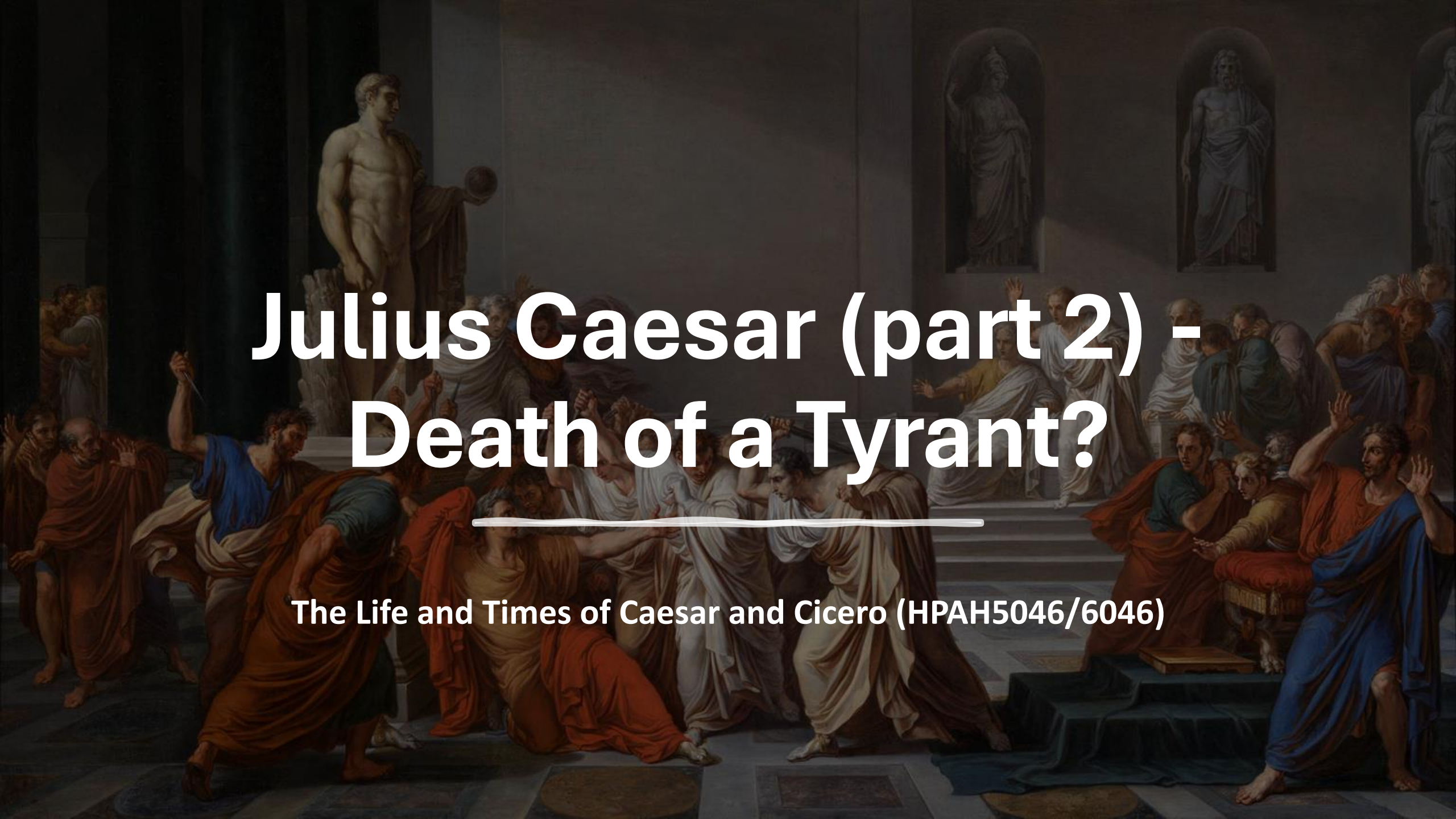




Julius Caesar (part 2) - Death of a Tyrant?

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

Setting the “State” in order: legislation

- Caesar’s legislation was passed in a short period of time – intentions of lasting change to “constitution”?
 - Increase in number of magistracies – praetors (10, 14, then 16) and quaestors (40) – need for more provincial magistrates.
 - Courts only of senators and equestrians.
 - New senators and new patricians (rewarding supporters).
 - Dio (43.47.3) claims 900 senators by 45 BC.
 - Cisalpine Gaul received citizenship in 49 BC; people of Gades enfranchised.
 - “...he offered prizes for large families of children.” – **Dio Cassius 43.25.1-2.**
 - Sumptuary legislation (Suet. Div. Jul. 43).

“...[He] admitted to the House men who had been given citizenship, and in some cases half-civilised Gauls...” – **Suet. Div. Jul. 76.3.**



Reform of provincial management

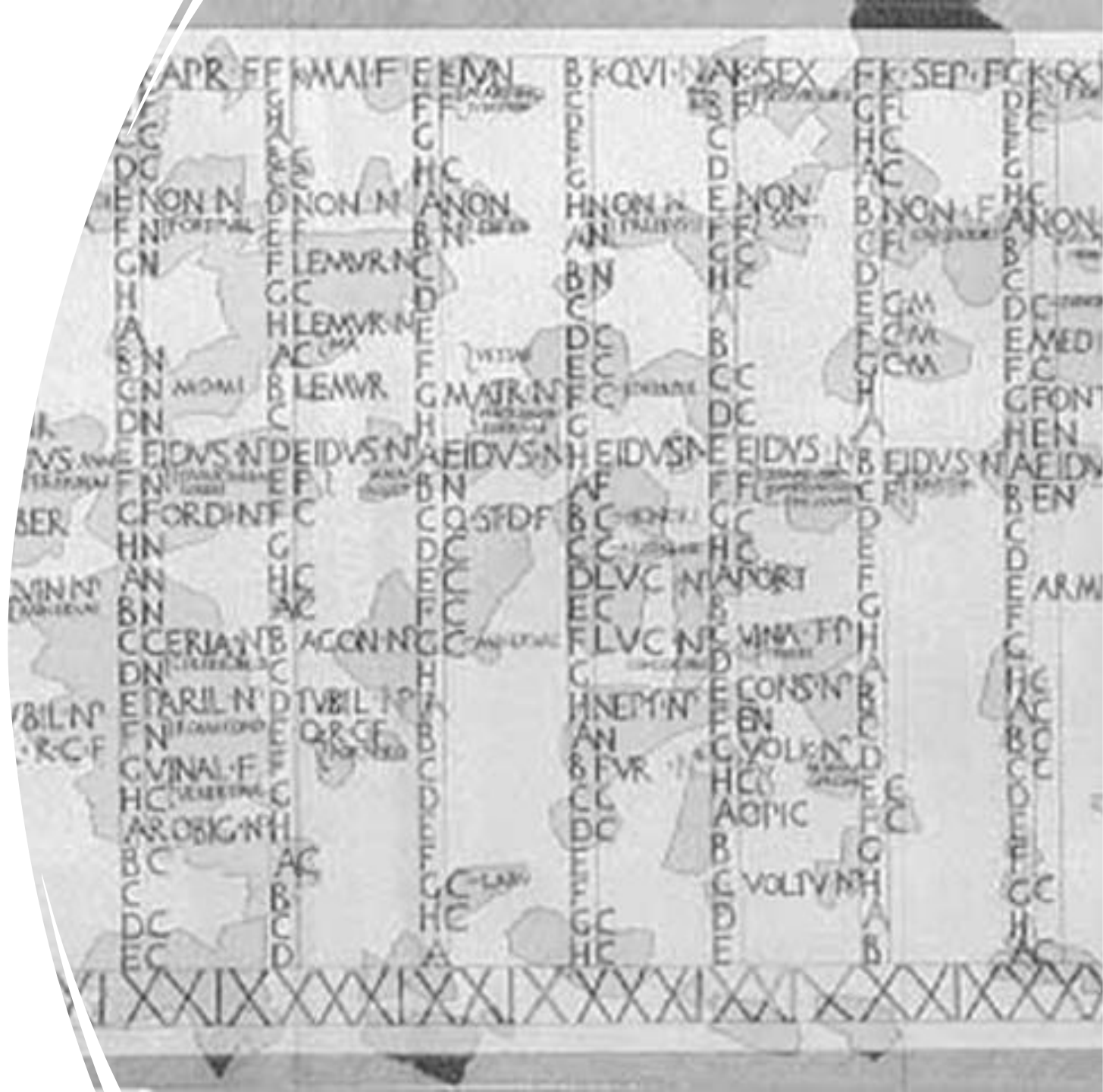
- Relief from extortions by *publicanii*.
- Proprætors limited to 1 year, proconsuls to 2 consecutive years – rapacity of governors or limits to dangerous competition?
- Colonisation programme initiated by Caesar (difficult to distinguish from later “Julian” developments) – Carthage and Corinth, also Lampsacus and Sinope.



Artistic representation of Roman Carthage

The “Julian” Calendar

- The year 46 BC made 445 days long to align civic calendar years with the astrological calendar (i.e. syncing with the seasons).
- Calendar of Romulus – Martius to December.
- Calendar of Numa adds Ianuarius and Februarius (355 days – 12 lunar months) – use of intercalary months.



- Construction between 54-46 BC (though completed by Augustus) – Temple of Venus Genetrix and Curia Julia.

“he vowed that he would build a temple in Rome as a thank-offering to her as the Bringer of Victory if everything went well [at Pharsalus]...” – **Appian BC 2.68.**

- The Rostra was to be moved to the centre of the Forum Romanum.
 - Loss of old unity of the Comitium, the Curia and the Rostra.
 - Required the removal of longstanding honorific statues.

Forum Iulium



Do you think such measures were practical, symbolic or provocative?

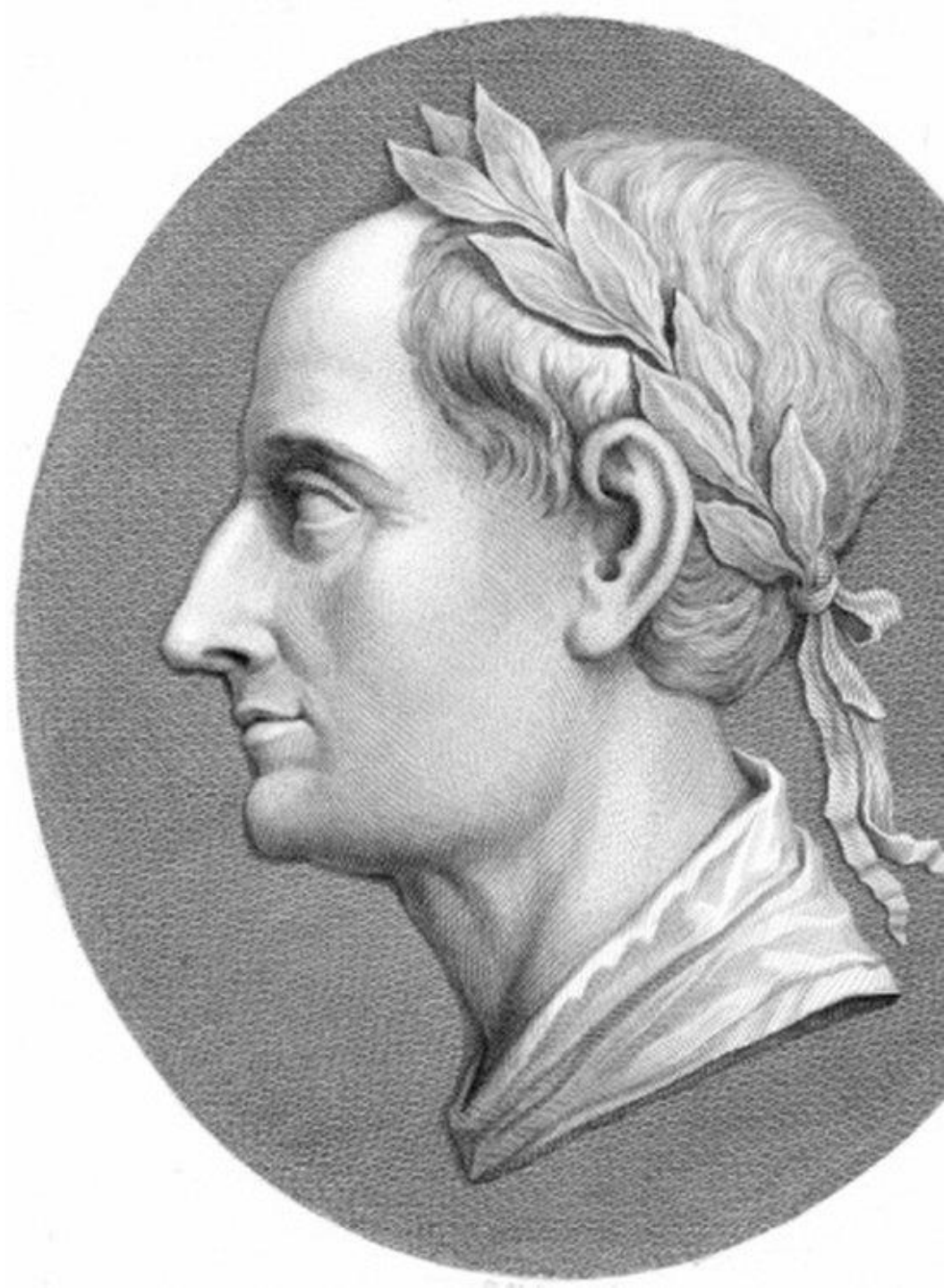


Growing tyranny

Growing Resentment

- Gratuitous honours:
 - Awarded: a statue among the kings; a raised couch in the orchestra; a golden throne in the House and on the judgment seat; a chariot and litter in the procession at the circus; a special priest, an additional college of the Luperci; month named after him (**Suet. *Div. Jul.* 76.1**).

“When the entire body of the Senate approached Caesar with numerous resolutions of the highest honour, Caesar stayed seated as he received them in front of the Temple of Venus Gentrix.” (**78.1**)



I am Caesar not Rex

“Subsequently, however, when he was riding in from the Alban Mount and some men again called him king, **he said that his name was not king but Caesar...**” – **Dio Cassius 44.9.**

“...at the Lupercalia, when the consul **Antony** several times attempted to **place a crown upon his head** as he spoke from the rostra, he put it aside and at last sent it to the Capitol, to be offered to Jupiter Optimus Maximus.” – **Suetonius *Divus Julius* 79.2.**



War Against the Parthians

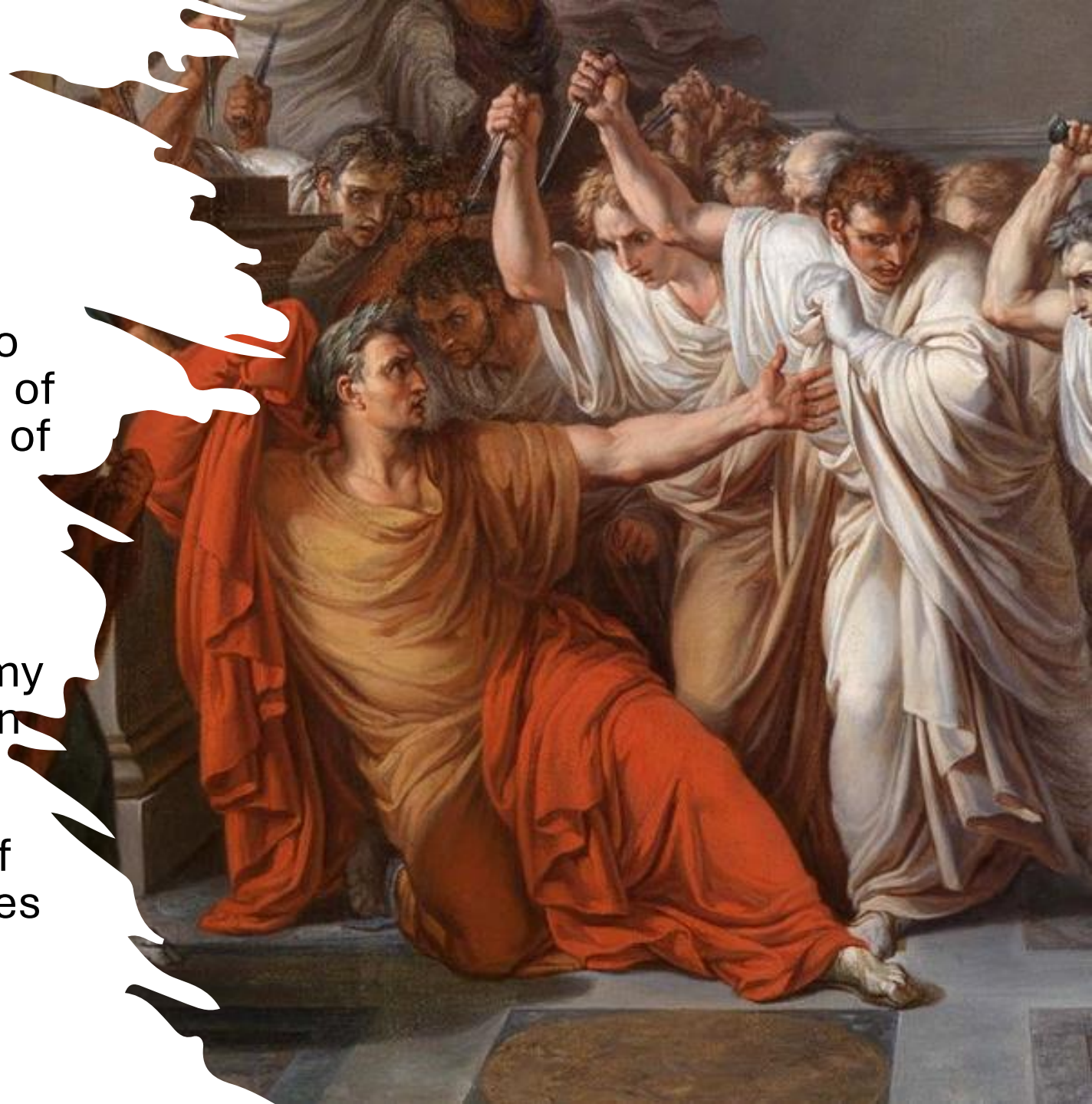
“...to check the Dacians...and then to make war upon the Parthians, through the Lesser Armenia, but not to risk a general engagement with them, until he had made some test of their expertise in war. But in the midst of all his activities and schemes, he was carried off by death...” – **Suetonius *Divus Julius* 44.**

“...Lucius Cotta, one of the fifteen, would propose a motion, that as there was in the Sibylline books a prophecy, that the Parthians would never be subdued except by a king, Caesar should have that title conferred upon him.” **(79).**

The Ides [15th] of March 44 BC

“As soon as Caesar took his seat the conspirators crowded around him as if to pay their respects... Cimber caught hold of his shoulders... and at that moment one of the Casca brothers... stabbed him just below the throat... 23 dagger thrusts hit him ... some say when he saw Marcus Brutus about to deliver a blow he reproached him in Greek with ‘You too, my son?’ The entire Senate then dispersed in confusion...” – **Suet. Div. Jul. 82.**

“Antony and Lepidus, the chief friends of Caesar, fled and took refuge in the houses of others. But Brutus and his supporters [marched to the Capitol proclaiming freedom]...” – **Plut. Caes. 67.2.**



Intended Successors?

- Antony uses Caesar papers to legitimise his own actions.
- Gaius Octavius (son of Atia and Gaius Octavius) – father died when he was four.
 - Caesar helped introduce him into public life – Urban Prefect for 47 BC and intended successor to Lepidus as Master of the Horse.
- Octavian receives quarter of the estate (L. Pinarius and Q. Pedius shared a quarter) – *condicio nominis ferendi* (the condition that the heir takes the testator's name) does not amount to legal adoption – *adrogatio* (adoption of an orphan).

