

011_The Fall of the Republic

A. The Agrarian Revolt.

a. Causes –

- i. Influx of slave grown grain
 1. Ruined Italian farmers who could not compete
- ii. Influx of Slaves –
 1. Displacing peasants in the countryside and free people in the cities
 2. Slaves did not have to go into military service and could tend fields year round.
- iii. Growth of the large farms
 1. Law in 220 – forbid senators from taking contracts and invest in commerce, so they turned to land ownership.
- iv. Quote – (Durant. Vol. 3 page. 111) “ Finally, the peasant himself, after he had seen and looted the world as a soldier, had no taste or patience for the lonely labor and unadventurous chores of the farm; he preferred to join the turbulent proletariat of the city, with without cost the exciting games of the amphitheater, receive cheap corn from the government, sell his vote to the highest bidder or promiser, and lose himself in the impoverished and indiscriminate mass. “

b. Slaves –

- i. Were a product of increasing conquest
- ii. 10,000 auctioned per day.
- iii. Urban slaves – were often eased by contact with the owner
- iv. Rural Slaves - seldom saw their absentee owners

c. Slave Revolts

- i. 139- the First Servile War broke out
 1. Slaves in Sicily
 2. Slaves rallied to Leader, EUNUS
 3. Numbered 70,000
 4. Held the city of Argentum until 131
- ii. Revolts in the following years – 196, 185, 139, 131

d. Urbanization

- e. Small landowners were losing their property, because they qualified for military service they were constantly off fighting in continuous wars.

B. The Brothers Gracchi

a. Tiberius Gracchus

1. 133 – he was elected Tribune
2. Submitted 3 bills to the Tribal Assembly
 - a. Citizens should be limited in the size of land holdings

- b. All other public lands acquired by the state would be paid for plus cost of improvements
 - c. Divide 20 acre lots, given to peasants on the conditions that they never be sold
 - d. Attempt to enforce land laws of 367
 - ii. Tiberius Gracchus Quote - " 'The Plebs' have their holes and their hiding places; but the men who fight and die for Italy enjoy only the light and the air. Our generals urge this soldiers to fight for the graves and shrines of their ancestors. The appeal is idle and false. You cannot point to a paternal altar. You have no ancestral tomb. You fight and die to give wealth and luxury to others. You are called the masters of the world, but there is not a foot of ground that you can call your own. "
 - 1. This is pure populism, the Roman state was in crisis.
 - iii. The Resistance of the Senate
 - 1. Condemn the notion, and get other tribune to veto Gracchus' bills
 - 2. Gracchus has him forcibly removed for not representing the interest
 - 3. Senate tried to impeach him for the action,
- b. The Death of Tiberius
 - i. He sought reelection to avoid prosecution (special feature of the constitution)
 - ii. He promised
 - 1. To shorten military service
 - 2. Abolish senatorial jury rights
 - 3. Admit Italian Allies to Roman Citizenship
 - iii. On election day he wore mourning clothes
 - 1. Stating that if he did not win, he would surely be killed
 - 2. Senators beat him with clubs along with hundreds of followers
 - 3. His body was thrown in the Tiber, no burial
 - iv. Senate pressured to pass the Gracchan law.
 - 1. The law was difficult to enforce
 - 2. Its apologist supporters were later killed in their sleep
- c. Caius Gracchus
 - i. Elected Tribune in 124
 - 1. Wanted to finish his brothers work, but was more amicable
 - 2. He wanted to please, the urban poor, the army, the farmers.
 - a. Soldiers – Should be clothed at public expense
 - b. Urban Poor – lex fumentaria – cheap grain
 - i. This turned to poor away from the aristocrat clients to supporters of Gracchus

- c. Middle Class - By promoting colonization of some to the conquered areas, including Carthage.
 - 3. Political Maneuvers
 - a. Business class can be jurors for themselves
 - b. Attempted to dilute the Senate by adding 300 more men chosen by the mercantile class
 - c. Wanted to extend the franchise to all Italian allies
 - i. Big mistake
 - 4. Marcus Livius Drusus
 - a. Senatorial Party ran him
 - b. Purposefully chosen to out "promise" Caius Gracchus
 - c. Gracchus voted out and retired to Private life
 - ii. Death of Caius Gracchus
 - 1. The senate began to undo his legislation
 - 2. Some of his supporters killed a conservative senator who threatened Caius
 - 3. The Next Day Senate come in full battle gear
 - 4. Caius Fled and was captured
 - 5. 3000 of his followers were killed by Senate decree
 - d. Undoing of Legislation
 - i. Some things like businessmen in the courts and free grain for the urban population could not be undone.
 - ii. Mainly it was the land reform that was repealed and the land commission was ended in 118
 - iii. The growth of large slave operated farms increased.
- C. Marius
- a. The condition of the military
 - i. Enlistments could not be reached as many romans lost land and therefore civil rights
 - ii. More and more troops were required from the Italian Allies
 - iii. Desertion was up, discipline was terrible
 - b. Invasion from the North 113
 - i. Cambrii and Teutons
 - 1. Germanic Tribes from around Denmark
 - ii. Wasn't as much of an invasion rather than a migration
 - iii. 300,000 from Germany in covered wagons.
 - iv. They defeat five Roman Armies and poured into Southern Gaul
 - c. War in Numidia
 - i. Jugurtha – killed his brother and took kingdom
 - 1. Came to Rome and bribed his way through the city as he tried to negotiate a peace

- d. Gaius Marius –
 - i. One soldier emerged from these wars
 - 1. He was from the lower classes
 - ii. In 108 - he ran as consul and asked to replace a failing general in Numidia
 - 1. He promised to defeat Jurgurtha and bring an end to the war
 - 2. He did this in 106
 - a. It was really due to the contributions of his Lt. Lucius Sulla
- e. Marius – Perpetual Consul
 - i. Ignoring the Constitution he was elected Consul from (100-104)
 - ii. He was to rule through the Popularis
 - iii. With the support of the Army
- f. Invasion from the North 113
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 - v. And had turned toward and ravaged Spain
- g. Marius Reforms the Army
 - i. Remove property ownership for military service
 - ii. Offered attractive pay
 - iii. Promised land to soldiers
- h. Effect
 - i. Urban poor filled the army and did not fight for Rome, rather they fought for their generals who could give them land.
 - ii. Marius unknowingly paved the way for Cesare's Revolution

D. Marius Vs Teutons

- a. Marius had to train and drill his undisciplined troops on the march
- b. He pitted them against easy objectives at first, and avoided battle until his troops were trained
- c. German army – passed for six days and yelled insults at the Roman Troops
- d. As they passed, Marius attacked their rear battle of Aix in Provence, 102
- e. Plutarch – They say, that the inhabitants of Marseilles made fences round thir vineyards with the bones, and that the soil, after the bodies had rotted and the winter rains had fallen, was so fertilized with the putrefied matter wich sank into it, that in the following season it yielded an unprecedented crop.”
- f. Marius rested for five months and then attack the Cambraii at Vercellae
 - i. They came out naked in the winter snow
 - ii. Rode their shields like sleds
 - iii. He was elected consul for a sixth term in 100

- E. Marius as Consul in 100
 - a. The New Tribune, Saturninius
 - i. Pushed Gracchian Reform
 - ii. Marius did nothing, as the newly conquered land was to be distributed to his soldiers
 - iii. Saturninius used his thugs to suppress senators
 - iv. The Senate ordered Marius to suppress the revolt led by Saturninus
 - v. Marius suppressed the revolt, Saturninus was stoned to death.
 - vi. Marius hated disorder, but killed his former political allies and protected the aristocracy
 - vii. Marius retired from Public life
- F. The Social War (Bellum Sociale) 90-88 BCE
 - a. As stated earlier, the Italian allies lacked full political rights but were increasingly taxed and conscripted
 - b. During the Slave Revolts many Allies revolted
 - i. Remember that Rome was having internal political strife.
 - c. Marius comes out of retirement and saves Rome
 - i. 300,000 dead in less than three years.
 - d. Concessions to the Allies
 - i. In 90 Roman citizenship was offered to all Italian allies
 - ii. Senate later nominalized, voting would be based on the addition of ten more tribes rather than by individuals.
 - iii. Allies bided their time.

Lucius Cornelius Sulla

- A. War Against Mithridates of Pontus (northern Anatolia)
 - a. Mith. Was using the conflicts in Rome to undermine Roman control
 - i. He claimed descended from Alexander's Generals (half Persian- Half Greek)
 - b. Sulla elected Consul to fight Mithradates
 - i. Sulpicius Rufus – Tribune – would not allow Sulla (a conservative) to take command and appointed Marius (69 years old) to command the army,
 - ii. Sulla fled and raised an army and marched on Rome.
 - c. Sulla Champions the Aristocracy –
- B. Sulla vs Marius
 - a. Marius who had sided with the tribune and thus the people, quickly raised an army
 - b. He easily defeated Marius clumsily trained and improvised urban cohorts.
 - c. Sulla, in control of Rome, put a bounty on Marius and he fled to Africa
 - d. Sulpicius was killed betrayed by his slave who was offered citizenship
- C. Sulla leaves Rome to fight Mithradates

D. In Sulla's Absence

- a. Class hostilities resumed in Rome
 - i. 10,000 people died
 - ii. Popularis seized the opportunity
 - iii. Marius elected a 7th time (86 BCE), dies within a month
 - iv. Another Rebel Consul, Cinna also marched on Rome to reverse Sulla's decrees
 - v. Another tribune sends army to take command from Sulla
- b. Sulla in the East
 - i. Meanwhile Sulla besieged and took Athens (which had aligned with Mithradates).
 - ii. Sulla was technically fighting for Rome, ruled by his political enemies.
 - iii. He did not defeat Mithradates, there was an uneasy peace

E. Sulla Returns 83

- a. He defeated Roman army sent against him.
 - i. By mid 82 he was in sole control
- b. Returned with 15,000 pounds of gold and 115,000 pounds of Silver
 - i. And works of art from Greece
- c. He returned amongst chaos
 - i. Renewed political assassinations and purges
 - ii. Renewed pressure of the Social War
 - iii. Sulla persuaded the Senate to proclaim him dictator
 1. Sometime during this period (in 82 or 81 BC) Sulla was appointed dictator, an office that was out of favor and had lain dormant since the Hannibalic War.

Sulla modified the dictatorship in two important respects.

- a. He was to hold the post not for the traditional six months, but for as long as he wanted.
 - i. **b.** He took as his specific dictatorial assignment the exceptionally broad task of "writing laws and organizing the state."

F. Proscriptions

- a. A list of 40 senators and 2600 businessmen, many who supported Marius over him
- b. Massacres, banishments and confiscations spread through Rome and the provinces
- c. It was an aristocratic terror

G. Cornelian Laws

- a. Were very reactionary
- b. Suspended free corn
- c. Replaced dead citizens with people in Spain and Gaul, made entire areas his clients

- d. Reduced the power of the tribunes
- e. Disenfranchised the business class

H. Death of Sulla

- a. He was dictator for three years and retired in 79
- b. Plutarch – in 58 – he developed an ulcer of the colon , “ the corrupted flesh broke out into lice. Many men were employed day and night in destroying hem, but soon they multiplied that not only his clothes, baths and basins, but the very food was polluted with them. “
- c. His epitaph “ No friend ever served me, and no enemy ever wronged me, whom I have not repaid in full.”
- d. His reforms would be undone in nine years and the revolution would become more violent.