First Triumvirate and Rise of Octavian

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First Triumvirate

• An alliance of the three most powerful men in Rome, Marcus Licinus Crassus, Gaius Julius Caesar, and Gneaus Pompey Magnus. Rome was in chaos and the 3 seized control of the Republic.

• The three would dominate Roman politics for personal gains throughout the territories of the Republic.
In Rome, Julius Caesar was elected as the tribune of the Plebs, military tribune, and governor of many provinces throughout the Republic. Believed Crassus helped Julius Caesar win the election to become the Propraetor or governor of Hispania in 63 B.C.E. Julius returned to Rome after his term as governor. Caesar had a business or political agreement with Pompey and Crassus in 60 B.C.E. Caesar was the consul while Pompey and Crassus were in the senate. Created the First Triumvirate After his term, Julius was in deeply in debt politically and financially to Crassus and desperately needed to raise money.
Marcus Crassus

- Crassus was the richest man in all the Roman Republic. He was sharp and clever in Roman politics. He would be a senator and even become consul a few times.
- He was a mentor to Julius Caesar in his early career.
- Gained much fame during the Spartacus rebellion but much of it was stolen by Pompey.
- He was a longtime rival to Pompey Magnus and this would be his eventually downfall. He would ally with Caesar and Pompey, but strived for military victory over Pompey. He went to Parthia where he was defeated at Carrhae.
- According to legend, Crassus was captured alive and had molten gold poured down his throat by the Parthian King.
Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (aka Pompey)

• Was a military leader and politician during the fall of the Roman Republic
• When Caesar returned from Spain Pompey formed the first triumvirate with Caesar and Crassus
• Three most politically influential and powerful men in Rome
• Married Julia, Caesar's daughter
• The death of Crassus and Julia increased tension between Caesar and Pompey
• This tension would eventually lead to Civil War
• Later after the civil war, Pompey would flee to Egypt, where he would be killed by Ptolemy XIII
Rise of G. Julius Caesar

• Gained fame in Spartacus rebellion under Crassus.
• Caesar received the govern ship of three wealthy provinces in Gaul (beginning in 58 B.C)
• He then set out to conquer the rest of the region of Rome
• Caesar and one of his legions crossed the Rubicon, a river on the border of Italy
• Caesar's invasion of Italy sparked a civil war
• After the civil war, Caesar would become dictator of Rome in 45 B.C.
Beginning Conquest of Gaul

- End of Consulship in 59 B.C.E Caesar became governor of Cisalpine and Transalpine Gaul
- Helvetti migration in 58 B.C.E, Caesar believed them to be a threat and defeated them in battle
- Caesar would help southern Gaul tribes to remove Ariovistus from their lands. After aiding the tribes many allied with Rome.
- Caesar would continue moving north adding Gaelic lands to the Republic
Conquest of Gaul

• 58 B.C.E Caesar expands through south, many tribes welcome him as a friend and liberator
• Since Gaul was not united it was easy for Caesar to pick off the tribes and conquer their tribes and lands. As he moved north tribes became more resistance.
• Kept document of his battles in Caesars famous War Commentaries
Gauls Unite

- Gauls unite under Vercingetorix as their king
- Battle of Alesia- Roman victory over Gaelic united army
- 52 B.C.E a united Gaelic force lead by Vercingetorix. Caesar besieged Vercingetorix at Alesia. Caesar proving military superior over Gauls defeated the 80,000-garrison force and the 100,000-250,000-relief force.
- Roman victory would end a united Gaelic resistance. Romans would be able to pick off tribes 1 by 1.
Siege of Alesia
51 BC

ROMAN ARMY (CAESAR):
- INFANTRY CAMP
- CAVALRY CAMP

TOTAL STRENGTH: 70,000 MEN

GALIC ARMIES:
ARMY OF VERCINGETORIX UNDER SIEGE, 80,000 MEN

RELIEF ARMY, 258,000 MEN
War Commentaries

Recorded by Julius Caesar in his conquests of Gaul, Hispania, and the civil war

Wrote in third person

Famous battles recorded-

Alesia

Pharsalus
Aftermath of Conquest

• Caesar added France, parts of Belgium and Germany to the Republic.
• Growing power of Caesar scared the senate and Pompey would rival Caesar.
• Caesar was a hero to the Republic through the eyes of the Plebs.
• Men like Labienus and Marc Antony showed prowess during campaigns.
• Crassus killed in Parthia and Caesar daughter Julia, married to Pompey, died in childbirth dissolves the Triumvirate.
• After conquest Caesar order to Rome by Senate to answer for crimes when he was consul.
Rise of Dictatorship

- Senate demanded Caesar back to Rome to answer for crimes he committed when he was consul. Caesar would return with the 13th legion crossing the Rubicon.
- Rather than face in battle, Pompey fled Rome to Greece and Spain to gather forces. Senators like Brutus fled with him.
- At the Battle of Pharsalus, Caesar defeated Pompey and he fled to Egypt. Caesar pardoned the senators with Pompey.
Caesar as Dictator

• With victory at Pharsalus Caesar chased Pompey to Egypt. Pompey went to Egypt for support, but the boy king Ptolemy XIII killed Pompey.

• Egypt was in a civil war between Ptolemy and Cleopatra for the throne. Caesar sided with Cleopatra and at the Battle of Nile Ptolemy was defeated and killed.

• While in Egypt Caesar left Marc Antony to govern Rome. Antony only caused more civil discontent and forced Caesar to return to Rome.

• While in Egypt Caesar and Cleopatra had an affair producing a child, but instead of naming Caesarion his heir he declared his grandnephew Gaius Octavius Thurinus (Octavian) as his heir

• He initiated many reforms including further land redistribution among the poor, land reform for veterans which eliminated the need to displace other citizens, as well as political reforms which proved unpopular with the senate.
Death of Caesar

• On March 15, 44 BCE, Caesar was assassinated by the senators he thought loyal friends, in the portico of the basilica of Pompey the Great. Among the assassins were Marcus Junius Brutus, Caesar’s second choice as heir, and Gaius Cassius Longinus, along with many others.

• Senators failed to decide to kill Antony and he turned popularity against them and allied with Octavian. At Battle of Philippi Octavian and Antony victorious. Brutus would die in the fighting.
Second Triumvirate

- Coalition of Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus. The 3 divided the territories. Lepidus took Hispania, North Africa, Octavian took Italy, Gaul, Antony took the Balkans, Greece, Asia Minor, and Egypt.
Fall of Second Triumvirate

- Lepidus would be kicked out and banished to Circei by Octavian. With Lepidus Octavian and Antony would split the Republic in half.
- Antony married Octavia (sister to Octavian), but in while Egypt Cleopatra and he began an affair. This seriously offended Octavian and he would have the senate declare war on Cleopatra starting another civil war.
Octavian Antony Civil War

• Antony and Cleopatra joined forces at Actium intending to defeat Octavian. Despite being outnumbered Octavian defeated them at the Battle of Actium. Cleopatra and Antony fled back to Egypt.

• Antony and Cleopatra would take their own lives.

• Left Octavian with power of the Republic. Octavian would dissolve the Republic and declare it an Empire becoming Emperor Augustus Caesar.
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