

Brief history of Rome, Founding to beginning of Gallic War (Late Republic)

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Kingdom

753 BC - Founding of city.

509 BC - Overthrow of Kings, founding of the Republic of Rome.

Early Republic

449 BC - The last two of the Twelve Tables establish the fundamental laws for the Republic known as SPQR, Senatus Populusque Romanus (Senate and people of Rome).

272 BC - Pyrrhic War. Tarentum, the last city holding out for Independence on Italian mainland, surrenders to Rome. All Italia is now either Roman territory or allied to Rome.

241 BC - First Punic War. Carthago attacks Rome, Sicilia becomes Roman province.

238 BC - Carthago surrenders all claims on Corsica and Sardinia to Rome.

218 BC - Start of Second Punic War. Carthago sends General Hannibal to invade Italia via the Alps.

216 BC - Third decisive victory of Hannibal at Cannae against stronger Roman force.

204 BC - Scipio Africanus lands Roman troops at Utica in North Africa in a counterstrike to Hannibal's terrorizing of Italia.

203 BC - After 15 years of occupying much of Italia, Hannibal is forced to return to Africa and loses decisively against Africanus at Zama.

201 BC - End of Second Punic War. Iberia changes to two Roman Hispania provinces.

172 BC to 167 BC - Third Macedonian War. Macedonia becomes Roman territory, divided into four districts.

149 BC to 146 BC - Third Punic War. After continuous lobbying for conflict with Carthago in the senate by Cato the Elder (great-grandfather of Cato the Younger), Rome declares war, sacks and burns the city. All survivors are enslaved, Rome establishes the province of Africa.

135 BC to 132 BC - First Servile War. Major slave revolt in Sicilia.

Late Republic

112 BC to 106 BC - Jugurthine War. Rome declares war on Jugurtha of Numidia. Gaius Marius' campaign results in victory, Lucius Cornelius Sulla captures King Jugurtha, executed years later after Marius' triumph in Rome.

107 BC - Gaius Marius elected Consul for first (of seven) terms. Marius institutes military reforms, establishes standing army and recruitment of all citizens (incl. the poor).

113 BC to 101 BC - Cimbric War. Germanic tribes Cimbers and Teutons invade northern Italia by way of southern Gallia, defeating two Roman armies. Initial panic in Rome, later two decisive victories with annihilation of tribes. Survivors enslaved.

104 BC to 100 BC - Second Servile War. Major slave revolt in Sicilia.

100 BC, July 13 - Birth of Gaius Julius Caesar.

91 BC to 88 BC - Social War. Open rebellion of 12 major Italian allied cities after assassination of Drusus by the Roman senate after he demanded full Roman citizenship rights for all Italian allies. Rome defeated the rebellion.

90 BC - Consul Lucius Julius Caesar introduces Lex Julia to grant citizenship to Italian allies (excluding rebels) and registered males of allied states to reward military service.

89 BC - Tribunes of the Plebs M. Plautius Silvanus and C. Papirius Carbo introduce Lex Plautia Papiria, granting restricted citizenship to all registered citizens in Italian communities, including previous rebels. Inequality of voting rights keeps rebellion going.

89 BC to 87 BC - First Mithridatic War. King Mithridates of Pontus expands his territory, starts war with Rome by having all Roman citizens in his kingdom massacred. Rome sends army under L.C. Sulla, followed by peace treaty in 85 BC.

86 BC - Death of Gaius Julius Caesar (Father of Gaius Julius Caesar). 15-year-old Caesar elected high priest of Jupiter with support by Marius' political faction (Populares). Caesar marries Cornelia, daughter of Lucius Cornelius Cinna, a close ally of Marius.

86 BC - Sulla's second Civil War. In Sulla's absence, the senate installs Marius as Consul for a 7th time in rebellion against Sulla. Marius dies, but Sulla officially remains exiled while continuing with his campaign.

83 BC - End of Sulla's second Civil War. After treaty with Mithridates, Sulla returns to Rome with veteran army, pushes hostile Senate to elect him as Dictator. He begins "Reign of Terror", publishes a proscription kill list of people offensive to him. Caesar is stripped of his office, his estate confiscated, and he goes into hiding.

83 BC to 78 BC - Second Mithridatic War. Murena, commander under Sulla in the first Mithridatic War, invades Pontus on his own merits. After a minor defeat by Mithridates he leaves. Peace is restored by order of Sulla.

83 BC to 78 BC - Caesar leaves Rome, joins army to serve in Asia and Cilicia. Negotiates with King Nicomedes of Bithynia for fleet assistance. Wins the Civic Crown at siege of Mytilene.

80 BC to 72 BC - Sertorian War. In opposition to Sulla, Quintus Sertorius leads the discontented Lusitanians in Hispania. This cause escalates into a war Sulla condemns as a rebellion against Rome. In 76 BC Roman senate sends Pompeius, who's contribution ends the war.

79 BC - Sulla dies, ending his 4 long years of "Reign of Terror".

78 BC - Sulla's death allows Caesar to return to Rome where he starts work as lawyer, later prosecuting former governors for extortion and corruption.

75 BC - On a study trip to Rhodus Caesar gets kidnapped by pirates. He is freed after extremely high ransom payment.

73 BC to 71 BC - Third Servile War. Major slave revolt in mainland Italia led by Gladiator Spartacus.

73 BC to 63 BC - Third Mithridatic War. Pontus launches attacks into Roman controlled territories. At first successful, Pontus is later defeated by Pompeius, resulting in end of the nation and the creation of a bigger Kingdom of Armenia, an allied client state of Rome.

69 BC - Caesar elected Quaestor, serves with governor in Hispania. Wife Cornelia dies.

67 BC - Caesar marries Pompeia, granddaughter of Sulla.

67 BC to 66 BC - Cilician Pirate Campaign. Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus receives extraordinary powers from Roman senate to eliminate the pirate stranglehold on trade which is threatening to starve Rome. He divides Mediterranean into 13 districts under 13 commanders, effectively wiping out all pirate activity in only 89 days.

63 BC - Siege of Jerusalem. Pompeius conquers Jerusalem and enters the Holy of Holies of the Second Temple. Cicero is elected Consul. Caesar is elected Pontifex Maximus, chief priest of the Roman state religion.

63 BC - Second Catalinarian Conspiracy. Attempt to overthrow current consulships, led by senator Catiline. Catiline wanted policy of debt relief. Many of Sulla's veterans were disaffected, and decades of war had led to economic downturn in farming, swelling numbers of poor in urban areas. Consul Cicero exposed Catiline on the senate floor, resulting in the execution of the five main conspirators.

62 BC to 60 BC - Caesar elected Praetor. In need of financial support, he starts his alliance with Marcus Licinius Crassus, one of the richest men in Rome. He serves as Proprætor in 61 BC and governs Hispania Ulterior. Caesar divorces Pompeia, his second wife, after Bona Dea scandal in 60 BC.

59 BC - Caesar and Marcus Bibulus elected Consuls. Pompeius joins Caesar and Crassus in alliance, creating the first triumvirate (rule of three). Caesar marries Calpurnia and gives Pompeius his daughter Julia as wife. The triumvirate passes a law to redistribute land to the poor by quietly bringing soldiers into the city. Bibulus flees, leaves Caesar to rule alone.

58 BC - Caesar starts unprecedented 5-year term as Proconsul. Governor of Gallia Cisalpina (northern Italia), and Illyricum. After death of the previous governor, he also receives Gallia Transalpina. He starts his term with 4 veteran legions he knows from Hispania (Legions VII, VIII, IX Hispania and X), and the right to raise more.