

Module 5: Ancient Rome

Topic 4 Content: The Roman Empire

Introduction



Triumvirate

Julius Caesar

Power Struggle

Caesar's Successes

Ides of March

Second Triumvirate

Battle of Actium

Empire

Pax Romana

Corruption

Five Good Emperors

THE ROMAN EMPIRE



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Triumvirate

Triumvirate	 <p>A Bust of Pompey</p>
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Civil wars
60 B.C. (B.C.E.)
Crassus, Pompey, Caesar
Triumvirate
10 years

The problems of the Roman Republic sparked a series of civil wars in Rome. Many sought to rule Rome during the civil strife, and in 60 B.C. (B.C.E.), three men, Crassus, Pompey, and Julius Caesar, formed a triumvirate, which is a political alliance distributing power equally among three people. Crassus was a former military hero and an extremely wealthy Roman, while Pompey and Julius Caesar were military leaders with victories in Spain. They combined their individual power and money to increase their dominance as a group. This triumvirate controlled Rome for approximately ten years.

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Julius Caesar

- Triumvirate
- Julius Caesar**
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Frieze Sculpture of Roman Battle Against the Gauls

- Governorship in Gaul
- Gallic War
- More resources and territory
- Invaded England
- Military power and popularity

As part of their alliance, Julius Caesar received a governorship in the Roman province of Gaul (modern-day France). He led the Romans in the Gallic War, securing more resources for Rome and extending Roman territory to the North Sea. He also led a Roman invasion into England in 55 B.C. (B.C.E). These victories brought Caesar more military power and popularity with the people of Rome.

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Power Struggle

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THE BATTLE OF PHARSALUS
The Decisive Action on the Right:
Pompey's Cavalry Routed,
48 B.C.

The map shows the locations of Pompey's Camp (red square) and Caesar's Camp (blue square) near the Rubicon River. Key geographical features include Mt. Dodari, Mt. Koulouri, and the Pharsalus plain. Arrows indicate the movement of troops during the battle.

- Triumvirate fell apart
- Senate gave Pompey leadership
- Ill will between Pompey and Caesar
- Caesar and troops crossed the Rubicon
- Battle of Pharsalus
- Caesar became dictator of Rome

When Crassus died in 53 B.C. (B.C.E.), the triumvirate began to fall apart, as Pompey and Julius Caesar each sought more individual power. While in Gaul, Caesar received word that the Roman Senate voted to give complete leadership to Pompey, and ordered Caesar to return to Rome because his governorship was over. Due to the ill will between Julius Caesar and Pompey, Pompey accused Julius Caesar of treason. Julius Caesar rejected the order and moved back into Italy with his troops. The Rubicon River formed the ancient boundary between Gaul and Italy, and no army was supposed to cross that line under threat of civil war. Julius Caesar chose to cross the Rubicon with his troops, and Pompey fled Rome to avoid Caesar's advances. Julius Caesar left his military commander and close friend Mark Antony in charge of Rome while he chased Pompey and his supporters to Spain and then to Greece. In 48 B.C. (B.C.E.), Julius Caesar defeated Pompey at the Battle of Pharsalus in central Greece. He returned to Rome as a dictator with Mark Antony as his second in command.

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Caesar's Success

Triumvirate	 <p><i>Cleopatra and her son by Julius Caesar, Caesarion</i></p> <p>Caesar followed Pompey to Egypt Caesar attacked the pharaoh's forces Cleopatra became pharaoh Caesar became dictator of Rome Many improvements</p>
Julius Caesar	
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Still not satisfied with the outcome of the Battle of Pharsalus, in 48 B.C. (B.C.E.), Julius Caesar followed Pompey to Egypt, which was experiencing its own civil conflict. At the time, the pharaoh of Egypt was a young man who had his forces find and kill Pompey. Despite their poor relationship, Julius Caesar was disturbed by Pompey's murder, and successfully attacked the pharaoh's forces. Caesar then transferred control of Egypt to the pharaoh's sister, Cleopatra, with whom he had fallen in love. Their relationship was not recognized by Roman law, since it did not occur between two Roman citizens; however, it is rumored that they had a son, Caesarion.

After defeating all of Pompey's allies in Africa, Caesar was appointed dictator for ten years. He returned to Rome and attempted to make improvements. Caesar expanded citizenship, increased pay for soldiers in the army, created jobs, and redistributed land to the poor and to veterans. For his efforts, in 44 B.C. (B.C.E.), Julius Caesar was appointed dictator for life.

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Ides of March

Triumvirate	 <p><i>The Death of Julius Caesar</i> by Vincenzo Camuccini</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased senate seats with supportersCaesar's power grewCaesar was murderedCivil war between Caesar's supporters and assassinsDestruction of the Roman Republic
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During his time as dictator, Julius Caesar increased the number of seats in the Roman Senate to nine hundred senators, and gave the new senate seats to his own supporters. This allowed him to have massive influence in the Roman Senate. Many existing senators felt this devalued their own seats in the Senate. Ultimately, several members of the Roman Senate and the Roman aristocracy determined that Julius Caesar had acquired too much power. On March 15th in 44 B.C. (B.C.E.), known as the Ides of March, Julius Caesar planned to make a speech before the Roman Senate. When he arrived, more than sixty men attacked him in an assassination that left him with 23 stab wounds. The common people of Rome were in an uproar over their beloved Caesar's death, and sought revenge on their hero's assassins. In Rome, a civil war occurred between supporters of Julius Caesar and those who had planned and executed his assassination. The civil wars destroyed what was left of the Roman Republic.

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Second Triumvirate

Triumvirate	 <p><i>The Ruins of Philippi</i></p> <p>Octavian became dictator</p> <p>Second Triumvirate with Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus</p> <p>Battle of Philippi</p> <p>Rome split between the three leaders</p> <p>Lepidus exiled – Antony/Octavian left</p>
Julius Caesar	
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In Caesar's will, he passed the dictatorship of Rome to his heir Octavian. Octavian joined Mark Antony and Lepidus, a close friend and commander of Caesar's cavalry, and they formed the Second Triumvirate, which defeated the assassins and conspirators in the death of Julius Caesar at the Battle of Philippi in 42 B.C. (B.C.E). The Second Triumvirate split Rome into three parts: Octavian ruled over Italy, Mark Antony ruled over the eastern part Rome's lands, and Lepidus ruled over North Africa and Spain. In 36 B.C. (B.C.E.), Lepidus was blamed for a revolt in Sicily and exiled. Mark Antony and Octavian were left ruling over Rome.

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Battle of Actium

Triumvirate	 <p><i>Antony and Cleopatra by Lawrence Alma-Tadema</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mark Antony and Cleopatra's romanceCivil war between Antony and OctavianOctavian won Battle of ActiumOctavian became sole ruler of Rome
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In 41 B.C. (B.C.E.), Mark Antony entered into a romantic relationship with Cleopatra of Egypt. Despite being married to Octavian's sister, Mark Antony continued his involvement with Cleopatra until his death in 30 B.C. (B.C.E.). The relationship between Mark Antony and Octavian soured over the course of this time period. Octavian accused Antony of plotting against Rome, and another civil war erupted. Octavian defeated the combined forces of Antony and Cleopatra at the naval Battle of Actium in 31 B.C. (B.C.E.). After the battle, Mark Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide, leaving Octavian as the sole ruler of Rome.

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Empire



Augustus as the Roman Emperor

Augustus – “exalted one”
“Imperator” - emperor
Octavian ruled Rome alone

In 27 B.C. (B.C.E.), the Roman Senate gave Octavian the title “Augustus,” which means “exalted one.” For the rest of his life, and throughout history, Octavian would be known as Augustus. That same year the Roman Senate also gave Octavian the title “imperator,” from which the word emperor is derived. Rome was now officially an empire ruled by one man.

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Pax Romana

Triumvirate	 <p>A portrait of a literate Roman woman</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">200 years of peace and prosperityEconomic, social, and political stabilityImprovements in roadsLess strife between social groupsRoman civil serviceUniform code of law
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Beginning with the leadership of Augustus, the Roman Empire went through two centuries filled with peace and prosperity. This 200-year time span in Roman history is called the Pax Romana, which translates to "Roman Peace." Like other peaceful periods in human history, the stability of the Pax Romana enabled Rome to expand the empire and unify existing holdings, particularly in the Near East.

The stability of the Pax Romana additionally had economic, social, and political effects. Augustus and the emperors who followed him created a uniform monetary system. In doing so, merchants across the Roman Empire could trade with one another more easily. Improvements to roads in the Roman Empire made commercial and personal travel safe for travelers. With the prosperity of the Pax Romana, the strife among patricians, plebeians, and slaves lessened. By cutting lavish expenses on the part of the government, Augustus reduced the conflict between the classes that had marked the end of the Roman Republic. Roman families rose in importance, as Augustus sought to return to the traditional Roman family unit that had existed under the Republic. Augustus created a Roman civil service based on hiring former equestrians from the army. The skills associated with being an army equestrian, like business expertise and financial management, made these officers suitable for civil service positions. During the Pax Romana, Rome thrived under a uniform code of law in courts throughout the Roman provinces.

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Corruption

Triumvirate	 <p><i>The Tiberius Bridge in Rimini, Italy</i></p> <p>Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero</p> <p>Augustus left plentiful resources</p> <p>Abuse of power and control of Senate</p> <p>Rome was destroyed in a fire</p>
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There was no clear policy of succession for future emperors after the death of Augustus in 14 A.D. (C.E.), and the only remaining heir of Augustus was Tiberius Claudius Nero, known as Tiberius. Tiberius was the first of four emperors from the line of Augustus. Those who followed were Caligula, Claudius, and Nero. Left with the vast resources of Augustus, these four emperors abused their power during their reign, and grabbed increasingly more control from the Roman Senate. The corruption of the four post-Augustan emperors was demonstrated particularly by Nero, who ruled Rome from 54 A.D. (C.E.) through 68 A.D. (C.E.). Nero was known for his cruelty in eliminating those who would challenge him, even his own mother. In 64 A.D. (C.E.), most of Rome was destroyed in a great fire. At the time, accusations were made that Nero started the fire himself to make way for a palace building project.

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Five Good Emperors



Nero committed suicide

Less violence

Public works projects

Social programs

Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antonius Pius, Marcus Aurelius

After Nero committed suicide to avoid assassination in 68 A.D. (C.E.), an era of less corrupt emperors came to power. Known as the “Five Good Emperors,” they were less violent, built public works projects, created social programs to assist poorer Romans, and maintained peace. The Five Good Emperors were Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antonius Pius, and Marcus Aurelius.