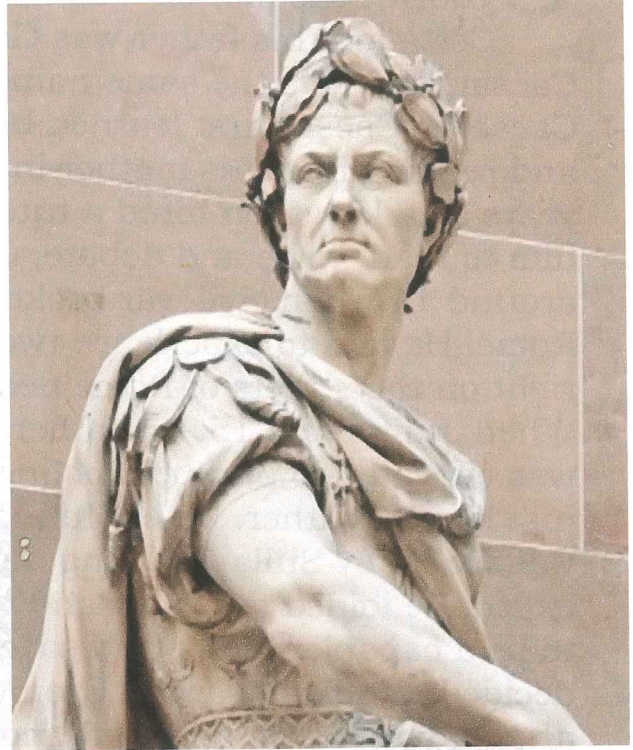


Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar was a great roman General, a **consul** and a statesman who made many critical contributions to the downfall of the **Republic** of Rome and the start of the Roman Empire. As he grew older, he became the Roman military leader and the dictator. He was declared **dictator** for life in 44 BC and he was assassinated on March 15th 44 BC in the theatre of Pompey by a group of republicans led by Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus, both former Pompeians who'd been pardoned by Caesar after the battle of Pharsalus, which left him with only a few months to be the dictator of Rome. Even though Caesar died he had swept the old republican system away and started a new system of Roman leaders with his nephew and designated heir, Octavian [Augustus] the first leader of Rome.



This is an artist's impression of Julius Caesar, put into a statue form.

Glossary

Consul: either of two annually elected chief magistrates of the Roman republic.

Republic: a country that is ruled by elected representatives and by an elected leader rather than a king or queen

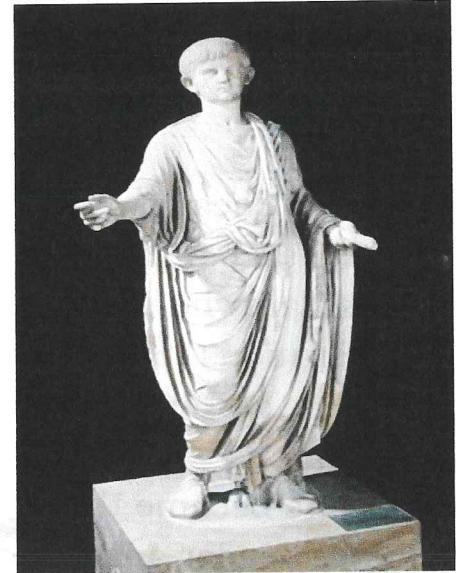
Dictator: a person who rules a country with total authority

Did You Know?

When Caesar was assassinated, he was stabbed 23 times. Imagine having to wait in a lineup just to stab Julius Caesar. You don't need to kill a guy who is already dead!

Childhood

Caesar was born on July 12 or 13 100BC. His mother was named Aurelia Cotta and his father was Gaius Julius Caesar, which is the same name as Julius Caesar's. Caesar first learned basic math and reading from his mother in his early years as a kid, then hired a tutor to teach him to read, write and debate. Caesar was around 14 when **civil war** broke out in Rome. He had to experience two battles right on the streets of Rome near his home. When Julius was 15, his father died and he was expected to pursue a **political** career, just like his father. When Julius was 19, he was **exiled** by Sulla for being the son in law to Marius. After being exiled, he joined the army and was posted to Cilicia. After he proved to be a capable soldier and saved the life of one of his comrades, he decided to quit the army. Even though Julius was not part of the army anymore, he still could not go back to Rome. Since he could not go back to Rome, he spent time improving his education, mainly rhetoric. This eventually made Julius a very good public speaker later on and helped him convince big crowds of people.



This is what Caesar may have looked like as a child.

Pause and Reflect

Think about what you know about Julius Caesar as a child. How is his life similar to your life? How is it different? Think about why life was so different or similar back when Julius Caesar was a child. Explain this to a friend. See if they respond differently or the same as you.

Glossary

Civil war: A war between citizens of the same country

Political: relating to the government or the public affairs of a country

Exiled: the state of being barred from one's native country, typically for political or punitive reasons

Timeline of Caesar's Life

100BC: He is born in Italy, Rome.

69BC: He became *succession quaestor*

65BC He became *aedile*

62BC he became a *praetor*

60BC he made a pact with Pompey and Crassus which helped him become elected consul in the future.

59BC he gets elected consul.

49BC the *senate* ordered Caesar to step down from his military command, Caesar refused, and entered roman Italy under arms and a civil war resulted.

44BC Caesar wins the civil war, becoming consul and dictator. He used his unrivaled power to: reform, relieve debt, enlarging the senate, building the forum Iulium and revising the calendar. On March 15, Julius gets assassinated.



Questions

1. Why would Caesar need very good public speaking skills when he was pursuing a political job?
2. What did Julius Caesar do to change all of Rome?
3. How did that change things for everybody around the world today?

Glossary

Quaestor: any number of officials who had charge of public revenue and expenditure

Governor: the elected head of province

Senate: various legislative or governing bodies in particular



Civil War!

When Caesar's governor title has been taken away by the senate, he decides to invade Rome and take over. When this is done, one person can stop him. Pompey, a general is the only person with enough troops to face Caesar. After Pompey fled from Rome, Caesar gathered more troops and finally, in 48BC, he defeated Pompey's army. Pompey fled to Egypt, and gets killed. Now, word has spread all across Rome that Caesar is dictator. He tries to win favor by granting citizenship to more people, giving them more space to live and changed their tax laws. Still, he could not win over his senatorial enemies, and many Romans feared that eventually, he would become king. In 44BC, he was named dictator for life, so he was a king in everything except name. Even though he was assassinated, he had destroyed the old republican system and started a new system of many Roman leaders, starting with his nephew, Augustus.

Coming Back to Rome

After returning to Rome, Caesar becomes a quaestor, so he buys popularity with both citizens and important people. Then he becomes an aedile, and eventually consul. After his one year of being consul, he becomes the governor of Gaul. First, he starts training more troops to conquer other places. The *Helvetians* tried to take a part of Gaul, but Caesar quickly wiped them out. Soon after the Sueves and Swabians (German tribes) and then the Nervii tried to invade, but Caesar also wiped both of them out. Then Caesar invades and conquers Germany and Britain and adds them to Rome. When he comes back to Gaul, he faces a revolt and finally wipes out resistance in two years.

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