

JULIUS CAESAR AND HIS TIMES

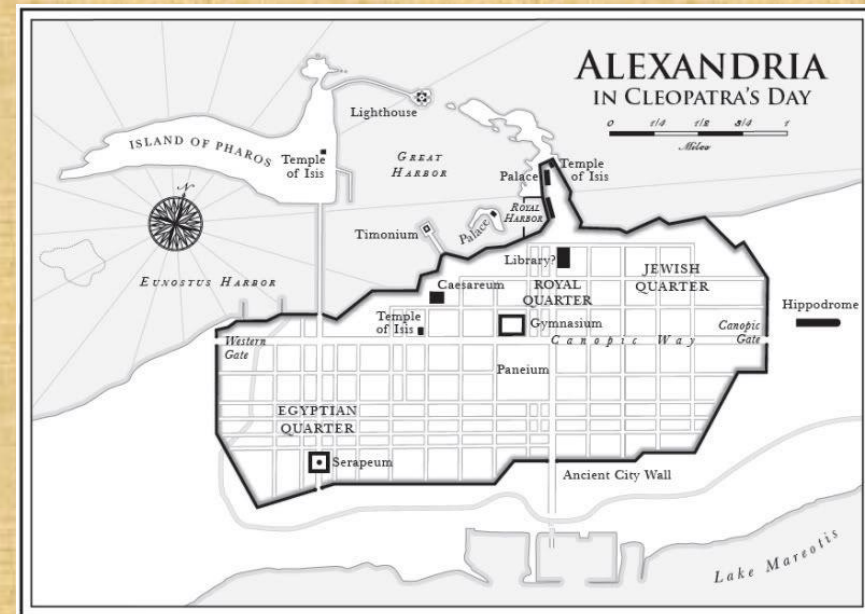
Unit 9 – After Pharsalus: Building a Mediterranean Empire



CLAH7002

After the Death of Pompey

- ❑ Pompey flees to Alexandria, is killed at instigation of Ptolemy XIII's advisors.
- ❑ Caesar does not immediately follow but heads to Asia Minor to sure up support, reorganise the revenue system, and to requisition supplies and money.
- ❑ Alexandrian War – involvement in internal dynastic dispute – Caesar is besieged in Alexandria (47 BC).



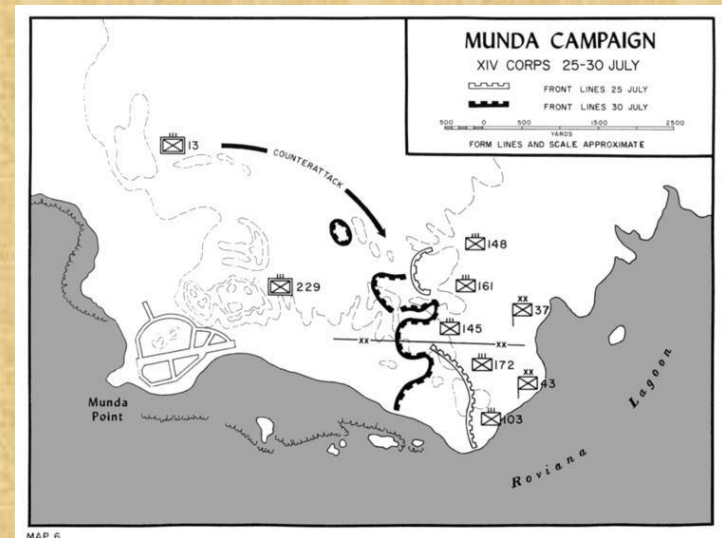
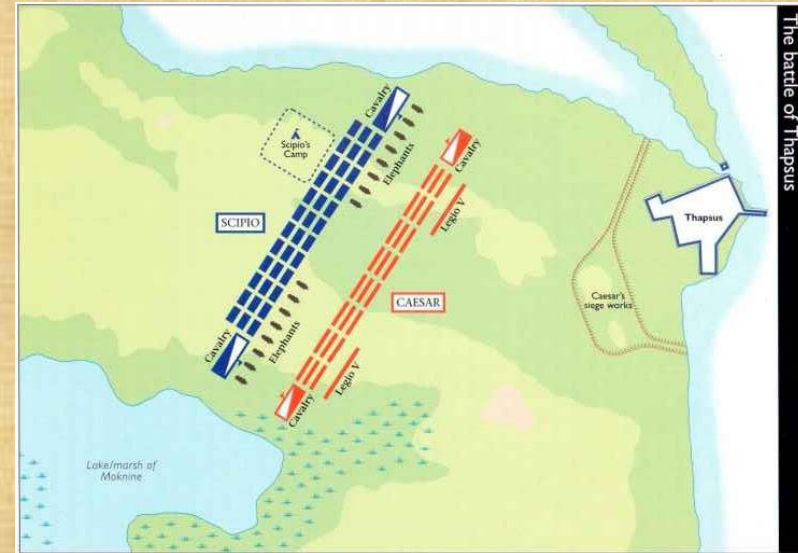
Heading Back to Italy

- ▣ War against Pharnaces II of Pontus – battle at Zela: “...in his Pontic triumph he displayed among the show-pieces of the procession an inscription of but three words, "I came, I saw, I conquered," not indicating the events of the war, as the others did, but the speed with which it was finished.” – **Suet. *Div. Jul.* 37.**
- ▣ Mutiny of Caesar's soldiers in Campania – quirites (47 BC).

“They could endure it no longer, but cried out that they repented of what they had done, and besought him to keep them in his service. But Caesar turned away and was leaving the platform when they shouted with greater eagerness and urged him to stay and punish the guilty among them. He delayed a while longer, not going away and not turning back, but pretending to be undecided. At length he came back and said that he would not punish any of them, but that he was grieved that even the tenth legion, to which he had always given the first place of honour, should join in such a riot. ‘And this legion alone,’ he continued, ‘I will discharge from the service.’ – **Appian *BC* 2.94.**

Unfinished Business

- Campaign in North Africa against Metellus Scipio and Cato the Younger – Battle of Thapsus (46 BC).
- Pompey's son Sextus and Caesar's former lieutenant T. Labienus, fled to Spain.
- Second campaign in Spain – battle of Munda (45 BC).
 - “As he was going away after the battle he said to his friends that he had often striven for victory, but now first for his life.” – **Plutarch *Caesar* 56.4.**



Characterising Caesar's enemies: *Commentarii de Bello Civili*

- ▣ Reading the text line by line vs. picking out key episodes and characters and making links across the work.
- ▣ Caesar does not provide direct characterisations, instead he reports characters words and deeds, allowing his reader to judge them.
- ▣ He reports events without obviously labelling them.
- ▣ Selection, omission and arrangement of events to achieve an overall picture.

Pompeian Traits

- Oath-taking (beyond the regular *sacramentum*) as an aid to loyalty seen as a Pompeian trait, not mention in relation to Caesar's side.
- No reference to such oaths in Dio, Appian, Plutarch or Suetonius.
- Recurrent themes - refusal to send aid when one's own supporters in difficulty - arming of slaves - boastful reports - cruelty to captives - plundering temples - contrasts with Caesar's actions.
- Pompey as an "Eastern Monarch"?