

Marius and Sulla

Gaius Marius and Lucius Cornelius Sulla were two very different men whose paths converged first on the battlefield and then in the political arena. Marius was a *novus homo* from Arpinum whose ancestors were from a moderately distinguished equestrian background. He made a name for himself by not only capturing King Jugurtha of Numidia, but also by doing it his own way. Gaius Marius was responsible for employing the *capite censi* in his army, who until this point was not allowed to serve because of outdated property qualifications. One might even argue (with justification) that this revolution led to the downfall of the Republic. In this Jugurthan War, Marius had a lieutenant named Lucius Cornelius Sulla.

It is commonly believed that Marius' victory was due in large part to this man. Sulla was of the old patrician Cornelian family, but of the lineage that had not established itself in recent Roman politics. Sulla was a harsh and unfeeling man who is said to have made his money by killing both his step-mother and his mistress. He was well known for his blazing red hair and his two canine teeth that he would bare when angry.

At first, the two excellent Roman military geniuses got along well with each other, but when Marius took almost sole credit for the Jugurthan victory and gave almost no attention to Sulla's efforts, the latter became very bitter with his former general. Sulla then went on to distinguish himself in the Social War and was then given the command in the war against Mithridates of Pontus in 88. This command was then overturned in the Senate by Marius' ally Publius Sulpicius Rufus, whom had it transferred to Marius. The seeds of conflict were sown.

Sulla immediately rushed back to Rome from Asia and took control of the city by methods that were incredibly harsh by even Roman military standards. Sulla had Sulpicius Rufus murdered along with several other Marian supporters (Marius fled to Africa) and passed several laws *a vi* before leaving for what he hoped would be a lucrative campaign in Greece.

One of the new consuls immediately had Marius recalled to Rome and the two attacked the allies of Sulla and eventually captured the city. What followed was a slaughter like none other seen at that time. Marius and his army (remember the *capite censi*??) terrorized Rome while Sulla conquered much of the Aegean and Asia Minor. Marius was named consul for a seventh time but died soon after.

In 84 BC, Sulla renewed the civil war against the Marians, which he won soundly after his victory at the Colline Gate, and entered Rome as Dictator under the law of *interrex*. He then proceeded to gain immunity for all of his actions past and present and created a new kind of slaughter by posting proscription lists that itemized every Roman citizen Sulla wanted dead because of suspected Marian loyalties. In all, Sulla killed 10,000 people through the civil war and his proscriptions.

Despite this horrible onslaught, over the next three years, Sulla reformed much of the Roman political system to the benefit of the state and was hailed as Rome's savior by most of Rome. When Sulla died in 78 amidst retirement in Campania, after finishing his consulship of 79 and holding elections for the next year, a massive state funeral was given to him and his life was celebrated. It can be correctly argued that the Sullan reforms staved off the end of the Republic for another fifty years.

Possible Discussion Topics:

- Sullan reforms
- *Novus homo*
- *Capite censi*
- Social Wars
- *de vi* (Roman laws)
- life of Sulla (retirement, Metrobius, step-mother, family heritage)

Scene I: Jugurthan Military Triumph

Marius and Sulla are center-stage and facing the class receiving their military ovation from the crowd

Crowd: Yeah!! Yeah!

*Marius steps in front of Sulla.
Sulla attempts to step up next to him*

Marius: Be patient my dear Sulla, your time will come. This is my time now – I am the general and this is my triumph!!

Marius waves to the crowd and Sulla steps back and looks very angry.

Sulla (looks down; speaking to himself): We shall see my friend, we shall see. When you do not have me to win your battles for you, let's see how you handle your army.

Marius, still waving at the crowd, walks offstage and Sulla follows him

Scene II: The Curia

Lucullus and Rufus are facing the class

Lucius Licinius Lucullus: So, it is settled then, Lucius Cornelius Sulla, who has distinguished himself so adequately in the Social Wars as a capable commander, shall take command of the war against Mithridates of Pontus.

Sulpicius Rufus: We shall see about that!! The Senate may be able to elect commanders, but so can the *comitia* if persuaded by their beloved tribune!

Rufus leaves the classroom, waits a second, and then comes right back in. The senators look confused.

Lucullus: What is he doing?

Rufus now back onstage after a few seconds.

Rufus: I'll tell you what I'm doing! I just had the *comitia* give Marius the command against Mithridates – what are you going to do about that??

Lucullus: Oh no.... This is NOT good...

All walk off stage

Scene III: Sulla in his office after marching on Rome

The board has three marks on it and Sulla is standing by it with a marker in one hand. Lucullus enters.

Lucullus: Well, Sulla, your march on Rome is basically complete, I have just received word that Sulpicius has been killed.

Sulla: *Optime!! (he says with a large smile)*

Sulla puts another mark on the board

Sulla: Okay, now that my position here is done, I think it is time to go on campaign.

He turns to Lucullus

Sulla: Lucius, you and our allies are now in charge

Lucullus: Certainly, Sulla.

Both walk offstage

Scene IV: A street in Rome

Two citizens are talking to one another (Marius has marched on Rome now that Sulla has left)

First citizen: *Me Hercule!* I can't take much more of this civil war! First Sulla marches on Rome, now Marius. I've heard that he is killing people left and right.

Second: You got that right. Have you heard about Gaius?

First: *Minime.*

Second: Well, let's just say that we won't be seeing him around the baths anymore.

First: What about Flaccus?

Second: Dead

First: Drusus?

Second: *Mortuus*

First: Cornelius?

Second: *etiam*

First: Publius?

Second: *non*

First: This is horrible.

A messenger rushes onstage from the right side

Messenger: Have you heard? Sulla just marched on Rome! Marius ran off to Africa and now Sulla's in charge!

First: That's it – I'm outta here!

Second: Me too!!

All three leave the stage

Scene V: Sulla's office

Sulla is happily adding check marks on the board (there are so many checks that one cannot count them); his messenger enters

Need a chair placed against the front board.

Messenger: Alright, *Domine*, as *interrex*, you have now proscribed 1500 people, and I have just received word that Marcus Domitius has been spotted, killed, and all of his property has been given over to the state.

Sulla: Outstanding!!

Sulla adds one more check to board happily

Sulla: This is too fun! Why didn't I do this the first time!

Sulla sits down and picks up a piece of paper

Messenger: *Domine*, do you mind if I ask what you are doing?

Sulla: Not at all. (*He holds up the piece of paper*) This is the future of Rome! Right here are all of the reforms which will cure the Republic of all its ails! I have abolished the courts and created a series of standing courts in which senators will be the jurors. Because of the need for the senators, I have also doubled the size of the Senate and increased the number of praetors from six to eight.

Messenger: That sounds like a great plan, *Domine*!

Sulla: Oh, this is just the tip of the iceberg, there is much more!

Messenger: Well, I certainly hope that you can save the Republic, what will we do without it?

End Play

Spartacus

A lot of us have seen the movie *Spartacus*, or at least know a little of the story. Spartacus led a very famous slave revolt starting in 73 BC. He led his group of ex-gladiators through Campania and picked up many runaway slaves and other unfortunate refugees along the way. Eventually, his band swelled to over 100,000 and became pretty well organized. The consuls of 72 BC were fairly unsuccessful at stopping the revolt. When the group reached Southern Gaul, Spartacus had hoped that his people would disband and blend into the countryside, but this was not the case. Feeling that they did not have a home, they spurned on their leader towards the goal of taking over Rome. Crassus was put in charge of eradicating the ex slaves after Rome gave up on the consuls. The first blow to the revolt was when the outlaws split into two groups after a disagreement between Spartacus and one of his lieutenants, this lieutenant named Crixus took about 30,000 with him and was quickly defeated. Spartacus and his 70,000 made it as far as Lucania, where he was defeated in a heated battle with Crassus' legions.

Spartacus was never found and presumed killed in battle. The prisoners brought back to Rome were hung on crosses lining the Appian Way reaching all the way to Brundisium. Any remnants of the revolt that scattered after the last battle were rooted out and killed by Pompey later on in 71 and 70 BC.

Possible Discussion Topics:

- Sertorius
- gladiator training
- the REAL Spartacus
- Crassus

Scene I: outside the gladiator barracks

Spartacus rushes into center stage with another gladiator close behind. Both are out of breath

Gladiator (*looking around in a panic*): Are all of them gone?!

Spartacus: For now, but our fight has just begun. Once it gets around that we have escaped from Batiatus' gladiator camp, all of Capua will be after us. We must find others and have them join us. Our 500 gladiators are simply not enough to stave off the struggle that is ahead of us.

The two run off stage

Scene II: Mt. Vesuvius

Spartacus stands facing his fugitive band (the class); two gladiators stand two Spartacus' right

Spartacus: Friends, we are outlaws and wanted in every part of the Empire of Rome. Even though our numbers have swelled to over 5000, we still need to recruit more run away slaves and defectors. But, we have a bigger problem – if we do not do something dramatic, we will be hunted for our whole lives, so this is what I propose...

Spartacus pauses for a second and looks at each of his followers

Spartacus: ...Quintus Sertorius is a renegade general that is amassing an army in Spain to march on Rome and take over as dictator. I propose that we march to Spain and join him. By showing our allegiance to him now, we will be spared if he gains control of the Republic, and with our growing numbers, he will crush the Roman legions by sheer size.

Gladiator: This is ludicrous! We can't march on Rome! We will die!

2nd Gladiator (*putting one hand to his chin and looking pensive*): No, no, this is a good idea.

Spartacus: Unfortunately, I think that this is the only idea. You do not have to come with me if you do not want to, but I am marching to Spain. I cannot guarantee anything, only a chance. Those who are with me will leave tomorrow morning.

Scene III: battlefield

With numbers now swelling over 50,000, Spartacus battles with a Roman legion and takes Gaius Cassius Longinus, the governor of Italy, prisoner

Cassius(*on his knees with hands behind his back; facing Spartacus*): What are you going to do? Kill me! You have already defeated my legions in battle, I will be humiliated, so go ahead, do your worst!

Spartacus: No, I have a better idea. Since, you, Cassius, are an esteemed governor of Italy, I am freeing you to go back to Rome so that you can tell those inept consuls Gellius and Clodius that I plan to join Sertorius in Spain and march on Rome. They won't stand a chance with our 50,000 men added to the legions that he has already formed!

Cassius busts out laughing

Cassius: Ha ha! You idiot! Sertorius is dead! (*still laughing*) He was killed by his legate in a mutiny!

Spartacus (*puts his head down; looking shocked and defeated*): Send him away.

Scene IV: Refugee camp

Spartacus is again addressing his men (the class); the two gladiators are again standing to the side

Spartacus: It seems that we have a problem. All of you know by now what happened to Sertorius, so we have to decide what to do. I have heard that there are revolting slaves in Sicily; I say that we should go there.

Gladiator: Why should we listen to you again? Look what happened the first time! I don't know about this.

2nd Gladiator: What choice do we have? We are still hunted, and despite numbers of almost 100,000 now, we need a bigger army. We have to go.

Spartacus: Very well, off to Sicily then. I know of some pirates that can take us on their ships for a price.

One pirate enters center stage

Pirate: The price is 4,000 talents for your 20 ships.

Spartacus and the rest: 4000!!

Spartacus: That is too much!

Pirate: Take it or leave it.

Spartacus: Okay, how about we give you half now and half when we arrive?

Pirate: That's a deal! Give me the money!

Spartacus hands over the money

Pirate: Alright! Thank you very much!

The Pirate walks off stage laughing

Scene V: Italian coastline

Spartacus and Gladiator are looking out over the sea for something that is not there

Gladiator (*speaking to Spartacus*): Where are they? We've been waiting for days!!

Spartacus: They will come, they have to!

The Second Gladiator runs in from offstage

2nd Gladiator: I'm afraid that we've been tricked. A lookout saw them leave yesterday. We shouldn't have trusted those pirates. We are as good as dead now.

Spartacus (*smacks his head with his hand*): Oh no, this is not good!

End Play

Caesar and the Pirates

On a voyage to Rhodes in 75 BC to study under the rhetor, Apollonius Molon, Caesar and his ship were taken hostage by pirates. The group was kidnapped off the island of Pharmacussa (6 miles south of Miletus) by a pirate leader named Brigodus. He sent home a ransom message for 20 talents, which was the going wage for a senator. Caesar, upon hearing this, insisted that he was no ordinary senator (in fact he was a senator only because he had just won the civic crown and had not even become a *quaestor* yet) and demanded that the ransom be raised to 50 talents!

After 40 days, he was released. During his capture, Caesar behaved with aristocratic arrogance. He won all of the men over with jokes and such and had his way with many of the women. One of the “jokes” he told over and over was how he was going to come back, capture them, and then crucify them all. The pirates all laughed about this because it was impossible for anyone to find the cove – except that Caesar had counted coves from a certain landmark on the way to the hideout. Magniservus, Caesar’s large and favorite slave, was sent home with the ransom note and brought back the money, much to the chagrin of many now empty pocketbooks in Rome. 50 talents – holy cow!

All of the pirates saw Caesar off after the ransom was paid. Caesar brought the pirates to Pergamum after capturing them (where Q. Pompeius was *proquaestor*) and leaves them there. He goes to Bithynia to ask Marcus Junius permission to crucify the pirates and is denied. He then goes back to Pergamum and tells Pompeius that he had gotten permission and all 500 are crucified.

Possible related discussion topics

- Caesar’s skill as a *rhetor* and his court cases (including info on Dolabella case)
- his audacity
- the civic crown or *corona civica*(what is it? Why did he get it?)
- pirates in the Mediterranean (and Pompey cleaning them up)
- Caesar and women
- Crucifixion as punishment
- Apollonius Molon

Scene I (75 BC; on the waters near Miletus)

Julius Caesar, Magniservus, and an oarsman are on a boat heading towards Rhodes.

The actors are sitting in three chairs on center stage; the first chair, in which the oarsman sits, faces the other two

Oarsman: And over here to the left you can see the island of Pharmacussa.

Julius Caesar: This is wonderful to be away from everything! It is just too bad that I should leave Rome after losing my trial.

Magniservus: Well, master, look at it this way: being away from Rome will give you the opportunity to be away from the public and let things cool down. When you get back, the only thing that mob will remember, if anything at all, will be the masterful way you prosecuted Dolabella.

Caesar: I suppose you’re right... and just think of how great my speeches in the Forum will be after Molon trains me!

Oarsman: *Ecce!* Up ahead! (he points) A pirate ship! Oh no – we’re doomed!

Caesar (*calmly*): It seems that we will be taking a detour.

Brigodus and his shipmate enter the scene

Brigodus: Well, it looks as if we've found ourselves a Senator! We will make lots of money off of you!

Magniservus: Not if I have anything to do with it...

Caesar: Magniservus, it is alright. I am no mere senator, I can assure you. Who are you?

Brigodus: I am Brigodus, the leader of the most fierce pirates of the Mediterranean, and you are now my prisoner! Come aboard my ship, senator, and let us go back to my cove.

Actors walk to the left. Caesar looks as if he is counting something as he walks.

Scene II: Pirate Cove

Caesar, Magniservus, the oarsman, Brigodus, and his pirate enter the cove.

Actors walk back to center stage. Brigodus carries a piece of paper.

Brigodus: Tell me your name senator.

Caesar: I am Julius Caesar, son of Gaius Julius Caesar and winner of the civic crown.

Brigodus: I am pleased to meet you, especially pleased now that I will be asking 20 talents for your release.

Caesar (*laughing*): 20 talents! That's it!? No, my friend, I am worth *much* more than that! You will ask 50 talents for my release.

Brigodus: *You* will tell *me* what to do!?!

Caesar (*smugly*): I just did.

Brigodus: I hardly think that you are in a position to order me around... but I like your proposal – 50 talents it is!

Caesar: You will need a messenger. Let Magniservus carry the ransom note back to Rome. He's my oldest and dearest slave and completely capable and trustworthy.

Brigodus: Very well.

Brigodus gives Magniservus the ransom note

Magniservus: Very well! I will take the message.

Magniservus exits left with the message.

Narrator: So, Caesar settled into his captivity. He behaved like his usual charming self – wooing women...

Women (of the class): Wooooo!!

Narrator: ...and telling jokes to the men.

The pirate stands next to Caesar

Caesar: A man walks into a bar....

The pirate and the male students laugh

Narrator: One of Caesar's favorite things to joke about was how he was going to come back and crucify all of the pirates. All of the pirates laughed because no one could find his way back to the hidden cove. After 40 days, Magniservus comes back with the ransom money and Caesar is released, much to the dismay of many women and pirates.

Brigodus, pirate, and woman: Goodbye Caesar!! We love you!!

The women blow kisses

Caesar: *Valete!* It's too bad that the next time I see you, I will kill you!

Julius Caesar exits left

Narrator: And one month goes by...

Caesar comes back to center stage

Caesar: Hello! Remember me? I'm back to crucify you! Did you miss me?

Caesar leads all of the pirate crew off stage

Scene III: Pergamum

Caesar comes back on stage with Brigodus

Brigodus: Caesar, you must be very intelligent! How did you find your way back to my cove?!

Caesar: It was simple math, my doomed friend. Instead of trying to remember what your cove looks like, because it looks like every other cove, I counted how many coves it was away from an obvious starting point.

Brigodus: You truly are destined for greatness!

Caesar: And you, my man, are destined for the cross! Join your 500 friends up on the cross here at Pergamum. Only you, being the leader, will not have your legs broken and die a slower death than the rest of your unfortunate friends.

Brigodus: Oh no, this is not good! *(he hits his head with his hand)*

Brigodus lays back against the dry erase board and assumes the position of a man on a cross.

Julius Caesar, talking to the audience (the class)

Caesar: Now, as for all of the treasure taken from the pirate cove. I shall divide it up into halves, giving one half to Rome, in addition to the fleet of ships taken, and the other half to the people of Rhodes. For myself, so that I may avoid extortion charges later on in my political career, I will take only this small collection of pearls to give as gifts to all of the women I will conquer back in Rome on my way to my *in suo anno* consulship.

End play

In Catilinam

In 63 BC, Cicero exposed a conspiracy to have himself murdered and to revolt against the state that was led by Lucius Sergius Catilina. Catiline had been up for election as consul in a very weak field, which Cicero had beaten easily. Disheartened by his third loss in the race for consulship, the head conspirator decided to champion the cause of the poor and the disheartened of the state (aimless aristocrats and bankrupt Sullan veterans). Catiline organized a group of people in and out of Rome that would murder the consul of 62 and cancel the debts of all Roman citizens.

Thanks to the loose tongue of one of the conspirators who bragged to his mistress about the plans, Cicero was made aware of the threat to his life. He lacked evidence however, but this was soon remedied after his spies intercepted messages from Catiline, who was now raising an army in Etruria (Cicero had scared him out of Rome). The leaders still in Rome were then arrested and executed after a long debate in the Senate, where the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* was decreed upon Cicero. An army was then sent after Catiline and he was killed in battle amid an army of 10,000 men armed and trained at Faesulae (a town in Etruria). It is interesting to note that, in the deliberations of the Senate, Caesar spoke out against the death penalty for the conspirators (arguing that death was too lenient a punishment for them) and almost swayed the entire body until Cato (long the opponent of Caesar) spoke in favor of the *poena ultima* and won the debate.

As the prisoners made their way to their incarceration, Cicero had them strangled and infamously announced to the crowd, "*Vixerunt.*" It is only after this dramatic display of emergency authority that Catiline's supporters in Etruria lost heart and Catiline was killed.

Cicero was hailed temporarily as the savior of the state and escorted home after the prisoners' executions amid a parade of torches and cheers. Cicero, however, was rather arrogant and continued to laud himself much to the annoyance of others. This arrogance worked against him later on.

Possible Discussion Topics:

- *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* (the first use and intention of)
- *Poena ultima*??
- Changing attitudes of religion and afterlife
- Caesar vs. Cato
- The three *in Catilina* (when, where, why?)
- Evolution of violence (how could Catiline so easily gain allies in his quest?)
- Life of Cicero

Scene I: The Curia; November 7, 63 BC

The senators, including Catiline, are all sitting in their seats waiting for Cicero to speak. Cicero is off to the side of the stage. There are three chairs on the right side of the stage, in which Catiline, and the two senators sit. Catiline is on the end.

Senator (*speaking to another senator sitting next to him*): So what is this about?

2nd Senator: I'm told that Cicero is going to reveal who is responsible for that conspiracy we've been hearing about.

Senator (*throws his hands up in the air*): Finally! Things have been so strange around here lately, everyone has been acting so paranoid since Cicero was elected consul for next year. What a horrible lot of candidates to choose from! What is our great Republic coming to?

Cicero walks to center-stage and faces the senators

2nd Senator: Shh!! Quiet – he's about to begin!

Cicero: *Quo usque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra?!*

All of the Senators suddenly look over to Catiline. Catiline shrinks down in his seat.

Cicero (*looking at Catiline and growing angrier*): *Quid?* Did you think that I would not find out? I know how you and your fellow conspirators met at night and laid out your plan of attack! I know how you plan to raise an army in Etruria! I know everything, Catiline!

Each of the Senators sitting near Catiline takes hold of their chairs and hops away from Catiline so that he is sitting alone.

Cicero: Why are you even here? How can you be so audacious as to sit here and look into the very eyes of the people that you would have killed? Get out of here! Leave the city! The gates lie open! Your friends in Etruria are calling you name! Go to them Catiline, and rid us of your presence!

Catiline gets up from his seat

Catiline (*in a very upset and angry voice*): Who are you to charge me with these things, you upstart resident alien! You, a *novus homo* charging me, a patrician, with conspiracy! You will rue the day Chic-Pea! You will not see the last of me!

Catiline storms out of the Curia and off stage

Cicero (*addressing the Senate*): My fellow Senators – do you need any more evidence? We must act now if we are to save the state!

Cicero and the Senators exit the stage

Scene II: The Curia; December 5, 63 BC

Senator 1 brings in two of the conspirators in chains and sits them down on the floor off to the side.

The senators, including Caesar and Cato come in and sit down in their chairs. Cicero again takes center stage.

Cicero: My fellow Senators, on October 21st, you decreed upon me the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* – the final decree of the senate. Now, we must decide how we are best to use it and what to do with the conspirators captured here in Rome. It is my opinion that we should put them to death – the *poena ultima*. Exile is simply not a suitable punishment for this lot.

Caesar: Cicero, I agree that we must execute the *poena ultima*, but should that really be interpreted as the execution of these prisoners in this case? I think that execution is far too lenient for these men. They have upset the very foundation of our state and, if killed, will be punished only for a second – for the moment of death.
The Gods are wise and true, honorable men, but we have evolved past the ancient belief that men will truly suffer in the afterlife. On the other hand, life imprisonment in various towns across Italy will force them to feel the effects of their unjust acts for the rest of their life, until old age offers them the solace and comfort of death.

Cato: I disagree whole-heartedly! We must rid the earth of this scum! These criminals deserve the ultimate punishment, and how can there be a worse punishment than death? How many of you would rather die than live out your life in another town in Italy? None! Why? Because all of us know exactly what we would do in those towns! Criminal or not, we would still be from Rome, we would still be famous, we would still be noble. The town, whichever it may be, would smother us with praise and wealth. Any one of us could live better as an exile in some Italian town than we do here now, as Senators in Rome! We must execute the prisoners!

2nd Senator: Here here!!

Senator: Here here!!

Cicero: Then it is agreed, the prisoners will be executed.

Scene III: The Mamertine Prison

Cicero leads the conspirators to the prison and as they reach center stage. Cicero faces the prisoners.

Cicero: A trial will be too good for you!!

Cicero and Senator I strangle each prisoner (Senator I puts his hands around 1 prisoner, the prisoner falls dead to the ground. Cicero puts his hands around the second prisoner and he falls dead to the ground)

Cicero turns and addresses the class.

Cicero (*triumphantly*): *Amici! Vixerunt!*

End play

The Consulship of Julius and Caesar

The year is 59 BC and Caesar has attained his first consulship. As was the norm, Caesar distributed money to all of the centuries to secure their votes and urged his primary opponent to do the same. Caesar won every century and was the first in Roman history to do so. Another contender, Marcus Calpurnius Bibulus, was voted in as the Junior consul. Prior to the election, Caesar had been in Spain and was forced to give up his triumph in order to come into Rome and stand for election. Immediately back in Rome, Caesar struck up the “First Triumvirate” with Pompey and Crassus (What positions did they hold?). Banded together, these three were unstoppable and could get whatever they wanted done. Pompey wanted a land bill passed for his veterans, Crassus wanted more money and visibility, and Caesar wanted a lucrative province that otherwise would not have been given to him once his consulship was over.

This consolidation of power did not go unnoticed and was opposed (chiefly) by the other consul, Bibulus, a staunch conservative senator named Cato, and a handful of tribunes of the plebs. These people were powerless in the face of so much *auctoritas*, however, and the triumvirate got pretty much what it wanted throughout the year. Every time a bill was vetoed by an opponent, Caesar would claim that the omens were bad and that the move was voided by the gods. When a motion was offered forth in the Forum, violence erupted (sometimes even in the Senate) to silence the supporters.

The lowest point of the whole ordeal came when Caesar introduced his land bill that would give Pompey a place to settle his veterans. Cato spoke out in the Senate and Caesar had him arrested (he was later released). Pompey had his henchman, Vatinius (what position did he hold?), organize the veterans into tribes to not only vote on the bill, but terrorize the city into voting their way as well. Bibulus arrived at the forum to protest, but was silenced when a bucket of dung was poured on his head and he was kicked off the *rostra*. This event let everyone know that the *res publica*, in its pure democratic form, was now dead. Bibulus locked himself in his house for the rest of the year in a boycott of politics. From then on, he issued proclamations attesting to bad omens every time Caesar put a motion to a vote – this was ignored.

It gets worse at the end of April. Caesar sponsors a new land bill that will split up Campania and settle Roman families with three or more children. This immediately benefited Pompey’s veterans. Included in this plan was Caesar’s command of *Gallia Transalpina*. Around this time, Pompey married Caesar’s daughter, Julia, and the Romans finally saw the blatant abuse of power that had formed. Crassus, who had ceased to benefit from anything anymore, became an opponent of Pompey’s and fear captured the entire city. The *populi* started to hate Caesar so much that, upon his entrance into the theater (when it was accustomed for the audience to whistle their approval), the crowd was dead silent and then erupted into a deafening cheer when Cato, Caesar’s opponent, appeared.

Having accomplished so much in such a blatantly dubious way, Caesar now needed to regain the trust and support of the Roman people – enter the *de bello Gallico*.

Possible Discussion Topics:

- Voting procedure (p.186-188 Meier)
- Century *praerogativa*
- Who was Crassus?
- Who was Pompey?
- Problem of settling the veterans (go back to Marius’ *capite censi*)
- The 59 BC consulship as *THE* turning point for the eminent end
- Violence in Republican Rome (when and how did it start?)

Scene I: The Campus Martius

The election officials are accepting tablets, and after a quick glance at each, are giving most of the voters money.

Caesar looks on with pleasure from the right side of the stage. The Election Official is sitting down in center stage with a stack of tablets to his side and a stack of money in his hand.

There is a line of voters with tablets in their hands (3) in front of him – the first steps up and gives him the tablet.

Election Official (*taking the tablet*): *Gratias.*

(looking for a vote for Caesar and seeing it) And here you go, one *denarius*. Pleasure doing business with you! (*hands him the money*).

Voter: Alright!

He turns around and walks away offstage. A new voter comes up to the Official.

Election Official: A vote for Caesar?

2nd voter: You bet!!

Election Official: Here you go. *Hands him the denarius*

2nd voter: *Macte!* *He walks away off stage*

The third voter walks up to the Official

Scene II: The Rostra (many hours later)

Many people (the class) are standing around facing the official awaiting the results of the election

Election Official: Here are the results! You, *populi Romani*, have selected Gaius Julius Caesar as your Senior Consul.

Everybody: Yeah! Alright!

Election Official: And, carrying the second most votes, Bibulus is your new Junior Consul.

Everybody (not as loud as they cheered for Caesar): Yeah!

Caesar: *Multas gratias, vos omnes!! Multas gratias!!* I will do everything in my power to please the people of Rome!

Everybody: Yeah!! Yeah!!!

Scene III: Caesar's house

Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus are all huddled around each other (hunched over in centerstage), as if talking very secretively

Caesar: Okay, here is the deal. I may be the consul, but I can't get everything I need done without your help, so let's help each other out – I scratch your back and you scratch mine... sound good? You guys can help me get the province I need for a successful proconsulship.

Pompey: Well, what's in it for us?

Caesar: Whatever you want! (*Turns to Pompey*) You need land for your veterans, right?

Pompey: *Ita.*

Caesar: So, I'll get you that.

Crassus: Well, what about me?

Caesar(*looks at Crassus*): Crassus, you are very wealthy and I need your money to help "sway" the citizens' votes my way.

Crassus: No kidding – what's in it for me?

Caesar (*thinking for a second with his hand on his chin*): Ummm... more money?

Crassus: Sounds good to me!

All three shake hands and disperse

Scene IV: The Senate

The senators (the class) are sitting in their chairs listening to Caesar. Caesar is facing them and discussing some proposed legislation.

The consular lictors are standing at attention on each side of the stage.

Caesar: And so, my fellow senators, this new land bill is really for the good of everybody!

Cato (*loudly and with his hands thrown up in the air*): This stinks! Caesar, you want to take the land away from the citizens of Rome and give it to some roughneck veteran soldiers? I will not stand for this!!

Caesar: Cato, Cato! Of course this is for the good of everyone! None of our citizens want that land, it's.....too good! Yes, too good. The land is too good.

Cato: WHAT!!!

Caesar: Cato, if you won't be quiet, I shall have you arrested.

Cato: Well, I'm not going to stand here and take this!

Caesar: Then you won't. Guards – seize him!

The consular lictors seize Cato by each arm and escort him offstage.

Cato (*as he's carried off*): You can't do this! You will not see the last of me!!

Scene V: Later that day in the Forum

Narrator: A few hours later, a *contio* is held to discuss the new land bill

The citizens are facing Caesar, centerstage, and listening to him speak

Caesar (*standing on the rostra*): And this land bill will benefit everybody!

Bibulus (*walking up towards Caesar*): I, as Junior Consul, will not allow this bill to be put to a vote!

One of Caesar's supporters: *Tace!* You Goody-Goody! *He runs up out of the crowd and pours a bucket of dung on his head. He then pushes Bibulus away from Caesar.*

Bibulus (*angry and obviously shocked*): You won't get away with this! The Roman people will not stand for this! I've done all I can – try to run this government by yourself Caesar, I'm going home and I'm not coming out until after (*pointing at Caesar*) this demon has done his damage!

Bibulus storms offstage

Caesar: Well, that worked out even better than I had planned!

Scene VI: The Theater

Crowd: Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! *Makes a lot of noise*

Caesar enters the theater

Caesar: *Salvete*, my fellow Romans!!

The crowd is completely silent

One member: Boo!

Caesar is shocked, he stands there for a second, looking confused, and then sits down.

Cato enters.

Cato: *Salvete*, citizens!

Crowd: Alright! Yeah! Yeah! *Crowd makes a lot of noise*

Cato sits down and Caesar says to himself out loud

Caesar: Man, I think I might have really messed up here! I need to do something that is going to get them on my side (thinks for a second)... I know! How about a nice, old fashion war!!

Scratches his chin and looks evil

Oh, this is SO good!!

End Play

De bello Gallico

In 58 BC, Julius Caesar set out for his province of Gaul. During his unprecedented nine year campaign there, Caesar subjected many peoples and went about trying to bring the whole of Gaul under Roman rule. All of this is recorded by Caesar himself in his *de bello Gallico*.

This work is highly unusual and worth a great deal of examination if for no other reason than it is a first hand account of a war created by Caesar and therefore gives us great insight into who this man really was.

When considering Caesar and his work, we must ask ourselves several questions:

1. What was the purpose of Caesar's conquest of Gaul?
2. What was the purpose of recording this conquest in the *de bello Gallico*?
3. Can we trust the account of the war given by Caesar in his work?
4. How does the literary style that Caesar employs lend to his aim?
5. How did this literary style go over with the people of Rome?

As we have already discussed, Caesar formed the First Triumvirate with Pompey and Crassus so that he could obtain a lucrative province. In 58 BC, he set out for that province, *Gallia Transalpina*; but for what purpose? Caesar seemed to ignore convention and the standards set by the Senate for a ruling governor time and time again for his whole tenure in Gaul. The Senate (and custom) mandated that Caesar make war only in a defensive posture – only when protecting Rome or Rome's allies. Caesar did exactly the opposite. Caesar redefined what the Romans would accept as a "just" war. His definition of "just" was when a tribe would not follow his decree. Caesar does not apologize for this either; he merely states that, in the past, great Romans had always defied convention and that he was only following their lead. The *de bello Gallico* does not do a whole lot to hide Caesar's true motive in Gaul, which was to gain *auctoritas* and *dignitas* by subjugating an entire province by himself and therefore vastly expanding the borders of Rome all by himself (bringing to an end the first period of Rome's vast expansion). The Senate seemed to approve, for the most part, by granting Caesar a 15 day *supplicatio* in 57 BC, which was unprecedented even for Sulla.

We see that that the Senate approved of what Caesar was doing, but what about the general populace? The *vulgus* was still very sore from all of the injustices put upon it in 59. Caesar knew this and needed his reports from Gaul to instill in Rome a sense that Gaul was being conquered for them and that Caesar was acting for all of Rome, and not merely for himself. The *de bello Gallico* was the chief piece of propaganda that achieved this end.

Looking at the work from a literary standpoint, we see a very deliberate and methodical account of a war that was meant to inform Rome of its progress. Caesar writes of himself in the third person and never gives away his personal emotions about the events that transpire. However, Caesar does often refer to the emotions of his soldiers quite a bit, who seem to need his encouragement to allay fear in the face of adversity. These fears are quickly squashed by the exhortations or the mere countenance of Caesar himself on the battlefield. The people of Rome, the majority of whom would have children or at least relatives in the Roman army, needed to see that their sons were being taken care of by a capable, authoritative, and inspiring leader – Caesar shows himself as all of these. One can just imagine the weekly or monthly reports from Caesar's latest dispatch read out in the Forum to a crowd hungry for encouraging news.

This brings us to another aspect of Caesar's work: the actual style of Latin. We must remember that the majority of people in Rome were illiterate to some severe degree. The *vulgus* knew conversational Greek and a little Latin, but could most likely not makes heads or tails of a Ciceronian oration or any other literary styling for that matter. It was important for Caesar to win over the populace with his reports and thus, make them understandable to his audience. Caesar pulled this off so masterfully that even Cicero, not usually a proponent of any style labeled simple, proclaimed Caesar a genius for his brevity and his straight-forward approach to the Latin language. In class, we have already seen how simple the opening line is to take meaning from: *Gallia est omnis divisa in tres partes...* Notice also that Caesar begins his work with a geographical reference and not a reference to time. He wants to paint a very simple picture of Gaul for his audience.

Caesar uses fewer than 13,000 words and adheres to the traditional rules of grammar more closely than any other known author. His Latin is also very predictable and repetitive, which is reason enough why

students of Latin make their first foray into the world of “authentic” Latin reading Caesar’s account of his Gallic conquest.

This straight-forward style most certainly lends toward an element of trust between Caesar and the reader. This begs the question, “Can we really trust what Caesar has written?” for the most part, yes. The most untrue of all of Caesar’s statements in his work comes when reporting statistics of battle (i.e. numbers killed, lost, captured, etc.), but his inflation of numbers is certainly in keeping with custom. It was commonly known that military success was the only way to succeed in Rome at this time, so every general exaggerated his numbers to his own end. To a certain extent, the Romans knew this and tolerated it. All other aspects of the *de bello Gallico* are a matter of viewpoint. As we have said before, Caesar does not do a lot to hide his true motives - he does not deny them, but he doesn’t discuss them either. What little he does say presents Caesar as a puppet doing what a good Roman governor should do. He states that he must go step by step, protect Rome and her allies, act defensively, and oppose dangerous neighbors (remember that he redefines what a “just” war is).

So, yet again, Caesar achieved what he had set out to do in a most unprecedented and superior manner. In one stroke, he created a vast fortune for himself, increased his *auctoritas* and *dignitas* by solely increasing the borders of Rome and subjugating an entire province, and gained the confidence and approval of Rome after what was an almost fatally disastrous consulship.

Scene I: The Forum

People are standing around the Rostra awaiting a message from Gaul. The messenger walks to the middle of the stage and unrolls a scroll.

Messenger: *Gallia est omnis divisa in tres partes...*

Listener (speaking to another listener): Hey! This is a message from Caesar in Gaul!

2nd Listener: Yes it is! Listen to it – it is so easy to understand!

3rd Listener: Yeah, but who cares! I don’t know if I trust him – look what he did to us last year. He almost ruined all of Rome!

Listener: Well, it sounds pretty good so far. Listen to all of his victories! Think of all of the wealth he will bring back to Rome! Think of how much bigger Rome will become once he’s conquered all of it! Maybe he is the one who will fulfill the prophecy that Rome will overtake the whole world!

2nd Listener: Yeah, besides, think about what those Gauls and Germans have done to us over the years. If it wasn’t for Marius, those barbaric tribes would have taken over Rome just a few years ago! They deserve everything that’s coming to them!

Listener: *Deus!* And don’t forget what happened so long before that! We came within minutes of total annihilation by those same barbarians. Thank God for the sacred geese of Minerva...

2nd Listener: No kidding. Let’s keep listening.

Scene II: Gaul; Caesar is writing

Caesar sits in a desk writing his memoirs of the bellum Gallicum. The narrator tells us what he is writing

The two listeners from the first scene look on from the side of the stage with much interest and eagerness to hear what he is writing

Narrator: “Caesar offered his terms of peace to these tribes, but they refused to submit to Roman

rule, therefore war must be made to protect Rome and her allies. So far, the troops have come up against little resistance and the men have performed with superior skill and discipline. Whenever they do come into trouble, all they need is a little display of leadership and courage and they are back into fighting spirit, better than ever.”

“The only generals to offer any form of organized resistance are Ariovistus (*Ariovistus comes from stage right and stands proudly in the middle of the stage*), from the German tribe of the Suebi, and Vercingetorix, king of the Averni.”

“Ariovistus was trying to lead the Helvetii across Gaul to attack the Roman ally Haedui. When the Helvetii tried to cross our province of Geneva and after a long battle lasting most of day, they were defeated.” *While this is being read, a Roman soldier comes from stage left and the two mock fight. Quickly, the Roman soldier pushes Ariovistus to the ground and stands over him with his foot on his chest.*

“Vercingetorix (*Vercingetorix comes on stage from the left*) was a young nobleman that had managed to unite almost all of the Gallic tribes in revolt.

They finally figured out that the only way to stand a chance against Caesar was to unite all of the tribes. A long series of battles ensued, all of which culminated at a town called Alesia. Having been defeated in one battle, Vercingetorix retreated inside the town and prepared for a large siege by the Romans. *Vercingetorix runs from two Romans across the stage (left to right) and out of the door. The Romans high five and stand guard at the door with arms folded over their chests. After thirty days, a Gallic cavalry division had attacked the soldiers from the rear Then in come two more Gauls from the other side of the stage and surround the Romans. The Gauls laugh and generally look evil. At the same time Vercingetorix burst forth from the town.* (*Vercingetorix comes back inside and so now the Romans are surrounded*)

“For once, Caesar was outmaneuvered and had to quickly reshape his battle plan. On the verge of defeat and after many days, the brave Roman soldiers fought through the Gallic ranks and split their forces. *The two Romans adopt a three-point stance and bust through the two Gauls like linebackers. The Gauls fall down* Just a little while later, the Gallic trumpet for retreat was sounded.” *and someone makes a trumpet sound ending the battle and signaling the Gallic retreat.*

“Vercingetorix presented himself for surrender to Caesar as a proud leader and earned his respect. Caesar, however, stood on high wearing his blood red cape and patiently watched as the defeated nobleman circled around the Roman detachment ready to receive his terms of surrender.” *Vercingetorix kneels before Caesar (as he is still writing – he pays no mind to what is going on) and bows. The two soldiers then lead him off stage right.*

Scene III: Description of Gaul

As the narrator speaks, the Elk crawls on his hands and knees and then falls over on his side and cannot get up.

Narrator: “Book Six: Gaul is an interesting region. The lands are home to many different creatures both frightening and beautiful. There is a species of elk here without any joints so that, to sleep, they must lean upon trees and cannot get up again if they fall down. Locals of this area hunt the elk by cutting the trees slightly so that when the elk lean on them to sleep, they are rendered incapacitated and can easily be stabbed to death.”

The “elk” gets up. 2 Druids dressed in robes point to the sky as if reading the stars.

“There are also kinds of men called Druids that are priests. The Gauls are very superstitious and come to them with any pressing matter. The Druids worship gods of the earth and build to please them. They also believe that when a man dies, his animus enters another body and lives again.

These men teach this and spend time writing and memorizing all sorts of verse. The Druids do not take part in wars at all.”

The Druids keep inspecting the sky and the camera fades out.

Scene IV: Back in the Forum

The messenger is still reading from scrolls and the people are still there listening.

Listener: Would you listen to all of this? Listen to all of the glory Caesar is bringing to Rome!

3rd Listener: Caesar really is a great man!

2nd Listener: Yes he is! He will truly lead Rome to new heights of glory! We have nothing to worry about...

Everybody: This is not good!

End Play

Milo and Clodius

In the Late Republic, violence had gotten out of control. Two main reasons for much of the violence in the second half of the 50's were Milo and Clodius.

Publius Clodius Pulcher was formerly of the Patrician Claudii, but renounced his name in order to move through the political system as a champion of the plebs (Clodius was a plebeian name). Undoubtedly crafty, this politician was suspect as well (much gossip about him concerned an incestuous affair with his sister). With Caesar's backing, Clodius became a tribune of the plebs in 58. Immediately, he made his presence known by exiling Cicero for acting as judge, jury, and executioner of the Catilinarian conspirators, and also getting rid of Caesar's nemesis Cato by giving him the province of Cyprus. Of these acts, Pompey liked the Cicero's exile the least.

Titus Annius Milo was from a prominent family from Lanuvium. We don't see him take part in politics until he was brought up by Pompey to oppose Clodius. Pompey had lost favor in the Senate and was basically ineffective around this time. He had tried to gain control of the streets, but short of the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum*, there was no procedure for this. Milo gave himself to the struggle when Pompey's life became in danger.

Although the two looked one in the same, Milo and Clodius were somewhat different. Clodius preferred to amplify the anger of the populace by anger; Milo orchestrated violence to achieve specific goals at specific times. Milo's task force was better trained and avoided the sort of anarchical force that Clodius employed (almost like a large scale temper tantrum).

They opposed each other in the courts and through politics as well. Each tried the other several times *de vi*, but failed on most accounts. As it has already been stated, Clodius used his tribunate to exile Cicero, but in the very next year (57), Milo became tribune and worked for Cicero's return.

This all finally came to an end on January 18th 52 BC on the Appian Way. The two henchmen, heading opposite ways along the main road linking Rome and Brundisium, clashed. Supposedly, one of Milo's bodyguards had started the fray by whispering an obscenity into the ear of one of the last member's of Clodius' train to go by. That one then threw a spear at Milo's man and then chaos ensued. The battle was bloody and fierce. Clodius managed to run from the massacre of his men and was hunted down by Milo in a nearby hotel and tavern not far from the city of Bovillae. His body was carried into the forum by two blood-covered tribunes and burned. The accompanying rioting and the fire got out of control and the Curia Hostilia burned along with Clodius. "The Senate served as a funeral pyre for the popular leader" (Meier *Caesar* 298).

Pompey was made sole consul in the rioting that came after and passed legislation *de vi*, under which Milo was prosecuted. Cicero defended Milo in the ensuing trial, but his speech was immediately drowned out by the members of Clodius' remaining supporters. The trial was reset for the next day and armed guards (brought by Pompey) were stationed in the courthouse, but Cicero was so shaken by the atmosphere that he gave the worst, most rambling orations of his career. Milo was convicted and sent to Massalia where he stayed until he tried to join an uprising in Italy and was killed in battle.

Possible Discussion Topics:

Magnus

the courts (Sullan reforms, procedure)

violence

Pro Milone (why Pompey's switch from Milo to Clodius???)

Scene I: Court Room 58 BC

Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus is addressing the jurors in a trial.

Pompey: And so, distinguished jurors....

Everybody: Booooo! Booooo! You stink! Go back to Picenum, you moron!!

Judge: *Tacete omnes! Tacete!*

Everybody: Booooo! Booooo!

Judge: Very well – we must postpone the verdict. This trial will conclude tomorrow morning.

Pompey (*to his defendant*): That Clodius! This is the third time this month! Something must be done about him and his mob! I have no choice – fight fire with fire...

Pompey and his defendant leave the court room, all of the mobsters laugh

Scene II: The streets of Rome (a la scene from the Holy Grail)

Milo and his band and Clodius and his are shouting at each other in the streets. Make it clear who is on whose side

Scene III: Comitia

Clodius: Don't you see, citizens? Cicero has already fled!! He knows that he is guilty! A Roman cannot carry out his own execution! He must go through the proper legal procedures – even if the case is so simple as it was with Catiline! Even if the Senate already agrees! Even if Cicero is given the power of *Senatus Consultum Ultimum*! It does not matter – we must validate the guidelines handed down by our forefathers concerning men like Cicero who take the law into their own hands!

Crowd: Yea!! Yea!!

One member of the crowd: That Cicero is going to get what's coming to him! Come on everybody, let's go trash his house!

Crowd: Yeah! Alright!!

Everyone leaves the stage in a rage

Scene IV: One year later; Comitia

Milo: Citizens, we all know Cicero acted a little rash in his actions against Catiline – but who deserved their death more than that rabble?! Cicero did us all a favor! True, he committed a crime, but don't you think that one year is long enough for an offense that is certainly understandable?

Crowd: He's right!

One in the crowd: Bring back Cicero!!

Crowd: Yea!!!

Clodius (*standing off to the side, talking to one of his men*): That guy is going down! This will be the last time he messes with me!

Scene V: The Appian Way near the shrine of the Bona Dea; 52 BC

Milo and his men head left to right across the stage; Clodius and his come the opposite way. They pass each other in silence until Milo's last man reaches Clodius' last man.

Milo's man: Wuss!!

Clodius' man: What'd you say?

Milo's man: You heard me!

Clodius' man: Let's fight!

Milo's man: Them's fightin' words!

The two groups break into a fight briefly, Clodius flees offstage to the right; Milo goes after him

Scene VI: Courtroom

Cicero is standing in front of the jurors with Milo at his side. Armed guards are stationed in the room and a crowd of people are standing around

Cicero: My client, Milo, is innocent of killing the infamous mobster Publius Clodius...

Everybody (*loudly drowning out Cicero*): Boooo! Boooo!

Cicero (*looking flustered, tries to start again*): Your honor, my client is innocent of all charges....

Everybody: Boooo!! Boooo!!

They continue to boo until Pompey calls for order

Pompey: Order, order! We have seen and heard enough. Milo is guilty, he is to be banished from Rome as an exile and stripped of his citizenship. Take him away!

Milo is led away by one of the guards and everyone then exits to the left

End Play

The Civil War: Part I (52-48 BC)

In 52 BC, Caesar was still in Gaul enjoying many victories and lucrative successes. However, his triumvirate partner Pompey was not having the same luck governing Rome. With the controversy surrounding Clodius' death at the hands of Milo, the city was in utter chaos and Pompey was powerless as an individual. Swayed by *Optimates* in the Senate, Pompey took actions contrary to Caesar, who was in the middle of his second 5 year term in Gaul and wanted to become consul in 48. It did not help matters that Julia, Caesar's daughter and Pompey's wife, died in 54 and that Crassus had been killed in Parthia.

In order for Caesar to safely enter his consulship, he must be exempt from the legal battles that were sure to arise if and when he gives up his current consulship on the assigned day (March 1, 50 BC) and enter Rome as a private citizen. Pompey attempted to derail Caesar by two measures. First, he passed a law stating that no one could run for an office *in absentia* (remember that Caesar is in Gaul and that he can't cross the *pomerium* without laying down his generalship). The second law forbade anyone who held a high office from going directly to a provincial governorship. This meant that Caesar would have to endure the time after his consulship as a civilian and out of the public eye for a full five years.

Caesar wanted to keep his province until he took over the office of consul (remember that everyone needed to campaign in Rome), so he offered a compromise. He proposed, through his henchman in the Senate, Curio, that he would lay down his command and army only if Pompey did the same. The proposal was rejected after much debate and the Senate passed a decree that named Caesar a public outlaw if he did not give up his command immediately. Pompey, because he was the alternative and the one in Rome (really near Rome, since he too was a proconsul) with legions under his control, was thrust to the forefront as Caesar's adversary and given the power to protect Rome.

Stuck in a dilemma, Caesar resolved to make the fateful crossing of the northern Roman border, the Rubicon River, and march on Rome after the tribunes fled to him and informed him of the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum*. Unfortunately, this civil war was fought for no other reason than to establish who was really in control and to maintain position. Caesar fought with his loyal army and Pompey fought with the navy, his seven legions in Spain, and the *Optimates* in Rome (led by Cato) who wanted the *status quo* and saw Caesar as an emerging tyrant.

Pompey left Italy as Caesar's quick march took over Rome. Caesar followed much of Pompey's army to Spain, defeated it, and then returned to Rome where he was elected consul in 48 BC. Later in that year, Caesar marshaled the defining victory over Pompey at Pharsalus with a smaller but better organized army. Pompey fled to Egypt but was killed upon instructions by the ruling Ptolemy.

After this victory, supporters of Pompey (among others, Cato) still rallied and many more battles were fought. Finally, the Pompeian forces were put down once and for all at Munda in 45.

Scene I: Curia (51 BC)

Senators arguing over what to do about Caesar. G. Scribonius Curio arguing for Caesar (with money falling out of his pockets), Cato arguing vehemently against Caesar, and Pompey stuck in the middle

Cato: It is Caesar or the Republic – simple as that!

Gaius Scribonius Curio: Oh, don't be so dramatic!! Look at all he's done in Gaul, and all for Rome. Even you know that!

Cato: Yeah, and he's going to bring that same military attitude into our city and rule it as the iron fisted consul!

Pompey: I....

Curio: (*Interrupting*) Oh come on!

Cato: What? Why do you think he wants to keep his command! Imagine – a consul also in charge

of an army!

Pompey: I....

Curio: (*interrupting again*) You know he only needs that because he knows that you have it in for him – as soon as he lays down that command, you are going to haul him into court and try to hang him on a thousand ridiculous charges.

Cato: Are they so ridiculous?! You know what he's done over there!

Curio: You mean subjugate an entire Gaul for the glory of Rome? Oh yes, let's bring him in, that scoundrel!!

Cato: Pompey, what are you going to do? Come on – speak!! You've been quiet long enough!

Curio: Yes, what are you going to do?

Pompey: I don't know...uhhh.... I am passing a law that no one is to run for office *in absentia* and another one that no one may enter upon a second provincial command without a five year period between the two.

Cato: Alright!!

Curio: WHAT!!!

Pompey: Ummm... of course, certain people may be exempt from these laws, I'll leave it to you to figure out whom.

Cato: Oh good Lord.....

Scene II: The Curia (two months later)

Curio: Okay, I've just been with Caesar and he thought that since I am a former consul, it would be a good idea to send me here with his dispatch. The bottom line is this: Caesar merely wants to run for consul *in absentia* while still holding onto his province. I remind my fellow Senators that the people have already granted Caesar this right, but it is not being recognized.

Marcellus: Of course! It's illegal!

Curio: Just listen, my ill-tempered friend! Caesar is prepared to give over his command of *Gallia Transalpina* and its eight legions.

Marcellus: Well, that still leaves him in command of many more and we, protecting Rome, only have 2 legions.

Curio: Okay... he'll also lay down *Gallia Cisalpina* and those two legions. He further recalls his demand for Pompey to lay down his governorship, but merely asks that he set off for his rightful place in Spain with his legions. This leaves Caesar with only *Illyricum* and one legion.

Cato: Well, that is one legion too many if he wants to pursue a candidacy. Will he lay down every one of his legions?

Curio: *Minime*.

Cato: Well then, the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* is passed – Caesar lays down his legions, or he is an

enemy of the state and will be killed on sight. Take that to your *imperator*!!

Curio: Cato, you have just started a civil war.

Curio leaves.

Scene III: Street corner (*caupona* picture)

A woman runs across the stage yelling

Woman: He's coming! Caesar is coming! He has taken over Ariminum and just crossed the Rubicon!
Alia iacta est!! Alia iacta est!!

Woman runs offstage

Scene IV: The battlefield (Pharsalus)

Caesar and Pompey sit opposed to one another amid a fierce contest

Caesar: Pompey, you don't stand a chance!

Pompey: Are you kidding me? I've got you outnumbered!! I've got my army from Spain and the Roman naval fleet – you are as good as finished!

Caesar: Don't be too sure, my friend. Remember, I've had 5 years to whip my armies into shape and they are so well organized that they could general themselves.

Pompey: Well then, why don't you just take a vacation and let them take care of themselves, if you are so sure!

Caesar: Oh be quiet and make your move.

Pompey: C-3

Caesar: Hah! Nothing.

Pompey: Shoot!

Caesar: B-5

Pompey: You sunk my battleship!!

Caesar: Ha ha! I knew it!! Pompey, it's over! Pharsalus is mine!

Pompey: Nothing is over – I'll be back!

Pompey runs offstage

Caesar: That's what they all say.

Scene V: Alexandria, Egypt (October 2, 48 BC)

Caesar (holding his short sword) is looking all around trying to find someone – he looks in every part of the stage

Caesar: Pompey! Pompey! Come on out! I promise I won't hurt you. C'mon, you know me – Mr. Clemency! I'll be nice I promise!

Man comes in from the left side

Egyptian: Excuse me. You're Julius Caesar, right?

Caesar: Of course. Who asks?

Egyptian: I'm a courtesan of the Great Ptolemy. He heard you were here and wanted me to give you a message.

Caesar: Go on.

Egyptian: In order to show our good faith to the new ruler of Rome. The Great Ptolemy has done your work for you – Pompey is dead. Magnus was assassinated last night upon arrival.

Caesar (*looking down and like he is going to be ill*): I can't believe it. It is over. I was going to pardon him - he was a friend after all - and you have made the decision for me. Because of this, no one wins and Rome is the big loser.

Egyptian: I am sorry Caesar, we thought you would be pleased.

A woman enters

Egyptian: Julius Caesar – the Honorable Cleopatra VII.

The two shake hands

Caesar (*obviously pleased at the sight of her*): Well, HELLO!

End Play

The Civil War: Part II (48-45 BC)

After Julius Caesar defeated Gnaeus Pompey in the decisive victory at Pharsalus, the conflict did not end, but actually escalated on many fronts. After Pharsalus, Caesar decided to spend some time in Egypt and secure the Roman position there. No doubt, his encounter with Cleopatra had a lot to do with this decision. This was not a simple man meets woman affair though. Cleopatra VII was in the middle of a fierce struggle for power with her brother, Ptolemy XIII, and her sister, Arsinoe. Caesar ordered his legions into the battle and led Cleopatra to victory and control over Egypt.

In the meantime, Pompeians in Rome, hearing the news from Pharsalus, marshaled troops to Africa in the hopes of engaging Caesar in a tired and worn down position.

In addition, the kingdom of Pontus again begins to cause problems as Pharnaces, Mithridates' son, looks to take advantage of the region's confusion and expand his empire. Caesar quickly moves in and defeats him so quickly (his troops actually engaged Pharnaces without his permission!) that Caesar mutters his now famous quote, "*Veni, vidi, vici.*"

With foreign turmoil seemingly at a stand-still, Caesar returns to Rome, where he has had tribunes and consuls looking after his interests. Now that the situation had escalated, Caesar could no longer rely on these men and had to make his decisions himself. He and Marcus Aemilius Lepidus are "elected" consuls for 46 BC and many other positions are created and filled to reward faithful followers of the Caesarians. Caesar also heavily taxes nearby towns and auctioned off his opponent's property to fill his war chest.

Now with money, fresh troops, and fresh supplies, Caesar sets out for Africa to deal with the Pompeian uprising in April of 46. Again, a convincing victory at Thapsus puts an end to the battle and two colonies of veterans are set up.

Finally, Caesar is able to concentrate on politics in Rome (well, almost...). In July he and Cleopatra head back to Rome and has the Senate confer upon him (he would have taken it otherwise) every power needed to govern Rome by himself for a very long time. Caesar is smart though, and declares publicly that he will restore the state back to the Republic everybody knows and loves. What he didn't tell people, but they soon figured out, was that he would run every election and offer every *consultum* of the Senate. With these two powers he dictated who held each position and what laws were passed. By this time, the *boni* (led by Cicero) were so tired of civil war that they just wanted stability at any cost.

To his credit, Caesar enacts many pieces of legislation that further the cause of the *mos maiorum* and enhances the lives of Romans from one end of the city to the other. Among his measures: he reduces the amount of people who receive free and reduced price grain, settles many of the urban plebs into Roman colonies, suspends the civil associations such as those led by the infamous Milo and Clodius, and finally, refigures the Roman calendar closely to the one that we know today.

But still, one more battle is at hand. After five months of legislating in Rome, Caesar goes to Spain and defeats the last remaining Pompeians there and is elected sole consul (45 BC) after this victory at Munda.

With the end of this episode for Caesar, we also see the end of Cato. Love him or hate him, Cato must be given credit for sticking to his word and his Stoic philosophy. Even at the end, Cato refused to cut his hair or trim his beard when Pompey was forced out of Italy and then refused to sit except when eating and refused to lay down except when sleeping, all because of the defeat at Pharsalus. The obstinance of Cato evoked two vastly different works called (for lack of a better term) "The Cato" by Cicero, and Caesar's response, "The AntiCato." From Caesar's words, one can indeed tell that Cato brought out the worst in the otherwise disciplined Caesar. His "AntiCato" is cras and biting and plays off of rumor and exaggeration rather than the truth. This work is wonderfully symptomatic of a Caesar who is tired of war and just wants the inevitable to happen. Caesar sees his victory at hand, but he must still fight in the Senate and out among the frontiers to gain his full glory.

Scene I: Egypt

Caesar and Cleopatra are reclined on couches eating dinner

Caesar: My dear Cleopatra, we must do something about this horrible situation you are in over here. A

woman with your beauty ought to be ruling a country that is just as beautiful – not that low-life brother of yours.

Cleopatra: We cannot forget about my sister, Arsinoe. She and my brother Ptolemy XIII would have me killed if they had it their way!

Caesar: Well, we'll see if we can do something about that – I've beaten Pompey's navy and troops from all around the world – I can quell this small nuisance.

The two get up off their couches and look at each other

Cleopatra: Oh Caesar, you should stay here!

Caesar: Nonsense, I have much to do in Rome! Until now, I've had loyal followers doing my bidding and playing the Senate for fools, but now things are too complicated. I must go back and deal with Cicero and the wretched *boni* myself. After all, I am definitely now the ruler of Rome, my rightful place is inside its walls.

Cleopatra: Oh Caesar, take me with you!

Caesar: Ummm.... Let me think. You got it!

The two exit stage left

Scene II: On the march out of Egypt

Caesar is coming from the right side of the stage with three soldiers in a lone behind him. They stop at center stage

Caesar: What a beautiful country this Africa is! (*He turns to the first soldier*) Legate, remind me to come back and exploit this place for all its worth someday!

Soldier: *Ita, imperator.*

From the left side of the stage comes Pharnacees from Pontus

Pharnacees: I am Pharnacees the Magnificent! The son of Mithridates of Pontus! I cannot be beaten! Caesar, you shall die!

Pharnacees walks up to Caesar and Caesar pushes him down by the face without even looking at him.

Pharnacees falls to the ground and gets out of the scene.

Caesar (*looking to one of his legates*): *Veni, vidi, vici!*

The column marches to stage left

Scene III: Back in Rome at a Voting Assembly

Everyone is gathered around to vote on legislation and on the new officers for next year. Caesar is at the center with the voting tabulator.

First citizen comes up to vote

Tabulator: Tell me citizen, who do you vote for as praetor this year?

Caesar whispers loudly in his ear: "Junius."

Citizen: Junius!

Tabulator: Very well, cast your vote.

The citizen places his vote in the basket

Second citizen walks up.

Caesar (*whispers in his ear*): "Junius"

Second citizen: I am casting my vote for Junius!

He casts his vote in the basket and walks away

Third citizen: Junius!

Casts his vote

Fourth citizen: Junius!

Casts his vote

Caesar (*clapping his hands*): This is great!

Scene IV: In the Senate

Caesar: Fellow Senators, I intend to do nothing more than to restore the Republic the way it once was before that horrible man, Pompey the Great (*gag!!*) tried to take control away from this regal body and I returned Rome to its rightful owners – you.

One Senator speaks to another sitting next to each other

First Senator: Why isn't Cicero speaking up?

Second Senator: Are you kidding? *Deus!* Anything is better than all of this fighting we've had. Caesar may virtually be dictator, but at least that is something – I'm tired of fighting!!

Third Senator: Oh yeah Caesar?! How do you plan on running this city you...*saved*...in your own words?

Caesar: I plan on instituting a program of vast social reform.

Third Senator: Oh sure, what are you going to do? Save our grain problem?

Caesar: Actually yes, I plan on limiting the number of people that qualify for free or state subsidized grain.

Third Senator: Oh yeah, well... what about all those plebs?? If they can't eat, they are going to riot!!

Caesar: Which is why I will settle them in a number of new colonies I myself have conquered.

Third Senator: Oh yeah, well..... well.... What about those horrible gangs that have been ruling our

streets??

Caesar: They're already gone.

Third Senator: Oh yeah, well.... well.... Senators! Don't you see? He is a king! That horrible word that none of us have ever wanted to mutter since we threw out the Tarquins! Pretty soon, Caesar will be dictating the position of the stars!!!

Caesar: Well, in a manner of speaking. I'm doing that too.

All Senators: What????!!!

Caesar: All of us know that our calendar is so wrong that the seasons all take place in the wrong months – I have fixed that. Honorable men, I have solved our problem by coming up with a new Julian calendar, one of 365 days and twelve months. These two extra months I will name after myself of course.

First Senator (*speaking to the other senator*): That boy's good.

Second Senator: No kidding! Maybe we should give him a chance...

Scene V: the Roman Senate

Cicero (*in a flattering voice*): Marcus Portius Cato, a most glorious....

Caesar (*enflamed with rage*):...ly horrid excuse for a man. This man was so....

Cicero:...well respected that others could only hope their children would measure up to the....

Caesar:...insidious, incestuous, and immoral tendencies of this extremely....

Cicero:...well rounded and traditional Stoic of a man.

Caesar: He was hated by everybody and....

Cicero:....loved by all of Rome.

Caesar: We burn the remnants of such a putrid man, but we do not want to foul the very soil Mother Gaia has given us to tend, so I move that we....

Cicero:...give out beloved Stoic philosopher the greatest public funeral ever recorded.

Senators: Caesar, give it up! He's dead, you don't have to deal with him anymore. Let him go!

Caesar looks as if he is going to give a retort to this, but then stops and instead says "Very well."

Caesar (*turns to the side and walks off*): That's right.... Cato's dead. No one can stop me now. My war is over! I am the first and only man of Rome!!

End Play

The Ides of March

As Caesar establishes himself in Rome as the sole leader of the government, a different Gaius Julius Caesar emerges. The man who was once dynamic, charismatic, and prone to clemency now becomes slightly bitter, vengeful, impatient, and (worst of all) unrestrained. Established as the first man in Rome, Caesar starts to act the part and has no shame in showing this to the people. He celebrates 3 triumphs over various enemies (African, Egyptian, Spanish), but then parades through Rome in triumph of the defeat of other Romans. This did not sit well with the people of Rome.

Another issue related to this action is that of Caesar's contempt and attitude towards the offices of government. Both the triumph and this revealed attitude spit in the face of the *mos maiorum*, which Romans still held near and dear. Instead of revering the offices of consul, praetor, quaestor, etc., Caesar uses them to reward his allies and thus renders the powers of these positions ineffective before the eyes of everybody. If there was any respect or support for Caesar in the Senate, it quickly dissipated when Caesar filled half of the Senate with foreign supporters (owing their citizenship to Caesar) who otherwise wouldn't have fit the property or monetary qualifications to enter the Curia.

Quickly tiring of Caesar's proud and bold antics, the Senators quickly hatch a plot to eliminate him from Rome and from life as they know it. They plan to kill Caesar. Shakespeare (as well as other authors) documents Caesar's last days and the facts are fairly well known. On the Ides of March, a dispatch of Senators waited until Caesar took his seat in the senate and a few Senators approached him with documents so that he was surrounded. At the given signal of a pull at Caesar's toga, the conspirators unconcealed their knives and each had his turn with Caesar, who at first fought back with the only weapon he had, his quill pen, but then soon accepted his inevitable fate. It is said that Gaius Julius Caesar died just a few feet from a statue of Pompey, located in the Theater of Pompey, the location for this Senate meeting. There is much irony in this, but even more so in the fact that his funeral pyre, recklessly begun in the Forum, rages out of control and eventually burns the Senate House (the Curia). In life, Caesar sought to dismantle the powers of the senatorial body, and in death, his body destroyed the physical representation of that power.

Scene I: The streets of Rome; October, 45 BC

One citizen is milling around center-stage. Another citizen walks in from stage right.

Citizen: *Ave* Quintus!

Quintus: *Ave!* What's going on?

Citizen: Haven't you heard? I'm going to the Forum to get a peak at another one of Caesar's triumphs!

Quintus: Oh, I've heard about this triumph alright. Yeah, it was great when he was celebrating his victories over the Egyptians and the Spaniards, but now... against other Romans???? Not a chance!!

You'll never see me celebrating the defeat and murder of a Roman – I don't care who he is. Don't be swayed by all of his free bread and wine – he's a king to us all, no mistake about it.

Citizen: I didn't think about it like that. Yeah, I'm outta here.

Both exit stage left

Scene II: Sacra Via

Caesar is waving to the crowd along the route of his triumph and he passes the Tribune's bench, upon which Lucius Pontius Aquila, the year's chief tribune, is sitting

Caesar passes by and sees that Aquila will not stand at attention in his presence

Caesar (shaking his fist at Aquila): Lucius, as tribune of the plebs, you must stand before me in reverence!

Aquila stands up, folds his hands across his chest and turns his back to Caesar

Caesar: You'll rue the day Aquila! You don't like me – just try and take the state back from me!!

Caesar's walks across the stage

All the citizens: Boo! Caesar is a king! Caesar is a tyrant!

Caesar (*looking very angry*): You people know nothing! You don't know what you want! All you want is bread and circus. Bread and circus! I know what is good for you!

Caesar exits stage left.

Scene III: The Senate

Caesar: And here are your two new consuls for 44 BC – Marcus Antony and Publius Cornelius Dolabella.

Senator: But Caesar, they aren't even old enough!

Caesar: A small inconvenience. That is a mere formality. After all, didn't we make this exception with your beloved Pompey? You remember him? The *wonderful (sarcastic)* general that I defeated a few years back? You'll overlook this little issue.

Senator (*talking to another Senator*): That's it – he's made a mockery of the Senate and of all of us – something must be done with this tyrant!

Second Senator: You're right! But what should we do?

Senator: Well, if we can't make him leave office, we can make him leave our lives... all of our lives.

Second Senator: Are you saying what I think your saying?

Senator: It's come to that. I mean, look around you! He's built all of these new temples and buildings all in his name – he's infested every part of Rome! We must do whatever it takes, but we must do it as one.

Senator: I'll test the waters with the others and see who I can find to join us.

Scene IV: Secret meeting of Senators

All the Senators (5 of them) are huddled around each other

Brutus: No one leaves unbloodied, got it?

Senator: That's right.

2nd Senator: It will be my pleasure.

3rd senator: Let me be the first one! Just let me at him.

Brutus: Patience, my friend, patience. Remember the signal and don't betray our plan before we unleash it.

Scene V: In a Senate meeting at the Theater of Pompey: March 15, 44 BC

All of the Senators are in the Senate awaiting Caesar to take his place in the middle of them on his curule chair

Caesar walks in accompanied by Brutus and 2nd Senator

Caesar sits down

Caesar: And what business what must I deal with today Senators?

Brutus: Well Caesar, this business will not take long...

Brutus walks over to Caesar and stretches Caesar's toga down to bear his neck

All of the Senators rush Caesar with concealed knives and one by one stab Caesar

Caesar: What is the meaning of this? Aghhhh!!!!

Caesar falls to the ground and accepts his fate

Brutus is the last to approach Caesar with a knife

Caesar: *Et tu, Brute?*

Brutus: *Et ego, rex*

Brutus plunges his knife into Caesar's chest and Caesar dies.

The Senators all scream in victory

Brutus: The tyrant is dead! The Republic lives! The Republic lives!

All the senators walk holding their bloody knives up in the air in triumph

Senator: We are all saved! *Roma victor! Roma victor!!*

End Play