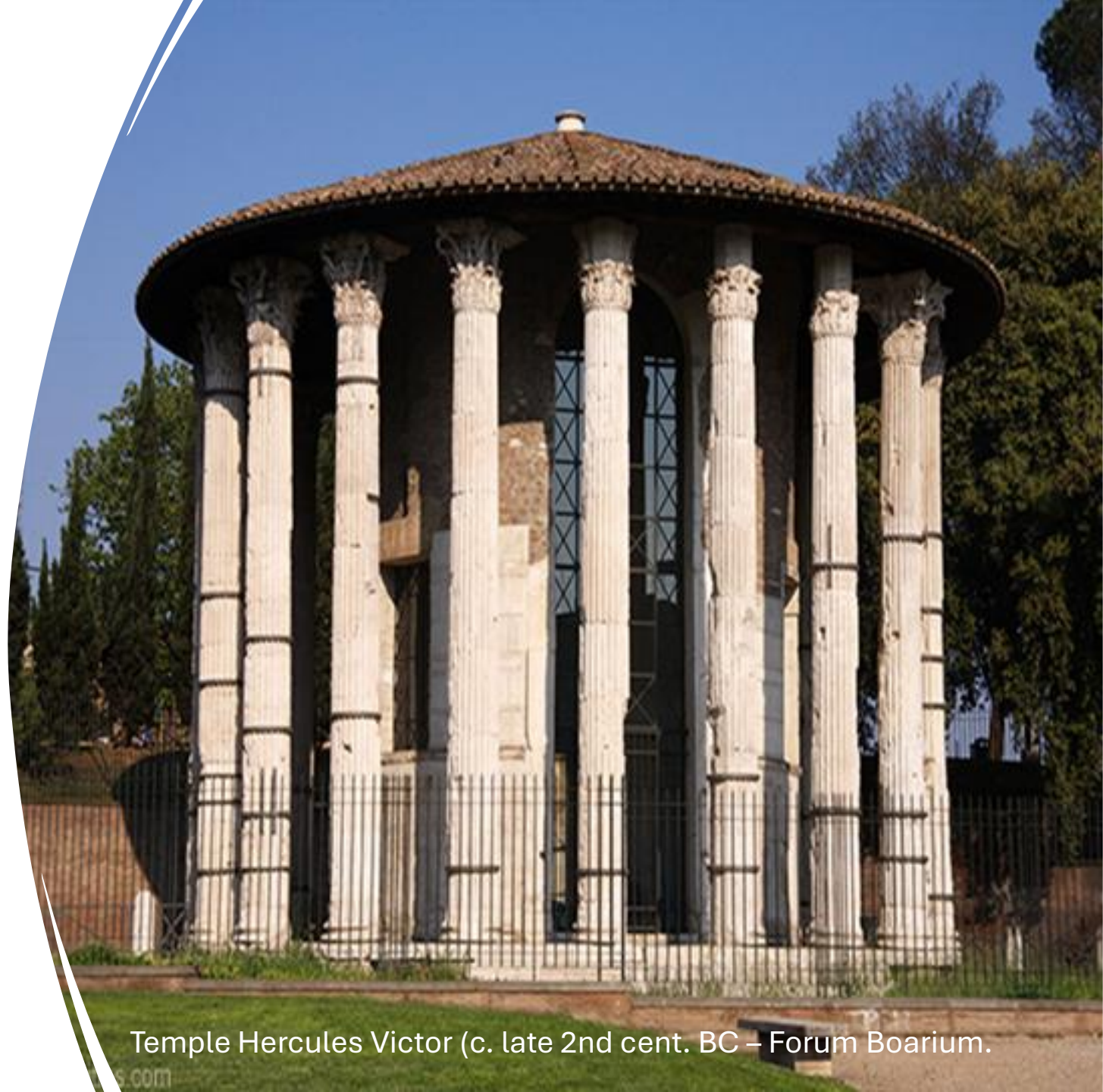


Culture, Politics and Corruption

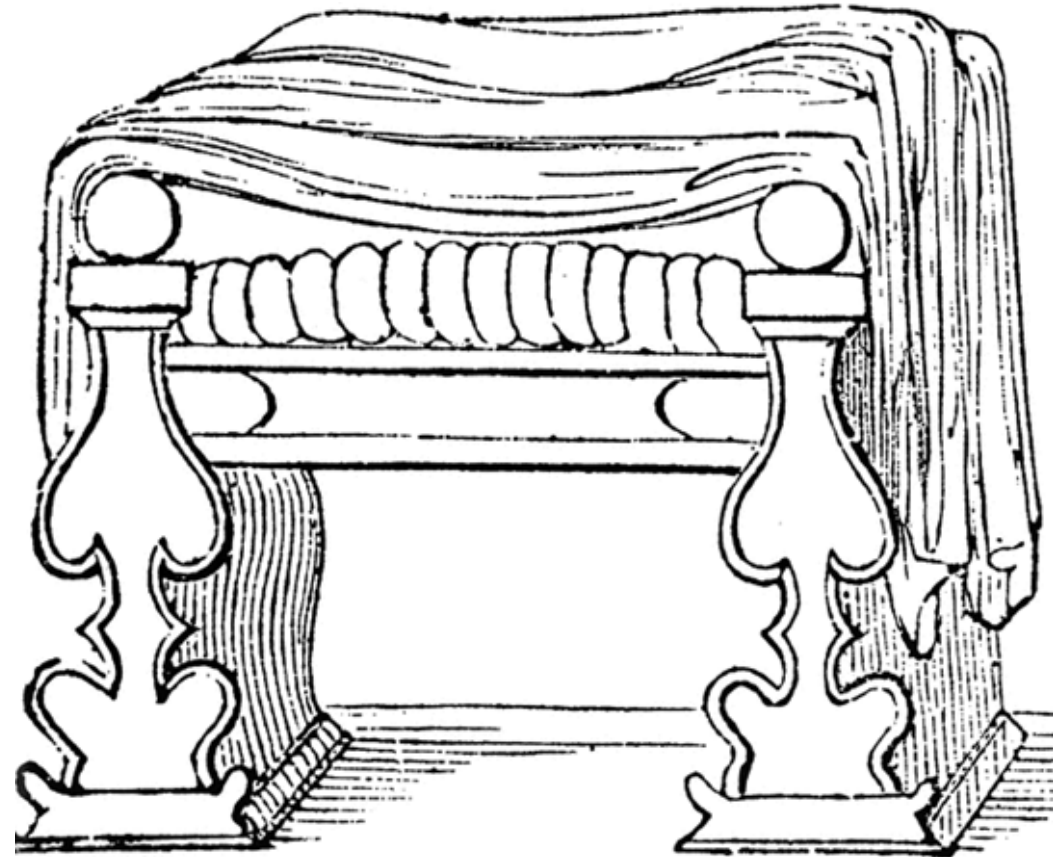
The Life and Times of
Caesar and Cicero
(HPAH5046/6046)



Temple Hercules Victor (c. late 2nd cent. BC – Forum Boarium.

Engaging with the “Greek world”

- Crisis at Rome and the introduction of Greek rites:
 - *lectisternium* held in Rome (217 BC) – Livy 22.10.9.
- Fabius Pictor sent to consult the oracle at Delphi (216 BC).
 - Games to Apollo instituted in 212 BC (put on regular basis in 208).
- Black stone of Magna Mater brought from Pergamum.
 - Meet at Ostia by Scipio Nasica I and a procession of Roman Matrons.
 - Games begun in 194 BC.





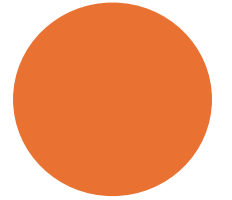
Adapting Greek Drama and Epic

- Adaptations by Livius Andronicus and Naevius (late 3rd cent. BC).
 - Dress and settings notionally “Greek” – less emphasis on choruses and musical element transferred to actors.
- Comedies of Terence and Plautus (2nd cent. BC), performed at public festivals.
Dramatists celebrating famous Romans.
 - Plays often ending in recognition, reconciliation and marriage.



Innovation

- Rise of oratory and rhetoric as a means of distinguishing oneself:
 - e.g. Cicero as advocate and publishing speeches.
- Greek architectural elements adapted to Roman tastes.
 - Roman commanders and making *vota*.
- Development of coinage production techniques.
- Veristic style portraiture.



Intellectual cultivation (1st cent. BC)

- Studies in the Greek East.
- Literary activity as elite pastime.
- Also, the rise of “independent” writer.
 - e.g. Catullus.
- Grappling with Greek philosophy, Cicero’s *On Duties*.
 - 2nd cent. BC works mostly didactic summaries.
 - e.g. Question traditional values, e.g. Lucretius.



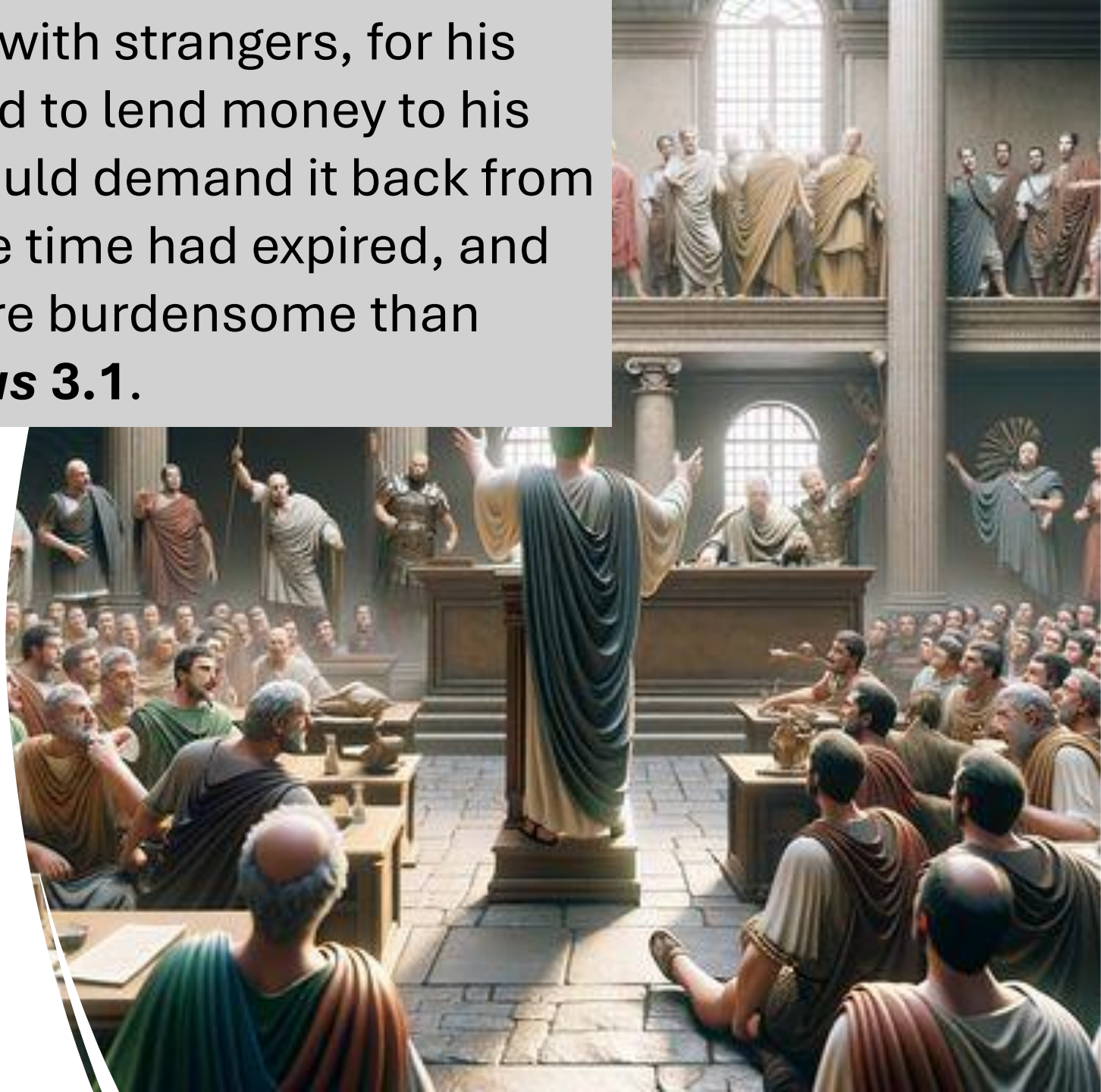
Plato's Academy mosaic, Pompeii (Naples Archaeological Museum)



Competition, Corruption and the Trial of Verres

“However, Crassus was generous with strangers, for his house was open to all; and he used to lend money to his friends without interest, but he would demand it back from the borrower relentlessly when the time had expired, and so the gratuity of the loan was more burdensome than heavy interest.” – **Plutarch *Crassus* 3.1.**

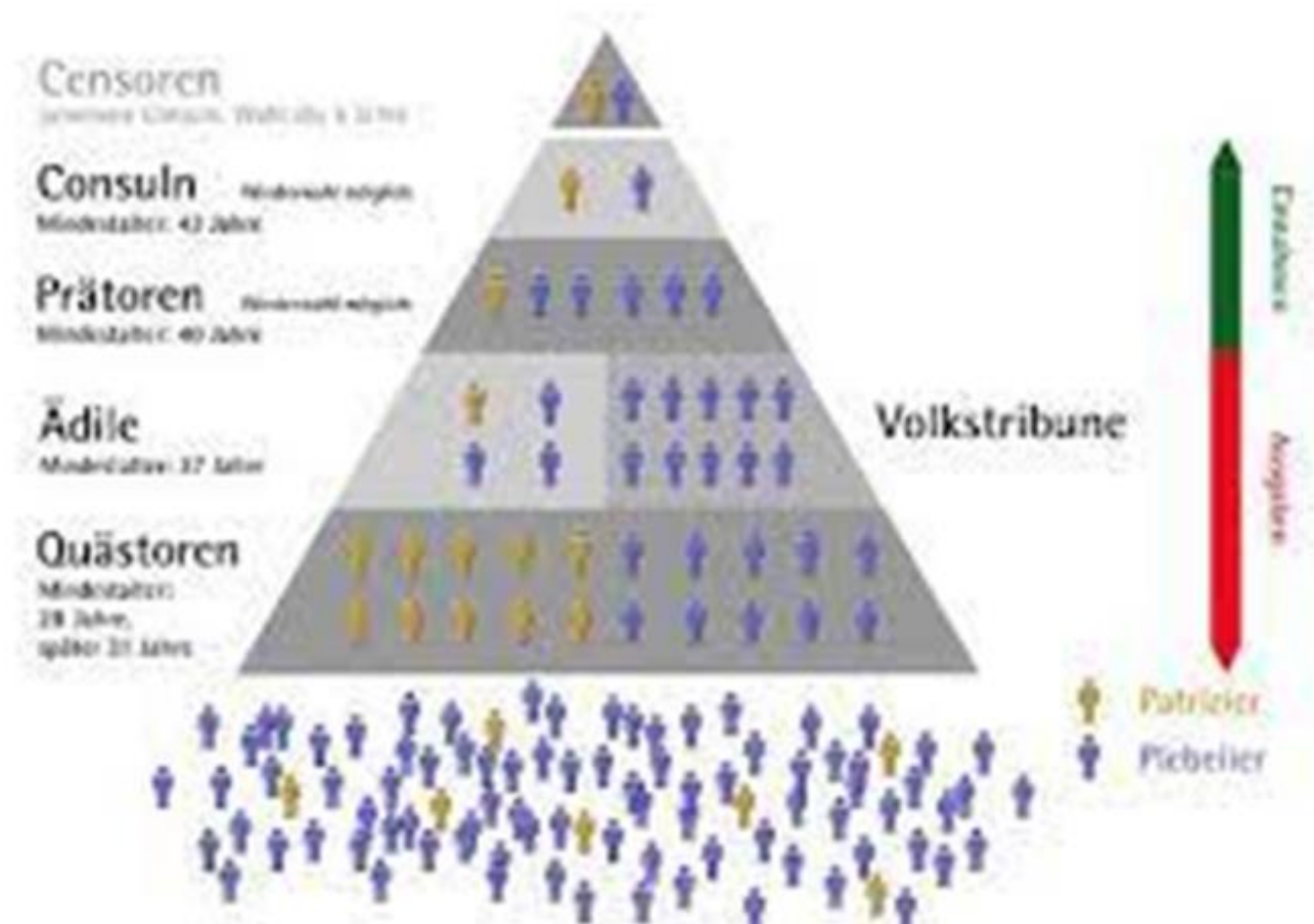
- Gaining electoral success:
 - Networks of patronage and favour.
 - Pedigree and a good reputation.
 - E.g. generous and capable as an aedile.
- Military success.
 - But need an office with *imperium*.
- Advocacy and jurisprudence.
 - Acting as defence in trials.
 - Jurists offering advice.



Politics and Corruption

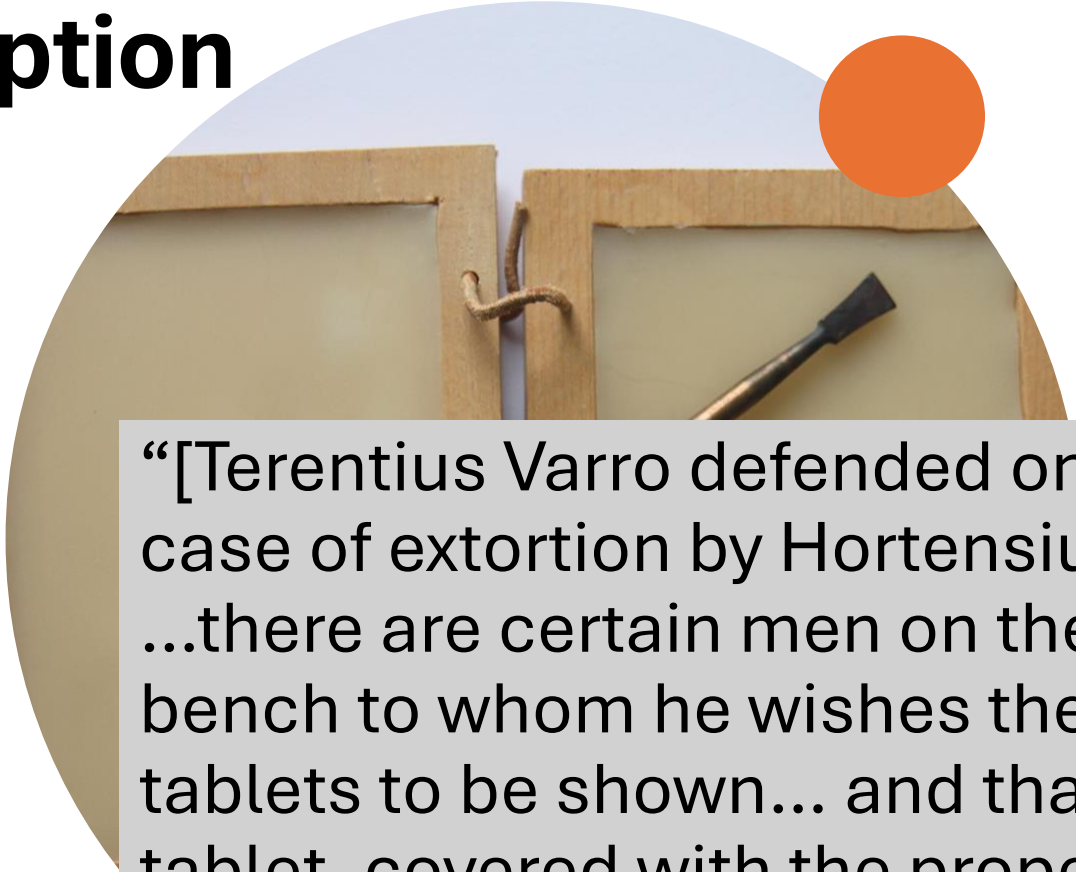
- Minor magistracies costly.
- Expense of political campaigns.
 - Bribes, lavish spectacles, building works etc.
- More competition in the system.
- Provincial administration (corruption).
 - Raise money, pay off debts.

“[63 BC] The day for the election came, and as Caesar's mother accompanied him to the door in tears, he kissed her and said: ‘Mother, today you shall see your son either Pontifex Maximus or an exile’.” – **Plut. *Julius Caesar* 7.3.**



Attempts to Restrain Corruption

- Reform of law courts – equites and *tribuni aerarii* alongside senators.
- Accuser and accused chose 100 senators from list set up by the Urban Praetor.
- Judges to vote by secret ballot.

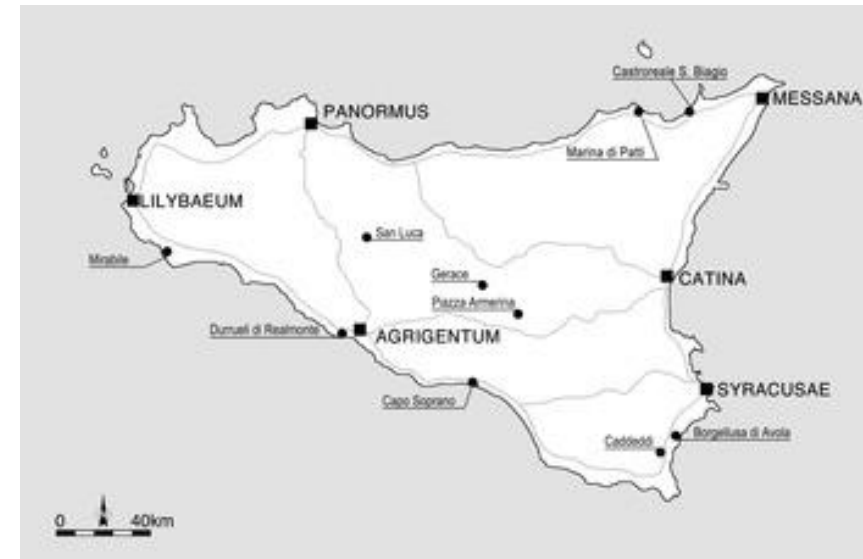


“[Terentius Varro defended on a case of extortion by Hortensius] ...there are certain men on the bench to whom he wishes their tablets to be shown... and that a tablet, covered with the proper wax, and not with that illegal wax which has given so much scandal...” – **Cicero *Divinatio against Q. Caecilius* 24.**

The rapacious Governor

- Verres returns to Rome after propraetorship of Sicily (70 BC).
- Gave evidence against Dolabella, governor of Cilicia in 80 BC.
- Extortion, abuse of contracts, pilfering from temples and private households; abusing Roman citizens.

“Can you deny this, Verres, that in the forum, at Lilybaeum, in the presence of a numerous body of inhabitants, Gaius Servilius, a Roman citizen, an old trader of the group of settlers at Panormus, was beaten to the ground by rods and scourges before your tribunal, before your very feet?” – **Cicero *Against Verres* II 5.54.140.**





Trail of Verres

- Sicilian communities send delegation to the senate.
- Cicero, as patron, acts as advocate (“prosecutor”) in the trail – Hortensius defends Verres.
- Attempts to stall the case.
 - M. Caecilius Metellus would be Urban Praetor and Q. Caecilius Metellus Creticus and Hortensius would be Consuls in 69 BC.
- Trail began on 5th August – 3 days into the prosecution’s case Verres flees to Massalia (Marseilles).