



How was Rome Ruled? (Overview)

The people of Rome were farmers and herders. For a time, they were under the control of their neighbours, the Etruscans. Rome became a rich city, ruled by kings. In 509 BC, the Romans drove out their last king, Tarquin the Proud. Rome then became a republic.

The **republic** was ruled by a **Senate**. Rich men, called senators, ran the government. Poor men (called **plebeians**) had much less power. The plebeians fought for fairer treatment. A plebeian, who was a free man (someone who was not a slave), could be a Roman **citizen**. People in lands conquered by the Romans could become citizens too. Women and slaves though, could not be citizens - so they could not vote in **elections**.

The Senate could not always control the Roman army. Army generals sometimes fought one another. Rome's best general was Julius Caesar. He lived in the 1st century BC and invaded Britain twice. Caesar came close to being **emperor** of Rome, but he was murdered in 44 BC. By then, Rome was more than a city. It was the capital of an **empire**. The Romans ruled lands from France to North Africa.

Source: BBC, 2014.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/romans/city_of_rome/

1. What is a republic?
2. Who could participate in the Roman Republic?
3. Connect to today: What kind of government do we have in America? Who can participate in America's Government?

Building Context (Background)

Rome was ruled by a Roman general named Julius Caesar around 2000 years ago. He is a controversial figure in history because of his illustrious military career, his savvy political maneuverings, his writings, his many complicated relationships and of course the way he died. Many people of Rome adored and worshiped Caesar, many despised and feared how he consolidated power and became dictator. He was assassinated in broad daylight by sixty senators.

After Caesar was killed, Cassius and Brutus, two of the assassins fled and tried to raise an army to fight Caesar's adopted son Octavian inherited Julius Caesar's fortune and became Rome's new leader and Marc Anthony (his good friend). Octavian would win the war and become the first Emperor of Rome at the age of 18.

Your mission: To determine, based on the evidence, How did the Senators justify Julius Caesar's death?

Establishing Context: Timeline of Caesar's life

July, 12th 100 BCE	Julius Caesar is born
84 BCE	Elected to be a Flamen Dialis (powerful position) with the help of his uncle C. Marius
84 BCE	Marries Cornelia (first wife)
80 BCE	Won the "civic crown" of oak-leaves for saving a Roman's life at the storming of Mitylene.
76 BCE	Elected to Tribunus Militum
67 BCE	Married (2) Pompeia, Pompey's cousin (they divorce in 62 BCE over the "Bona Dea" scandal). Helped to carry Lex Gabinia, giving Pompey command against the Mediterranean pirates.
62 BCE	He became Praetor: suspended by the Senate for opposition but at once restored with an apology.
60 BCE	Formed with Pompey and Crassus "The First Triumvirate." (An alliance between the three men in which they ruled together).
59 BCE	Married (3) Calpurnia (remains married to help until his death) Caesar's daughter Julia married to Pompey. She dies in 55 BCE in childbirth.
58-51 BCE	Leads successful Military Operations in Gaul, Germany and Britain.
49 BCE	Senate decreed that Caesar should disband his army: he crossed the Rubicon river, which meant civil war (he was going to attack Rome).
49- 44 BCE	Declares himself dictator and remains dictator until his assassination.
47 BCE	Meets Cleopatra and makes her "queen of Egypt" and gives birth to Caesar's son, nicknamed Caesarion.
March 15, 44 BCE	Caesar is assassinated by the Senate

Document Based Question: Julius Caesar

Question: *How did the Senators justify Julius Caesar's assassination?*

INTRODUCTION

The Assassination of Julius Caesar

"...[Caesar] calling in Greek to his brother, bade him come and help. And by this time, finding himself struck by a great many hands, and looking around about him to see if he could force his way out, when he saw Brutus with his dagger drawn against him, he let go Cascas hand, that he had hold of and covering his head with his robe, gave up his body to their blows. And they so eagerly pressed towards the body, and so many daggers were hacking together, that they cut one another; Brutus, particularly, received a wound in his hand, and all of them were besmeared with the blood."

Source:

Plutarch: *The Assassination of Julius Caesar*, from *Marcus Brutus* (excerpts).

Directions: Highlight in YELLOW evidence that indicates that Julius Caesar's assassination would be JUSTIFIED .
Highlight in PINK evidence that indicates Julius Caesar's assassination would not be justified.

Source 1

While Caesar was in Gaul (trying to gain more territory for the Roman Empire) he ordered some laws to be carried out while he was away. (BC 58-521)

(Law 1)

"Caesar passed a law that grain should hereafter be distributed to the Roman people free of all expense."

(Law 2)

"To carry out the second part of his task was not so easy—to remove from the senate its chief leaders."

Source:

Morey, William C. *Outlines of Roman History: To the Revival of the Empire by Charlemagne*. New York: American Book, 1901. Print.

Text Dependent Question:

1. Why would the people of Rome like and respect Caesar?

2. Why would the people of Rome not respect Caesar?

Source 2

“...And the period of those wars which he now fought, and those many ...expeditions in which he conquered Gaul, showed him to be a soldier and general not in the least inferior to any of the greatest and most admired commanders who had ever appeared at the head of armies. For if we compare him with the Fabii, the Metelli, the Scipios, and with those who were his contemporaries, or not long before him, Sylla, Marius, the Luculli, or even Pompey himself, whose glory, it may be said, went up at that time to heaven for every excellence in war, we shall find Caesar's Actions to have surpassed them all.”

Source: Plutarch (75 CE)

Text Dependent Question:

3. What is Plutarch's claim/argument about Julius Caesar?

Source 4

“Caesar was proclaimed the Father of his Country and chosen dictator for life and consul for ten years, and his person (body) was declared sacred and inviolable. It was decreed that he should transact business on a throne of ivory and gold; that he should himself sacrifice always in triumphal costume; that each year the city should celebrate the days on which he had won his victories; that every five years priests and Vestal virgins should offer up public prayers for his safety; and that the magistrates immediately upon their inauguration should take an oath not to oppose any of Caesar's decrees. In honour of his birth the name of the month Quintilis was changed to July. Many temples were decreed to him as to a god, and one was dedicated in common to him and the goddess Clemency, who were represented as clasping hands. Thus whilst they feared his power they sought his clemency.”

Source:

Appian. “The Civil Wars, Book II” AD 165

4. List three changes Julius Caesar made as Dictator. What change would make you disagree with the most and why (if you were a senator or citizen of Rome)?

Source 5

“The arrival of Caesar was welcomed by all the boroughs and colonies with honour and affection beyond belief; for it was his first coming since the glorious campaign against a united Gaul. Nothing was omitted (left-out) that wit could devise for the decoration of gates, roads, and every place where Caesar was to pass. The whole population, with the children, went forth to meet him, victims were sacrificed everywhere, festal couches, duly spread, occupied market-places and temples, so as to anticipate, if possible, the joy of the triumph so long, so very long expected. Such was the magnificence shown by the richer folk, such the eagerness of the humbler sort.”

Caesar, Julius. “Caesar: Gallic War” 52-51 BCE

Text Dependent Question:

5. Should we trust this source? Why?

6. If this account is accurate, how does this help answer the DBQ?

