



Introduction

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

The beginning of the end?

- Retrospective look at the Republic's "fall".
- Exploration of key figures and events.
- Focus largely from 100–44 BC.
 - But also the aftermath and reception.

Conventional dates for the Late Republic:

- 132-44 BC?
- 132-31/30 BC?
- 146 – 44/43 BC?

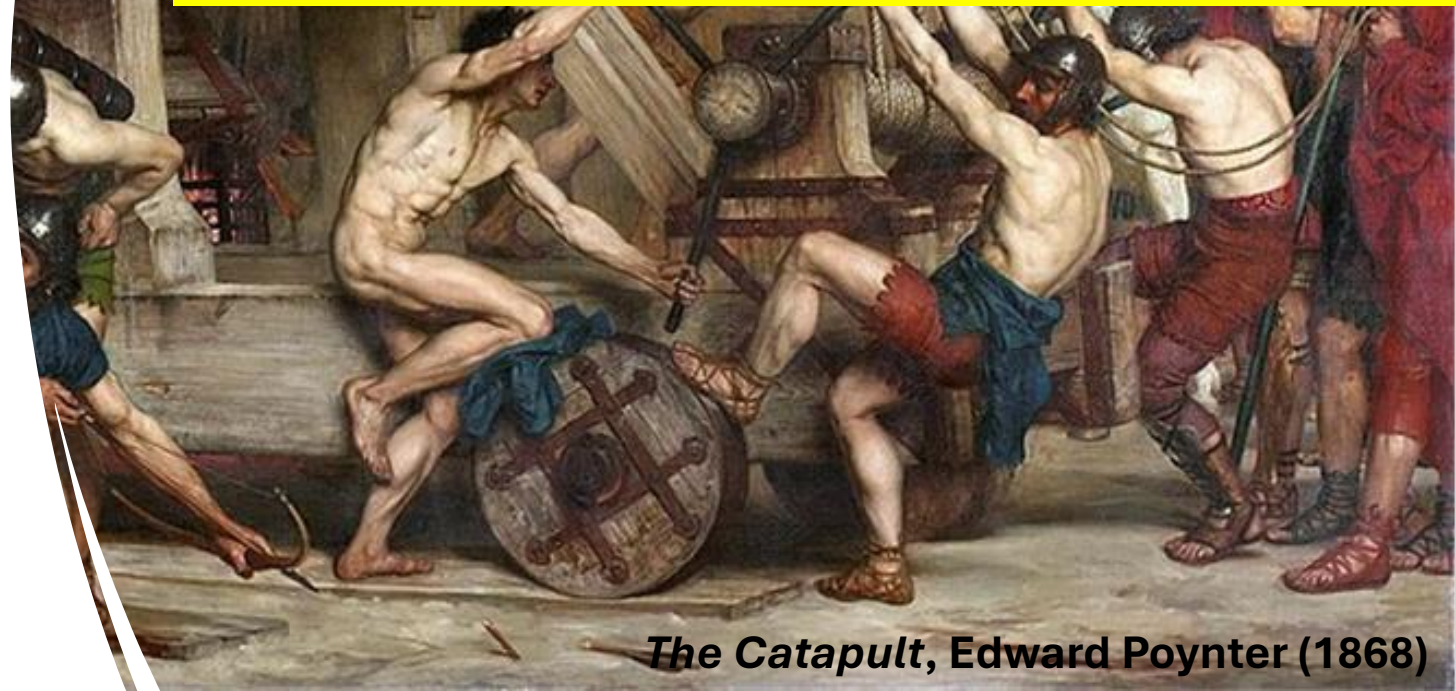
Alternatives

- Appian: end of Republic with "First Triumvirate".
- H. Flower: (3rd "Republic of the *nobiles*" ends with Sulla).

Ancient perspectives

- Wealth, decadence and *luxuria*.
 - Sallust – sack of Carthage (146 BC).
 - Livy – also sack of Carthage + booty from the East (Cn. Manlius Vulso's (187 BC) returns after defeating the Galatians).

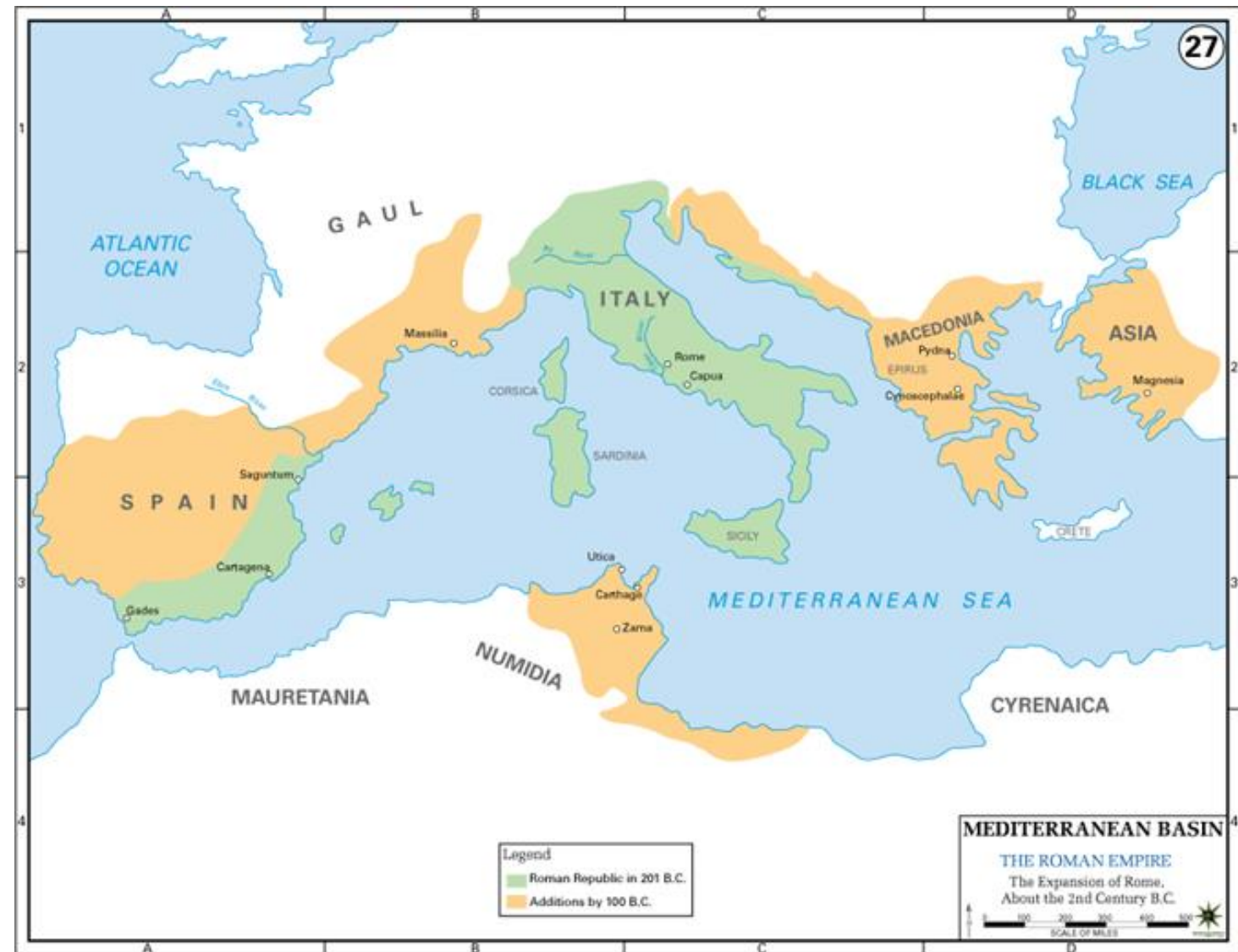
“Turning round to me at once and grasping my hand Scipio said, "A glorious moment, Polybius; but I have a dread foreboding that some day the same doom will be pronounced on my own country." It would be difficult to mention an utterance more statesmanlike and more profound.” – **Polybius 38.21.1.**



The Catapult, Edward Poynter (1868)

The second century Mediterranean world

- Increasing Roman dominance:
 - Humbling of Carthage, Macedon, the Seleucid Empire.
 - (Semi-)client states, e.g. Pergamum, Ptolemaic Egypt, Rhodes, etc.
- Influx of wealth and slaves.
- Displacement of poor?
- “Deference imperialism” or seeking triumphs?



Developments and Innovations (180s to 130s)

lex annalis – minimum ages for political offices (Livy 40.44.1) and gaps between holding them.

180 BC

the beginning of the political year is now January 1.

- Formerly March 1.

153 BC

Gaius Laelius Sapiens (consul) – attempted but abandoned agrarian reform bill (Tiberius Gracchus in 133 BC).

140 BC

the “moneys” (*tresviri monetales*) and designs on silver coinage.

130s BC

177 BC

the Romans stop founding citizen colonies (Roman and Latin) in Italy.

- Had provided not only security, but also a “social release” value.

149 BC

first permanent jury courts (*quaestio perpetua*).

130s BC

introduction of the secret ballot.

The collapse of consensus-based politics?

- Roman political “hey day”?
 - Polybius book 6.
- Senate as advisory body:
 - Allocation of commands for magistrates, foreign policy and state finances.
- By-passing the Senate, obstructionism and commanders as patrons.
 - From citizen militia to “professionalised” army.
- Individual prominence a threat to the “equality” of the elite?



Gaius Gracchus, Silvestre
David Mirys, 1799

Mirage?

Issue: lack source prior to 1st century BC.

- Loss of books 10 to 19 of Livy's *Ab urbe condita*.

Internal struggles:

- Decemvirs (451 BC).
- Conflict of the Orders (c. 5th cent. – 287 BC)
- 2nd Punic War: 212 BC, clash between tribunes and equestrian businessmen; attempted prosecution of Africanus (204 BC).
- Conflict over the awarding of triumphs (199, 192, 191 BC).
- 151 BC: arresting of consuls by tribunes during military recruitment.

A very real series of crises

Assassinations and bloodshed (select examples):

- Outbreak of violence in the assemblies: 66, 59, 58, 55, 53, 52 BC.
- Murder of tribunes of the plebs:
 - L. Appuleius Saturninus, 100 BC (as a result of *senatus consultum ultimum*).
- Marcus Livius Drusus, assassinated in 91 BC.

(Civil) wars:

- Social war, 91-88 BC (Rome vs. *socii*)
- “First Civil War”, 88-81 BC
- Sertorian Rebellion, 81-72 BC
- Lepidian Revolt, 78-77 BC
- Third Servile War, 73-71 BC
- Conspiracy of Catiline, 63-62 BC
- “Second Civil War”, 49-44 BC (or to 30 BC?).

Comparing 150 to 50 BC

150 BC

- Career success: a consulship (perhaps a 2nd 10 years later), a short-term governorship, and becoming a Censor.
- Fierce political competition, but little violence.
- A “city state” controlling Italy and exerting influence on wider Mediterranean region.



50 BC

- Height of political power – (indefinite) dominance of the Republic.
- Several (attempted) coups, marches on Rome, assassination, mob violence and murder.
- Roman Italy, that dominated from Spain and Gaul to the Near East.



A (semi-)democracy or embedded-hierarchies?

Fergus Millar



Challenged traditional “orthodoxy” or senatorial aristocracy.



populus Romanus sovereign (through its assemblies).



Senate not a parliament or legislature.



Issues discussed in civic spaces: a form of “direct democracy”.

Karl-J. Hölkeskamp



Political culture not static, but socio-legal hierarchies fundamental.

Patron-client, rich-poor, free-freed-slave, Roman-Italian-ally/foreigner.



Power hierarchies embedded in structures and institutions.



Performative “meritocracy” and ritual, ceremonies, public engagement, symbolism and building of social capital.



Course structure and assignments

Weeks 1 and 2

- Sulla's "restoration"
- Caesar's youth
- Trouble in the 70s and 60s
- The legacy of Spartacus
- Pompey the Great
- Catilinarian conspiracy
- The "First Triumvirate"
- Civil war and the death of a tyrant
- Caesar's ghost
- Introduction to Cicero, the *Verrines* and *Catiline*.

Week 3 and assessment week

- Criminal courts and Cicero's *Pro Caelio*.
- Lust, prostitution, and *prosopopoeia*.
- (Legal) performance and drama.
- Presentation assignment (assessment 2) to take place on Monday 3rd February.
- Written course due later in week.

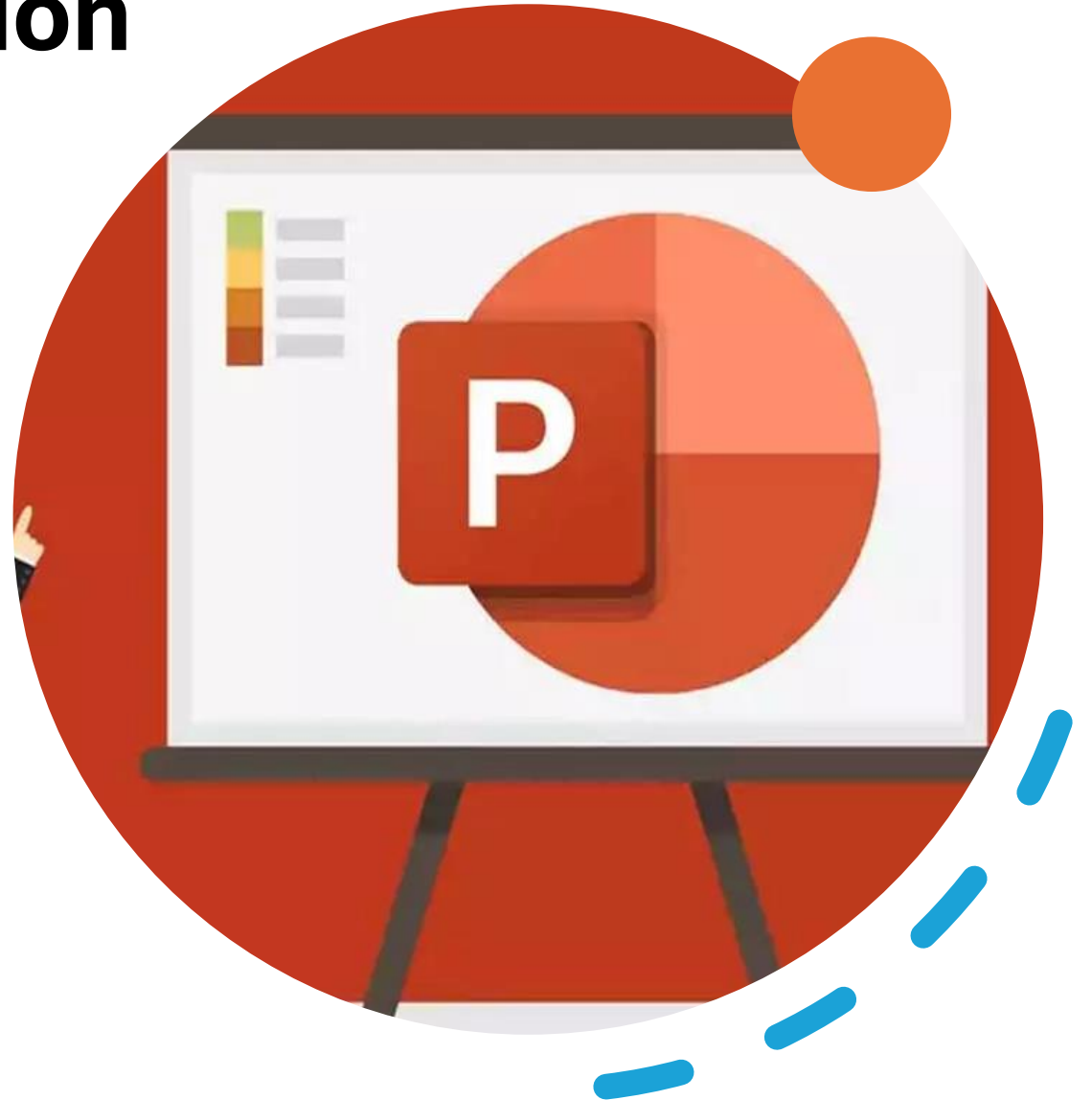
Assessment 1: Quizzes

- Assessment: Multiple choice + short answer quizzes – 3 in total, highest mark awarded.
- 10% for level 5 [10 questions per quiz]; 12% for level 6 [12 questions].
- Each quiz will last for 15 minutes.
- Held near end of specific sessions:
 - Quiz 1: Tuesday 14th of January
 - Quiz 2: Friday 17th of January
 - Quiz 3: Tuesday 21st of January.



Assessment 2: Presentation

- 10-minute presentation followed by 5 minutes of questions.
- Worth 40% for level 5; 38% for level 6.
- You can pick the topic you like (so long as it is relevant to the module).
- Monday 3rd February.
 - Presenting to others, unless having CMs stipulating 1:1.



Assignments 3 & 4 [Levels 5 & 6]

Commentary – 25%

Write a critical commentary of 1250 words on EITHER:

a) Cicero *Against Verres*
2.1.62-4

OR

b) Cicero *Against Verres*
2.1.76-78

OR

c) Cicero *In Catilinam* 1.31-3

Essay – 25%

In an account of 1250 words:

EITHER:

1) Describe, with evidence from the text, one or two strategies which Cicero uses in the portrayal of Clodia in Cicero's *Pro Caelio*. Then, from the point of view of a prosecutor, outline what arguments you would use as counters.

OR

2) Describe, with evidence from the text, one or two strategies which Cicero uses in the portrayal of Caelius in Cicero's *Pro Caelio*. Then, from the point of view of a prosecutor, outline what arguments you would use as counters.