



# The Roman Civil War





## Historical Background – The Roman Republic

In 509 BC, the last King of Rome, Tarquin, was overthrown by a palace coup, and a republic was instituted, where power was shared between two frequently reelected consuls, thus preventing one individual from gaining too much power. Yet this is in many ways a legend. The early years of Rome and the Republic are shrouded in mystery, as is most of Ancient History. What historians can gather from the evidence is a confused mingling of myth and fact. Whatever the true nature of the coup, it is clear that the Romans believed in this Romantic version of the founding of their republic, in which the death of Tarquin led to the instituting of the ideas of liberty and freedom for all Roman citizens. Tradition, therefore, was an important aspect of the Republic's institutions, and the Romans worked hard to protect the virtues of their past which they saw as firmly established with the foundation of the Republic.

For this reason, the Senate, the embodiment of Republican ideals, was a largely conservative body that feared excessive change in Rome's institutions. This was exemplified in the attempted reforms of Tiberius Gracchus and his brother Gaius. Tiberius was elected tribune in 133 B.C. and pushed for reforms that included selling corn to peasants at a market rate, dividing land into allotments and giving it to the poor, and providing clothing for soldiers in the army. These reforms were harshly opposed by the Senate, and Tiberius was beaten to the death by the Senators in 133 BC. His brother Gaius called for even more reforms, including extending Roman citizenship to Rome's Italian allies. He too was murdered by the Senate

in 121, reflecting the extraordinary resistance of the aristocrats, or patricians, to these reforms.

The tragic tales of the Gracchi highlight a paradox within the Roman Republic. Though founded on the idea of liberty, Rome was not exempt from class distinctions, as seen in the divide between the patricians and the common people, or plebeians. The position of tribune, to which the Gracchi had been elected, was the political post to which only the plebeians could aspire, and contrasted with the consul, the highest political office that usually only wealthy aristocrats were able to win. The few exceptions here include Cicero and Pompey, neither of which were from aristocratic families, but who had gained prestige through other means. The idea that money was a source of power was not a mark of the failure of Roman Republican virtues, but rather an affirmation of those very ideals of liberty and freedom. To the Romans, the wealth of a family was tied to their merit, and therefore it made sense that the wealthy were given access to the highest forms of power.

Another source of power, one that usually led to large amounts of wealth, was the army, which highlights another paradox inherent in the Republic. The Roman rhetoric of freedom only extended to citizens of the city of Rome. The surrounding areas, including the various cities on the Italian peninsula and the city states of Greece, were colonized by the Republic and not allowed the same rights of citizenship as those living in Rome. This led to many uprisings throughout Roman territories, which allowed generals to gain prestige and fame. In the Italian War of 91 BC, various generals earned glory in putting down rebellions, including Sulla, who would later be





dictator of Rome, and Strabo, the father of Pompey. In the wars of the Greek King Mithridates VI, who continued to fight the Romans from 88 BC until his death in 63, Sulla, Lucullus, and even Pompey himself all earned glory, the latter claiming credit for the final defeat of the belligerent King. The military was also a way for patricians to cement their prestige, as demonstrated by Julius Caesar.

Yet the nature of the wars of Rome revealed the paradox within its republic, a paradox that also existed in the institution of slavery. The notions of liberty did not apply to all people, as Rome's flourishing slave market demonstrated. The few slave revolts were largely unsuccessful, and even Spartacus' revolt in 71 BC, despite possibly influencing long-term Roman beliefs about slavery, was brutally put down by Crassus and Pompey, both of whom earned political prestige for their victory. The Roman Republic, therefore, existed in contradictions. Yet their commitment to ideology was firm, and they believed strongly in the values of their tradition. Therefore, when men like Sulla, and eventually Caesar, challenged these foundations, the Republic was thrown into crisis.

### **The Recent Years – Sulla the Dictator**

Lucius Cornelius Sulla achieved prominence and prestige in the wars against the Italian cities. Though born into a Patrician family, he was raised impoverished, and therefore had to work to achieve his fame. During the Italian War of 91 BC, he outshone fellow generals Strabo and Marius, and was afterwards elected consul for the

first time. The latter became his bitter rival when the command of the Roman army to fight Mithridates in the East was given to Sulla. Marius, though old, still coveted glory and convinced the tribune Sulpicius to revoke Sulla's command and instate Marius as the leading general instead.

In 88 BC, Sulla, in response, took several of his most loyal legions and marched on Rome, an event unprecedented in the history of the Republic. To cross into the city while armed was a breach of a most sacred, divine law. In the city, it was Jupiter who was the protector, and for this reason, no citizen under arms was ever allowed to enter. By publicly defying this law, Sulla was emphasizing the unique and radical nature of his own actions. All of his commanders refused to march with him and break this sacred law, save for Lucullus, who would later rise to fame in helping defeat Mithridates. He accompanied Sulla as the general entered Rome. Marius and his allies were forced to flee. The consul Sulpicius was hunted down and murdered.

Sulla, now in command of the army himself, moved east to fight against Mithridates. His target was Athens, the Greek city that had openly allied with the King, hoping to restore its historic democracy. Athens had fallen from its legendary glory, and was now under the heel of Roman businessmen who used it to make their fortunes. Sulla, in taking the city, crushed any hopes of democratic resurgence. In 87 BC, his legions stormed the city and killed many, but refrained from burning down the city. Nevertheless, Sulla's invasion was a demonstration of Roman Imperial ambition, which had existed side by side with the Republic's ideals of liberty.





These ideals clearly did not extend to Athens, or other cities in Greece.

Though Mithridates escaped alive, he had been defeated by Sulla, whose fame had now grown even greater. Despite this, Marius, who had fled Rome after Sulla's first march, returned, along with Cinna, the former consul who had supported him against Sulla. However, before they had consolidated control over Rome, Marius died, and Cinna was murdered by mutinous soldiers. This resulted in Marius' son taking up the cause of his father. Sulla once again marched on Rome, in 82 BC, this time accompanied by many more commanders. Among them were the young and ambitious Pompey and Crassus, both of whom would rise to fame much later and join Caesar in the First Triumvirate. It was Crassus who helped lead Sulla's army to victory against young Marius' forces at the Battle of the Colline Gate, cementing Sulla as sole ruler of Rome.

The Republic had always had two consuls in power, both of which were reelected frequently, to ensure that power never stayed in the hands of one man. Therefore, Sulla's dictatorship was unique, and in many ways frightening to the senators wishing to protect the virtues of the Republic. Yet Sulla himself stated that he had not marched on Rome to establish himself as a dictator, but rather to protect the Republic from any future military figures. Marius was a legitimately powerful man, and Sulla had viewed him as overly ambitious, and claimed that his marches on Rome had been to safeguard the Republic, not to destroy it. The reforms Sulla enacted while in power also confirmed this image of him as a protector of the Republic. He greatly scaled down the powers of the office of the tribune,

the very office which the Gracchi had used to attempt to enact radical reforms which had frightened the conservative Senate. Furthermore, Sulla did not reign for life, but rather resigned in 81 BC, and eventually stepped out of political life altogether and retired until his death in 78.

Yet despite his apparent love for the Republic, Sulla's dictatorship had been something new and unique that had potentially dangerous consequences for the ideals of the Republic. During his reign, Sulla utilized the proscription list to great effect, writing down the names of his political opponents and encouraging citizens to kill them for a reward. Many of the people added to the list had never opposed Sulla at all, but simply had extensive property and wealth that Sulla and his men coveted. And furthermore, though many of Sulla's reforms were eventually reversed by later consuls, his extensive influence remained. Men such as Crassus and Pompey, who had served in his army, saw him as an inspiration to aspire to unprecedented heights themselves. According to Cicero, another man who aspired to fame and prestige, Pompey had once said "Sulla could do it. Why can't I?" The man who would most closely encompass the legacy of Sulla, however, was the young Julius Caesar, a patrician who also had high ambitions.

### The Current Situation – The Triumvirate

Following the death of Sulla, the Republic seemed to be returning to its traditional form. Men such as Cicero and Cato, staunch defenders of the ancient Republican ideals, rose to prominence within the senate. Cicero, consul in 63 BC, was responsible for stopping the conspiracy of a





Roman Senator, Catiline, who, after losing the election to Cicero, began brewing a rebellion amongst the lower classes to take back an office that he perceived as rightly his own. Details of his plot were uncovered by Cicero, with the help of Crassus, and Catiline was forced to flee Rome. Though he gathered an army outside of the city, he was defeated by the army of Hybrida, who despite being a friend of Catiline, was consul alongside Cicero. The glory for this victory, however, fell largely on Cicero, due in part to the fact that Hybrida claimed to be sick on the day of the battle, and remained in his tent. Cicero did not fail to take advantage of his fame, labeling himself the savior of the republic.

Despite Catiline's defeat, his attempted rebellion increased tensions between the Optimates and the Populares, and led to other men who saw themselves as his successors. One of these was Clodius, an enemy of Cicero, who went so far as to get himself adopted into a Plebian family simply to be elected Tribune. With the backing of a large section of the populace, Clodius engineered Cicero's exile in 58 BC, declaring that he had unlawfully executed the members of Catiline's Conspiracy while he was consul. It was not until 57 BC that Cicero returned, with the help of Pompey and the other members of the Triumvirate, as well as the newly elected consul Spinther, an able politician who had aided Cicero in defeating the Catilinian Conspiracy earlier, and the new Tribune, Milo, who bitterly hated Clodius.

Though they helped Cicero during both the Catiline conspiracy and during his exile, Pompey and Crassus were nevertheless men who promoted the ideals of Catiline himself. Their support of the plebians may only have been for political purposes,

but their influence was clearly feared by the Optimates in the Senate. Pompey had risen to prominence while fighting and defeating the Greek King Mithridates alongside Lucullus, who despite his large role in the victory, never gained the fame of Pompey. Crassus also gained fame by defeating the rebellion of slaves led by Spartacus in 72 BC. He also gained tremendous wealth, which allowed him to influence many events and back many politicians, including Catiline. However, Crassus was also responsible for informing Cicero of Catiline's rebellion, demonstrating that his favor was limited by his eye for the practical realities of politics.

Gaius Julius Caesar was also a powerful man at the time who had gained fame through his military victories. Flamboyant and charismatic, Caesar used the fame of his family name to help propel his career forward, despite his lack of monetary wealth, and while governor of Spain won many victories against barbarian tribes that earned him widespread support. He was elected consul in 59 BC, and tried to push forward a land bill that would help settle many veterans of Pompey's army throughout Italy. This bill was strongly opposed by the Senate Optimates, led by Cato, Caesar's strongest and most obdurate enemy.

Marcus Porcius Cato, also known as Cato the Younger, was the boldest defender of Republican ideals and believed heavily in their value. Along with Caesar's fellow consul Marcus Calpurnius Bibulus, Cato vehemently opposed the land bill, to the point that Caesar was forced to reveal the informal alliance that had been in existence since 60 BC, between himself, Pompey, and Crassus, known as the First Triumvirate. This alliance was surprising, largely due to the well





known enmity between Pompey and Crassus. However, Caesar had helped bring them together, and the three of them, though informally, effectively ruled the Republic. Cicero had been asked to join the alliance, but had refused. The Triumvirate then, had supported the election of Clodius as Tribune, which had led to Cicero's exile. Despite this, it was also through the help of the Pompey, along with Spinther and Milo, that Cicero's return was engineered. Therefore, despite his opposition to their principles, Cicero never spoke out as strongly against the Triumvirate as men like Cato did, largely because he owed Pompey his political career.

Yet the Triumvirate, built on the shaky foundations of trust between three men, eventually broke down due to inevitable friction between its members. Caesar, following consulship, was made governor of Gaul, and waged a long war against the barbarians in the region, who had long been considered enemies of Rome. This war was, according to the laws Caesar himself had passed, thoroughly illegal, something Cato was not slow to point out. Yet the people largely supported Caesar, who with his many victories achieved both wealth and fame. Pompey, who had once been loved as much as Caesar, resented Caesar's fame, and it was this, in part, that led him to help engineer Cicero's return.

But a more immediate area of tension lay between Crassus and Pompey, which manifested itself in the conflict between the Clodius, tribune of 58 BC, and Milo, tribune of 57 BC. Both men commanded large gangs that wrecked havoc throughout the city in an attempt to maintain power, and engaged in battles many times. Clodius, with the backing of his mob, felt powerful

enough to insult Pompey over the excessive affection he showed his wife Julia, the daughter of Caesar. Though this affection was probably from actual romantic love, it was viewed as emasculating for someone with the prestige and renown of Pompey to show such intense affection, especially in public. Eventually, Clodius' verbal attacks turned physical, and his gang bombarded Pompey and his men throughout the streets of Rome. Pompey understood that Clodius was secretly supported by Crassus, and the tensions between the two men rose. Eventually, everyone in Rome understood that the war between the gangs of Milo and Clodius was really a proxy war between Crassus and Pompey.

The Triumvirate was effectively at an end. As if to cement the division, Julia, Caesar's daughter, and Pompey's wife, died in childbirth in 54 BC, severing the familial link between the Caesar and Pompey.

### **The Future – The Fate of the Republic**

Whatever the course of the next years is, it is clear that the fate of the republic hangs in the events that will unfold. As the year 54 BC draws to a close, and consul elections approach, the gangs of Milo and Clodius continue to sporadically fight for power within the city. Caesar's victories in Gaul have rendered him a popular man, but Cato continues to bitterly oppose him in the Senate, as do many other conservatives. The Triumvirate is broken in all but name.

The looming conflict is, at heart, one between two varying philosophies on the governance of the Roman Republic. The Republican Tradition, espoused by men such as





Cato, sees the Roman Republic as an institution that should be preserved as it was, without Kings such as Tarquin, or dictators such as Sulla, and one in which the Senate, a body seen as embodying the virtues essential to good governances, maintains the power to make enlightened decisions. In contrast reformers such as the Gracchi of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century see the need for change due to the expanding world. They believe that to solve issues such as the distribution of land to the growing number of veterans, or the growing amount of impoverished citizens living within the walls of Rome, some sacrifices must be made and the ideals of the Roman Republic may have to be altered and innovated.

Yet where individual actors fit on this spectrum remains difficult to ascertain. Aside from perhaps Cato, whose staunch beliefs seem to be pure ideals, no one can fit easily into a category. And even Cato has personal feelings and motives that no doubt influence his position, and his apparent ideology may not be as pure as people perceive it to be. As Cicero's moderation and wavering tendencies show, the political world of Rome is dangerous and tricky, and requires politicians to switch loyalties often, and think of their own careers and lives just as much as the ideals and issues they seek to preach.

Therefore, in the impending conflict the concept of winners and losers becomes nebulous. It can be argued that men such as the Gracchi were losers in that they failed to bring about the reforms they preached. And yet they became symbols for the reform movements and their ideals outlasted their lives, and in this sense, they can be seen as victorious. In contrast men such as Lucullus, powerful and famous when he helped defeat the

Greek King Mithridates, had a short-lived legacy that was overshadowed by his fellow general Pompey. Victory, therefore, is not always about winning or losing battles. Men who die can remain powerful as emblems of ideals, martyrs for a cause that grows stronger with their death. And men that live and outlast their enemies can fade away into obscurity, their ideals dying with them, unimportant.

In the following years, as the impending war descends upon Rome, these ideals and personalities will clash. And, as it is, even when it is over and the dust settles around the city once more, it may be unclear who truly won and lost.

#### **Questions to Consider**

1. What is your opinion on the triumvirate, and as it falls apart, what side will you ultimately take, if you take any at all?
2. What should the Senate do to deal with the warfare between Milo and Clodius' gangs and how can the streets of Rome be kept safe?
3. Are Caesar's wars justified, and if not, what should be done about them?
4. How should the larger issue of land distribution, especially to war veterans, be solved?
5. What should be done about the number of impoverished people in Rome?
6. To what extent are you a realistic or an idealist, and which do you believe is more important as a politician?
7. Where do you see the future of Rome? Do you see large social change, or do you see an adherence to previous traditions?





## Characters

*Gaius Julius Caesar (Caesar)* – Caesar is the youngest member of the Triumvirate, and the one who rose in the ranks quickly and efficiently. He is from a noble patrician family, but one with little monetary wealth. For this reason, he focused his career on attaining advancement through the military. Fashionable and very popular, he won astounding victories in both Spain and Gaul. His career includes many highlights that range from becoming high priest of Jupiter at a young age to being elected consul. Even at this stage, Caesar's relative youth in comparison to his partners' in the triumvirate gives him a both an edge in popularity, but also leads him to be feared and mistrusted by the others.

*Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey)* – Pompey rose to fame fighting the Greek King Mithridates and helping quell the rebellion of the slave Spartacus. His father was the famous general Strabo, who was known to be wealthy though disreputable and scheming. Pompey however is much more genial than his father was, and vaulted happily up the chain of command under Sulla. He accepted his immense popularity without complaint, and boasted by holding large triumphs, and building a theatre mirroring those in Greece, a sign of his own patronage to the city of Rome but also of his own wealth and magnificence. Pompey however was never the most effective of politicians despite being elected consul several times. He is much more of a soldier and was at times too honest and kind to participate in the political backstabbing and betrayals that characterized

Roman politicians. Yet due to his immense popularity and wealth, he seems to always be pulled into the fray.

*Marcus Licinius Crassus (Crassus)* – Crassus, the third member of the triumvirate, is by far the richest. Like Pompey, he gained popularity and fame under Sulla, as well as in the Mithridatic Wars and the rebellion of Spartacus. In fact, it was Crassus himself who had won the victory of the Colline Gate during Sulla's war against the Samnites, which had helped establish Sulla as a dictator. As he grew older, Crassus has become known for supporting different candidates with his monetary wealth, and manipulating politics from behind the scenes. The most famous instance of this was his backing of Clodius for Tribune, a move designed to challenge Pompey, with whom he has always had friction. Though they had served together in many different situations, Crassus and Pompey have always had a rivalry that has only deepened as they have now become two of the three most powerful men in Rome.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero (Cicero)* – Cicero is a successful and influential politician who is both very intelligent and politically astute. He rose to fame early in his career as an orator, and served as consul during the famous Catiline Conspiracy, which he helped defeat. Despite this, Cicero was exiled for illegally putting to death several members of the conspiracy, a charge engineered by Clodius, who became, and still is, a political enemy of Cicero. Upon his return from exile, Cicero was a much more humble and moderate politician. Though he clearly believes in the ideals of the republic and in the value of tradition, he





understands the importance of moderation and political subtlety, which separates him from men like Cato.

*Publius Clodius Pulcher (Clodius)* – Clodius is a young man who is part of a newer generation of Roman aristocratic politicians, that also includes Curio and Caelius, and that is characterized by more openly frivolous and sexual behavior as well as a cunning and scheming political nature. Aside from the rumors that he has had sexual relations with his sister Claudia, Clodius is most famous for the Good Goddess incident, where he was discovered to have disguised himself as a woman and snuck into a female-only ritual in honor of the Good Goddess. Clodius, however, was acquitted in his trial thanks to Curio, and grew to become powerful and influential, eventually becoming a Tribune and gaining control of a large group of street gangs that he uses against his political enemies.

*Marcus Porcius Cato Uticensis (Cato)* – A staunch believer in the traditional republican values, Cato is the leader of the Optimate faction within the senate, and bitterly opposes the Triumvirate. Though he never held higher offices such as the consulship, he is an influential politician who never gives in to compromise as Cicero would sometimes do, and fights hard on every issue. Instead of immersing himself into the petty political intrigues, Cato relies on his ideals to guide him, a tactic that makes him many enemies, but also makes him unique amongst the Roman politicians.

*Marcus Caelius Rufus (Caelius)* – A friend of Clodius, and one of the younger generation of Roman politicians looked down upon for their frivolity and their cunning natures, Caelius is a politician who cares less about ideals and more about self-preservation. There are rumors that he had been having an affair with Claudia, Clodius' sister, who had also been accused of sleeping with her own brother. Though he is generally allied with Crassus, he is willing to shift allegiances when necessary. It was said that Caelius had a crucial role in relaying information to Cicero regarding the Catiline conspiracy. Yet Caelius also had a foremost role in prosecuting Hybrida, Cicero's co-consul during the Catiline Conspiracy for his illegal role in executing the victims. Similarly, Caelius also helped his friend Clodius engineer Cicero's exile.

*Marcus Junius Brutus (Brutus)*- Brutus is a young man with a large amount of social and political ties that at times led to conflicting loyalties. His father had been a victim of Pompey's during the first civil war, and his mother Servilia was Caesar's lover. Yet he is also the son-in-law and nephew of Cato. It was also his family that were said to have been the ones who overthrew the last King Tarquin. Brutus therefore, has the traditional values of the republic running through his veins. Yet at the same time, his friendships and social ties lead him to continually question where his loyalties truly lie.

*Gaius Cassius Longinus (Cassius)* – Brutus' brother-in-law and friend, who grew up with him and studied with him. He had a military posting before becoming senator, and rose to some fame under the armies of Crassus, whom he respected.





His military skill is recognized by others, and it was said that Cicero himself sent him a letter of congratulations after a famous battle.

*Titus Pomponius Atticus (Atticus)* – Atticus is Cicero's greatest friend and ally, and their correspondence is historically famous in its detail. During Cicero's exile, Atticus was his source of information from Rome, as well as consolation for Cicero's troubles. Though he favors the Optimates in the Senate, Atticus does his best to distance himself from political machinations to focus on literature and philosophy. However, like everyone else, he has to ultimately decide where his loyalties fall.

*Gaius Scribonius Curio (Curio)* – A former consul and good friend with both Clodius and Caelius, it was Curio who helped create an alibi for Clodius during the Great Goddess incident and save him from punishment. Rumored to have been a lover of Marc Antony, Curio's political career mirrors that of his friends Clodius and Caelius, in that their goals have more to do with power and personal prestige than with ideals.

*Marcus Antonius (Antony)* – The young nephew of Hybrida, Antony was rumored to have been a lover of both Curio and Clodius' wife Fulvia, characterizing him as a flamboyant and frivolous type. He has a good friendship with Caesar, and is a successful military commander who tends to gain more honor on the battlefield than off.

*Titus Annius Milo Papianus (Milo)* – A friend of Cicero's and a tool of Pompey's in the proxy war with Crassus over the streets of Rome, Milo is a

supporter of republican and traditionalist ideals, but more because he sees it as a means to power than because he believes highly in the ideology. He helped Cicero return from exile, and became Clodius' bitterest enemy, fighting him in the streets with his gangs until this moment.

*Marcus Calpurnius Bibulus (Bibulus)* – Bibulus served as consul alongside Caesar in 59 BC, but was largely ineffective. He attempted to act as a moderating agent to Caesar's radical agenda, yet he was more of a puppet of the Optimates in the senate than anything else. When Bibulus attempted to veto Caesar's land bill, he was attacked by Caesar's supporters and forced to leave the Senate. Despite his ineffective consulship, Bibulus remains an influential politician, and has close ties with Pompey. He is also a son-in-law of Cato.

*Marcus Aemilius Lepidus (Lepidus)* – Lepidus is a military man serving under Julius Caesar, where he grew to greatly respect his commander's abilities. His father had been killed in a previous rebellion against the Roman Republic, so Lepidus has been raised against the traditional values of the republic, which he sees as having destroyed his own family.

*Publius Servilius Vatia Isauricus (Vatia)* – Vatia is a politician of the Optimates faction in the senate. His father had been a consul, and influential in his time, but had retired from politics as he grew older. Vatia however also has a close friendship with Caesar, which may come into conflict with his Optimist beliefs.





*Metellus Scipio (Scipio)* – A Roman politician and famous military commander, Scipio is a staunch Optimate and a believer in the traditionalist values of the republic. In addition, he maintains a close friendship with Pompey.

*Gaius Sallustius Crispus (Sallust)* – A relative newcomer into the political world, Sallust is an educated man and a good friend to Julius Caesar. He opposes the Optimate faction and is also strong enemies with Cicero and Milo. He views the old aristocracy of Rome as corrupt, and refuses to believe that adherence to tradition would be better for the city than change that men such as the Gracchi had promised.

*Publius Cornelius Lentulus Spinther (Spinther)* – Spinther, nicknamed so after a popular actor of his time whose oratorical style he mirrored, is good friends with Cicero, who he helped to discover and defeat the Catiline Conspiracy, and was instrumental, along with Milo, in helping return Cicero from exile. He is also closely connected with both Caesar and Pompey, who helped him become consul in 57 BC. Though Spinther's ideological beliefs are hard to gauge, he makes many friends in high places that help propel his political career forward.

*Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus (Domitius)* – Domitius served as consul in 54 BC and strongly supported, and still does support, the Optimate faction in the Senate. He highly disapproves of Caesar's military campaigns, and is an outspoken enemy of the general. Domitius also, however, disapproves of Pompey, who he sees as very similar to Caesar. Instead, much like Cato,

Domitius believes in the ideals of a republic uncorrupted by any Triumvirate or dictator.

*Publius Cornelius Dolabella (Dolabella)* – Dolabella is the son-in-law of Cicero, and married to his daughter Tullia, whom Cicero adores. Though he comes from a Plebian family, he rose to prominence as a military man. Despite being young, Dolabella maintains a detached outlook on the political situation, and prefers not to get too involved, as other young politicians such as Clodius or Caelius do. He rarely supported any ideological cause, and, even more so than his father-in-law, attempts to remain moderate.

*Gaius Antonius Hybrida (Hybrida)* – Hybrida served as consul alongside Cicero in 63 BC, and was much older than many of his other fellow politicians. He was a military commander early in his career under Sulla, and grew infamous during the Mithridatic Wars for his plundering and looting. Hybrida is the son of a famous orator, Marcus Antonius, whom Cicero worshipped, yet he has little of his father's skill. Hybrida's moment of glory came when he helped Cicero defeat Catiline, yet he was later convicted in a trial by Caelius for his brutish actions, leaving him disgraced and Caelius perceived as a hero.

*Quintus Cassius Longinus (Quintus)* – Quintus is the brother of Cassius, and yet holds opposite beliefs. Instead of supporting the Optimates, Quintus is a supporter of Caesar, with whom he has and maintains a close friendship. Unlike other Caesar supporters however, such as Sallust, Quintus is less ideologically inclined to Caesar's





cause and more inclined towards expanding his own influence and power.

*Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus (Decimus)* –

Another one of the young generation of politicians, Decimus spends time with Clodius, Caelius, and Curio. However, he also maintains close relations with Caesar, and it was rumored that he was Caesar's bastard son (though this same rumor was said to be true of Decimus' cousin, Brutus). Like his cousin, Decimus' ideology conflicts with his various political and social ties.

*Appius Claudius Pulcher (Appius)* – Brother of the more famous and controversial Clodius, Appius was consul in 54 BC, and helped his brother in many ways. He is much more haughty and much less crafty, and while this means he didn't get into as much trouble as his brother, it also means he is less loved by the people, and less able to influence them. He maintains ties with Caesar and Pompey, and is willing to make whatever ideological compromises necessary to keep him and his family in power.





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