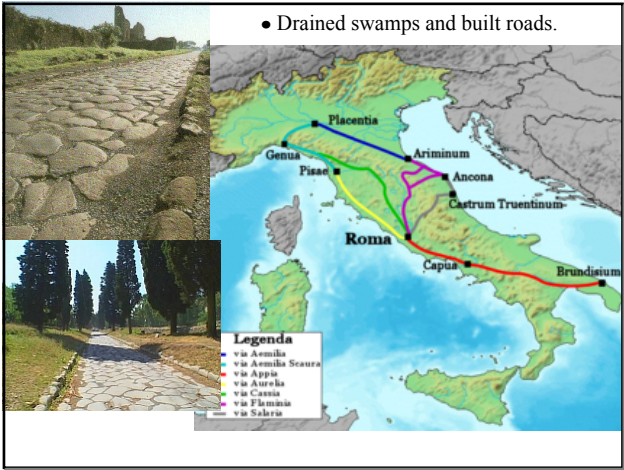
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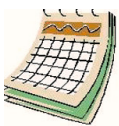
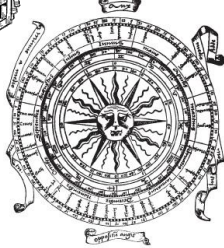



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• Reformed calendar, establishing 365 days and a leap year.



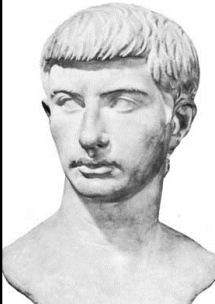
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Caesar Goes Crazy?

- Caesar had himself appointed dictator for life (*Dictator Perpetuus*).
- In public, he wore a purple gown and a laurel wreath, symbols of KINGSHIP!
- He sat in a gilded chair and rarely rose when speaking to senators.
- The Senate became afraid that he would make himself king.

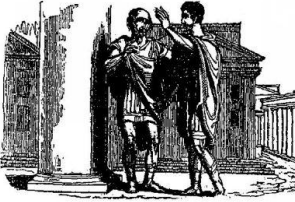


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All of the pomp, circumstance, and public taxpayers' money being spent incensed members of the Senate.

One of these was Caesar's closest friend, Marcus Junius Brutus.




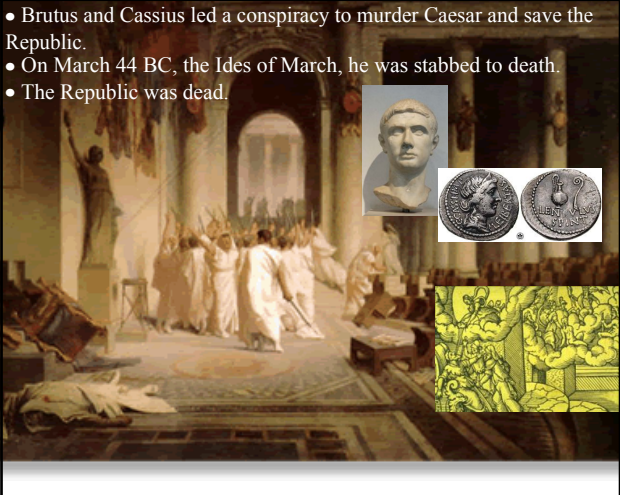


Brutus began to conspire against Caesar with his friend Cassius and other men, calling themselves the Liberators.

Brutus and Cassius conspiring against Caesar.

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- Brutus and Cassius led a conspiracy to murder Caesar and save the Republic.
- On March 44 BC, the Ides of March, he was stabbed to death.
- The Republic was dead.



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- The assassins didn't know what to do next.
- Marc Antony and Octavian decided to avenge Caesar's murder.
- They create a Second Triumvirate with Lepidus.



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- They executed 2000 enemies in Rome and defeated Brutus and Cassius at the Battle of Philippi in 42 BC.
- Brutus and Cassius committed suicide.



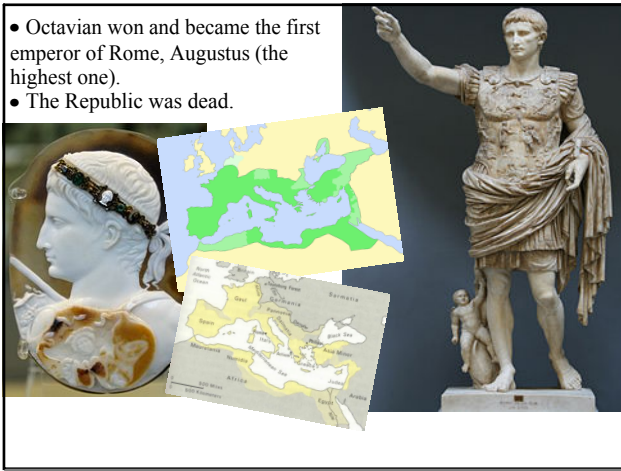
- Octavian and Antony then divided the Roman world.
- Antony takes the east (Egypt) and Octavian the west (Rome).
- However, they were distrustful of each other and Octavian prepared for battle which came in 31 BC at Actium.



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- Octavian won and became the first emperor of Rome, Augustus (the highest one).
- The Republic was dead.



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