

Section

3

The Fall of the Republic

Guide to Reading

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

By the end of the Third Punic War, Rome ruled the Mediterranean world. All was not well, however. Closer to home, the republic faced increasing dangers that would soon lead to its end.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- The use of enslaved labor hurt farmers, increased poverty and corruption, and brought the army into politics. (page 436)
- Military hero Julius Caesar seized power and made reforms. (page 438)
- The Roman Republic, weakened by civil wars, became an empire under Augustus. (page 440)

Meeting People

Julius Caesar

(jool•yuhs SEE•zuhr)

Octavian (ahk•TAY•vee•uhn)

Antony (AN•tuh•nee)

Cicero (SIH•suh•ROH)

Augustus (aw•GUHS•tuhs)

Locating Places

Rubicon (ROO•bih•KAHN)

Actium (AK•shee•uhm)

Content Vocabulary

latifundia (LA•tuh•FUHN•dee•uh)

triumvirate (try•UHM•vuh•ruht)

Academic Vocabulary

despite (dih•SPYT)

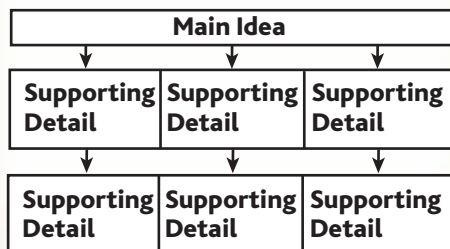
estate (ih•TAYT)

sole (SOHL)

foundation (fown•DAY•shuhn)

Reading Strategy

Finding the Main Idea Use a chart like the one below to identify the main ideas of Section 3 and supporting details.



History Social Science Standards

WH6.7 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures during the development of Rome.



Where & When?



100 B.C.

82 B.C.

Sulla becomes dictator of Rome

60 B.C.

44 B.C.

Group of senators murder Julius Caesar

20 B.C.

27 B.C.

Octavian becomes Rome's first emperor



WH6.7.1 Identify the location and describe the rise of the Roman Republic, including the importance of such mythical and historical figures as Aeneas, Romulus and Remus, Cincinnatus, Julius Caesar, and Cicero.

Trouble in the Republic

Main Idea The use of enslaved labor hurt farmers, increased poverty and corruption, and brought the army into politics.

Reading Connection Poverty, corruption, unemployment, crime, and violence are problems we hear about today. Read on to learn how the Romans struggled with these same issues 2,000 years ago.

Rome’s armies were victorious wherever they went. Yet problems were building at home. As you read in Section 2, most of the people who ruled Rome were patricians—rich people who owned large farms. These rich landowners ran the Senate and held the most powerful government jobs. They handled Rome’s finances and directed its wars. **Despite** some gains for the plebeians, many people became very unhappy about this situation.

Problems for Farmers Rome had few privileged citizens compared with the many Romans who farmed small plots of land. In the 100s B.C., however, these farmers were sinking into poverty and debt. Why? Many of them had been unable to farm because they were fighting in Rome’s wars. Others had suffered damage to their farms during Hannibal’s invasion of Italy.

Moreover, owners of small farms could not compete with the new **latifundia** (LA•tuh•FUHN•dee•uh), or large farming **estates** created by wealthy Romans. The latifundia were tended by a new source of labor—the thousands of prisoners captured during

Rome’s wars. By using enslaved labor, the latifundia could produce cheap crops and drive small farms out of business.

Faced with debts they could not pay off, many farmers sold their land and headed to the cities, desperate for work. However, jobs were hard to find, and wages were low. Enslaved people did most of the work. These conditions created widespread anger.

Roman politicians quickly turned the situation to their advantage. To win the votes of the poor, they began providing cheap food and entertainment. This policy of “bread and circuses” helped many dishonest rulers come to power.

Why Did Reform Fail? Not all wealthy people ignored the problems facing the Roman Republic. Two prominent officials who worked for reforms were Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus (GRA•kuhs). These brothers thought that many of Rome’s problems were caused by the loss of small farms. They asked the Senate to take back public land from the rich and divide it among landless Romans.

This issue concerned many senators who had claimed parcels of public land. Putting their own interests above the general welfare, they rejected the Gracchus brothers’ proposals. A band of senators even went so far as to kill Tiberius in 133 B.C. Twelve years later, Gaius met the same fate.

The Army Enters Politics For most of Rome’s history, the army had stayed out of politics. This changed when a general named Marius became consul in 107 B.C. Previously, most soldiers were owners of small farms. Now because this type of farmer was disappearing, Marius began to recruit soldiers from the poor. In return for their service, he paid them wages and promised them the one thing they desperately wanted—land.

History online

Web Activity Visit ca.hss.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 9—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the rise of Rome.





Marius changed the Roman army from citizen volunteers to paid professional soldiers. The new troops, however, felt loyal to their general, not to the Roman Republic. This gave individual generals a great deal of influence and good reason to become involved in politics. Their goal was to get laws passed that would provide the land they had promised their soldiers.

Marius's new military system led to new power struggles. It was not long before Marius faced a challenge from a rival general with his own army, a man named Sulla.

In 82 B.C. Sulla drove his enemies out of Rome and made himself dictator.

Over the next three years, Sulla changed the government. He weakened the Council of the Plebs and strengthened the Senate. After he left power, Rome plunged into an era of civil wars for the next 50 years. Ambitious men saw how Sulla used an army to seize power. They decided to follow the same path.

Reading Check Explain What change did Marius make to the Roman army?

Linking Past & Present

Rights for Farmers

PAST Tiberius Gracchus and his brother Gaius believed Rome's problems could be solved by giving poor people their own farms. Gaius also wanted to give tax money to owners of small farms. Wealthy landowners opposed this idea because most tax money came from taxes on their large farms. When Roman leaders tried to undo the Gracchi reforms, riots erupted, and both brothers were killed.

▼ César Chávez



▲ Tiberius Gracchus



PRESENT Farmworkers have faced problems throughout history. In the United States, farmworkers in the Southwest were paid very low wages. In the 1960s and 1970s, César Chávez organized the United Farm Workers union. He used strikes, boycotts, and protest marches to convince farm owners to deal with the union.

Why do you think farmers and farmworkers often have economic problems?



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WH6.7.4 Discuss the influence of Julius Caesar and Augustus in Rome's transition from republic to empire.

Julius Caesar

Main Idea Military hero **Julius Caesar** seized power and made reforms.

Reading Connection Did you know that George Washington, Andrew Jackson, William H. Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant, and Dwight D. Eisenhower all commanded armies before becoming president? Read to learn about a famous Roman who made a similar jump from military leader to political leader.

After Sulla left office, different Roman leaders battled for power, supported by their loyal armies. In 60 B.C. three men were on top: Crassus, Pompey, and **Julius Caesar** (jool•yuhs SEE•zuhl). Crassus was a military leader and one of the richest men in Rome. Pompey and Caesar were not as rich, but both were successful military men. Drawing on their wealth and power, they formed the First Triumvirate to rule Rome. A **triumvirate** (try•UHM•vuh•ruht) is a political alliance of three people.

Caesar's Military Campaigns The members of the Triumvirate each had a military command in a remote area of the republic. Pompey was in Spain, Crassus in Syria, and Caesar in Gaul (modern France). While in Gaul, Caesar battled foreign tribes and invaded Britain. He became a hero to Rome's lower classes. Senators and others back home in Rome feared that Caesar was becoming too popular and might seize power like Sulla or Marius.

After Crassus was killed in battle in 53 B.C., the Senate decided that Pompey should return to Italy and rule alone. In 49 B.C. the Senate ordered Caesar to give up his army and come home. Caesar faced a difficult choice. He could obey the Senate and perhaps face prison or death at the hands of his rivals, or he could march on Rome with his army and risk a civil war.

Caesar decided to hold on to his 5,000 loyal soldiers. He marched into Italy by crossing the **Rubicon** (ROO•bih•KAHN), a

Caesar's Rise to Power

Caesar was part of the First Triumvirate, whose members are shown below.

▼ A scene showing a battle between Romans and Gauls





(l)SuperStock, (c)Museo e Gallerie Nazionali di Capodimonte, Naples, Italy/Bridgeman Art Library, (r)Mary Evans Picture Library

small river at the southern boundary of his command area. By doing so, Caesar knew that he was starting a civil war and that there was no turning back. The phrase “crossing the Rubicon” is used today to mean making a decision that you cannot take back.

Pompey tried to stop Caesar, but Caesar was the better general. He drove Pompey’s forces from Italy and then destroyed Pompey’s army in Greece in 48 B.C.

Caesar’s Rise to Power In 44 B.C. Caesar had himself declared dictator of Rome for life. This broke with the Roman tradition that allowed dictators to hold power for only short periods of time. To strengthen his hold on power, Caesar filled the Senate with new members who were loyal to him.

At the same time, Caesar knew that reforms were needed. He granted citizenship to people living in Rome’s territories outside the Italian peninsula. He started new colonies to provide land for the landless and created work for Rome’s jobless people. He ordered landowners using slave labor to hire

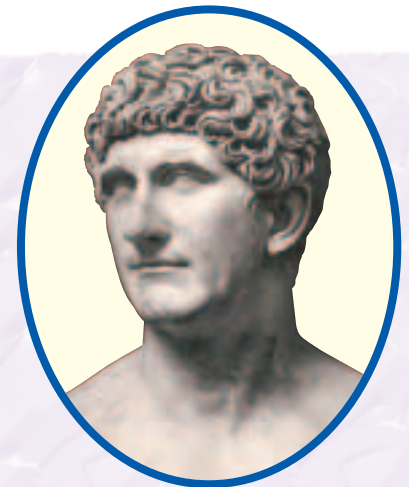
more free workers. These measures made Caesar popular with Rome’s poor.

Caesar also created a new calendar with 12 months, 365 days, and a leap year. The Julian calendar, as it was called, was used throughout Europe until A.D. 1582. That year it was modified slightly to become the Gregorian calendar. This calendar, based on the birth of Christ, has been used in the United States since its beginning and is used by most countries in the world today.

While many Romans supported Caesar, others did not. His supporters believed he was a strong leader who brought peace and order to Rome. His enemies, however, feared that Caesar wanted to be king. These opponents, led by the senators Brutus and Cassius, plotted to kill him. Caesar ignored a famous warning to “beware the Ides of March” (March 15). On that date in 44 B.C., Caesar’s enemies surrounded him and stabbed him to death.

Reading Check Explain Why did Brutus, Cassius, and others kill Caesar?

▼ Caesar crossing the Rubicon



Brutus (left) was one of the senators who killed Caesar. Antony (above) supported Caesar and his nephew Octavian and fought against Caesar’s assassins.



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Rome Becomes an Empire

Main Idea The Roman Republic, weakened by civil wars, became an empire under Augustus.

Reading Connection Have you ever been in a traffic jam and wished that a police officer would show up to get things moving? Read on to learn how Romans welcomed the arrival of a strong new ruler.

Caesar's death plunged Rome into another civil war. On one side were forces led by the men who had killed Caesar. On the other side was Caesar's grandnephew **Octavian** (ahk•TAY•vee•uhn), who had inherited Caesar's wealth, and two of Caesar's top generals, **Antony** (AN•tuh•nee) and Lepidus. After defeating Caesar's assassins, these three men created the Second Triumvirate in 43 B.C.

The Second Triumvirate The members of the Second Triumvirate began quarreling almost at once. Octavian soon forced Lepidus to retire from politics. Then the two remaining leaders divided the Roman world between themselves. Octavian took the west; Antony took the east.

In short order, though, Octavian and Antony came into conflict. Antony fell in love with the Egyptian queen Cleopatra VII and formed an alliance with her. Octavian told the Romans that Antony, with Cleopatra's help, planned to make himself the **sole** ruler of the republic. This alarmed many Romans and convinced Octavian to declare war on Antony.

In 31 B.C., at the Battle of **Actium** (AK•shee•uhm) off the west coast of Greece, Octavian crushed the army and navy of

Primary Source

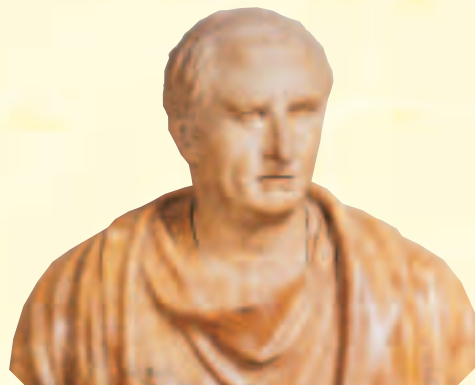
Cicero Calls for War

▼ Cicero

This excerpt is from Cicero's sixth speech about the struggle between Octavian and Antony (Marcus Antonius):

"Therefore, when I saw that a nefarious [evil] war was waged against the republic, I thought that no delay ought to be interposed to our pursuit of Marcus Antonius; and I gave my vote that we ought to pursue with war that most audacious [bold] man, who . . . was at this moment attacking a general of the Roman people. . . . I said further, that . . . the garb of war should be assumed by the citizens, in order that all men might apply themselves with more activity and energy to avenging the injuries of the republic."

—Cicero, "The Sixth Oration of M.T. Cicero Against Marcus Antonius"



DBQ Document-Based Question

Why did Cicero want Rome to fight Antony?



Antony and Cleopatra. The couple then fled to Egypt. A year later, as Octavian closed in, they killed themselves. Octavian, at the age of 32, now stood alone at the top of the Roman world. The period of civil wars was over, but so was the republic. Octavian would lay the **foundation** for a new system of government—the Roman Empire.

Who Was Augustus? Octavian could have made himself dictator for life, like Julius Caesar did. He knew, though, that many people favored a republican form of government. One such person was **Cicero** (SIH•suh•ROH), a political leader, writer, and Rome’s greatest public speaker. Cicero had argued against dictators and called for a representative government with limited powers.

Cicero’s speeches and books swayed many Romans. Centuries later, his ideas

would also influence the writers of the United States Constitution.

Although Cicero did not live to see Octavian rule, he had supported him, hoping he would restore the republic. In 27 B.C. Octavian announced that he was doing just that.

He knew the Senate wanted this form of government. However, Octavian also knew that the republic had been too weak to solve Rome’s problems. Although he gave some power to the Senate, he really put himself in charge. His title, *imperator*, translates to “commander in chief,” but it came to mean “emperor.” Octavian also took the title of **Augustus** (aw•GUHS•tuhs)—“the revered or majestic one.” From this point on, he was known by this name.

Reading Check Explain How did the Battle of Actium affect the history of Rome?

Section 3 Review

History Online
Study Central Need help understanding how the republic collapsed? Visit ca.hss.glencoe.com and click on Study Central.

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

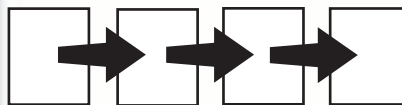
- As the gap between the ruling class and the poor in Rome increased, a number of reforms failed, and generals began to gather power.
- Julius Caesar became dictator and carried out reforms to aid Rome’s poor. Later he was assassinated by members of the Senate.
- Caesar’s grandnephew Octavian defeated Antony and Cleopatra and became Augustus, the first Roman emperor.

What Did You Learn?

1. What is a triumvirate?
2. Who was Cicero, and how did he influence the writers of the United States Constitution?
5. **The Big Ideas** How did failures in leadership help bring about the fall of the republic? What new leaders took power as a result? **CA HR5; HI3.**

Critical Thinking

3. **Understanding Cause and Effect** Draw a diagram like the one below. Fill in the chain of events that led to Julius Caesar taking power. **CA CS2.**
6. **Analyze** What reforms did Julius Caesar put in place that increased his popularity with poor and working-class Romans? **CA 6RC2.0**



4. **Summarize** What reforms did the Gracchus brothers suggest? **CA 6RC2.4**
7. **Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are a Roman citizen. Decide whether you would have been for or against Julius Caesar’s rise to power and his reforms. Then write a newspaper editorial explaining your views. **CA 6RC2.1; 6WA2.5**



You Decide . . .



WH6.7.4 Discuss the influence of Julius Caesar and Augustus in Rome's transition from republic to empire.

Nimatallah/Art Resource, NY

Was Caesar a Reformer or a Dictator?

Great Reformer

During his life, Julius Caesar was greatly admired by many people. He was also hated and feared by many others. Some believed he was too ambitious—exceptionally eager for fame and power—and that his ambition would keep him from acting in Rome's best interest.

Was Caesar a great reformer or an ambitious dictator? Those who saw him as a great leader and reformer said that he

- won the support of his soldiers through his military leadership and strategy
- treated many of his defeated enemies generously and appointed some of them—including Brutus—to government positions
- ended the rule of corrupt Roman nobles
- brought order and peace to Rome
- restored cities that had been destroyed by the republic
- strengthened and expanded the state of Rome
- started public jobs programs to aid the poor
- granted Roman citizenship to people from foreign countries or states.



▲ The assassination of Julius Caesar

Ambitious Dictator

Caesar also had many enemies, including some who had been his friends. They saw Caesar as a dangerous dictator and thought he was taking advantage of his growing power.

- They said that he
- became an enemy when he refused to follow the Senate's order to return to Rome
 - started a civil war that led to the destruction of the republic
 - increased the number of senators to add to his number of supporters
 - treated his defeated enemies with cruelty
 - punished those who wanted to uphold the traditions and laws of the republic
 - weakened the Senate to gain absolute power over Rome
 - kept hidden any facts that did not make him look brave and intelligent
 - sought glory for himself at the expense of the republic.



▲ Julius Caesar

You Be the Historian

Checking for Understanding

1. Define *ambition*. Identify some ways ambition can be a positive characteristic and some ways it can be a negative characteristic. **CA 6RW1.2**
2. What could Caesar have done to show his enemies that he was not abusing his power? **CA HI.2.**
3. Do you think Caesar was a great leader and reformer or an ambitious dictator? Write a brief essay that explains how you view Caesar. Use facts to support your position. **CA HR5.**
CA 6WA2.5