

Chapter 1 : The Assassination of Julius Caesar, 44 BC

After Caesar's Death many key events transpired including civil war between his heir and assassins, plus on the political side Rome transitioned to a monarchy and empire rather than a republic. The Liberators' civil war was started by the Second Triumvirate to avenge Julius Caesar's murder. The war.

Within three months Caesar controlled the entire Italian peninsula and in Spain had defeated the legions loyal to Pompey. Caesar now pursued Pompey to Greece. Although outnumbered, Caesar crushed the forces of his enemy but not before Pompey escaped to Egypt. Caesar defeated his remaining rivals in North Africa in 47 BC and returned to Rome with his authority firmly established. Caesar continued to consolidate his power and in February 44 BC, he declared himself dictator for life. This act, along with his continual effort to adorn himself with the trappings of power, turned many in the Senate against him. Sixty members of the Senate concluded that the only resolution to the problem was to assassinate Caesar. Death of a Dictator Nicolaus of Damascus wrote his account of the murder of Caesar a few years after the event. He was not actually present when the assassination occurred but had the opportunity to speak with those who were. He was a friend of Herod the Great and gathered his information during a visit to Rome. His account is thought to be reliable. There were many discussions and proposals, as might be expected, while they investigated how and where to execute their design. Some suggested that they should make the attempt as he was going along the Sacred Way, which was one of his favorite walks. Another idea was for it to be done at the elections during which he had to cross a bridge to appoint the magistrates in the Campus Martius; they should draw lots for some to push him from the bridge and for others to run up and kill him. A third plan was to wait for a coming gladiatorial show. The advantage of that would be that, because of the show, no suspicion would be aroused if arms were seen prepared for the attempt. But the majority opinion favored killing him while he sat in the Senate, where he would be by himself since non-Senators would not be admitted, and where the many conspirators could hide their daggers beneath their togas. This plan won the day. His wife, Calpurnia, especially, who was frightened by some visions in her dreams, clung to him and said that she would not let him go out that day. But listen to me, cast aside the forebodings of all these people, and come. The Senate has been in session waiting for you since early this morning. The omens were clearly unfavorable. After this unsuccessful sacrifice, the priests made repeated other ones, to see if anything more propitious might appear than what had already been revealed to them. In the end they said that they could not clearly see the divine intent, for there was some transparent, malignant spirit hidden in the victims. Caesar was annoyed and abandoned divination till sunset, though the priests continued all the more with their efforts. But some attendants came up, calling him and saying that the Senate was full. Make your own courage your favorable omen. Caesar followed in silence. Those who were to have part in the plot stood near him. Right next to him went Tillius Cimber, whose brother had been exiled by Caesar. Under pretext of a humble request on behalf of this brother, Cimber approached and grasped the mantle of his toga, seeming to want to make a more positive move with his hands upon Caesar. Caesar wanted to get up and use his hands, but was prevented by Cimber and became exceedingly annoyed. That was the moment for the men to set to work. All quickly unsheathed their daggers and rushed at him. First Servilius Casca struck him with the point of the blade on the left shoulder a little above the collar-bone. He had been aiming for that, but in the excitement he missed. Caesar rose to defend himself, and in the uproar Casca shouted out in Greek to his brother. The latter heard him and drove his sword into the ribs. After a moment, Cassius made a slash at his face, and Decimus Brutus pierced him in the side. While Cassius Longinus was trying to give him another blow he missed and struck Marcus Brutus on the hand. Minucius also hit out at Caesar and hit Rubrius in the thigh. They were just like men doing battle against him. Everyone wanted to seem to have had some part in the murder, and there was not one of them who failed to strike his body as it lay there, until, wounded thirty-five times, he breathed his last. How To Cite This Article:

Chapter 2 : SparkNotes: Julius Caesar: Act I, scene iii

Civil War between Caesar and Pompey began when Julius Caesar, with Marc Antony as second in command, crossed the Rubicon river and began to march on Rome. 49 BCE (after 10th January) Pompey and the Optimates left Rome and fled to Greece.

Though some of the most powerful noble families were patrician, patrician blood was no longer a political advantage; it was actually a handicap, since a patrician was debarred from holding the paraconstitutional but powerful office of tribune of the plebs. The Julii Caesares traced their lineage back to the goddess Venus, but the family was not snobbish or conservative-minded. It was also not rich or influential or even distinguished. This was a difficult task for even the ablest and most gifted noble unless he was backed by substantial family wealth and influence. One of the perquisites of the praetorship and the consulship was the government of a province, which gave ample opportunity for plunder. Military manpower was supplied by the Roman peasantry. This class had been partly dispossessed by an economic revolution following on the devastation caused by the Second Punic War. The Roman governing class had consequently come to be hated and discredited at home and abroad. From bce onward there had been a series of alternate revolutionary and counter-revolutionary paroxysms. It was evident that the misgovernment of the Roman state and the Greco-Roman world by the Roman nobility could not continue indefinitely and it was fairly clear that the most probable alternative was some form of military dictatorship backed by dispossessed Italian peasants who had turned to long-term military service. The traditional competition among members of the Roman nobility for office and the spoils of office was thus threatening to turn into a desperate race for seizing autocratic power. The Julii Caesares did not seem to be in the running. Whoever had been consul in this critical year would have had to initiate such legislation, whatever his personal political predilections. There is evidence, however, that the Julii Caesares, though patricians, had already committed themselves to the antinobility party. An aunt of the future dictator had married Gaius Marius, a self-made man novus homo who had forced his way up to the summit by his military ability and had made the momentous innovation of recruiting his armies from the dispossessed peasants. The day was July 12 or 13; the traditional and perhaps most probable year is bce; but if this date is correct, Caesar must have held each of his offices two years in advance of the legal minimum age. His father, Gaius Caesar, died when Caesar was but 16; his mother, Aurelia, was a notable woman, and it seems certain that he owed much to her. In spite of the inadequacy of his resources, Caesar seems to have chosen a political career as a matter of course. From the beginning, he probably privately aimed at winning office, not just for the sake of the honours but in order to achieve the power to put the misgoverned Roman state and Greco-Roman world into better order in accordance with ideas of his own. It is improbable that Caesar deliberately sought monarchical power until after he had crossed the Rubicon in 49 bce, though sufficient power to impose his will, as he was determined to do, proved to mean monarchical power. In 83 bce Lucius Cornelius Sulla returned to Italy from the East and led the successful counter-revolution of 83-82 bce; Sulla then ordered Caesar to divorce Cornelia. Caesar refused and came close to losing not only his property such as it was but his life as well. He found it advisable to remove himself from Italy and to do military service, first in the province of Asia and then in Cilicia. His first target, Gnaeus Cornelius Dolabella, was defended by Quintus Hortensius, the leading advocate of the day, and was acquitted by the extortion-court jury, composed exclusively of senators. Caesar then went to Rhodes to study oratory under a famous professor, Molon. En route he was captured by pirates one of the symptoms of the anarchy into which the Roman nobility had allowed the Mediterranean world to fall. Caesar raised his ransom, raised a naval force, captured his captors, and had them crucified—all this as a private individual holding no public office. In his absence from Rome, Caesar was made a member of the politico-ecclesiastical college of pontifices; and on his return he gained one of the elective military tribuneships. In 69 or 68 bce Caesar was elected quaestor the first rung on the Roman political ladder. In public funeral orations in their honour, Caesar found opportunities for praising Cinna and Marius. Caesar afterward married Pompeia, a distant relative of Pompey. Caesar served his quaestorship in the province of Farther Spain modern Andalusia and Portugal. Caesar was elected one of

the curule aediles for 65 bce, and he celebrated his tenure of this office by unusually lavish expenditure with borrowed money. He was elected pontifex maximus in 63 bce by a political dodge. By now he had become a controversial political figure. It seems unlikely that either of them had committed himself to Catiline; but Caesar proposed in the Senate a more merciful alternative to the death penalty, which the consul Cicero was asking for the arrested conspirators. Caesar was elected a praetor for 62 bce. Caesar consequently divorced Pompeia. He obtained the governorship of Farther Spain for 61â€”60 bce. His creditors did not let him leave Rome until Crassus had gone bail for a quarter of his debts; but a military expedition beyond the northwest frontier of his province enabled Caesar to win loot for himself as well as for his soldiers, with a balance left over for the treasury. This partial financial recovery enabled him, after his return to Rome in 60 bce, to stand for the consulship for 59 bce. The first triumvirate and the conquest of Gaul The value of the consulship lay in the lucrative provincial governorship to which it would normally lead. On the eve of the consular elections for 59 bce, the Senate sought to allot to the two future consuls for 59 bce, as their proconsular provinces, the unprofitable supervision of forests and cattle trails in Italy. The Senate also secured by massive bribery the election of an anti-Caesarean, Marcus Calpurnius Bibulus. Marble statue of Julius Caesar. Pompey had carried out his mission to put the East in order with notable success, but after his return to Italy and his disbandment of his army in 62 bce, the Senate had thwarted himâ€”particularly by preventing him from securing land allotments for his veterans. Only Caesar, on good terms with both, was in a position to reconcile them. Caesar married Calpurnia, daughter of Lucius Piso, who became consul in 58 bce. Caesar himself initiated a noncontroversial and much-needed act for punishing misconduct by governors of provinces. His tenure was to last until February 28, 54 bce. Between 58 and 50 bce, Caesar conquered the rest of Gaul up to the left bank of the Rhine and subjugated it so effectively that it remained passive under Roman rule throughout the Roman civil wars between 49 and 31 bce. This achievement was all the more amazing in light of the fact that the Romans did not possess any great superiority in military equipment over the north European barbarians. Indeed, the Gallic cavalry was probably superior to the Roman, horseman for horseman. In Gaul, Rome also had the advantage of being able to deal separately with dozens of relatively small, independent, and uncooperative states. Caesar conquered these piecemeal, and the concerted attempt made by a number of them in 52 bce to shake off the Roman yoke came too late. He was acquiring the military manpower, the plunder, and the prestige that he needed to secure a free hand for the prosecution of the task of reorganizing the Roman state and the rest of the Greco-Roman world. In 58 bce Caesar intervened beyond this line, first to drive back the Helvetii, who had been migrating westward from their home in what is now central Switzerland. He then crushed Ariovistus, a German soldier of fortune from beyond the Rhine. In 57 bce Caesar subdued the distant and warlike Belgic group of Gallic peoples in the north, while his lieutenant Publius Licinius Crassus subdued what are now the regions of Normandy and Brittany. In 56 bce the Veneti, in what is now southern Brittany, started a revolt in the northwest that was supported by the still unconquered Morini on the Gallic coast of the Strait of Dover and the Menapii along the south bank of the lower Rhine. Caesar reconquered the Veneti with some difficulty and treated them barbarously. He could not finish off the conquest of the Morini and Menapii before the end of the campaigning season of 56 bce; and in the winter of 56â€”55 bce the Menapii were temporarily expelled from their home by two immigrant German peoples, the Usipetes and Tencteri. These peoples were exterminated by Caesar in 55 bce. In the same year he bridged the Rhine just below Koblenz to raid Germany on the other side of the river, and then crossed the Channel to raid Britain. In 54 bce he raided Britain again and subdued a serious revolt in northeastern Gaul. In 53 bce he subdued further revolts in Gaul and bridged the Rhine again for a second raid. The peoples of central Gaul found a national leader in the Arvernian Vercingetorix. They planned to cut off the Roman forces from Caesar, who had been wintering on the other side of the Alps. They even attempted to invade the western end of the old Roman province of Gallia Transalpina. The Bituriges insisted on standing siege in their town Avaricum Bourges, and Vercingetorix was unable to save it from being taken by storm within one month. Caesar then besieged Vercingetorix in Gergovia near modern Clermont-Ferrand. A Roman attempt to storm Gergovia was repulsed and resulted in heavy Roman lossesâ€”the first outright defeat that Caesar had suffered in Gaul. Caesar then defeated an attack on the Roman army on the march and was thus able to besiege Vercingetorix in Alesia, to the

northwest of Dijon. Alesia, like Gergovia, was a position of great natural strength, and a large Gallic army came to relieve it; but this army was repulsed and dispersed by Caesar, and Vercingetorix then capitulated. During the winter of 52â€”51 bce and the campaigning season of 51 bce, Caesar crushed a number of sporadic further revolts. The most determined of these rebels were the Bellovaci, between the Rivers Seine and Somme, around Beauvais. He spent the year 50 bce in organizing the newly conquered territory. After that, he was ready to settle his accounts with his opponents at home. Antecedents and outcome of the civil war of 49â€”45 bce

During his conquest of Gaul, Caesar had been equally busy in preserving and improving his position at home. He used part of his growing wealth from Gallic loot to hire political agents in Rome. Pompey had soon become restive toward his alarmingly successful ally Caesar, as had Crassus toward his old enemy Pompey. These laws were duly passed. The issue was whether there should or should not be an interval between the date at which Caesar was to resign his provincial governorships and, therewith, the command over his armies and the date at which he would enter his proposed second consulship. If there were to be an interval, Caesar would be a private person during that time, vulnerable to attack by his enemies; if prosecuted and convicted, he would be ruined politically and might possibly lose his life. Caesar had to make sure that, until his entry on his second consulship, he should continue to hold at least one province with the military force to guarantee his security. This issue had already been the object of a series of political manoeuvres and counter-manoevres at Rome. The dates on which the issue turned are all in doubt. In 52 bce, a year in which Pompey was elected sole consul and given a five-year provincial command in Spain, Caesar was allowed by a law sponsored by all 10 tribunes to stand for the consulship in absentia. If he were to stand in 49 bce for the consulship for 48 bce, he would be out of office, and therefore in danger, during the last 10 months of 49 bce. As a safeguard for Caesar against this, there seems to have been an understandingâ€”possibly a private one at Luca in 56 bce between him and Pompeyâ€”that the question of a successor to Caesar in his commands should not be raised in the Senate before March 1, 50 bce. This manoeuvre would have ensured that Caesar would retain his commands until the end of 49 bce. However, the question of replacing Caesar was actually raised in the Senate a number of times from 51 bce onward; each time Caesar had the dangerous proposals vetoed by tribunes of the plebs who were his agentsâ€”particularly Gaius Scribonius Curio in 50 bce and Mark Antony in 49 bce. The issue was brought to a head by one of the consuls for 50 bce, Gaius Claudius Marcellus. He obtained resolutions from the Senate that Caesar should lay down his command presumably at its terminal date but that Pompey should not lay down his command simultaneously. Curio then obtained on December 1, 50 bce, a resolution by votes to 22 that both men should lay down their commands simultaneously. Next day Marcellus without authorization from the Senate offered the command over all troops in Italy to Pompey, together with the power to raise more; and Pompey accepted. On January 1, 49 bce, the Senate received from Caesar a proposal that he and Pompey should lay down their commands simultaneously. He thus committed the first act of war. This was not, however, the heart of the matter.

Chapter 3 : Julius Caesar Timeline

Julius Caesar's death Julius Caesar was assassinated by political rivals on the steps of the senate in Rome. Julius Caesar was known for his brilliant political and war tactics.

He was a major figure in the Second Catilinarian Conspiracy and was summarily executed on the orders of the Consul Cicero in 63 BC for his involvement. According to the historian Plutarch , he spent his teenage years wandering through Rome with his brothers and friends gambling, drinking, and becoming involved in scandalous love affairs. Hoping to escape his creditors, Antony fled to Greece in 58 BC, where he studied philosophy and rhetoric at Athens. The Greek historian Plutarch records it was Antony who convinced Gabinius to finally act. While Antony was serving Gabinius in the East, the domestic political situation had changed in Rome. In 60 BC, a secret agreement known as the "First Triumvirate" was entered into between three men to control the Republic: Caesar used his governorship as a launching point for his conquest of free Gaul. Rome was effectively under the absolute power of these three men. Sometime between 54 and 47 BC, the union produced a single daughter, Antonia Prima. Clodius, through the influence of his benefactor Marcus Licinius Crassus , had developed a positive political relationship with Julius Caesar. Serving under Caesar, Antony demonstrated excellent military leadership. After a year of service in Gaul, Caesar dispatched Antony to Rome to formally begin his political career , receiving election as Quaestor for 52 BC as a member of the Populares faction. Following his year in office, Antony was promoted by Caesar to the rank of Legate and assigned command of two legions approximately 7, total soldiers. Without the stability they provided, the divide between Caesar and Pompey grew ever larger. Anarchy resulted, causing the Senate to look to Pompey. Fearing the persecutions of Lucius Cornelius Sulla only thirty-years earlier, they avoided granting Pompey the dictatorship by instead naming him sole Consul for the year, giving him extraordinary but limited powers. With the support of Caesar, who as Pontifex Maximus was head of the Roman religion, Antony was appointed the College of Augurs , an important priestly office responsible for interpreting the will of the Roman gods by studying the flight of birds. All public actions required favorable auspices, granting the college considerable influence. In this position, Antony could protect Caesar from his political enemies by vetoing any actions unfavorable to his patron. The feud between Caesar and Pompey erupted into open confrontation by early 49 BC. Upon assuming office in January, Antony immediately summoned a meeting of the Senate to resolve the conflict: Antony then made a new proposal: Caesar would retain only two of his eight legions and the governorship of Illyrium if he was allowed to stand for the Consulship in absentia. This arrangement ensured his immunity from suit would continue: Though Pompey found the concession satisfactory, Cato and Lentulus refused to back down, with Lentulus even expelling Antony from the Senate meeting by force. Under the leadership of Cato and with the tacit support of Pompey, the Senate passed the "final decree" *senatus consultum ultimum* stripping Caesar of his command and ordering him to return to Rome and stand trial for war crimes. The Senate further declared Caesar a traitor and a public enemy if he did not immediately disband his army. Three days later, on 10 January, Caesar crossed the Rubicon River , starting a civil war. After entering Rome, instead of pursuing Pompey, Caesar marched to Spain to defeat Pompeian-loyalists there. In early 48 BC, he prepared to sail with seven legions to Greece to face Pompey. Additionally, the two legions they commanded defected to Pompey. Without their fleet, Caesar lacked the necessary transport ships to cross into Greece with his seven legions. Instead, he sailed with only two and placed Antony in command of the remaining five at Brundisium with instructions to join him as soon as he was able. The Battle of Pharsalus: Though an indecisive result, the victory was a tactical win for Pompey. Caesar would later remark the civil war would have ended that day if Pompey had only attacked him. The chief cause of his political challenges concerned debt forgiveness. One of the Tribunes for 47 BC, Publius Cornelius Dolabella , a former general under Pompey, proposed a law which would have canceled all outstanding debts. Antony opposed the law for political and personal reasons: When Dolabella sought to enact the law by force and seized the Roman Forum , Antony responded by unleashing his soldiers upon the assembled mass. Caesar sought to mend relations with the populist leader; he was elected to a third term as Consul for 46 BC, but proposed the Senate should

transfer the consulship to Dolabella. When Antony protested, Caesar was forced to withdraw the motion out of shame. Later, Caesar sought to exercise his prerogatives as Dictator and directly proclaim Dolabella as Consul instead. After returning victorious from North Africa, Caesar was appointed Dictator for ten years and brought Cleopatra and their son to Rome. Antony again remained in Rome while Caesar, in 45 BC, sailed to Spain to defeat the final opposition to his rule. When Caesar returned in late 45 BC, the civil war was over. During this time Antony married his third wife, Fulvia. Following the scandal with Dolabella, Antony had divorced his second wife and quickly married Fulvia. Assassination of Julius Caesar Ides of March[edit] Whatever conflicts existed between himself and Caesar, Antony remained faithful to Caesar, ensuring their estrangement did not last long. Caesar planned a new invasion of Parthia and desired to leave Antony in Italy to govern Rome in his name. The festival was held in honor of Lupa , the she-wolf who suckled the infant orphans Romulus and Remus , the founders of Rome. Caesar had enacted a number of constitutional reforms which centralized effectively all political powers within his own hands. He was granted further honors, including a form of semi-official cult , with Antony as his high priest. The event presented a powerful message: By refusing it, Caesar demonstrated he had no intention of making himself King of Rome. A group of Senators resolved to kill Caesar to prevent him from seizing the throne. Antony was supposed to attend with Caesar, but was waylaid at the door by one of the plotters and prevented from intervening. According to the Greek historian Plutarch , as Caesar arrived at the Senate, Lucius Tillius Cimber presented him with a petition to recall his exiled brother. Within moments, the entire group, including Brutus, was striking out at the dictator. Caesar attempted to get away, but, blinded by blood, he tripped and fell; the men continued stabbing him as he lay defenseless on the lower steps of the portico. According to Roman historian Eutropius , around 60 or more men participated in the assassination. Caesar was stabbed 23 times and died from the blood loss attributable to multiple stab wounds. When this did not occur, he soon returned to Rome. The conspirators, who styled themselves the Liberatores "The Liberators" , had barricaded themselves on the Capitoline Hill for their own safety. Antony, as the sole Consul, soon took the initiative and seized the state treasury. Antony also agreed to accept the appointment of his rival Dolabella as his Consular colleague to replace Caesar. In it, Caesar posthumously adopted his great-nephew Gaius Octavius and named him his principal heir. Though not the chief beneficiary, Antony did receive some bequests. During the demagogic speech, he enumerated the deeds of Caesar and, publicly reading his will, detailed the donations Caesar had left to the Roman people. Worked into a fury by the bloody spectacle, the assembly rioted. Several buildings in the Forum and some houses of the conspirators were burned to the ground. Panicked, many of the conspirators fled Italy. Such an assignment, in addition to being unworthy of their rank, would have kept them far from Rome and shifted the balance towards Antony. Refusing such secondary duties, the two traveled to Greece instead. Additionally, Cleopatra left Rome to return to Egypt. Antony enacted the Lex Antonia , which formally abolished the Dictatorship, in an attempt to consolidate his power by gaining the support of the Senatorial class. Although Antony had amassed political support, Octavian still had opportunity to rival him as the leading member of the Caesarian faction. The Senatorial Republicans increasingly viewed Antony as a new tyrant. Antony had lost the support of many Romans and supporters of Caesar when he opposed the motion to elevate Caesar to divine status. In either case, his situation as ruler of Rome would be weakened. With popular opinion in Rome turning against him and his Consular term nearing its end, Antony attempted to secure a favorable military assignment to secure an army to protect himself. The Senate, as was custom, assigned Antony and Dolabella the provinces of Macedonia and Syria , respectively, to govern in 43 BC after their Consular terms expired. Both consuls were killed, however, leaving Octavian in sole command of their armies, some eight legions. These appointments attempted to renew the "Republican" cause. Meanwhile, Antony recovered his position by joining forces with Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, who had been assigned the governorship of Transalpine Gaul and Nearer Spain. Though he was an ardent Caesarian, Lepidus had maintained friendly relations with the Senate and with Sextus Pompey. His legions, however, quickly joined Antony, giving him control over seventeen legions, the largest army in the West.

Chapter 4 : Aftermath - Fall of the Roman Republic | blog.quintoapp.com

To understand the events of the life of Julius Caesar it is important to review the life and career of Sulla. Lucius Cornelius Sulla was born in BCE into a patrician family of Rome, but one with little power and influence.

Comment required March 1, 6: In 45 BC, Rome was emerging from five years of civil war and policy debates concerned the very nature of the Roman Republic. Caesar had just been declared Dictator for Ten Years by the Roman senate, and sought more. Caesar understood how to nurture the love of his people. Strauss points to Caesar refusing the crown from Mark Antony at the Lupercalia Fertility Festival as the final straw that hurt the public and senatorial perception of him. In time, though, his hunger for power made even longtime admirers squeamish. Strauss sees one episode as the final straw. In the eyes of increasing numbers, Caesar had to be taken down. Strauss says the bard was two-thirds correct. Cassius, a general and senator, had several motives for wanting Caesar dead. In addition to fearing his ambition, he had been passed over for several high-level positions and faced rumors that Caesar slept with his wife. The soothsayer warns Caesar of the Ides of March. They had barely a month to act, as Caesar was leaving for the Parthian War on March 18 and would be surrounded by his army from then on. They decided to kill Caesar in the Senate House. On March 15, Caesar was scheduled to attend a meeting in the Senate. The purpose was procedural business, but a rumor was spreading that there would be a proposal to crown Caesar king. Caesar, fearing the omens, cancelled his appearance in the Senate. The conspirators, then, had to persuade him to change his mind. His close friend Decimus was chosen for the task. In an ultimate act of betrayal, Decimus, who served Caesar closely for more than a decade and was well-rewarded for his efforts, met with Caesar at his home. He had succeeded in luring his dear old friend to his death. They were really forming a perimeter. He likely swatted Casca away, but the blows from others were coming too quickly. Caesar likely received 23 stab wounds and died within minutes. Ultimately, Brutus and Cassius went into battle against Caesar supporters Mark Antony and Gaius Octavius Octavian, with each side having anywhere from 50,000 men. Cassius mistakenly thought Brutus had been beaten by then as well, and, believing all was lost, had one of his men decapitate him. Brutus, then seeing his own defeat as inevitable, killed himself. In time, Julius Caesar would be remembered not as power-hungry but as a great leader, with many Roman rulers after him taking on Caesar as a title.

Chapter 5 : The real story behind the assassination of Julius Caesar

The Romans were a very superstitious people and it comes as no surprise that they should have noticed a great number of supernatural events surrounding the death of the great Julius Caesar; both before and after his death.

He was of the Julii family. He was pardoned later that year. On the way he was captured by pirates and held to ransom. He was in captivity for a month until the ransom was paid. Once he had found them he executed them. He staged lavish Games using money loaned from Crassus. It was discovered that Clodius had disguised himself as a woman and entered the festivities. In return for support Caesar would support measures that would benefit them. Cicero was offered a part of the alliance but declined. In response, Brutus allied himself with the opponents of the Triumvirate known as the Optimates. His conquest of Gaul is referred to as the Gallic Wars. He landed on the beach at Deal but was unable to progress further inland. He made some gains but then withdrew to return to Rome for winter. Fights broke out frequently in Rome between the two factions. After Milo assassinated Clodius there was rioting and looting in the streets of Rome. Pompey was given special powers to deal with the violence. The Romans secured victory over the Avernian tribes. After this battle Gaul became a Roman province. He was reluctant to return to Rome without magistrate status fearing that he would be attacked. The Senate refused permission and demanded his return. Unfortunately they forgot to take the treasury with them. The city fell in September. Unable to secure sufficient transport he sailed with two legions and left Marc Antony at Brundisium with orders to bring the remaining legions as soon as he could secure transport. The battle was a decisive victory for Caesar and Pompey fled to Egypt. He took the city of Alexandria in Egypt for his headquarters. Ptolemy laid siege to Alexandria. Ptolemy drowned in the Nile during the battle. It remained in effect until the 16th century. He was proclaimed dictator for life. The conspirators called themselves the Liberators. When Julius entered the Senate he was immediately surrounded by the assassin senators. Caesar initially believed they were wishing to pay their respects and was shocked when he was stabbed for the first time. When he realised what was happening and that he was powerless to stop the violence he covered his head with his toga. He was stabbed 23 times with the final wound being inflicted by Marcus Brutus. It revealed that he had chosen to posthumously adopt Octavian and make him his heir. Many of the Liberators fled Rome following the speech. Both committed suicide rather than facing capture. Published Oct 14, 3:

Chapter 6 : Julius Caesar - Wikipedia

Lepidus was among Julius Caesar's greatest supporters. He started his cursus honorum as a praetor in 49 BC, and was rewarded with the consulship in 46 BC, after the defeat of the Pompeians in the East.

Brutus attempted to address the Senate and give the reasons for the conspiracy, urging his fellow Senators to spread this great deed of liberty as one of honor. They fled the chambers, likely fearing for their own safety. Soon panic struck throughout the area, and the conspirators themselves raced off to the Capitoline Hill where they could safely hole up against the anger of the Roman mob. Cassius Dio paints a different picture, though. In so doing, he calmed the population by claiming the deed was only done to preserve liberty and the Republican system. By convincing the crowd that there would be no mass proscriptions, or additional power grabs by the conspirators, Dio explains that the situation was mostly one of relative calm. First they made no real contingent plan to firmly take control. This left an immediate power vacuum, creating uncertainty and fear. Secondly, the biggest mistake was in allowing Marcus Antonius Antony to live. With the death of Caesar, Antony now stood as his heir apparent, and he took full advantage of the situation. At first Antony would appear to be conciliatory, and attempt to bring calm to Rome. After reading it, those present were probably shocked by what they heard. His heir was to be his 18 year old and virtually unknown great nephew, Octavian, who waited in Apollonia to accompany Caesar to Parthia. Perhaps Lepidus, a great supporter of Caesar, sought to garner power for himself, but at any rate, he did maintain order. On March 16, the Senate wisely gathered to settle the affairs of the state before things unravelled too far. Cicero, however, the greatest of orators swayed the Senate to compromise, in order to save the Republic. Eventually the governing body decided on a course of general amnesty for the assassins or liberators as they and their supporters called themselves. This act, took power away from Lepidus, now unable to manipulate the legions into thinking that the Senate would take away their spoils. Not only had he lost the inheritance of Caesar though he stole a great part of it before it passed to Octavian , but the assassins had actually set themselves up in positions of power. This would not only protect them from the Roman mob, by sending them away from the city, but would grant them considerable power and the right to control regional legions. Brutus the symbolic leader of the conspiracy was appointed to Crete and Cassius the driving force behind the plot was given Africa. Decimus Brutus, the man who finally convinced Caesar to make the final walk to the site of his death, was given Cisalpine Gaul. Though Cassius opposed the idea of a grand public funeral, Brutus understood that the people would need some sort of closure, thereby allowing Antony to have his way. Over the course of the grand and likely highly emotional funeral, Antony addressed the people, first singing the praises of Caesar as would be expected at such an event. But Antony was here to make a political statement of a powerful order. He had the will of Caesar read, thereby making it public knowledge of the money left to each citizen of Rome. Nay, though you enacted many laws that men might not be killed by their personal foes, yet how mercilessly you yourself were slain by your friends! And now, the victim of assassination, you lie dead in the Forum through which you often led the triumph crowned; wounded to death, you have been cast down upon the rostra from which you often addressed the people. Woe for the blood-bespattered locks of grey, alas for the rent robe, which you assumed, it seems, only that you might be slain in it! Showing the stab-shredded and bloody garment to the crowd, they were instantly overcome with a need for vengeance. Divine Julius and the Beginning of the Next Generation As for the great Caesar, his bones were carried away and laid to rest in the family tomb, and an altar was later erected on the site of the funeral pyre. To the people of Rome, Caesar was a great hero. He brought wealth, power and prestige to the eternal city and they loved him for it. To them, Caesar truly was a god. At his funeral games held to celebrate the life of Caesar in July of 44 BC, a great comet appeared in the sky lasting for seven days. Every monthly subscription or any one-off donation will help cover the costs of running and maintaining the site. Make a Donation Did you know? He started his cursus honorum as a praetor in 49 BC, and was rewarded with the consulship in 46 BC, after the defeat of the Pompeians in the East.

Chapter 7 : mariamilani Ancient Rome

By the time of the First Triumvirate, the republican form of government in Rome was already on its way to monarchy. Before you get to the three men involved in the triumvirate, you need to know about some of the events and people that led to it.

Leaders of the Roman Republic recognized that reforms needed to be made but were undecided as to what the reforms must be and how major reforms could be carried out. One leader prior to Caesar arose that gained the power to make such reforms. His name was Lucius Cornelius Sulla. To understand the events of the life of Julius Caesar it is important to review the life and career of Sulla. He aspired to a political career but he had little success until 78 BCE when he became quaestor financial officer in an army commanded by Gaius Marius. For more information on the political offices of the Roman government see Roman Governance. Jugurtha was a Berber leader that had a turbulent relationship with Rome. Jugurtha was the illegitimate son of a former king of Numidia, which roughly corresponded to what is now Algeria. In times past Jugurtha had been an ally of Rome, commanding a Berber force fighting in alliance with Rome in Spain. Jugurtha was winning control of Numidia against the rival claimants to the throne when his troops captured a city where his rivals had taken refuge. When the city, which was what is now Constantine, Algeria, was taken all of the inhabitants were slaughtered, along with some important Roman business men. As a consequence Rome declared war on Jugurtha. Jugurtha fought a guerilla wars against the Romans. Finally Jugurtha negotiated a favorable treaty of peace with the Romans. The terms were so surprisingly favorable to Jugurtha that the Roman Senate requested he come to Rome and explain how he had obtained such favorable conditions. The Senate suspected bribery. Under safe conduct conditions Jugurtha journeyed to Rome. The Senate accepted that the treaty was a legitimate one and Jugurtha was allowed to return to Numidia. However before he left Rome Jugurtha arranged the assassination of a rival of his for the throne of Numidia. This so outraged the Senate that the treaty was abrogated and war was to continue against Jugurtha. It was expected that the war against Jugurtha would be long and difficult. Sulla journeyed to the adjacent kingdom which was in what is now north Morocco and convinced the king, Bocchus, to betray Jugurtha who was a refugee in the kingdom of Bocchus, who happened to be his father-in-law. Sulla had risked his life in this venture but it was successful. People said of Sulla that he had the courage of a lion and the cunning of a fox. For more on Jugurtha see Algeria. While Sulla was hailed as hero by most Roman, his success was recented by his commanding officer, Marius. Sulla moved up in political rank when he became a praestor, a judge. He also had military responsibilities. Non-Roman allies in Italy were demanding Roman citizenship and grants of land. Sulla suppressed the rebellion but allowed the soldiers to retain the land they had already acquired. At the time there were two major political groupings in the Senate. The two groupings originated from the class structure of Rome. One grouping was of the patrician class, the old land owning families of Rome. Sulla supported that political grouping. The other had its origin in the plebian class but some patrician families, including the family of Julius Caesar, had allied themselves with it. It was known as the popular party. Having demonstrated his capabilities as a general in the Social War Sulla was duly elected as one the two consuls of the Roman Republic, the highest political office in the Republic. Pontus was a Hellenized Persian kingdom situated along the Black Sea in the northeast of what is now Turkey. The kingdom of Phrygia had been part of the Pontic empire but it rebelled and sought the support of Rome. Rome made Phrygia part of its province of Asia. It had thus become an integral part of the Roman empire. Mithradates had the audacity to bring Phrygia back under Pontic control. Sulla with an army already at his command marched on Rome and the decision concerning naming Marius commander was reversed. Marius fled Rome into exile and died about a year later. Marius had been a revolutionary seeking to take power away from the oligarchy represented by the Senate. Sulla was the counter-revolutionary. Sulla took his force to Greece where he proceeded to defeat each general of Mithradates. Athens resisted but fell in 86 BCE after a long siege. Sulla stayed in Athens until the summer of 83 BCE when he led his forty thousand troops into southern Italy. This group declared Sulla to be a public enemy. The house belonging to Sulla was destroyed and his family had to flee for their lives. The Senate even sent someone to

take command of the army which Sulla had been commanding. That replacement happened to have been killed before he could reach Sulla. Sulla then marched to Rome and took control of the city by the end of the year. Rome had been militarily occupied before but always by alien invaders rather than a Roman army. The victorious Sulla was given the office of dictator. For the Romans dictator was a temporary position given to someone to run the government until an election could be held and the subsequently elected official could take office. However prior to Sulla the office of dictator was for a specified period of time. In the case of Sulla his term as dictator did not have a time limit. Sulla promised to relinquish the office as soon as possible. In power as the dictator of Rome, Sulla carried out an extensive program of governmental reform. For example, he increased the number of courts to try criminal cases. One of the concerns at the time was that popular assemblies with legislative power would wrest effective control of Roman government away from the Senate. Sulla sought to prevent this by enacting legislation that required laws which were to be considered by popular assemblies be first submitted to the Senate for debate. The Senate could thus deny a popular assembly the opportunity to even consider a proposed law. This reform enabled the Senate to reign in any usurpation of power by the popular assemblies. After carrying out his reform measures Sulla then indulged himself with a celebration of his triumph over Mithradates. Such celebrations were an important element of Roman life and politics. He wrote his memoirs and continued to be active, but a fever killed him in the year 78 BCE when he was about sixty years of age. Gaius Julius Caesar was born into patrician family that had allied itself politically with the plebian politicians. Julius was not his first name; it was the name of family, Caesar being the name of his clan. The Julii Caesars traced their ancestry back to the goddess of love, Venus. They had a special family temple devoted to her. An aunt of Julius Caesar had married Marius, the leader who opposed Sulla in his career. Gaius Caesar, the father of Julius Caesar died. Julius Caesar married the daughter of a revolutionary associate of Marius. Julius was thus irrevocably committed to the revolutionary plebian-popular side of politics in Rome. Caesar then joined the Roman army and saw service in the Roman provinces of Asia and Cilicia. These provinces were on the northwestern and eastern south coast of Anatolia, respectively. His major case was against an associate of Sulla who was charged with corruption-extortion. The court, composed of senators sympathetic to the counter-revolution of Sulla, acquitted the defendant. Caesar decided to gain training in oratory. He chose to study with a famous teacher of rhetoric living on the island of Rhodes. On the way the Rhodes Caesar was captured by pirates and held for ransom. He secured the ransom and was released. He then put together a naval force and captured the pirates. He had them executed in the Roman fashion, by crucifixion. While Caesar was in the eastern Mediterranean he was made a member of the College of Pontifices, an honor but without much significance. When he returned to Rome he was elected to be a tribune for the military. Caesar worked with Gnaeus Pompeius Pompey to undue the constitutional reform established by Sulla. Caesar was elected to be a quaestor government financial administrator. This was the first consequential political office. Later in this period his wife died. Since later his aunt, who was the widow of Marius, died. Caesar marries a relative of his political ally Pompey. He serves his term as quaestor in Farther Spain, which was what is now Andalucia, Spain and Portugal. Ceasar was elected to the office of aedile. An aedile had responsibilities for the maintenance of temples and other public buildings. An aedile also regulated the public games and markets.

Julius Caesar, the "dictator for life" of the Roman Empire, is murdered by his own senators at a meeting in a hall next to Pompey's Theatre. The conspiracy against Caesar encompassed as many.

She was a talented and resourceful individual of great charm but ruthless when she felt she had to be. Cleopatra was the only one of her family that learned to speak the Egyptian Coptic language. She knew a half dozen to a dozen other languages. She was an educated intellectual and a capable administrator. Despite her abilities and effort she failed and her life was one of sadness rather than glamour. The Timeline BCE: Alexander conquers Egypt effortlessly as a minor side-campaign in his conquest of the Persian Empire. Alexander dies in Babylon upon his return from the conquest of what is now Afghanistan, the Indus River Valley and the areas in Central Asia north of Afghanistan. Cleopatra is a descendant of Ptolemy. Rome establishes a protectorate of Egypt. Cleopatra is born in Egypt. She is the seventh in the Ptolemy dynasty to bear the name Cleopatra, which means glory of the father. She is the second daughter of Ptolemy XII. She and the rest of the Ptolemys were of almost pure Macedonian Greek ancestry, possibly of some Iranian but no Egyptian ancestry. Ptolemy XII is returned to power by a Roman army. Cleopatra is about 18 years old and had ruled for a short time as a co-regent with her father. In the Egyptian scheme of things Pharaohs marry a sister to ensure the rulership never leaves the royal family. Cleopatra and Ptolemy marry. There could not have been any affection between Cleopatra and her brother. Cleopatra was determined to rule. Julius Caesar was engaged in a civil war with another Roman leader, Pompey. Pompey had been defeated in a battle and fled to Egypt. Caesar was pursuing him but Pompey was assassinated upon his arrival in Egypt before Caesar arrived in Egypt. Caesar was left with idle time. When the carpet was unrolled a vivacious 21 year old Egyptian queen emerges. Caesar was about 52 at the time. Cleopatra captivated him but it was probably not her youth and beauty. Caesar could have had beves and beves of beautiful young women. Had Cleopatra met Caesar through official state channels protocol would have interfered with her working her charms upon him. She was said to have a thousand ways of flattering. Or, at least she would be once back in power in Egypt. Caesar was chronically and often disastrously in debt. Ptolemy XIII dies of drowning while trying to escape the field of battle. Caesar returns to Rome. In Rome, Caesar holds a triumphal celebration of his victories. These celebrations whenever possible included the parading of the defeated enemies. Cleopatra joins Caesar in Rome. Caesar orders that a gold-plated statue of Cleopatra be placed in the temple of Venus Genetrix. Although Pompey had been defeated and was killed in Egypt the civil war did not end. Caesar took an army to Spain to deal with this threat. After a series of retreats the Pompeys decided to do battle at Munda from some high ground. The battle was indecisive until a shift in troops by one of the Pompeys was misinterpreted as a retreat and their other troops began to retreat. Caesar had achieved total victory over the armies of his rivals, he had been made dictator politically. His enemies in the Roman senate saw Caesar as acquiring all powers, even to the point of having himself declared a god. They arranged his assassination in which some of previous friends participated as well as his enemies. She wanted to make her son, Caesarion, co-regent with her as Ptolemy XV. Marcus Antonius Mark Antony emerges as the leader of the forces which backed Caesar. Mark Antony decides for no obvious reason to attack the Parthian Persian Empire. He calls for Cleopatra to join him at Tarsus. He had met Cleopatra 13 years before when she was 14 years old. That had been an inconsequential meeting. Their meeting at Tarsus was anything but inconsequential. Cleopatra having lost the protection of the strongman Caesar needed another Roman leader to protect her. Mark Antony was so captivated by Cleopatra that he gave up his plans for the invasion of the Parthian Empire and went with Cleopatra back to her capital of Alexandria. From the likenesses of Cleopatra on the coins of her realm she was not a great beauty so her attraction came from the charm of her personality and from her intellect. Arsinoe was possible rival for the throne of Egypt. Arsinoe herself was helpless but her enemies in Egypt could have used her in a bid to depose Cleopatra. A very distant threat but Cleopatra was not one to take chances. An agreement was reached and part of the arrangement was that Mark Antony marry the sister of Octavian, Octavia. They were twins, a boy named Alexander Helios and a girl named Cleopatra Selene. Meanwhile back in Egypt another drama was

unfolding. Herod was the king of Judea. He had accepted Roman overlordship and the Romans in turn had allowed him to continue to rule his kingdom. Herod was a competent ruler. Mark Antony decides that he and Octavian can never work together. He decides to resume the campaign against the Parthian Empire. Cleopatra joins him at Antioch and they get married. This was not only illegal under Roman Law it was a betrayal of Octavia, his legal wife and the sister of Octavian. This makes war between Octavian and Mark Antony inevitable. This not only enrages Octavian, it infuriates most Romans and they back Octavian in the struggle between the two leaders. The Parthian campaign results in only minor conquests, notably Armenia. Cleopatra bears Antony another son, Ptolemy Philadelphus. Mark Antony celebrates a victory triumph in Alexandria for his gains from the Parthians. The area west of Armenia is awarded to the second son, Ptolemy Philadelphus. The daughter Selene is given Cyprus. Furthermore, at the celebration Caesarion is publically declared to be the son of Julius Caesar and thus the king of kings. The celebration of a triumph in Alexandria was a serious offense to Romans. Such celebration were only supposed to take place in Rome, the capital of the empire. He publicizes its contents. The Roman citizens are outraged. Mark Antony and Cleopatra live together in Greece. At the height of the battle Cleopatra fearing capture takes her ships out of the battle. His army surrenders to Octavian. Mark Antony escapes from the defeat and joins Cleopatra on her ship, but he is furious with her for having unnecessarily precipitated the defeat at Actium. After several days he relents and he and Cleopatra stay together in Alexandria. Mark Antony has revealed himself as a loser and Cleopatra needs someone else who can protect her. Octavian communicates to Cleopatra that if she kills Mark Antony that he might work out something with her. Cleopatra realizes that she is not powerful enough to expell Mark Antony from Egypt or to assassinate him. She conceives a fiendish plot. She has a message sent to Mark Antony saying that she had killed herself. Upon hearing that his loved one was dead he falls upon his sword. He finds her alive and tells her to make her peace with Octavian. She sends Caesarion with trusted protectors to hide in the east of Egypt near the Red Sea. Cleopatra first intends to commit suicide by setting fire to the mausoleum where she has collected her treasures. Roman soldiers find entry to the mausoleum and thwart her plans. She is taken captive. Cleopatra then arranges for a poisonous snake, an asp, to be smuggled to her in a basket of figs. She then commits suicide by allowing the asp to bite her on her chest. She arranged for her and Mark Antony to be buried together.

Chapter 9 : Mark Antony - Wikipedia

Julius Caesar: Caesar was the dictator of Rome (elevated status) who possessed great ambition, power, and pride (hamartia) but still was loved by the plebeians (relatable). As a result of his status and power, senators of the Republic planned his assassination to thwart him from gaining more power and to end what they considered tyranny.

Act I, scene iii Summary: Act I, scene iii Casca and Cicero meet on a Roman street. He wonders if there is strife in heaven or if the gods are so angered by mankind that they intend to destroy it. Casca relates that he saw a man with his hands on fire, and yet his flesh was not burning. He describes meeting a lion near the Capitol: Many others have seen men on fire walking in the streets, and an owl, a nocturnal bird, was seen sitting out in the marketplace during the day. When so many abnormal events happen at once, Casca declares, no one could possibly believe that they are natural occurrences. Casca insists that they are portents of danger ahead. Cicero replies that men will interpret things as they will: Cicero asks if Caesar is coming to the Capitol the next day; Casca replies that he is. Cicero departs, warning that it is not a good atmosphere in which to remain outside. He has been wandering through the streets, taking no shelter from the thunder and lightning. Casca asks Cassius why he would endanger himself so. Cassius compares the night to Caesar himself, who like this dreadful night,. Casca reports to Cassius that the senators plan to make Caesar king in the Senate the following day. Cassius draws his dagger and swears to the gods that if they can make a weak man like Caesar so powerful, then they can empower Cassius to defeat a tyrant. Casca joins Cassius in his censure of Caesar, and Cassius reveals that he has already swayed a number of high-powered Romans to support a resistance movement. A conspirator named Cinna enters. Cassius now divulges his latest scheme in his plot to build opposition against Caesar: Cassius claims that Brutus has already come three-quarters of the way toward turning against Caesar; he hopes the letters will bring him the rest of the way around. The night is full of portents, but no one construes them accurately.