

Lecture 18 Caesar's Legacy and the Rise of Octavian

Basic chronology

63 BC: birth of Marcus Octavius, later Octavian
15 March 44 BC: Caesar's assassination
May 44 BC: Caesar's murderers leave Rome
February-March 43: siege of Mutina
November 43: Second Triumvirate; proscriptions; division of the Empire between Octavian, Antony and Lepidus
October 42: battle of Philippi
40 BC: Treaty of Brundisium
38-36 BC: war between Octavian and Sextus Pompeius
36 BC: Antony abortive attack against Parthia
34 BC: Antony controls Armenia; 'Donations of Alexandria'
32 BC: Octavian declares war against Cleopatra and Antony; 'the whole of Italy' swears loyalty to him
31 BC: Battle of Actium
30 BC: Conquest of Egypt; Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide; Octavian returns to Italy
28-27 BC: constitutional settlement

Essential literary sources

- Cicero (105-43 BC), *Philippics*, *Letters to Atticus*, *Letters to His Friends*
- Augustus (AD 14), *Res Gestae*
- Suetonius (ca. AD 63-after 120), *Life of Divus Augustus*
- Plutarch (ca. AD 46-120), *Life of Antony*
- Appian (c. AD 95-165), *The Civil Wars*, books 3-5
- Cassius Dio (AD 155-235?), *Roman History*, books 44-52.

Modern bibliography

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J. Osgood, *Caesar's Legacy. Civil War and the Emergence of the Roman Empire*, Cambridge 2006.

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