

*Saint Ignatius College Prep*

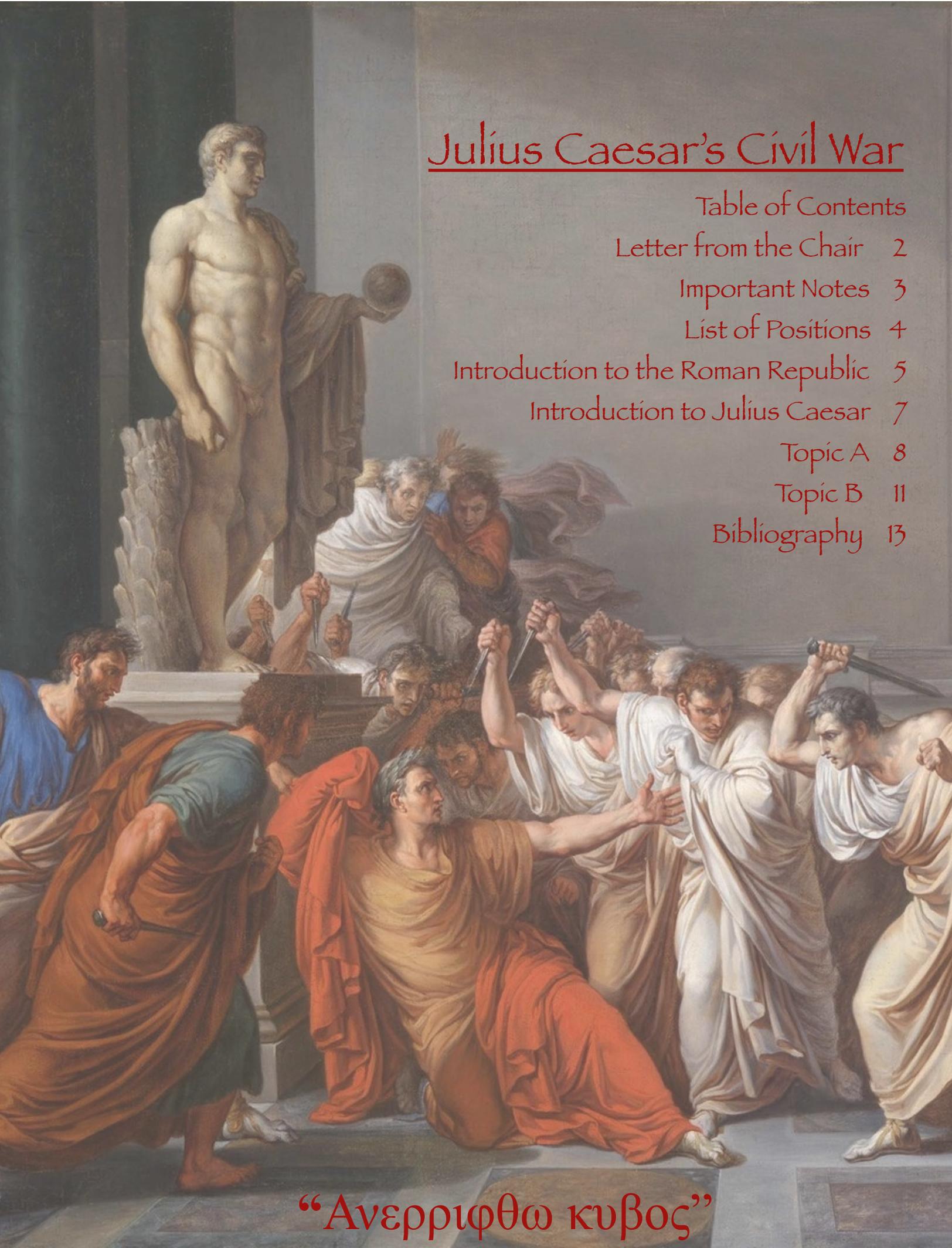
# ***SIMUN XVI***

*Saint Ignatius Model United Nations*



*Chicago, IL*

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# Julius Caesar's Civil War

Table of Contents

Letter from the Chair 2

Important Notes 3

List of Positions 4

Introduction to the Roman Republic 5

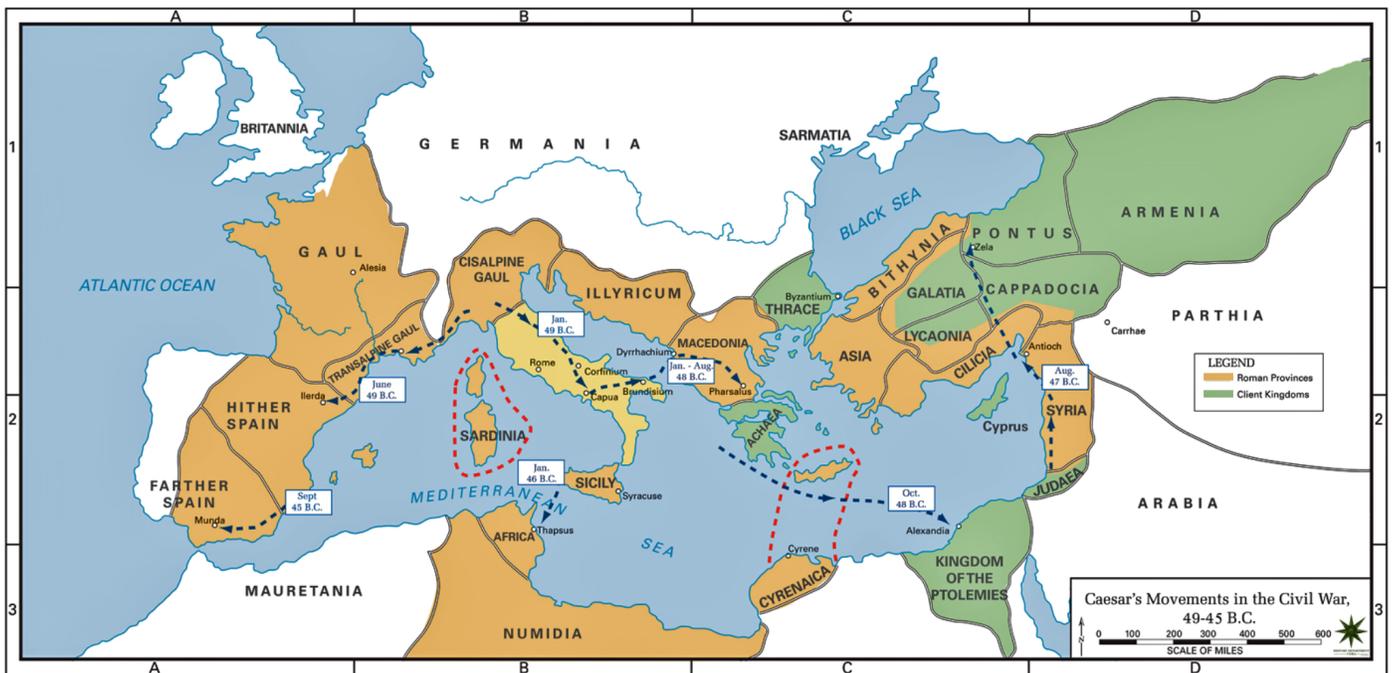
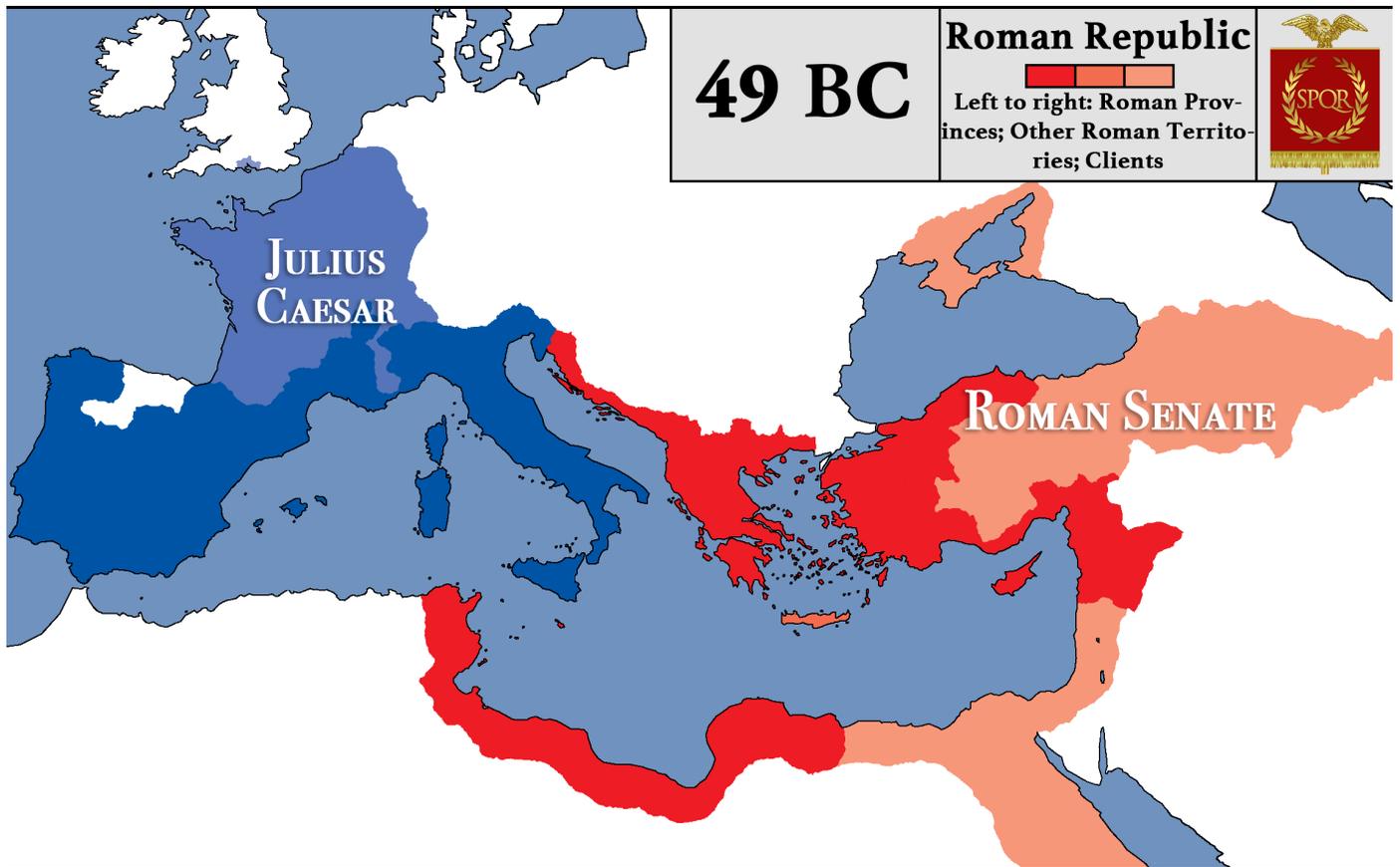
Introduction to Julius Caesar 7

Topic A 8

Topic B 11

Bibliography 13

“Ανερριφθω κυβος”



**Figure 1 (top):** A map of the Roman Republic in 49 B.C. showing the territory of Caesar and Pompey  
**Figure 2 (bottom):** A map showing provinces and client states



Salvete Delegati,

My name is Don Harmon and I look forward to being your chair for Julius Caesar's Civil War at SIMUN XVI. I am a senior at Ignatius, a four-year member of SIMUN, and an Exec Board member of the Saint Ignatius Classics Club, dedicated to the Greek and Latin languages and civilizations. In addition to Classics and MUN, I am interested in history, social sciences, and philosophy, and am also an avid guitar player. This is my first time chairing my own committee, and I'm so excited to see what you all will bring to such a fascinating historical cabinet, full of intricacies and intrigue.

One reason I find Julius Caesar's cabinet in the Civil War to make such a phenomenal MUN committee is the variety and memorability of the characters. Reading about Caesar's time, one will encounter so many utterly remarkable figures, from the brilliant to the absurd, whose colorful personalities can shine through even in the few scraps of anecdote that survive to the modern day. From firebrands to mediators, centurions to senators, loyalists to opportunists, I hope you all enjoy, appreciate, and learn from the rich identities of your characters. This is a committee where I won't just be looking at what you can bring to your position: I'm especially interested in what your *position* can bring to *you*.

Lastly, in your research you will surely find that the Roman Civil War is one of the most well studied, debated, and, crucially, politicized periods of Classical history, and depending on the sources used and one's personal beliefs one may walk away with very different impressions of the struggle. Even after so many years of scholarship, it remains unclear who was on the right side, and what their motivations were. It is difficult to distinguish those with noble intentions from those solely out to protect their own status, not to say anything about whether the outcomes of the war themselves were good. I hope to keep this moral challenge at the forefront of the committee, and I hope you will all think deeply about these critical questions as we cast our die, come see conquer, and plunge the Roman Republic into wars worse than civil.

Bona Fortuna,

Don Harmon



## **Important Note on Committee Rules**

The committee will begin in Rome in 49 B.C., after Caesar returns from his first Spanish campaign. If your position is listed as holding an office, you will be holding that office at the beginning of committee, and can use your official powers accordingly in crisis notes. For instance, Tribunes can veto legislation, and Praetors can command provinces. Offices will rotate over the course of committee through simulated elections. The traditional succession of offices is Quaestor, Praetor, Consul, with the offices of Tribune and Aedile also attainable. The chair will represent Julius Caesar, and crisis notes can, but do not have to be, addressed to Caesar.

There will be two kinds of directives that can be proposed in this committee: *military directives* and *legal directives*. Military directives are for directing the actual campaigns and battles of the Civil War, generally Topic A. Legal directives are for crafting new laws or constitutional reforms, generally Topic B. Legal directives are different in that they must to be sponsored by a magistrate. Though historically Rome's legal system was more complex, any legal directive that passes through this cabinet will be assumed to have become law.

## **Note on Position Papers and Research**

Researching your characters is not meant to be difficult. If you are having trouble finding sources, feel free to email me at [donald.harmon@students.ignatius.org](mailto:donald.harmon@students.ignatius.org) and I'll be glad to help. However, as you will notice, many of the sources for your specific character will be anecdotal. I encourage you to dig up as many of these anecdotes as possible, as some of the characters may only be referenced directly in a few episodes throughout the whole arc of the Civil War. Though personalities shine through in these often amusing or inspiring episodes, enough specific details about definitive policy positions may not. **Therefore, I will not be expecting a full page position paper for each topic. Instead, I will only expect a detailed paragraph per topic.** Because your individual positions are easy to research, I encourage you all to additionally focus your attention on the general history of the Civil War and the Late Republic. To encourage this, and to dovetail with our critical question for committee, **I ask that in one additional paragraph, in your *own voice*, each of you answer a deceptively simple question: "After your research, how do you characterize Julius Caesar?"** I look forward to your answers.



## **List of Positions**

Gaius Julius Caesar (Chair)

Marcus Antonius, Master of Horse

Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus, Legate and Naval Commander

Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, Praetor of Rome

Gaius Scribonius Curio, Tribune of the Plebs

Publius Cornelius Dolabella, General and Partisan

Lucius Cornelius Balbus, Personal Secretary and Chief Engineer

Gaius Oppius, Personal Friend and Political Manager for Caesar

Quintus Cassius Longinus, Tribune of the Plebs

Aulus Hirtius, Legate and Historian

Gaius Trebonius, Legate

Gaius Vibius Pansa Caetronianus, Aedile of Rome

Lucius Tillius Cimber, Partisan

Gnaeus Domitius Calvinus, General and Partisan

Publius Cornelius Sulla, General and Partisan

Roucillus, Gallic Chieftain and Cavalry Commander

Marcus Licinius Crassus the Younger, Legate and Partisan

Marcus Cassius Scaeva, Primus Pilus of the Ninth Legion

Gaius Crastinus, Primus Pilus of the Tenth Legion

Gaius Sallustius Crispus, Partisan and Friend

Lucius Cornelius Cinna the Younger, Partisan and Associate



## **Introduction to the Roman Republic**

The Roman Republic was established in 509 B.C. when Lucius Junius Brutus, the legendary ancestor of the Junii Bruti family, led a group of noblemen to drive out the tyrannical king Tarquinius Superbus. Instead of another autocratic kingship, Brutus and his followers declared government to be a *res publica*, or, a people's affair. The noblemen arranged themselves into a governing body, the Roman Senate. In place of a king, they elected two Consuls who would share power during a single-year term. Almost all offices in the Roman state had terms of just one year to prevent any one man from consolidating his power into a monarchy, something the Romans greatly feared. Holding an office did make one eligible for lifetime membership of the prestigious Senate, which advised the Consuls, approved legislation, and safeguarded the Republic. This system endured for centuries, and was a key factor in Rome's success.

Despite its noble ideals, the Roman Republic was far more like an aristocracy. Only the original families of the state, known as patricians, were allowed to run for the highest offices, and these same wealthy families dominated the voting assemblies for magisterial elections. Rome also ran on a system of patronage where the rich and powerful noble families would look out for less advantaged clients in exchange for political and other favors, so only the nobility had the resources and connections necessary to progress through the traditional succession of offices, called the *cursus honorum*, towards the Consulship. This political "staircase" was highly competitive, as winning a Consulship would cement a family's legacy and enhance their prestige.

Romans who were not among the original families of patricians, including those who immigrated to Rome or became citizens after the foundation of the Republic, were called plebeians, and though they greatly outnumbered the patricians, they held comparatively little political power. As the plebeians became more numerous and more influential, a Conflict of the Orders developed and was resolved with a series of landmark constitutional reforms. First, the Plebeian Tribune was established to represent the plebeians in the government. These officers were given the power of the veto and the power to pass legislation through a plebiscite, or a direct vote of the Plebeian Assembly. Second, the highest magistracies were opened to plebeians. The result was that some powerful plebeians, called equestrians because of their wealth, began to partially integrate into the nobility, though the inequality inherent in the Republic remained.



In part due to the stable and competitive atmosphere of the Republic, Rome quickly expanded from a ragtag city-state to become the hegemon of Italy, and eventually master of the world. After making client states out of their Italian neighbors, the Romans sparred with Carthage, a regional trading power, for control of Sicily and Spain. After a series of brutal wars, Carthage was razed to the ground in 147 B.C., and the last Greek resistance to Rome was extinguished in the same year, which saw Rome becoming the undisputed master of the Mediterranean (which the Romans called *mare nostrum*, or “our sea”) and its plentiful resources.

The new territorial expansion furthered the class divisions of Rome. Patrician magistrates were in charge of conducting the many wars of conquest, and were able to increase their already staggering wealth with a vast sum of foreign riches. They gained the loyalty of the armies they had led, and governorship of the new provinces. The newly conquered territory was enclosed into large slave plantations by the patricians, expelling countless country-dwelling plebeians from their traditional farms to live in the suffocating squalor of urban slums. Campaigns and patronage networks became more and more lucrative but also much more expensive to operate, further narrowing the chances for candidates outside of the establishment to attract voters and win offices. The wealth of the fledgling empire also made political power more rewarding, incentivizing politicians of all stripes to fight tooth and nail to acquire an office that held *imperium*, or the right to command armies and “govern” (read: corruptly mismanage) faraway provinces. All of this led to further class division, political violence, and what some consider to be the true birth of urban politics.

Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus were the first Plebeian Tribunes to gain political support in Rome by rallying the landless masses behind a series of reforms, most importantly the redistribution of land to the poor. They were both assassinated by mobs of senators who disliked their radical ideas. The supporters of the Gracchi became known as the *Populares* faction, or the populists. These politicians, out of opportunism or honest sympathy, capitalized on the plebeian plight, and built an urban support base and political machines to campaign for land reform and especially the cancellation of debts. Many radical populist Tribunes shared the fate of the Gracchi as they angered the conservative Senate. Political violence on both sides was quickly becoming a norm as tensions rose, and mob justice was very common as Caesar came of age.



## Introduction to Julius Caesar

Gaius Julius Caesar was born in 100 B.C. to a noble family that was ancient but not particularly influential. Gaius Marius, a famous plebeian general who opened Rome's army to his support base among the landless poor, had married into it to assimilate into the political aristocracy, making him Caesar's uncle. Caesar's youth was full of political turmoil, as his uncle Marius sparred with political rival Lucius Cornelius Sulla in a series of increasingly brutal coups d'état. During Caesar's teens, Marius stormed the city and enacted bitter reprisals against Sullans. Sulla then retook Rome and launched even more brutal attacks on allies of Marius, forcing the young Caesar to flee until the violence ceased. Blood flowed freely as the city descended into panic. Sulla and the *optimates*, the conservative faction known as the "best men", also severely limited the power of the tribunate and barred many Marians from holding office before they themselves fell out of favor. Rome, and Caesar, had had their first taste of Civil War.

As the smoke cleared, Caesar began his political career as a dedicated populist, and his charm, confidence, and skill handling crowds are often cited by his contemporaries. Caesar quickly gained a reputation as a capable politician and a maverick, earning great prestige and the suspicions of the nobility, and a place in the Senate. Caesar was more ambitious than even this however, and soon entered into an alliance that would further rupture Rome's remaining political normalcy, conspiring with Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (known as Pompey the Great), a prominent general who enjoyed massive support, and Marcus Licinius Crassus, a corrupt real estate broker and the richest man in Rome, to make himself Consul in 60 B.C. and to be granted a ten-year governorship of Roman Gaul, at this point only including the Alpine region of Italy and southern France. In exchange, Caesar helped the two men in their endeavors and what became known as the First Triumvirate dominated Rome for ten years while Caesar expanded his province to include all of modern France, building himself a massive support base rivalling that of Pompey, and causing the two commanders to become antagonists. Caesar's rise was mired with scandals and political corruption, and he knew his enemies intended to prosecute him if he returned to Rome without the legal protection of *imperium*, which he could only gain by winning a second consulship. His enemies were determined to deny him this protection, and employed forces loyal to Pompey to rival Caesar's own. Tensions came to a head in 49 B.C., beginning the Civil War.



## **Topic A: The War Against Pompey**

Though both Caesar and Pompey tried initially to compromise, extremists and violent demagogues on both sides violated laws and norms and made open war more and more inevitable. Caesar returned one legion out of his ten, numbered the Thirteenth, to Cisalpine Gaul so that he would have troops ready if he needed them. That moment came in January of 49 B.C. when Caesar's enemies in Rome suspended normal laws via the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum*, the "ultimate decree of the senate" to use any means necessary to protect the Republic from harm, forcing Mark Antony and Quintus Cassius Longinus, the Tribunes of the Plebs who were loyal to Caesar, to flee the city and join Caesar in Gaul. Seeing that his enemies were martialing troops and disregarding the rights of the Tribunate, Caesar moved to strike and crossed the Rubicon river, which marked the boundary of his province, with his one legion in a surprise attack that caught Pompey and the senators off guard and forced them to flee. Caesar blazed through Italy, being embraced by townspeople and even Pompeian soldiers and some senators, and marched into Rome unmolested while the Pompeians fled to Greece to gather more support. While Pompey gathered resources from the East, Caesar led an expedition to defeat Pompey's seven legions in Spain, and after much maneuver and stratagem won a great victory and returned to Rome in the fall having secured his Western flank. Caesar now had to move to concentrate his legions and attack Pompey before his enemy could muster more troops.

When Pompey fled to Greece to rendezvous with his many allies and clients in the East of the Roman empire, he brought four legions with him from Italy. The first two, the First and Third, had previously served under him but more recently had served under Caesar, and so were unreliable. The other two legions were composed of Italian volunteers mustered by the Senate, but these were inexperienced, untrained, and in no position to fight the experienced veterans of Caesar's Gallic campaign. Pompey could also expect to be joined by seven other Eastern legions loyal to him, spread out over Greece, Turkey, and Syria in winter encampments, along with a host of foreign auxiliary troops, mostly composed of cavalry and missile units, which the Roman legions lacked. All the while, he would be training his two fresh legions into a formidable force, and using his honed discipline and organizational brilliance to prepare for Caesar's attack.



## **Key Issues for Topic A**

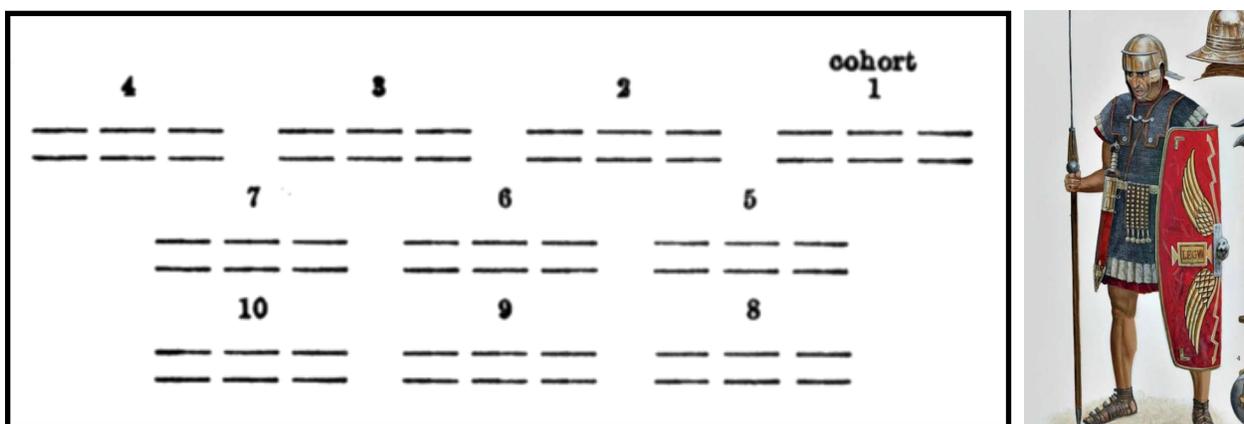
- I. *Pompeian Reinforcements:* The longer Pompey remains unhindered in Greece, the more time his faction will have to treat with allies and muster their massive monetary and military resources to invade Italy. Even Caesar's force, composed of ten veteran legions, a number of unorganized provincial cohorts, and a large number of Gallic auxiliaries, will be unable to defeat Pompey at his full strength. Measures must be taken to increase Caesar's forces or decrease Pompey's available resources. Time is of the essence.
- II. *Crossing into Greece:* Moving an army into Greece will not be a simple task. Because Pompey's own forces have already used most of the available vessels to transport their own army, Caesar will need to wait until there are enough ships available to transport his army across the sea. The crossing itself will also be dangerous, as Bibulus, a lieutenant of Pompey's, controls a navy in the Adriatic hell bent on sinking Caesar's hopes of victory.
- III. *Supplying the Army:* Caesar will also need to supply his army with food, water, replacements, and pay as he campaigns. Though his legions are loyal to him, they expect to be rewarded for their service to their commander. In the past, Caesar has simply drained Gallic cities of resources to supply his expeditions, but in the campaign Caesar would much rather supply his men without subjecting the Roman people, whose support for him is tentative, to hardship. Funding an entire war through mostly individual wealth is unprecedented, however, and establishing supply lines will be difficult for the committee.
- IV. *Maneuver:* At Caesar's time, it is customary for armies to pursue and shadow each other, marching and camping only miles apart for days or even months, before engaging in battle. Commanders look to position their army on the best possible ground possible before offering battle, and Caesar is a master of topography and also fortification who makes sure he always fights at the advantage. This cabinet should be familiar with Caesar's stratagem and be prepared to conduct this type of warfare and advise their leader on prudent actions.
- V. *Battle:* Though Pompey avoids battle whenever possible, preferring to delay Caesar and wait for reinforcements, he cannot hide forever. If he is drawn into battle, his legions will be no match for Caesar's veterans. However, Pompey has an advantage in numbers and much stronger cavalry, which he can use to his great advantage if they are left unchecked.



### Note on the Organization of the Roman Army

The Roman army in Caesar's day is organized into legions of about 4,800 infantrymen, who must be Roman citizens. Each legion consists of 10 cohorts, which are the primary operating units for the military. Each cohort contains 6 centuries of 80 men, and each century is commanded by a centurion. The most senior centurion, called the *primus pilus*, commands the first century of the First Cohort and is the de facto commander of the legion, usually in conjunction with a Legate who represents the magistrate who holds *imperium* over the legion. Roman legionaries are highly trained, and fight with a heavy javelin, called a *pilum*, and a short sword, called a *gladius*. Noncitizen troops are called auxiliaries, and can be equipped as infantrymen, but more often serve as cavalry or missile troops, which are not included in a standard legion. These auxiliaries are also organized into cohorts.

At the beginning of committee, Caesar will have ten legions, all of which are understrength after suffering casualties in Gaul, along with cohorts of Gallic auxiliaries and a detachment of Gallic cavalry, amounting to around 35,000 soldiers. Pompey will have his four Italian legions, with his seven Eastern legions, and a huge reserve of allied and auxiliary forces including lots of very accomplished cavalry, archers, and slingers, soon to join him. His forces could amount to as many as 50,000, with 7,000 cavalry. Caesar's main power base is in Gaul, while Pompey's is in the Eastern provinces, Spain, and North Africa.



**Figure 3 (left):** A Roman Legion deployed in the traditional *triplex acies*, or “triple battle line.”

**Figure 4 (right):** A typical Roman legionary in Caesar's day



## **Topic B: Restoring the Republic**

When Caesar returned to Rome after his first Spanish campaign, the Republic and its normal operations were in shambles. Many senators had fled with Pompey, or simply retreated to their private villas until the tensions eased. Both of the Consuls and all but one of the Praetors had also fled the city, leaving no one in Rome with even the authority to preside over a new election, which Caesar needs if he is to become consul. Caesar needs the Republic to continue to operate smoothly if he is to maintain his legitimacy and support his claim that he is a defender of Rome and its system of government, rather than a usurper. He needs to have the remaining Senators on his side if he is to fight a war overseas against a fellow Roman commander. Until he has the loyalty of a stable and functioning Rome, a Civil War will be impossible to prosecute.

In addition to maintaining stability, Caesar and his populist faction now have the opportunity to fulfil their rhetoric and institute reforms to help the plebeian and equestrian classes in Rome who make up their support base. *Populares* have advocated for the cancellation of debts, public aid for the poor, land reform, and political reform, and it is up to this cabinet to decide how to keep these promises in a feasible and politically appealing way. This is also an opportunity to address the many governmental problems that the Republic has had in recent years, especially regarding the accumulation of wealth and status in the hands of the few, and the general destabilization this has caused. It will also be necessary to repair the deep wounds inflicted by the Civil War, and restore trust and harmony among the leading men of Rome. All of these reforms will be necessary to rebuild the crumbling Republic

Lastly, Caesar and his partisans are first and foremost politicians, and need to use the opportunities presented to them in the Civil War to repay personal favors, establish patronage relationships, and increase their own popularity, influence and wealth. Each member of this cabinet has political aspirations which he can fulfil by being a popular leader and rewarding his supporters. To increase their popularity, senators and political candidates might promise to implement populist reforms, throw public games and festivals, or even simply give out money to the citizens of Rome, as Caesar was apt to do. Caesar will need to do all of these things to maintain support for his rule, and his associates likewise for their own political futures.



## **Key Issues for Topic B**

- I. *Popular Reforms*: As Caesar sweeps into power, the *Populares* have an opportunity to control the government. Though the faction includes more political opportunists than principled reformers, clearly the people of Rome expect a platform of legal and economic reforms from their new leaders.
- II. *Cancellation of Debts*: The most consistent rallying cry for the *Populares* has been for the cancellation of debts, though their motives have often been called into question. Many populist politicians, including Caesar for a time, were themselves debtors, and would benefit directly from this sort of reform. Any sort of debt cancellation will be hard to implement, and will be deeply unpopular with creditors, who are connected to the upper class.
- III. *Bread and Circuses*: In addition to long lasting reform, the everyday needs of the Roman people for food and entertainment must be met if Caesar and his faction are to maintain their popularity and prevent unrest. This can be accomplished by providing free grain, festivals, and other programs to the people to keep them content.
- IV. *Land for Veterans*: In the Late Republic, those who serve in the army under a successful general, or *imperator*, are often rewarded with a plots of farmland in veterans' colonies after they retire. This sort of "pension benefit" is expected by Caesar's veterans, and land must be found for them quickly and with minimal interruption to the social order of Rome, as most are nearing retirement age.
- V. *Rewarding Allies*: Caesar is often quoted as saying he would reward even criminals who supported him, and this is not unique of in the Roman world of political patronage. Many of Caesar's political supporters, including within the committee, are now seeking political power of their own. These men and their ambitions must be accomodated for, even while Caesar holds a lion's share of the political capital. Caesar's allies must also be rewarded financially, and many expect to be given governorship of one of Rome's lucrative provinces.
- VI. *Reconciling with Enemies*: Caesar was famous in the Civil War for pardoning his enemies, and allowing them to return to Rome in his debt. This extraordinary clemency has given him a claim to the moral high ground, but it may soon cause problems as more and more of his former enemies reassimilate into the political life of the Republic.



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