

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Roman Republic

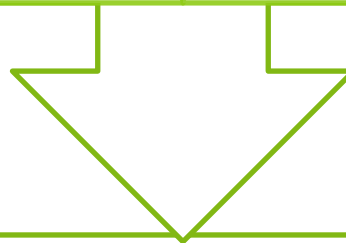


Tiberius Gracchus and Land Reform

The lower classes (plebeians) were suffering.

133 BCE – Tiberius Gracchus was elected as tribune of the plebeians

He promised land reform



Tiberius Gracchus told the people: “You fight and die to give luxury to other men. . .but you have not a foot of ground to call your own.”

Wanted to limit the amount of land each person could own

Wanted to rebuild the farming class by redistributing land

The patricians were not pleased with Tiberius Gracchus

Tiberius Gracchus and hundreds of his followers were murdered

Gaius Gracchus and Reform

Gaius was elected tribune in 122 BCE, about ten years after his brother was murdered.

He also wanted land reform.

Gaius wanted even more than land reform.

Gaius wanted the government to sell grain to the poor at reduced prices.

Gaius proposed that landless Romans be settled in the provinces.

Gaius wanted a public works program to employ the poor.

Gaius wanted to reform the way that taxes were collected by publicans in the provinces.

Gaius wanted to decrease the Senate's power.

Riots erupted. In 121 BCE, he was killed along with thousands of his supporters.

Differing Parties Continued to Argue

Optimates

- Senatorial party
- Wanted to maintain the position and power of the wealthy patrician class

Populares

- People's party
- Had its strength in the Comitia (Assembly)
- Wanted reforms

Military Dictators Come to Power

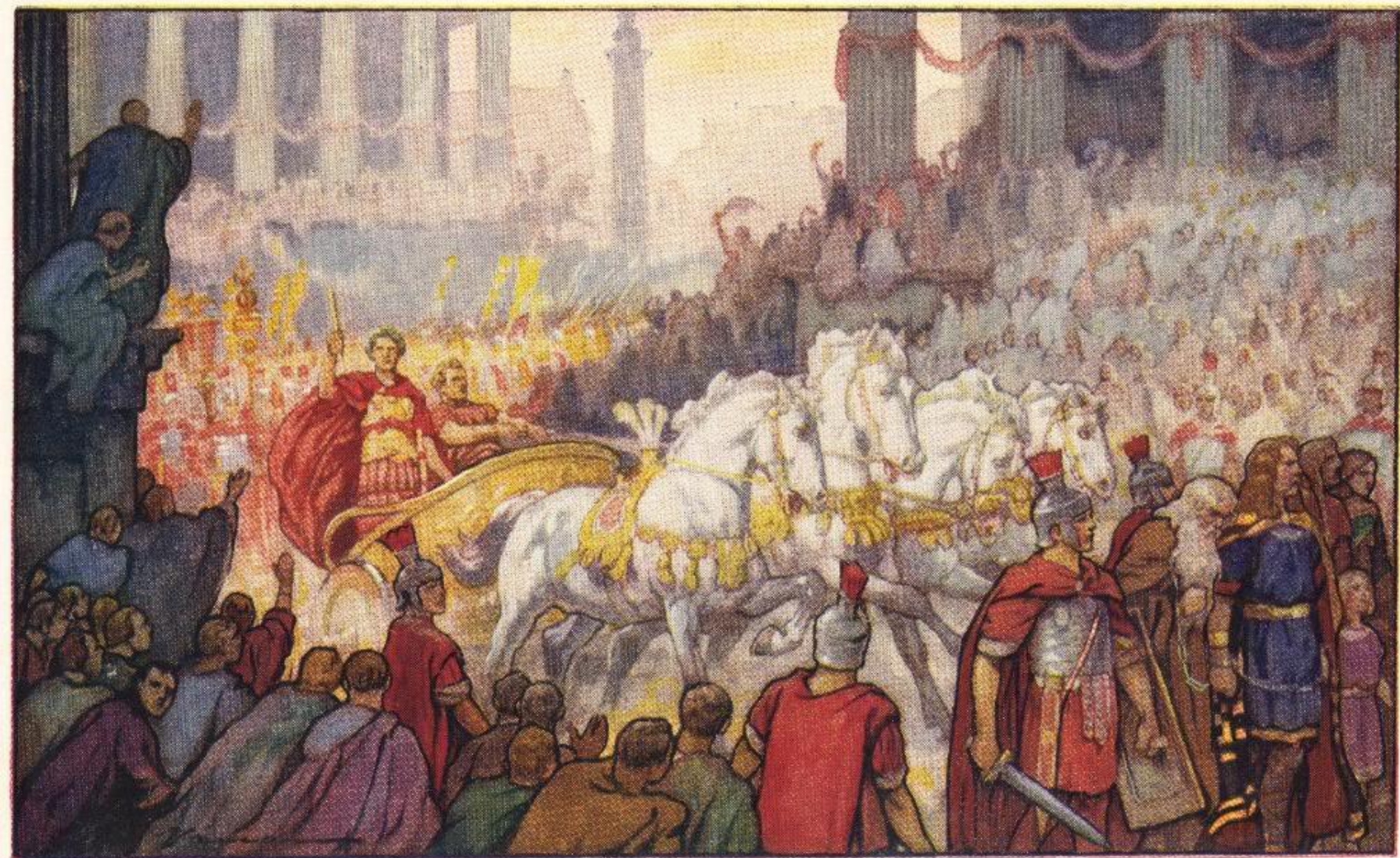
- Why did military dictators come to power?
 - Constant fighting in Rome between the rich and poor
 - Restlessness in the provinces
 - Slave rebellions (e.g., Spartacus)
 - Barbarian invasions (though not as serious as they became during the era of the Roman empire)
 - The people needed strong leadership

Gaius Marius (ca. 157 BCE-86 BCE)

- A leader of the Populares
 - Elected consul in 107 BCE
- Successful military victories
 - North Africa (106 BCE) against a rebellious chieftain
 - North Italy (102-101 BCE) against Germanic invaders
- Elected consul seven times
- Army reform
 - Formed a paid, volunteer, professional army staffed by Rome's landless people (no more property qualifications)
 - Soldiers shared in the spoils of war and earned pensions upon completion of their service
- Struggled with Lucius Sulla for power

Lucius Sulla (ca. 138 BCE-78 BCE)

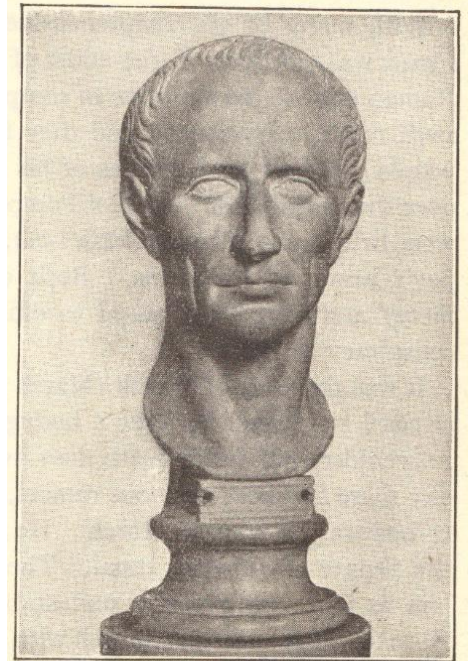
- Patrician member of the Senate
- Military victories
 - 91 BCE – revolt of Roman allies who wanted full citizenship rights
 - These people eventually won Roman citizenship, but not before Sulla had secured his reputation as a leader
 - 87 BCE – revolt by King Mithridates in Asia Minor
 - Assembly chose Gaius Marius for the same job
 - Armies fought in Rome; Sulla won and marched off to Asia Minor
- Marius and his supporters came to power in Rome while Sulla was away
 - Killed many leaders in the Senate
 - Sulla came back to Rome in 82 BCE
 - Sulla killed thousands of Marius' followers and confiscated their property as booty for his troops
- Sulla ruled as dictator for three years
 - Gave the Senate back control of the government
 - Then he retired



A ROMAN TRIUMPH

The First Triumvirate

- The First Triumvirate was an unofficial (and at first secret) pact to control Rome
- From 60 to 53 BCE
- Members:
 - Pompey
 - Marcus Crassus
 - Julius Caesar



JULIUS CÆSAR

From a bust in the British Museum.

Pompey (106 BCE-48 BCE)

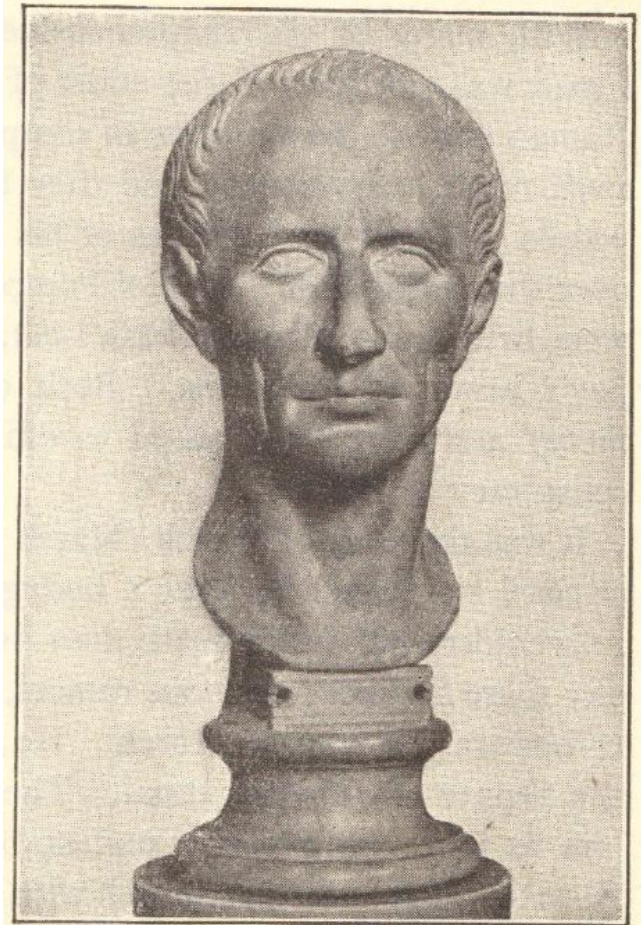
- A general under Sulla
- Military victories
 - Cleared pirates out of the Mediterranean
 - Put down a revolt in Iberia (Spain)
 - Finished Sulla's fight against King Mithridates
 - Conquered Palestine (Israel and Judea) and Syria for Rome
- Became angry with the Senate
 - Senate did not give him full recognition for his achievements
 - Senate refused to pay his soldiers

Marcus Crassus (115 BCE-53 BCE)

- General who defeated Spartacus
- Became wealthy by devious means
 - Abusing the proscription system
 - Proscription was the legal confiscation of the property of those who had fought against those now in power
 - Crassus reportedly had at least one person, whose fortune he coveted, added to the proscription list
 - Bought burning buildings
 - Heard a building was on fire, then ran to buy it as it was burning
 - After buying it, he'd have his people put out the fire before too much damage was done
 - The traditional Roman firefighting method was to destroy a burning building in order to save those structures surrounding it

Julius Caesar (100 BCE-44 BCE)

- Elected consul in 59 BCE
- Military victories
 - 59-51 BCE – brought the Gauls (in modern-day France) under Roman rule
 - He wrote the famous *Commentaries on the Gallic Wars*

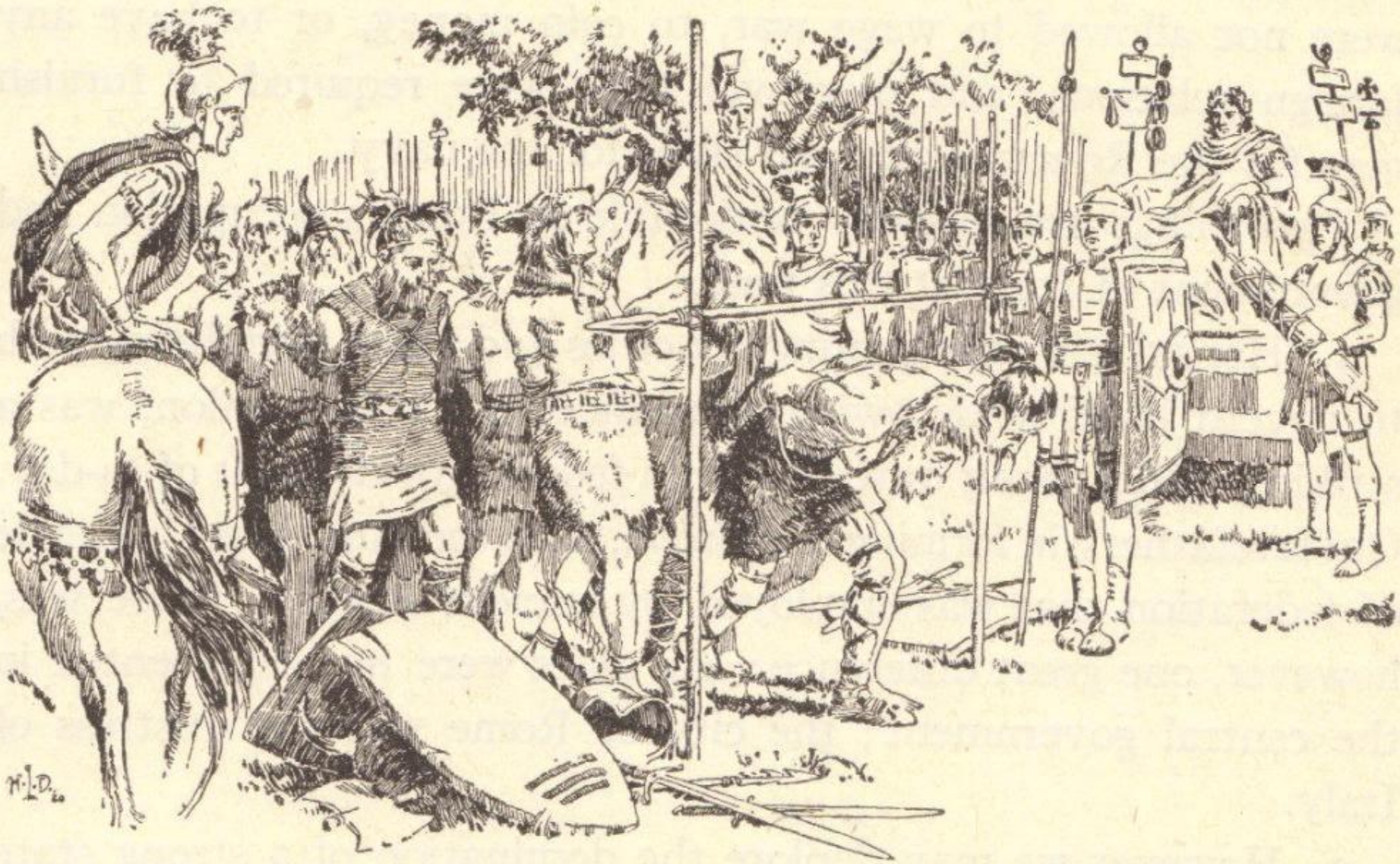


JULIUS CÆSAR

From a bust in the British Museum.



VERCINGETORIX BEFORE CÆSAR — PAINTING BY ROYER



H. I. D.

ROMANS COMPELLING CAPTIVES TO PASS UNDER THE YOKE

Our English word *subjugate* is derived from the Latin words *sub*, under, and *jugum*, yoke.

The First Triumvirate

Pompey

- His perk: soldiers
- Became leader of Italy

Marcus Crassus

- His perk: money
- Became leader of Rome's Eastern provinces

Julius Caesar

- His perk: popularity
- Became proconsul of Gaul (modern France)

Trouble in Paradise

- 53 BCE – Crassus killed in battle against the Parthians
 - This ended the First Triumvirate
- Pompey was jealous of the successes Caesar was having in Gaul
 - Pompey talked the Senate into demanding that Caesar return to Rome as a private citizen (without his troops)

Crossing the Rubicon

- Caesar had a decision to make
 - Following the Senate's orders = powerlessness before Pompey
 - Disobeying the Senate's orders = Violating Roman law
- Rubicon River
 - River in northern Italy
 - Tradition and law said that soldiers had to disband before crossing this river into Italy
- “The die is cast. I have crossed the Rubicon.”
 - He led his troops across the Rubicon River
 - Once he crossed the river, he could not take back his decision to face (and fight) Pompey

Caesar Chases Pompey to Egypt

Pompey fled to Greece.

- Pompey, who had more soldiers, made serious military blunders.
- Caesar said of Pompey: “Today the enemy would have won, if they had a commander who was a winner,” and “That man does not know how to win a war.”
- Caesar went after him, defeating Pompey at Pharsalus in 48 BCE.

Pompey fled to Egypt.

- Ptolemy XIII, knowing Caesar’s army was in pursuit of Pompey, killed Pompey rather than give him shelter
- Ptolemy later presented Pompey’s severed head to Caesar

Caesar met Cleopatra VII of Egypt.

- She was co-ruler, married to her younger brother, Ptolemy XIII
- Caesar restored Cleopatra to her throne
- Also had a son with Cleopatra, Caesarion, born in 47 BCE

“Veni, vidi, vici!”

- Caesar left and won victories in the East
 - Mocked Pompey’s previous efforts in the region
 - Sent word to Rome: “Veni, vidi, vici!”
 - “I came, I saw, I conquered!”
- Military victories left Caesar as sole ruler of Rome
 - Defeated remnants of the senatorial party in north Africa
 - Defeated Pompey’s sons in Spain
- Caesar returned to Rome in 45 BCE
 - Aided by his close friend and helper, Mark Antony

Caesar's Reforms

Adopted a program of public works.

Distributed public lands to Roman citizens.

Granted Roman citizenship to many people in Rome's provinces.

Reformed provincial governments.

Reformed the calendar (the "Julian" calendar with 365 days and an extra day during leap years).

Reorganized the Roman system of coinage.

Dictator for Life

- The Senate disliked many of Caesar's reforms and feared his popularity and power
- Ides of March
 - March 15, 44 BCE
 - Senators conspired to assassinate Caesar
 - Mark Antony tried to stop Caesar from entering the Senate, but a group of senators intercepted Caesar and got him to enter the building using a side entrance
 - Caesar was stabbed to death (at least 23 times) on the floor of the Senate house
 - Among the conspirators was Marcus Junius Brutus, a descendent of the traditional founder of the Roman Republic



EXPANSION OF ROMAN POWER

- Roman Dominions 264 B.C., before the First Punic War
- Gains from 264 to 201 B.C., end of Second Punic War
- Gains from 201 to 146 B.C., end of Third Punic War
- Gains from 146 to 88 B.C.
- Gains from 88 to 44 B.C., death of Julius Cæsar
- States in alliance with Rome, 44 B.C.

ROMAN DOMINIONS
at the Death of Julius Cæsar
44 B.C.

Scale of Miles
0 100 200 300 400 500

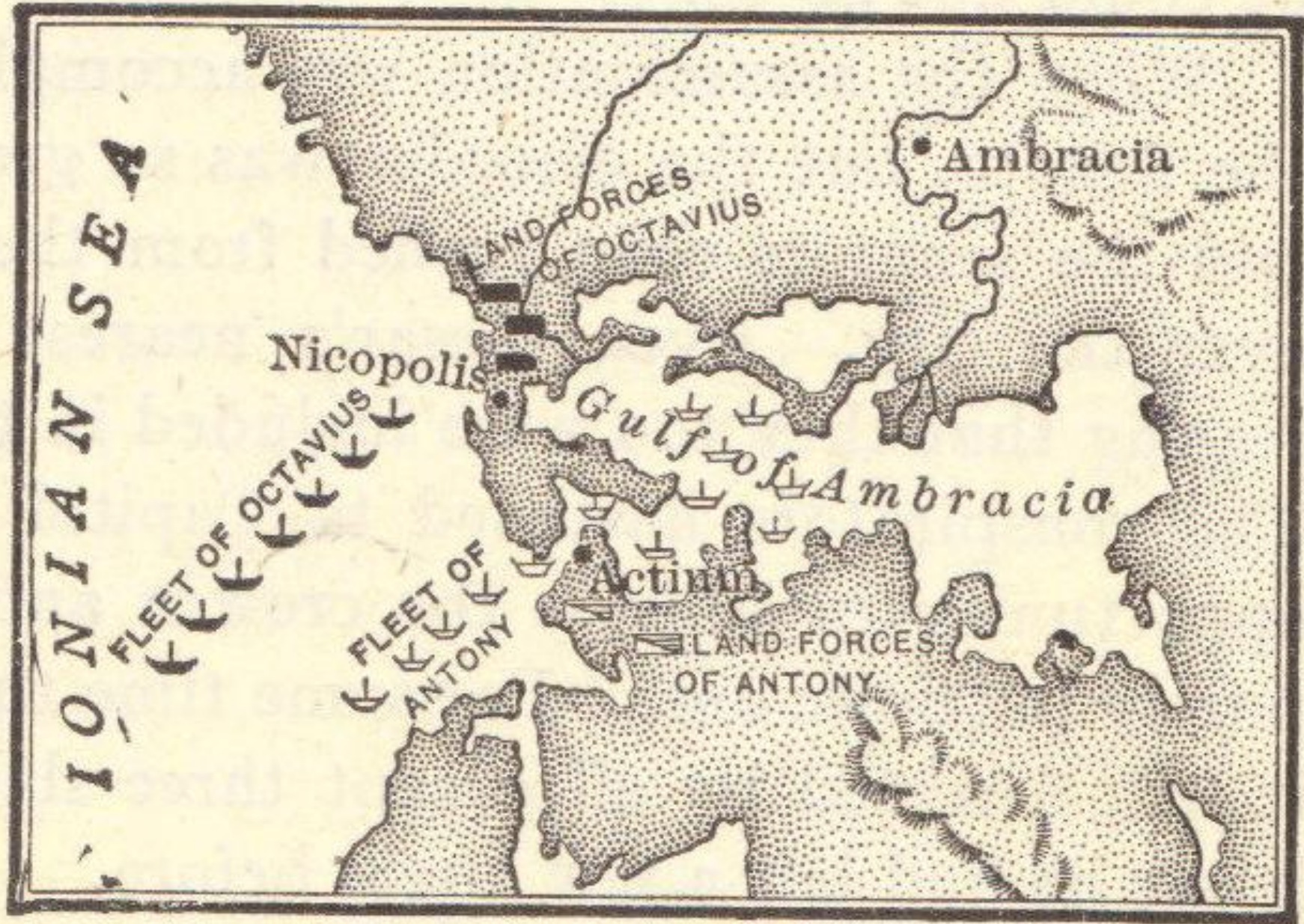
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Chaos and More Civil War

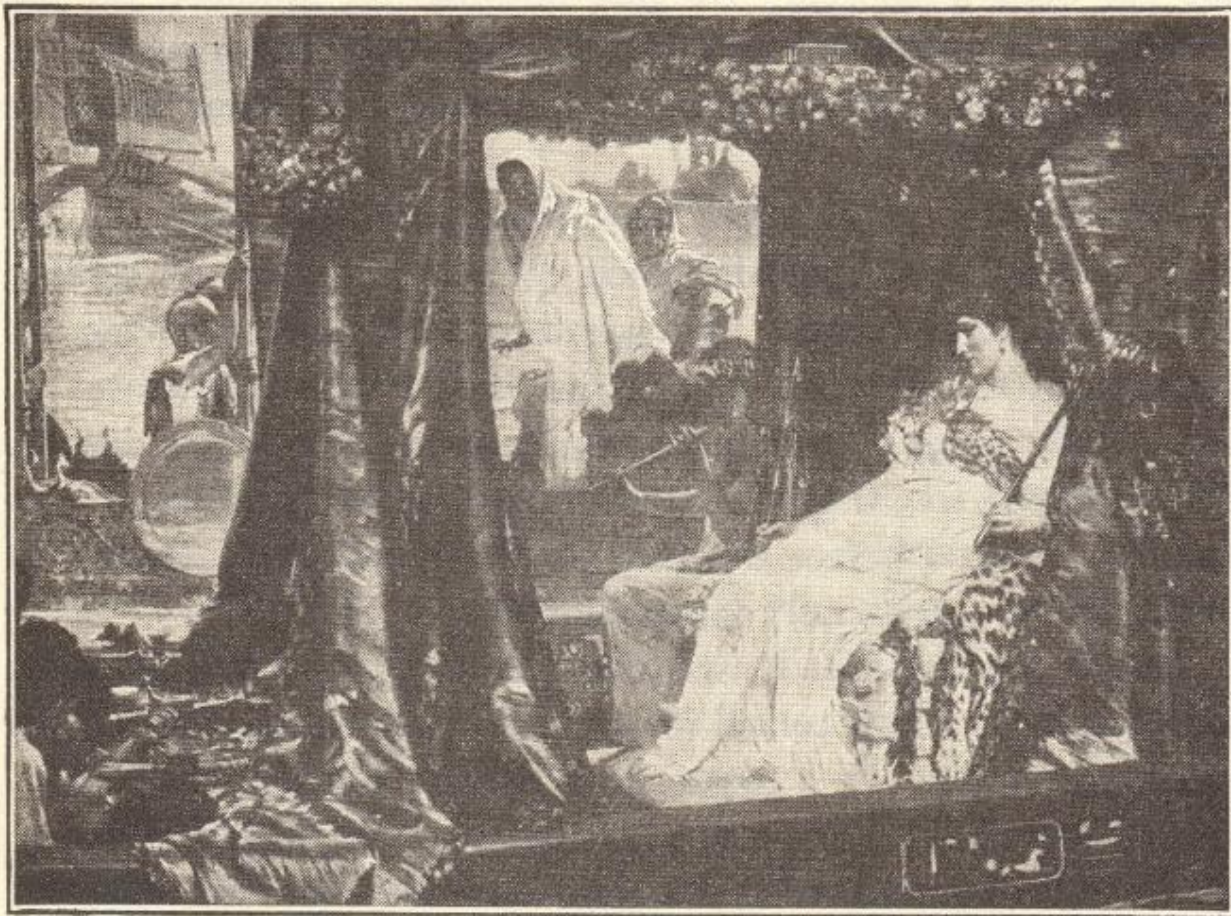
- Caesar left his grandnephew Octavian as his heir
- Second Triumvirate
 - Octavian allied himself with Mark Antony and a politician named Lepidus
 - Went after Caesar's enemies
 - 42 BCE – defeated the forces of two of Caesar's assassins, Brutus and Cassius, at Philippi, Macedonia
- Split the rule of the empire
 - Octavian took Rome and the West
 - Mark Antony took the East

Octavian *versus* Mark Antony

- Octavian was a smart, capable ruler in Rome
- Mark Antony made problematic alliances and ignored Rome's dictates for the East
 - Mark Antony formed a relationship with Cleopatra VII in Egypt
 - Antony and Cleopatra had three children together
 - Mark Antony divorced Octavia, Octavian's sister
 - Mark Antony offended Rome by “going native”
 - Mark Antony offended Octavian by publicly suggesting that Caesarion was a legal and rightful heir of Julius Caesar
- 32 BCE – Octavian's forces attacked Egypt
 - 31 BCE – Battle of Actium – Mark Antony's fleet was destroyed
 - 30 BCE – Mark Antony committed suicide
 - Cleopatra committed suicide a few weeks later



BATTLE OF ACTIUM



ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

Painting by Alma-Tadema. Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, was one of the most beautiful women of all time. In the civil war after Cæsar's death, Antony summoned her to meet him at Tarsus, in Cilicia, to explain her part in that war. The picture shows the queen as Antony saw her, in her splendidly adorned boat. Shakespeare describes her thus in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Act II, Scene II:

For her own person,
It beggar'd all description; she did lie
In her pavilion cloth-of-gold of tissue —
O'erpicturing that Venus where we see
The fancy outwork nature.

Review Questions

1. How and why were the Gracchi brothers killed?
2. How and why did military dictators come to power in Rome?
3. Who were the members of the First Triumvirate, and what did each member bring to the equation?
4. What steps led to Caesar being Rome's sole ruler?
5. Describe Caesar's assassination, including its causes and effects.
6. Explain how and why Mark Antony and Octavian came into conflict.