

012_The Foundations of Empire: Pompeii, Crassus and Caesar, 77-44BCE

A. The Oligarch Reaction 77-67BCE

a. Rome in Revolt

i. Spain

1. Roman General Didius tricked would be land owners by pretending to register them for distribution of land and had them massacred
2. A Roman Officer (from Sabine) Sertorius went over to the Spaniards and created a rebel kingdom from 80-72
3. Pompeii eventually defeated the army after Sertorius was assassinated.
4. The people of Spain became his clients

ii. Spartacus (73-

1. 70,000 slaves from center of Italy hid on Mt Vesuvius and raided towns
2. Spartacus tries to march toward the Alps
3. Harassed Rome for three years
4. He was pinned by two armies, Pompeii returning from Spain and Crassus from Rome
5. Seeing the Situation hopeless he plunged into battle and died
6. Crassus has 6000 crucified from Capua to Rome

B. Pompeii and Crassus: Rivalries

a. Pompeii was revered by the public after his military successes in Spain and assisting with the defeat of Spartacus

b. Crassus

- i. He became wealthy by buying property under the Proscriptions of Sulla
- ii. He used his wealth to launch his political career.
- iii. Fighting Spartacus offered him a chance for glory, which was stolen by Pompeii's interference

c. Consuls: Pompeii and Crassus, 70BCE

- i. Together they undid Sulla's reforms
- ii. Again threats loomed against Rome and its grain supply
- iii. Pirates were raiding and looting the Italian Peninsula
- iv. They were being supported by Mithridates of Pontus.
- v. Pompeii was chosen to deal with them
 1. Pompeii was given more authority in the provinces and the sea
 2. He was also put in charge of the grain supply for five years
 3. He defeated the pirates in three months and settled them in Sicily as farmers, cleverly created clients for himself.

d. The Second Mithridatic War

- i. After securing the coast and grain supply Pompeii turned East
 - ii. He defeated Mithridates and reorganized the Roman East, including Judea and Syria
 - iii. Pompeii was acting like a monarch in the East, by forging alliances and reorganizing provinces.
 - e. Crassus attempted to stifle Pompeii's popularity by financially backing a young nobleman, Caius Julius Caesar (born in 100)
 - i. Caesar became praetor and pontifex maximus (head of religion)
- C. The Catalina Conspiracy – 63BCE
 - a. Lucius Segius Catalina, had lost the consul elections 3 times
 - b. He then tried an armed insurrection, people suspected Crassus was behind it.
 - c. Cicero, consul in 63 BCE uncovered the plot
 - d. Catalina was killed in battle, which speaks of how unstable politics had become.
- D. The First Triumvirate
 - a. Pompeii returned from the East and disbanded his army and retired.
 - i. Pompeii petitioned the Senate for land for his troops and approval for his reorganization of the East
 - ii. Cato the Younger, Senator, led the political resistance against Pompeii
 - b. Caesar
 - i. He was the nephew of Gaius Marius
 - ii. Had been governor to Spain, he returned to Rome in 60BCE
 - iii. Convinced Pompeii and Crassus to ally against the Senate, the three most ruthless people in Rome were working together.
 - iv. They arranged for Caesar to be consul in 59.
- E. Caesar the Consul
 - a. His election was marked with violence and intimidation
 - b. Caesars legislation was passed by force
 - 1. He assigned himself to a five-year command in Gaul and Illyria
 - 2. He would command five legions at the time of his office ended
 - 3. Pompeii received land for his troops and his settlements ratified
 - 4. Crassus, also got favorable legislation
- F. The Gallic Wars 58-50 BCE
 - a. A series of battles against the Gauls, in modern France and Belgium.
 - b. Caesar said they were preemptive strikes to protect Rome, most historians think that it was to increase his prestige and settle his debts.
 - c. Caesars defeated the Gauls and set the boundary of Rome at the Rhine River.
 - d. He did all of this without formal authorization.
 - e. The most important document is Caesars own, The Gallic Wars
- G. Trouble in the Triumvirate
 - a. The Senate attempted to drive a wedge in the alliance, which was the most powerful force in politics.

- b. Caesar called a meeting with Pompeii and Crassus in 56
 - i. Caesar got control of Gaul for five more years
 - ii. Pompeii became the absentee governor of Spain
 - iii. Crassus got a five year command in Syria, he still wanted the military glory.
 - 1. Crassus would be killed at the Battle of Carrahae in 54BCE
 - iv. Pompeii's wife, Caesars daughter, died in childbirth, severing their connections.
- H. Caesar's Civil Wars 49-45
- a. Caesar's Ambition and Offense
 - i. When the Triumvirate ended Caesars term as governor was ending, by tradition he was to give up his armies. He had hoped to be elected Consul.
 - 1. He asked to run in absentee
 - 2. Being Consul would prevent any prosecutions against him for actions in Gaul
 - ii. He requested that Pompeii do the same, Pompeii was Consul and supported by the Senate.
 - iii. When his term in Gaul was over Caesar was ordered to disband and return to Rome
 - 1. Caesar thought that he would be prosecuted if he entered Rome without immunity or protection.
 - 2. Pompeii accused him of treason.
 - b. The Rubicon and War
 - i. In January 49, Caesar violated Roman tradition and crossed the Rubicon River.
 - ii. This was an official declaration of war on the Republic, many people supported it.
 - iii. Despite being outnumbered Caesar drove Pompeii off the Peninsula into Roman Greece.
 - iv. Caesar defeated Pompeii's forces in Spain, was elected Consul and then pursued Pompeii in the East.
 - c. Caesar in Egypt (Winter 48-47)
 - i. Pompeii had fled to Egypt where he was murdered.
 - ii. Caesar pursued the Pompeii and was involved with in a Civil War, between King Ptolemy XIII and Pharaoh Cleopatra (who was his sister/wife)
 - iii. Caesar sided with Cleopatra and helped install her on the throne.
 - 1. He also had a child with her, but Roman law forbid their marriage
 - 2. His son was Ptolemy XV Caesar, aka Caesarion
 - d. Return to Rome

- i. There was a mutiny of soldiers who did not receive pay while Caesar was in Egypt, they demanded their pay and discharge.
 - ii. Caesar needed the soldiers, he demeaned them and questioned their loyalty, and agreed to their discharge. IT was really a trick.
 - 1. By pretending not to need the soldiers who were fiercely loyal to him, they begged to return to his service. Caesar allowed himself to be won over.
 - e. The Second Hispania Campaign
 - i. Pompeii's sons gathered legions from Spain
 - ii. Caesar finally defeated them in 45BCE.
- I. The First Caesar
 - a. Caesar enacted a policy of clemency for his opponents. This placed his opponents under his control and obligated to him.
 - b. He was essentially a dictator
 - i. He did not want to be likened to Sulla
 - ii. He preferred to rule through the Consulship, usually mock elections. He held this position from 46-44
 - iii. His dictatorship was extended to a ten-year term, then to his lifetime.
 - iv. He was even deified as a god by the Senate
 - v. In 44BCE, the "crown offering" incident
 - c. Caesar's Legislation
 - i. Caesar did not try to produce any significant legislation to address the problems of the state
 - ii. He was preparing for an invasion of Parthia when he was killed.
- J. The Death of Caesar
 - a. Alarmed by Caesar's behavior, a group of nobles led by Cassius Longinus, conspired to assassinate him.
 - b. The assassination would be carried out on the Ides of March (March 15, 44BCE)
 - c. As Caesar entered Pompeii's Theater, he was surrounded and stabbed
 - d. The conspirators, believed that they had restored the Republic, however they were wrong.