

THE CRISIS OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

THE ROMAN MILITARY

- Every male property owning citizen
 - Service was for 16 years
 - Infantry and Cavalry
- Brutal but effective discipline
- LEGIONS
 - 5000 infantry men
 - Strong personal loyalty to generals

WARS OF EXPANSION

FEAR or AMBITION?

- 387 Gauls invade and sack Rome
- 264 Control all of Italian peninsula
- 264-241 First Punic War
- 218–201 Second Punic War
- 214–167 Macedonian Wars
- 149–146 Third Punic War
- 130 BC Controlled entire Mediterranean



HELLENIZATION of ROME

- The adoption of Hellenic culture into the Italic and Etruscan cultures of the earliest Romans to produce the Classical ROMAN CULTURE
 - Literature, e.g. Ennius, Terence
 - Education
 - Architecture and Art
 - Religion

ROMAN RELIGION

- **PANTHEON** of Gods (Polytheism)
 - New gods added, e.g. MITHRAS
 - Greek Pantheon identified with Early Roman gods
- **SPIRITS** (Animism)
 - Spirits known as NUMINA
 - including spirits of **ancestors** (GENII)

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

- Land and slaves from WARS
 - Rich had estates – LATIFUNDA
 - Used slave-labor
 - BUT poor lost farms
- ⇒ The MOB
- Impoverished plebeians living in the city and reliant upon handouts

Optimates vs Populares

Two political factions in Rome of the 1st century BC

OPTIMATES

- Patrician elite
- Traditionalist
- Pro-Senate
- Anti-Plebeian

- *Sulla*
- *Cicero*

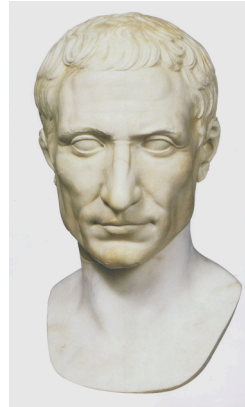
POPULARES

- “New men”
- Reformist
- Pro-Assemblies
- Populist

- *The Gracchi*
- *G. Marius*

Gaius Julius Caesar

- Born 100 BC, **JULII** clan
- **PATRICIAN**
- **BUT POPULARE** not **OPTIMATE**
- Understood power of the MOB: “Bread and Circuses”



The GRACCHI

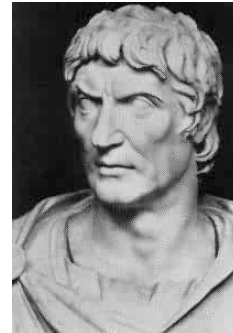
Tiberius & Gaius Sempronius Gracchus

- PLEBEIANS
- TRIBUNES of the PEOPLE
- POPULARES
 - Both proposed LAND REFORM
- Tiberius assassinated: 133 BC
- Gaius assassinated: 121 BC

The First & Second Civil Wars

OPTIMATES: L. Cornelius **SULLA**
vs. POPULARES – **MARIUS** &
Cornelius **CINNA**

- 1st CIVIL WAR: 88–87 BC
- MARIUS DIED: 87 BC
- 2nd CIVIL WAR: 83–82 BC
- SULLA: DICTATOR 82–80 BC



The Cataline Conspiracy

- 64 BC **CATILINE** and other POPULARES sought:
 - To weaken SENATE
 - Debt relief
- M. Tullius **CICERO** stopped him
 - Many populares forced to leave
 - Caesar became PROPRAETORIAN GOVERNOR of Further Hispania

The First Triumvirate

- Informal political alliance between:
 - G. Julius Caesar: CONSUL
 - Gn. POMPEIUS MAGNUS: (Pompey)
 - M. Licinius CRASSUS
- Formed 60 BC
 - Sealed by MARRIAGE



Gallic Wars: 58–51BC



- GOVERNORSHIP of
 - GAUL (France) and
 - ILLYRIA (Dalmatian Coast)
- conquered all of Gaul
 - Popular with his legions
 - Very wealthy

The Crossing of the Rubicon

- January 10th 49BC, Caesar crossed the RUBICON at head of army
- Pompey led OPTIMATE forces
 - included Cato the Younger, Junius BRUTUS and CASSIUS
 - 48 BC: Battle of PHARSALOS
 - PTOLEMY murders POMPEY
- Caesar declared DICTATOR and CONSUL

CAESAR'S RULE IN ROME

- Returned 45 BC
- Nominated allies for Senate and Magistracies
- Senate:
 - Granted title IMPERATOR
 - Made him CONSUL for Life
 - Named him DICTATOR for LIFE.
- He instituted popular REFORMS

Caesar's Reforms

- Debt relief
- Anti-luxury laws
- Streamlined voter registration
- Extended citizenship to scholars
- Jobs to freemen
- Calendar reform
- Program of public works
- Stiff fines for crimes

Planned **redistribution of land**
to former soldiers

Beware the Ides of March!

- 15th March, 44 BC
- Led by G. CASSIUS and M. Junius BRUTUS
- Drew off Mark Antony
- Lured Caesar into the CURIA of the Theater of Pompey, where the Senate met
- Caesar stabbed over 20 times





THE AFTERMATH

- **2nd TRIUMVIRATE**
 - M. Antony: consul and general
 - Octavian: wealth and legitimacy of Caesar
 - Lepidus: popular military man
- They:
 - Took control in Rome
 - Persecuted enemies, including CICERO
 - Battle of Philippi in 42 BC

The End of the Republic

- In 40 BC, the triumvirs split the Roman dominion
 - Antony took the East
 - Octavian took Rome
 - Lepidus took Africa.
- Antony began affair with CLEOPATRA
- 32–31 BC, Octavian vs Antony
 - Sea battle of ACTIUM in 31 BC
- Octavian became the sole master of the Roman world.

Did Caesar Destroy the Republic?

- POPULARES & OPTIMARES struggle ⇒
- Assassination of Tiberius GRACCHUS in 132 BC
 - Assassination of Gaius GRACCHUS in 121 BC.
 - CIVIL WAR: MARIUS & SULLA from 88–83 BC
 - Tyranny of SULLA, 83–80 BC
 - CATILINE CONSPIRACY in 62 BC
 - FIRST TRIUMVIRATE

But...

- Paved the way for the utter control of Rome by one man
- Death mobilized the MOB against the OPTIMATES
- His vast wealth aided OCTAVIAN
- Taught Octavian:
 - The power of the MOB and MILITARY together
 - The wisdom of maintaining the MYTH of the REPUBLIC