



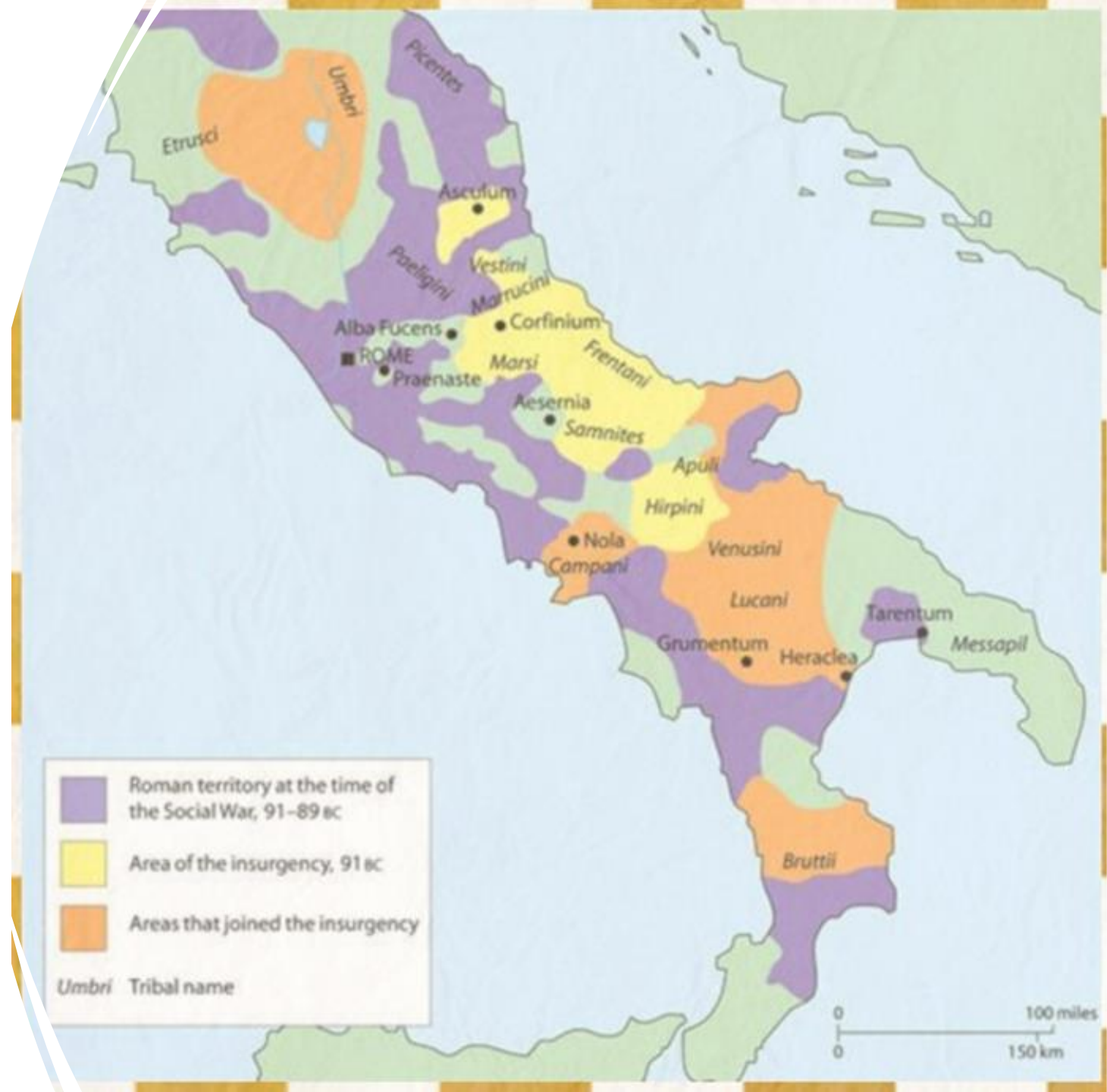
Turmoil in the 80s BC

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

The Social War (91/90-88 BC)

- Legislation (95 BC) punishing those illegally claiming citizenship.
- M. Livius Drusus' motion to enfranchise Italian allies.

“...until the whole of Italy came into the Roman state except, for the present, the Lucanians and the Samnites, who also seem to have obtained what they desired somewhat later...” – **Appian BC 1.53.**



Mithridates VI of Pontus

- Conflict between Mithridates and Nicomedes IV of Bithynia and Ariobarzanes I of Cappadocia.
- Execution of Aquillius, Mithridates hailed as liberator.

“...it was made very plain that it was quite as much hatred of the Romans as fear of Mithridates that impelled the Asiatics to commit these atrocities.” – **Appian *Mith.* 23.**”



What factors made this act of Sulla conceivable?



L. Cornelius Sulla assigned command against Mithridates.



Sulpicius uses plebiscite to transfer command to Marius.



Sulla marches from Nola and seizes Rome (88 BC).

“...he thought only of his enemies... [and] made his entry by the aid of fire... he set a price on the head of Marius, an act both ungrateful and impolitic, since it was in his house that he had found refuge and surrendered himself a little before this...” – **Plutarch *Sulla* 9.7, 10.1.**

Marius' revenge

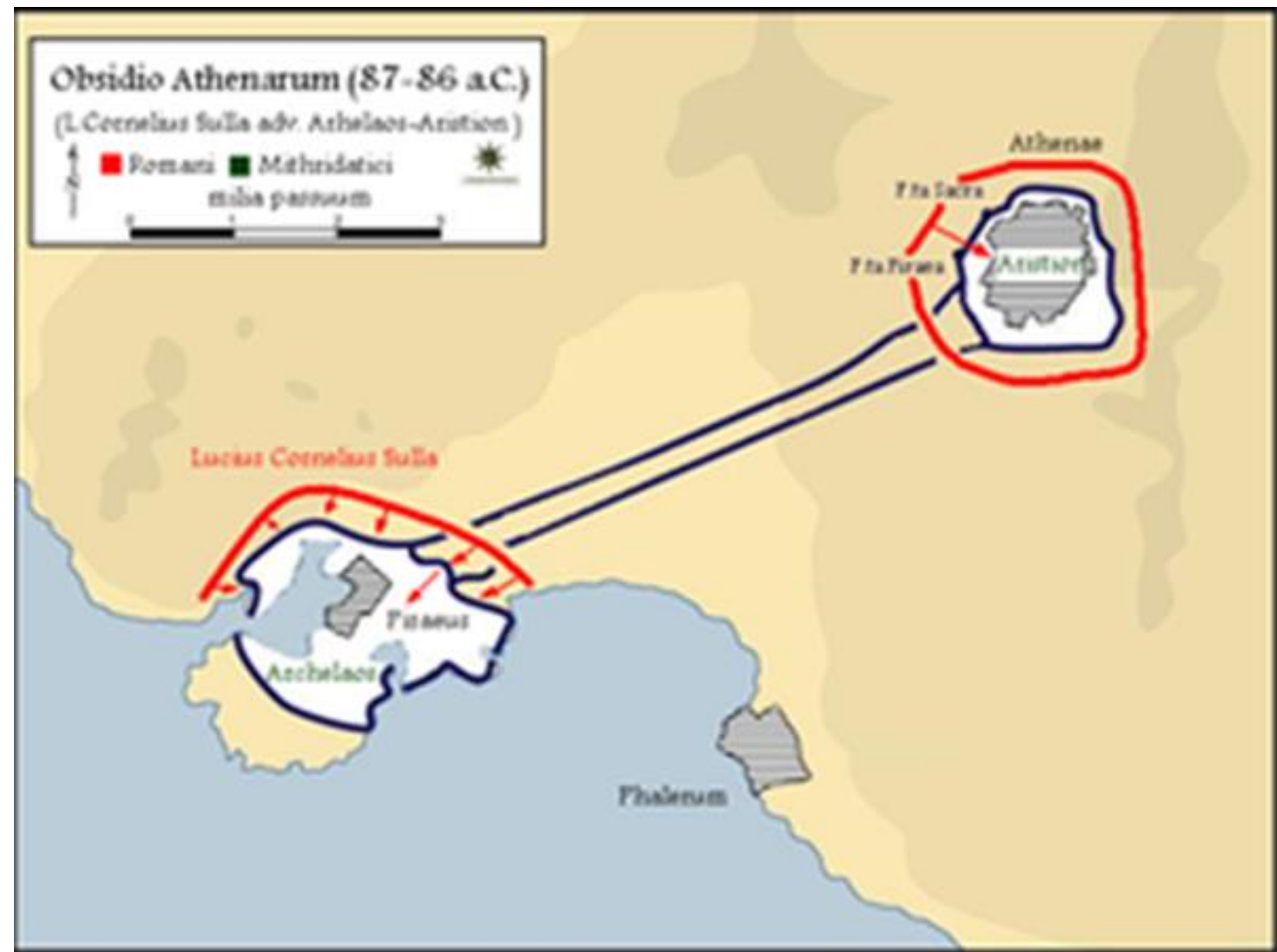
Consider again the importance of veterans settled in colonies / on land by their former commander (still patron?).

- Cinna returns from Nola with army and Marius (returning from Africa) raises forces in Etruria.
- City surrenders – enemies of Marius and Cinna purged.
 - Cinna and Marius consuls for 86 BC – Sulla declared public enemy.

“So, then, Marius died, 17 days after entering upon his 7th consulship... but in a few days the people perceived that they had got a new and vigorous master in exchange for the old one; such bitterness and cruelty did the younger Marius display, putting to death the best and most esteemed citizens.” – **Plutarch *Marius* 46.5.**

Affairs in the East

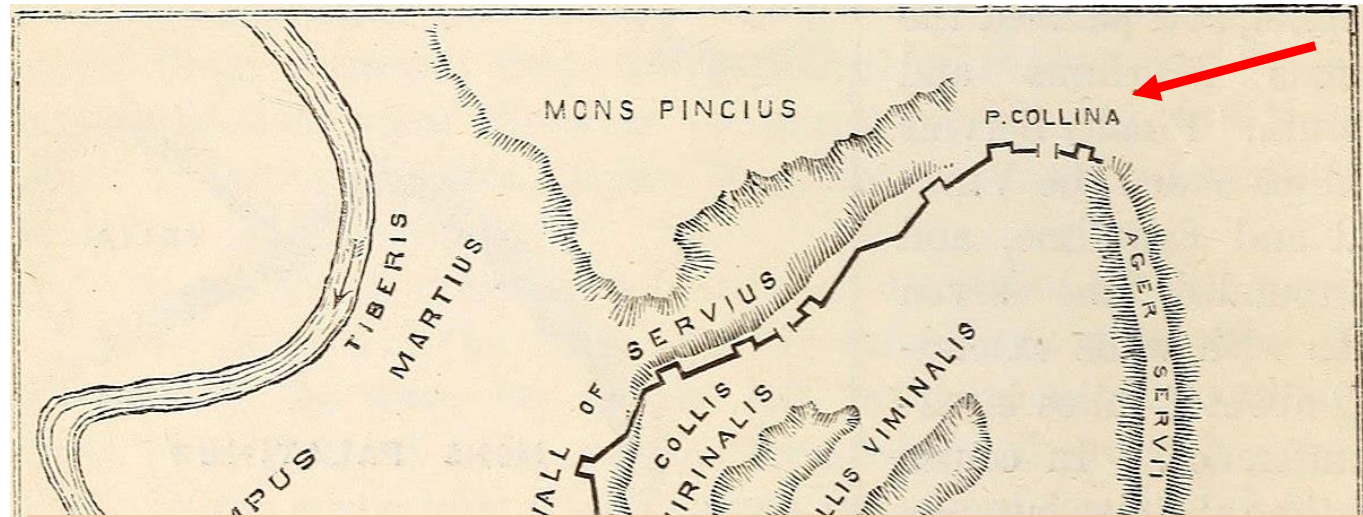
- Death of Flaccus and campaigns of Fimbria.
- Treaty of Dardanus – 85 BC.
 - Sulla takes over army of Fimbria – 20,000 talent indemnity imposed on those cities that had sided with Mithridates.



“A great and pitiless slaughter ensued in Athens... Sulla ordered an indiscriminate massacre, not sparing women or children. He was angry that they had so suddenly joined the barbarians without cause...” – **Appian *Mith.* 38.**

Sulla becomes Dictator

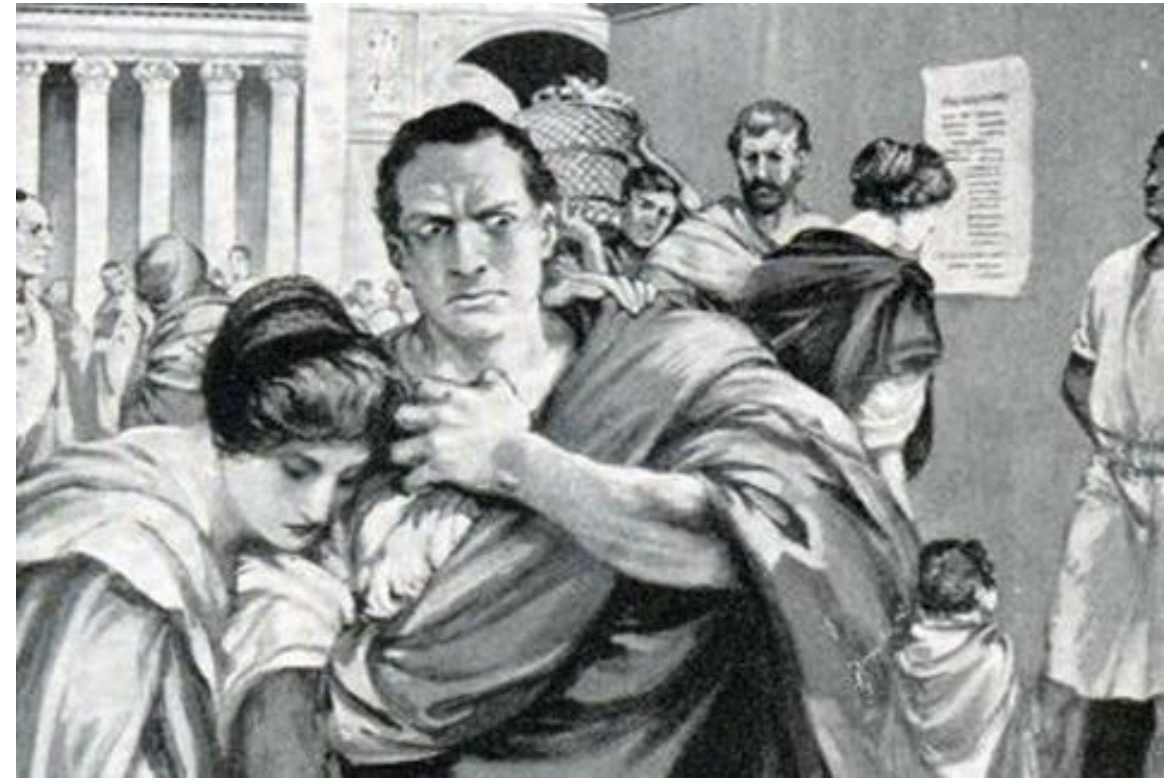
- Sulla lands at Brundisium in 83, defeats Norbanus.
 - Army of Scipio Asiagenus goes over to Sulla.
- Army of Samnites and Lucanians destroyed at Colline Gate (Nov 82).
- Marius (junior) commits suicide at Praeneste.



“For he proclaimed himself dictator, reviving this particular office after a lapse of a hundred and twenty years. Moreover, an act was passed granting him immunity for all his past acts, and for the future, power of life and death, of confiscation, of colonization, of founding or demolishing cities, and of taking away or bestowing kingdoms at his pleasure.” – **Plutarch *Sulla* 33.1.**

Proscriptions

“After saying this he forthwith proscribed about 40 senators and 1600 knights. He seems to have been the first to make a formal list of those whom he punished, to offer prizes to assassins and rewards to informers, and to threaten with punishment those who should conceal the proscribed. Shortly afterward he added the names other senators to the proscription...” – **Appian BC 1.95.**



“...when he was deliberating about putting him [Julius Caesar] to death and some said there was no reason for killing a mere boy like him, he declared that they had no sense if they did not see in this boy many Mariuses.” – **Plutarch *Julius Caesar* 1.4.**

(Long-lasting) impacts and legality

- The proscribed was the victim of *interdictio* (depriving individual of citizen rights) – possible *infamia* after death.
 - Founding of veteran colonies: *Ager publicus* and *ager* of punished cities.
 - Livy Per. 77.7 (Aleria, Arretium, Capitolum, Faesulae, Pompeii, Praeneste, Suessula, Urbana, Vibinum).
- Sale of confiscated goods at below market value – enrichment of associates of Sulla (Crassus, Catiline, L. Domitius Ahenobarbus).
- Children of proscribed banned from politics.



Temple of Fortuna, Praeneste