

Civil War in Ancient Rome and the End of the Roman Republic

**World History Workbook
for High School**

Tiberius Gracchus and Land Reform

In the years following the Punic Wars, the Roman lower classes (the plebeians) were suffering. Tiberius Gracchus was elected tribune of the plebeians in 133 B.C.E. on his promise of land reform. Tiberius Gracchus told the Roman people: “You fight and die to give

luxury to other men...but you have not a foot of ground to call your own.”

Tiberius Gracchus wanted to limit the amount of land that each person could own, and to rebuild the Roman farming class by redistributing land. The patricians were not pleased with Tiberius and his ideas. Tiberius Gracchus and hundreds of his followers were murdered.

1. How did Tiberius Gracchus plan to rebuild the Roman farming class?

Word Search Puzzle



Gaius Gracchus	publicans
grain	redistribution
land	reform
murdered	riots
Optimates	Senate
patricians	subsidize
plebeians	Tiberius Gracchus
Populares	tribune

Gaius Gracchus

Gaius Gracchus was elected tribune in 122 B.C.E., about ten years after his brother, Tiberius, was murdered.

Like Tiberius, Gaius wanted land reform. But Gaius wanted even more than land reform.

Gaius wanted the government to sell grain to the poor at reduced rates, a

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

procedure known as subsidization. He proposed that landless Romans be settled in the provinces. Gaius wanted to establish a public works program to employ the poor. He wanted to reform the way that taxes were collected by

publicans in the provinces. Additionally, Gaius wanted to decrease the Senate's power.

Riots erupted in Rome. In 121 B.C.E., Gaius was killed along with thousands of his supporters.

2. Select one of the proposed reforms of Gaius Gracchus. Do you believe that this type of reform is a good idea? Why or why not?

Differing Parties Continued to Argue

The Optimates were the senatorial party. They wanted to maintain the position and power of the wealthy patrician class.

The Populares were the people's party. This party had its strength in the Comitia (Assembly). The Populares wanted reform.

3. Imagine that you are living in ancient Rome. To which political party would you belong, and why?

4. Compare and contrast the two main political parties in your country today with the Optimates and Populares.

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

Matching

5. ____ Common people of ancient Rome
6. ____ Elected tribune in 122 B.C.E.
7. ____ Government taking of land or other property from one person and giving it to another person
8. ____ Government resale of a product at a reduced price that consumers can afford
9. ____ Led a famous slave rebellion
10. ____ People's party
11. ____ Senatorial party
12. ____ Wealthy elite class
13. ____ "You fight and die to give luxury to other men...but you have not a foot of ground to call your own."

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| (A) Gaius Gracchus | (B) Optimates | (C) patricians |
| (D) plebeians | (E) Populares | (F) redistribution |
| (G) Spartacus | (H) subsidization | (I) Tiberius Gracchus |

Military Dictators Came to Power

Following the murders of the Gracchi (Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus), there was constant fighting in Rome between the rich and the poor. There was restlessness in the provinces. Slave rebellions broke out, like the famous one led by Spartacus. There were barbarian invasions, though these were not as serious as they became during the era of the Roman Empire.

The Roman people needed strong leadership. They sought this leadership in the form of military dictators.

14. Why do you imagine that the people of ancient Rome chose to be led by dictators rather than find democratic solutions to their problems?

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

Gaius Marius (157-86 B.C.E.)

Gaius Marius, leader of the Populares, was elected consul in 107 B.C.E. He led the Roman army to successful military victories—in north Africa in 106 B.C.E. against a rebellious chieftain, and in north Italy (102-101 B.C.E.) against Germanic invaders.

Gaius Marius went on to be elected consul seven times. As consul, he reformed the Roman army. He abolished property qualifications and formed a paid, volunteer, professional army staffed by

Rome's landless people. Under Gaius Marius, soldiers shared in the spoils of war and earned pensions upon completion of their service.

Gaius Marius struggled with Lucius Sulla, another popular military leader, for power.

15. Gaius Marius put down a rebellion in Iberia (modern Spain).

- a. True
- b. False

Lucius Sulla (138-78 B.C.E.)

Lucius Sulla was a patrician member of the Senate. Like Gaius Marius, Sulla led Roman forces to military victories.

In 91 B.C.E., there was a revolt of Roman allies who wanted full Roman citizenship rights for themselves. These people eventually won Roman citizenship, but not before Sulla had secured his reputation as a leader by quashing the revolt.

In 87 B.C.E., King Mithridates revolted in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). While the Assembly chose Gaius Marius to put down the revolt, the Senate chose Lucius Sulla. The armies of Sulla and Marius fought in Rome. Sulla won, and marched off to Asia Minor.

Marius and his supporters came to power in Rome while Sulla was away. They killed many leaders in the Senate. When Sulla came back to Rome in 82 B.C.E., he killed thousands of Marius' followers and confiscated their property as booty for his troops.

Sulla went on to rule as dictator of Rome for three years. He gave the Senate back control of the government, and then retired.

16. In your opinion, who was the better leader—Gaius Marius or Lucius Sulla—and why?

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

The First Triumvirate

The First Triumvirate was an unofficial, and at first secret, pact to control Rome. It existed from 60 to 53 B.C.E. Members of the First Triumvirate were Pompey, Marcus Crassus, and Julius Caesar.

Pompey (106-48 B.C.E.)

Pompey worked as a general under Sulla. His military victories included clearing pirates out of the Mediterranean Sea, putting down a revolt in Iberia (Spain), finishing Sulla's fight against King Mithridates, and conquering Palestine (Israel and Judea) and Syria for Rome.

Pompey became angry with the Senate. The Senate did not give him full recognition for his many achievements, and refused to pay his soldiers.

17. Pompey put down a revolt in Iberia.

- a. True
- b. False

Marcus Crassus (115-53 B.C.E.)

Marcus Crassus was a Roman general who defeated Spartacus, leader of history's most famous slave revolt. Crassus became wealthy by devious means.

Firstly, he abused the proscription system. Proscription was the legal confiscation of the property of those who had fought against those then in power. Crassus repeatedly had at least one person, whose fortune he coveted, added to the proscription list.

Secondly, Crassus engaged in the seemingly bizarre practice of buying burning buildings. When Crassus heard that a building was on fire, he ran to buy the building as it was burning. After buying the burning building, Crassus would 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 the structures surrounding it.)

18. Knowing the type of person Crassus was, if you were living in ancient Rome, would you support him politically? Explain your answer.

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic



Julius Caesar (100-44 B.C.E.)

Julius Caesar was elected consul in 59 B.C.E. Like Pompey and Crassus, Caesar became popular through his military victories. Between 59 and 51 B.C.E., he brought the Gauls (in modern-day France) under Roman rule. He chronicled this achievement in his famous *Commentaries on the Gallic Wars*.

19. The Gauls lived in what is today France.
 - a. True
 - b. False

20. Caesar wrote *Commentaries on the Germanic Wars*.
 - a. True
 - b. False



Vercingetorix before Caesar, from a painting by Royer. Vercingetorix was the leader of the Gauls.

The First Triumvirate

Pompey	Marcus Crassus	Julius Caesar
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• His perk: soldiers• Became leader of Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• His perk: money• Became leader of Rome's Eastern provinces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• His perk: popularity• Became proconsul of Gaul (modern France)

21. Who became leader of Rome's eastern provinces?

- a. Gaius Gracchus
- b. Julius Caesar
- c. Marcus Crassus
- d. Pompey

Trouble in Paradise

In 53 B.C.E., Crassus was killed in a battle against the Parthians, ending the First Triumvirate. Meanwhile, Pompey was jealous of the successes that 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

Julius Caesar had a difficult decision to make. Were he to follow the Senate's orders, he would be powerless before Pompey. By disobeying the

Senate's orders, he would be violating Roman law.

The Rubicon is a river in northern Italy. It is not a particularly large or

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

imposing river, as far as rivers go. Its significance to history is that tradition and law said that soldiers had to disband before crossing it to enter the central part of Italy.

“The die is cast. I have crossed the Rubicon,” Caesar is reported to have said. Once Julius Caesar and his troops crossed the river, Caesar could not take back his decision to face, and fight, Pompey.

22. Imagine that you are Julius Caesar. Would you cross the Rubicon River, or would you disband your troops before entering central Italy? Can you think of an alternative plan of action?

Caesar Chases Pompey to Egypt

Pompey reacted to Caesar’s crossing of the Rubicon by fleeing to Greece. Although Pompey had more soldiers than Caesar, he made serious military blunders. Caesar reportedly said of Pompey, “Today the enemy would have won, if they had a commander who was a winner.” Caesar also remarked, “That man does not know how to win a war.” Caesar pursued Pompey, finally defeating Pompey’s forces at Pharsalus in 48 B.C.E.

Pompey fled to Egypt. Pharaoh Ptolemy XIII, knowing that Caesar’s army was in pursuit of Pompey, killed him rather than give him shelter. Ptolemy later presented Pompey’s severed head to Julius Caesar.

It was at this time that Julius Caesar met Cleopatra VII of Egypt. She had been co-ruler, alongside her brother-husband, Ptolemy XIII (Egyptian

pharaohs married their sisters according to their ancient tradition). Cleopatra and Ptolemy were fighting for control of their country. The story goes that Cleopatra had herself hidden within a rolled carpet and presented to Caesar, whereupon she offered both herself and her country to him. Caesar restored Cleopatra to her throne, and had a son with her—Caesarion, born in 47 B.C.E.

23. Where did Caesar defeat Pompey’s forces?

24. What was the name of Julius Caesar and Cleopatra’s son, and when was he born?

“Veni, vidi, vici!”

Julius Caesar went from Egypt to lead victories in the east. He mocked Pompey’s earlier efforts in the region. Sending word to Rome, Caesar remarked, “Veni, vidi, vici!” (“I came, I saw, I conquered!”)

Caesar’s military victories left him as the sole ruler of Rome. He defeated the remnants of the senatorial party in north Africa, as well as Pompey’s sons in Spain. Julius Caesar returned to Rome in 45 B.C.E., aided by his close friend, Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony).

25. Translate the phrase: “Veni, vidi, vici!”

Julius Caesar’s Reforms

Julius Caesar initiated many reforms. He adopted a program of public works and distributed public lands to Roman citizens. Under Caesar, Roman citizenship was granted to many people in Rome’s provinces, and provincial governments were reformed. Reformation also came to the calendar—what came to be called the “Julian” calendar, with 365 days and an extra day for leap years, was adopted. Additionally, Caesar reorganized the Roman system of coinage.

26. In your opinion, why was full Roman citizenship coveted by those living in the provinces?

Et tu, Brute?

The Senate disliked many of Julius Caesar’s reforms and feared his popularity and power. On the Ides of March—March 15, 44 B.C.E.—they planned to rid themselves of Caesar forever.

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

The senators conspired to assassinate Julius Caesar. Fearful of the senators' plans, 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. Julius 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.

27. Where was Julius Caesar assassinated?

Chaos and More Civil War

In his will, Julius Caesar designated his grandnephew, Octavian, as his heir. Octavian allied himself with Mark Antony and a politician named Lepidus, forming the Second Triumvirate in 43 B.C.E. The formation of the Second Triumvirate marks the official end of the Roman Republic. Together, the Second Triumvirate went after Caesar's enemies. In 42 B.C.E., they defeated the forces of two of Caesar's assassins, Brutus and Cassius, at Philippi, Macedonia.

After achieving victory, the Second Triumvirate split the rule of the empire. Octavian took Rome and the West. Lepidus took Hispania and Africa. Mark Antony took the east. Lepidus was later forced into exile (36 B.C.E.), leaving Mark Antony in charge of Egypt.

28. What event officially marks the end of the Roman Republic?

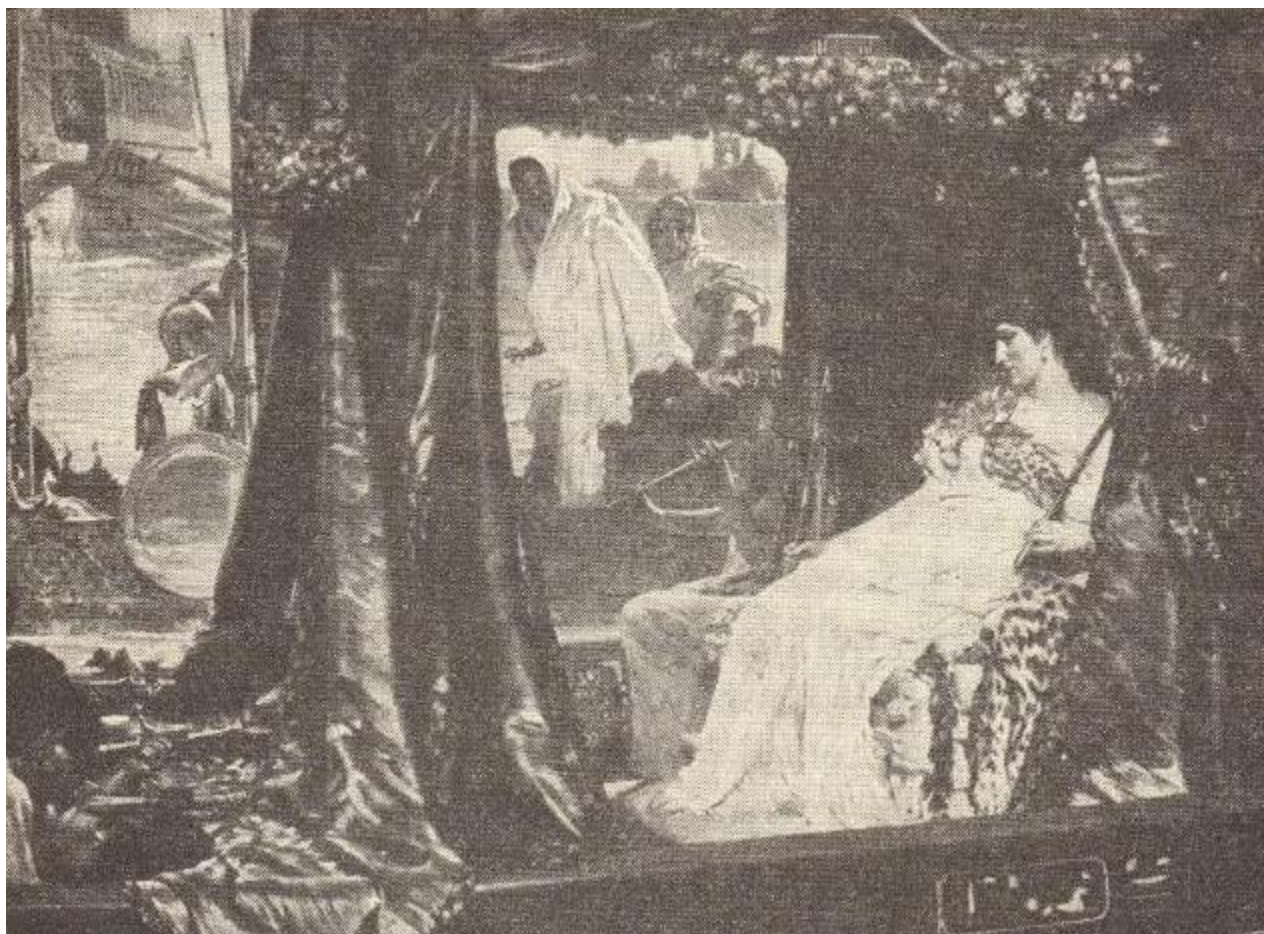
Octavian *versus* Mark Antony

Octavian proved himself to be a smart, capable ruler for Rome. Mark Antony, however, did not.

Mark Antony made problematic alliances and ignored Rome's dictates for the east. He formed a romantic relationship with Cleopatra VII of Egypt, fathering three of her children. He divorced his wife, Octavia, who happened to be Octavian's sister. Mark Antony offended the sensibilities of the Roman people by "going native" in Egypt. He

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

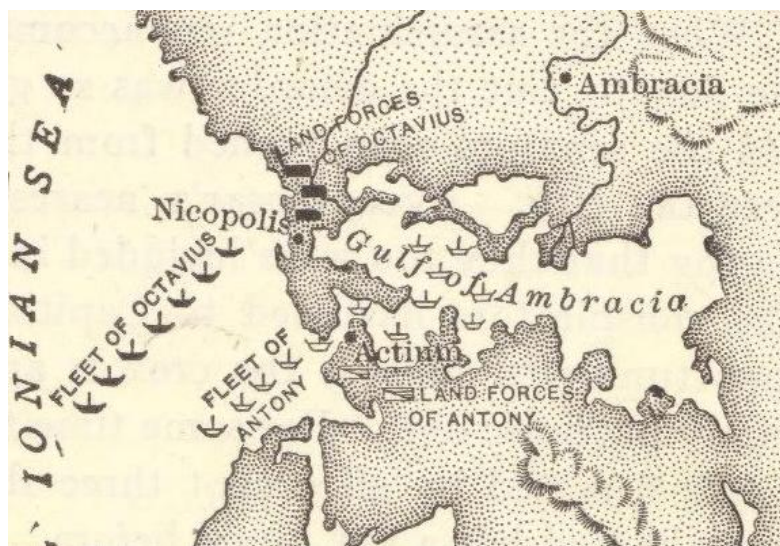
created a scandal by publicly suggesting that Caesaron, who was essentially Antony's stepson, was a legal and rightful heir of Julius Caesar.



Antony and Cleopatra.

In 32 B.C.E., Octavian's forces attacked Egypt. Antony's fleet was destroyed in 31 B.C.E. at the Battle of Actium. Mark Antony committed suicide in 30 B.C.E. (In ancient times, suicide was a respected choice for those who found themselves defeated, and who would otherwise be killed.) Cleopatra committed suicide a few weeks later.

Octavian was left as the sole ruler of Rome.



Battle of Actium, 31 B.C.E.

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

29. Where was Mark Antony's fleet destroyed?

Map Work



30. Which area did **not** come under the control of Mark Antony as part of the Second Triumvirate?

- a. Cilicia
- b. Gaul
- c. Macedonia
- d. Syria

31. Circle Rome on the map.

32. Color Cleopatra's homeland red.

33. Circle Jerusalem on the map.

34. Circle Alexandria on the map.

Review Questions

35. How and why were the Gracchi brothers killed?

36. How and why did military dictators come to power in Rome?

37. Who were the members of the First Triumvirate, and what did each member bring to the equation?

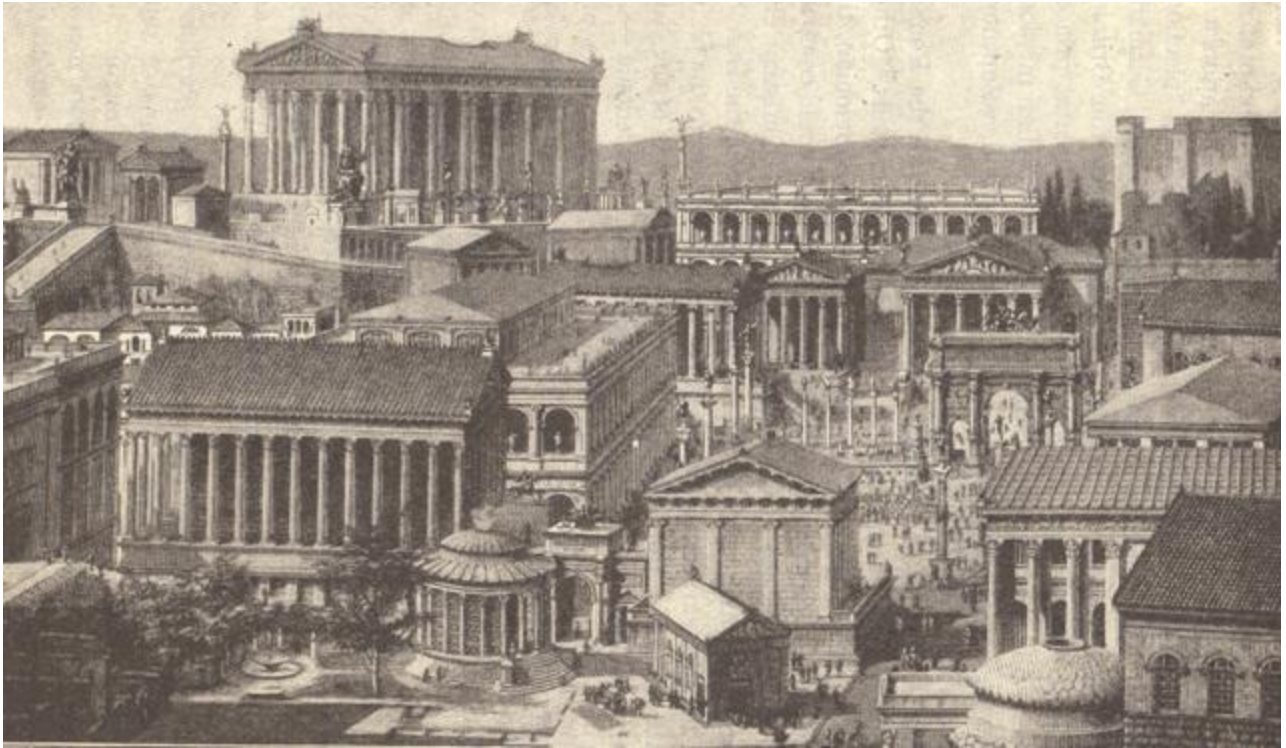
38. What steps led to Julius Caesar being Rome's sole ruler?

Civil War in Rome and the End of the Republic

39. Describe Caesar's assassination, including its causes and effects.

40. Explain how and why Mark Antony and Octavian came into conflict.

41. You now know, and hopefully understand, how and why the Roman Republic—and with it, Roman democracy—fell apart. With this knowledge, can you imagine a way that the Roman Republic might have survived?



The Roman Forum and its surroundings.

Creative Expression

Illustrate an event you read about in this workbook.

