



EIGHT DAYS THAT MADE HISTORY



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COURSE OUTLINE

- 10 January 49 BC: Caesar crossed the Rubicon
- 29 September 1066: William the Conqueror landed in England
- 12 October 1492: Christopher Columbus discovered America
- 22 June 1791: the night when Louis XVI lost his throne
- 2 December 1805: Napoleon won at Austerlitz
- 25 October 1917: Lenin seized power
- 4 June 1944: Ike against the weather forecast
- 11 September 2001: George W Bush's longest day



History is never written

With hindsight chains of events appear logical

BUT History is unpredictable

Who could have predicted that Louis XVI's decision to flee Paris would end up in failure?

Louis XVI (1754-1793)

A remarkable monarch
Cultured, open to the
world, intelligent...

A series of miscalculations
& errors of judgment led
him to the scaffold



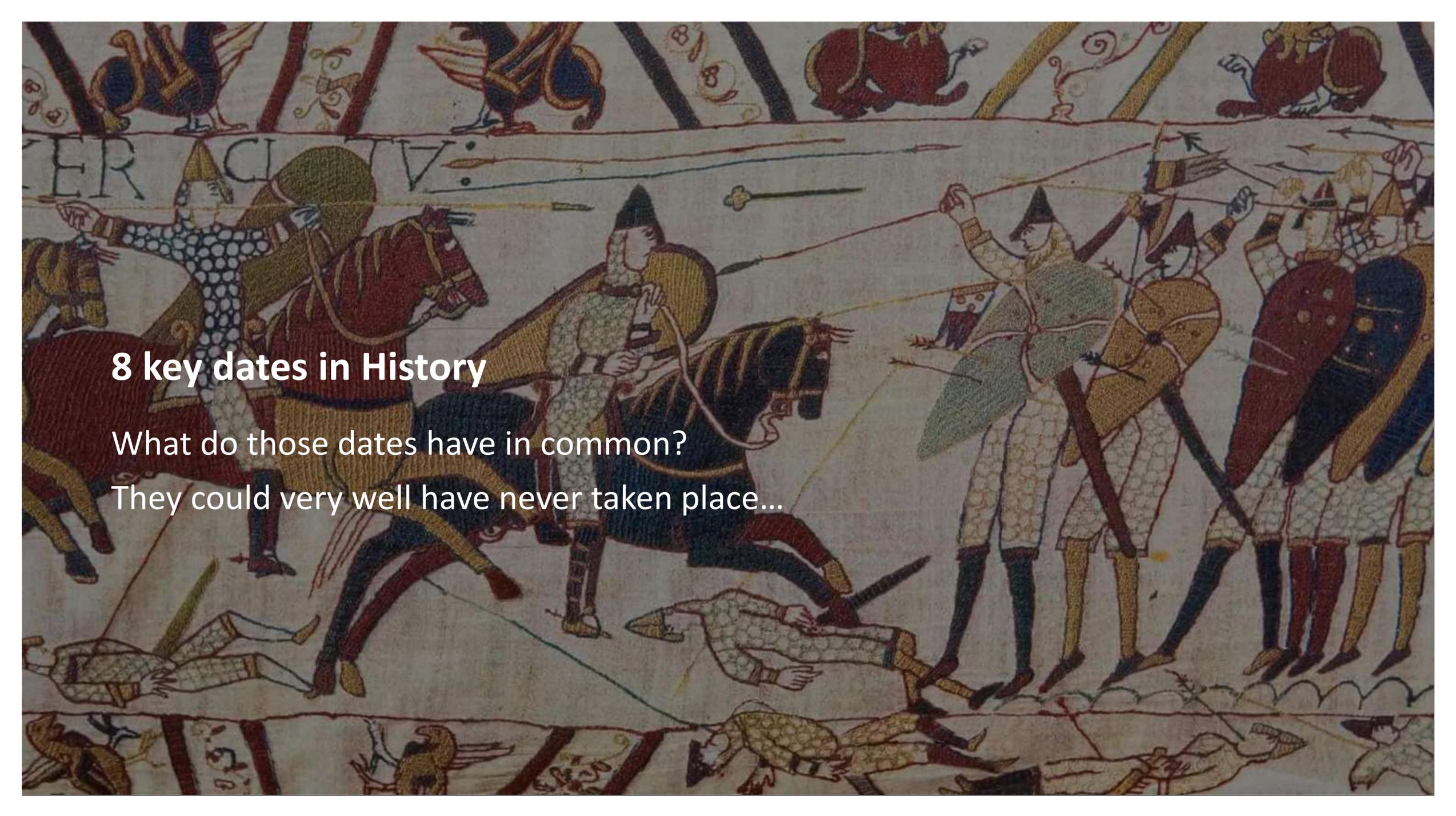


Napoleon

Was he predestined to become emperor and rule over Europe?

Luck





8 key dates in History

What do those dates have in common?

They could very well have never taken place...

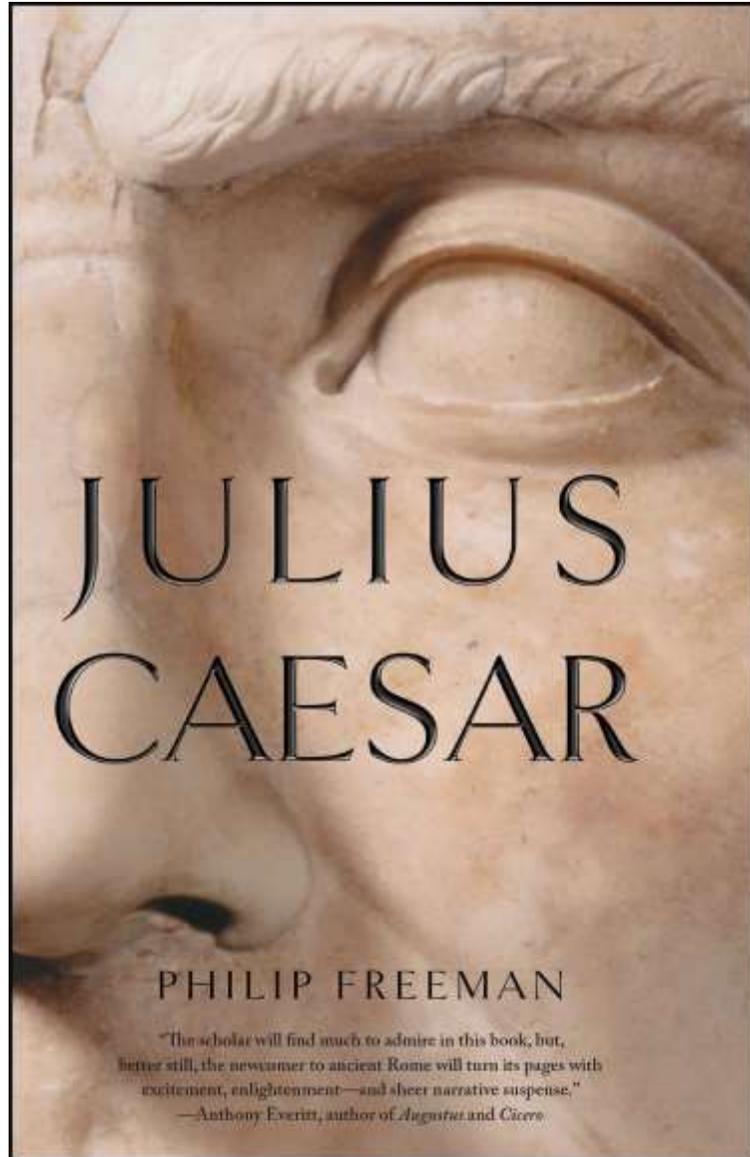




An illustration depicting Julius Caesar and his army crossing the Rubicon river. Caesar is on the left, riding a white horse and wearing a red cape and a helmet with a red plume. He is followed by several other riders on horses, also wearing red capes and helmets. To the right, a legionary standard bearer stands on a rocky bank, holding a large golden horn and a red banner with a golden bull and the letters 'LEG VI AVG PAV'. The background shows a misty, forested landscape.

12 JANUARY 49 BC

CAESAR CROSSED THE RUBICON

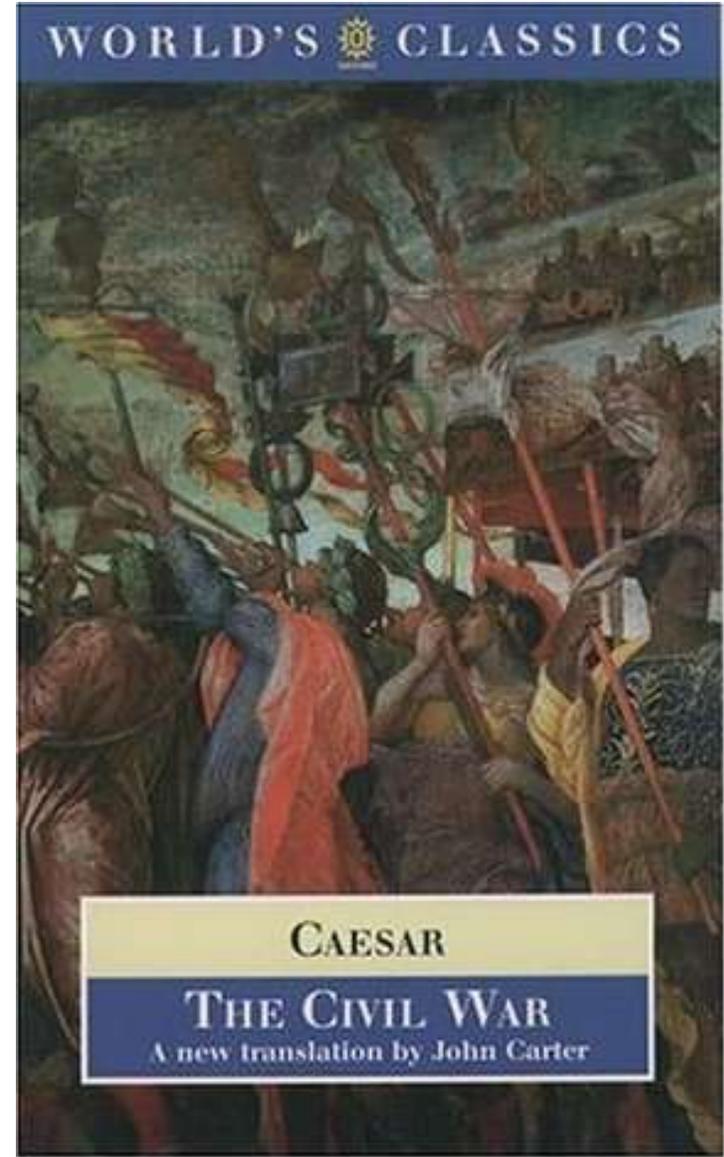


JULIUS CAESAR

PHILIP FREEMAN

"The scholar will find much to admire in this book, but, better still, the newcomer to ancient Rome will turn its pages with excitement, enlightenment—and sheer narrative suspense."

—Anthony Everitt, author of *Augustus* and *Cicero*



WORLD'S CLASSICS

CAESAR

THE CIVIL WAR

A new translation by John Carter

“Crossing the Rubicon”

To pass a **point of no return**

Burning all bridges

Irreversible action

Breaking the law





December 1799: Napoleon's coup

1799: a republic in crisis
Elections manipulated or cancelled (fraud, intimidation, voter suppression)

A political system unworkable since failure to establish constitutional monarchy

Expensive foreign wars: France on the verge of bankruptcy

Religious divide



Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte elected president of the Second Republic in 1848

From president to emperor

The Constitution: an incumbent president
unable to seek re-election

2 December 1851: a **coup d'état**

Operation "Rubicon"

**A plebiscite (national referendum): 7.1 million
approved the coup**

2 December 1852 (the anniversary of
Napoleon's coronation) : the re-establishment
of the Empire



"Alea Jacta Est"

"The die is cast"

OR

"Alea Jacta esto": "That the die
be cast"

Uncertainty

The most mysterious phrase
coined by Caesar

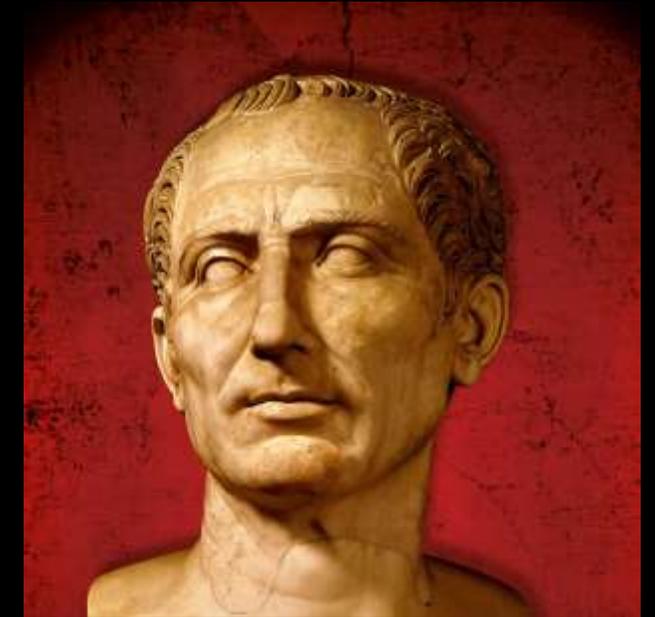
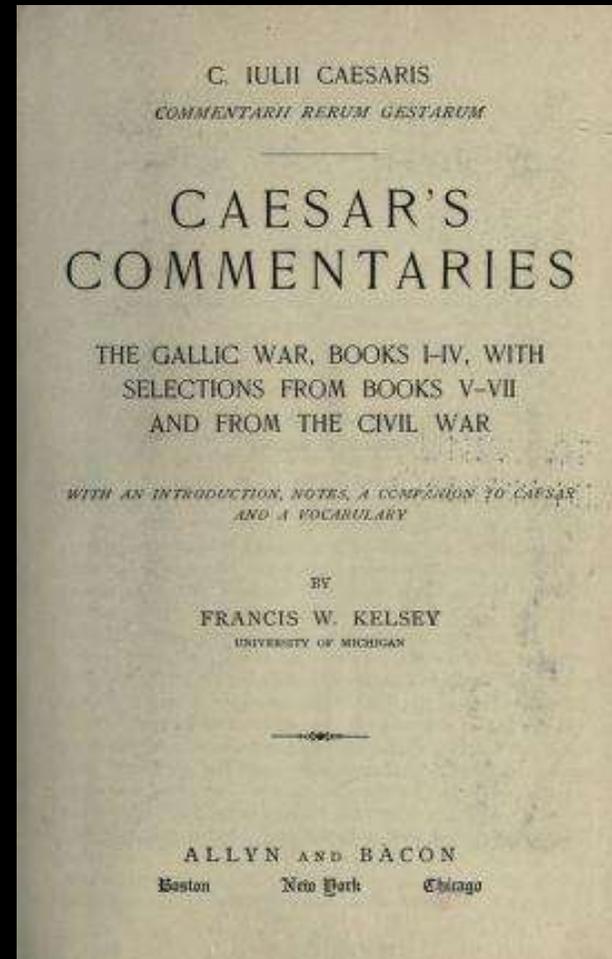


No mention of the
phrase in Caesar's
writings

*The Commentaries on the
Civil War*: a propaganda
book to justify his actions

Published after his
assassination

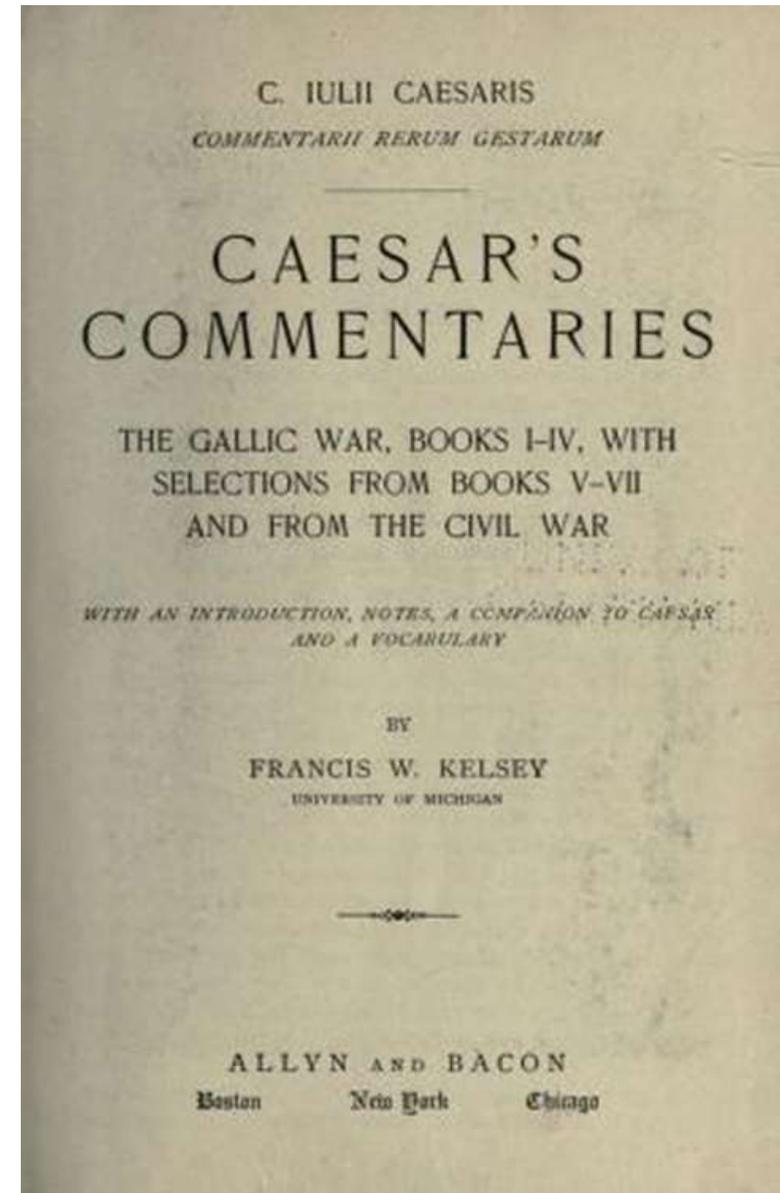
No mention of the
crossing of the Rubicon



The book written a by general who
knew he committed an **illegal act**

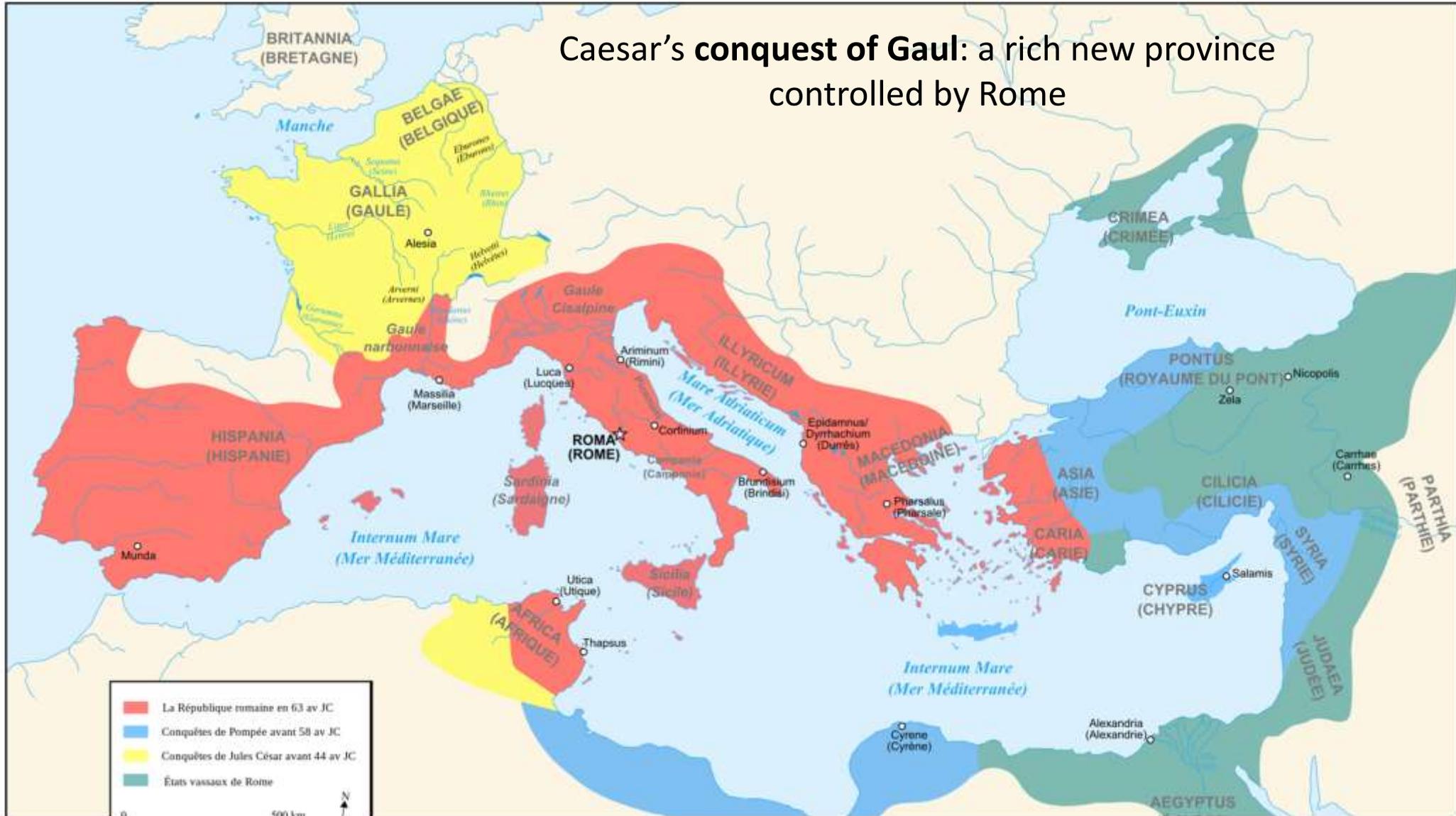
An illegal act to respond to another

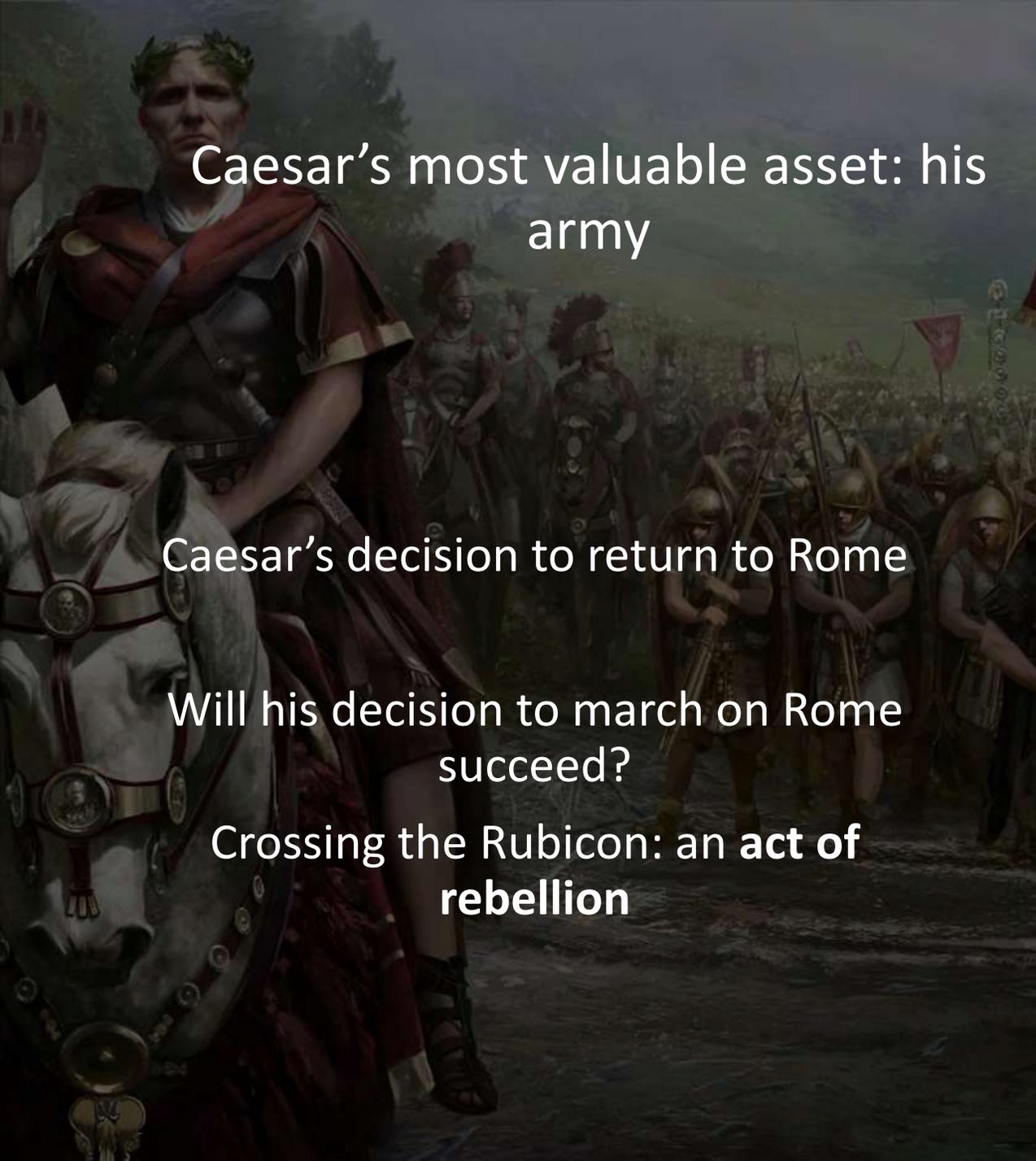
7 January 49: the Roman Senate voted a
series of decisions against Caesar





Caesar's conquest of Gaul: a rich new province controlled by Rome





Caesar's most valuable asset: his army

Caesar's decision to return to Rome

Will his decision to march on Rome succeed?

Crossing the Rubicon: an act of rebellion

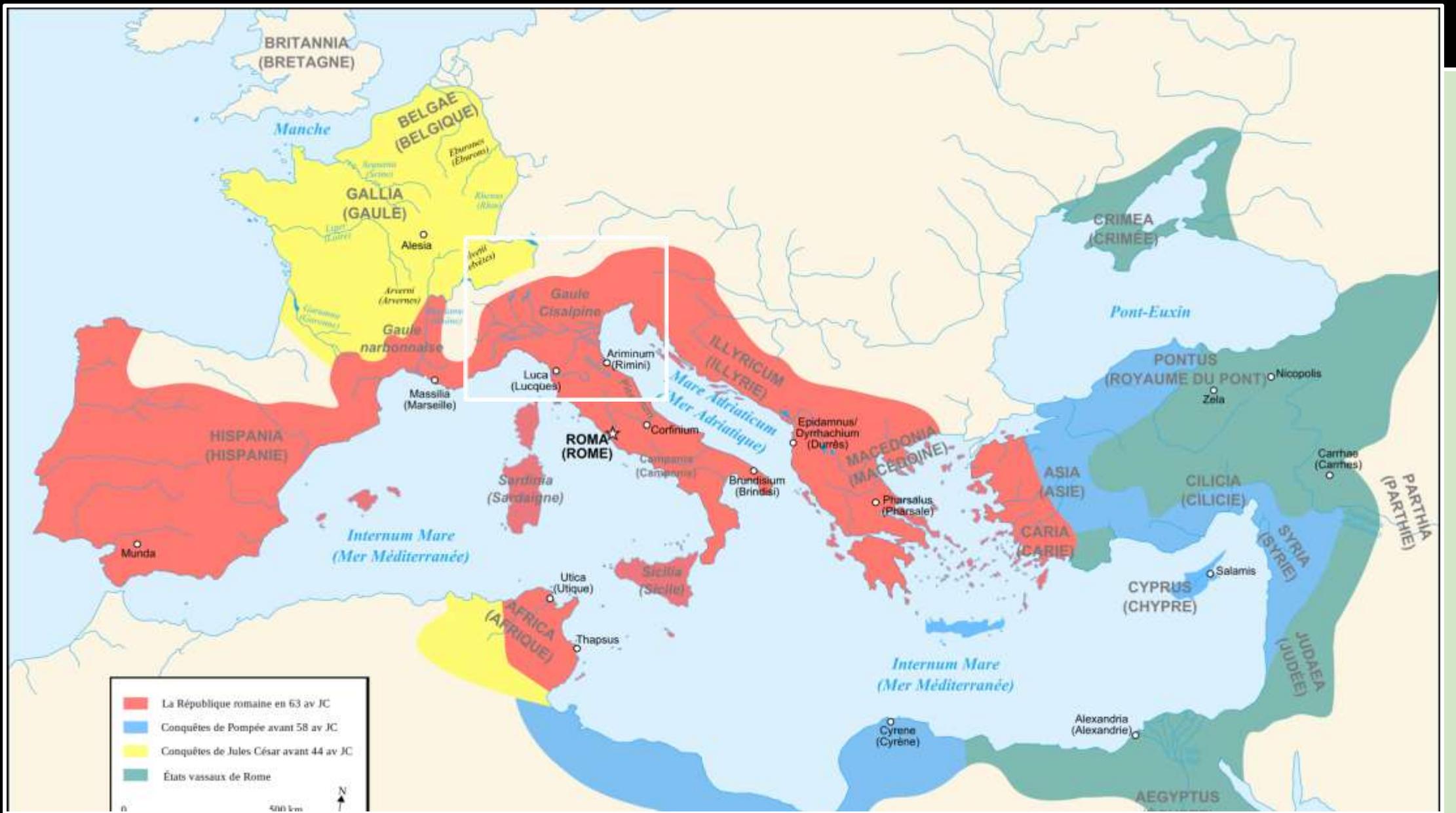


Why an act of rebellion?

The Rubicon separated Italy to **Cisalpine Gaul** (geographically part of Roman Italy but **administered separately**)

Cisalpine: *“on the hither side of the Alps”*





BRITANNIA
(BRETAGNE)

Manche

BELGAE
(BELGIQUE)

GALLIA
(GAULE)

Alesia

Gaulle
narbonnaise

HISPANIA
(HISPANIE)

Munda

Internum Mare
(Mer Méditerranée)

ROMA
(ROME)

Sardinia
(Sardaigne)

Sicilia
(Sicile)

Utica
(Utique)

Thapsus

AFRICA
(AFRIQUE)

Gaulle
Cisalpine

Luca
(Lucques)

Ariminum
(Rimini)

Corfinium

Compsa
(Campanie)

Brundisium
(Brindisi)

ILLYRICUM
(ILLYRIE)

Mare Adriaticum
(Mer Adriatique)

Epidamnus/
Dyrrhachium
(Durrës)

Pharsalus
(Pharsale)

MACEDONIA
(MACÉDOINE)

ASIA
(ASIE)

CARIA
(CARIE)

CRIMEA
(CRIMÉE)

Pont-Euxin

PONTUS
(ROYAUME DU PONT)

Nicopolis

Zela

CILICIA
(CILICIE)

Carrhae
(Carrhes)

PARTHIA
(PARTHIE)

SYRIA
(SYRIE)

JUDAEA
(JUDEE)

CYPRUS
(CHYPRE)

Salamis

Internum Mare
(Mer Méditerranée)

Cyrene
(Cyrene)

Alexandria
(Alexandrie)

AEGYPTUS



The *Imperium*

Authority held over a military or political entity

Only elected magistrates allowed to hold the *imperium* within Italy

Laying down his military command and governorship

=

Loss of his *Imperium*



Many political enemies

Caesar to face prosecution in Rome making him ineligible

What to do?



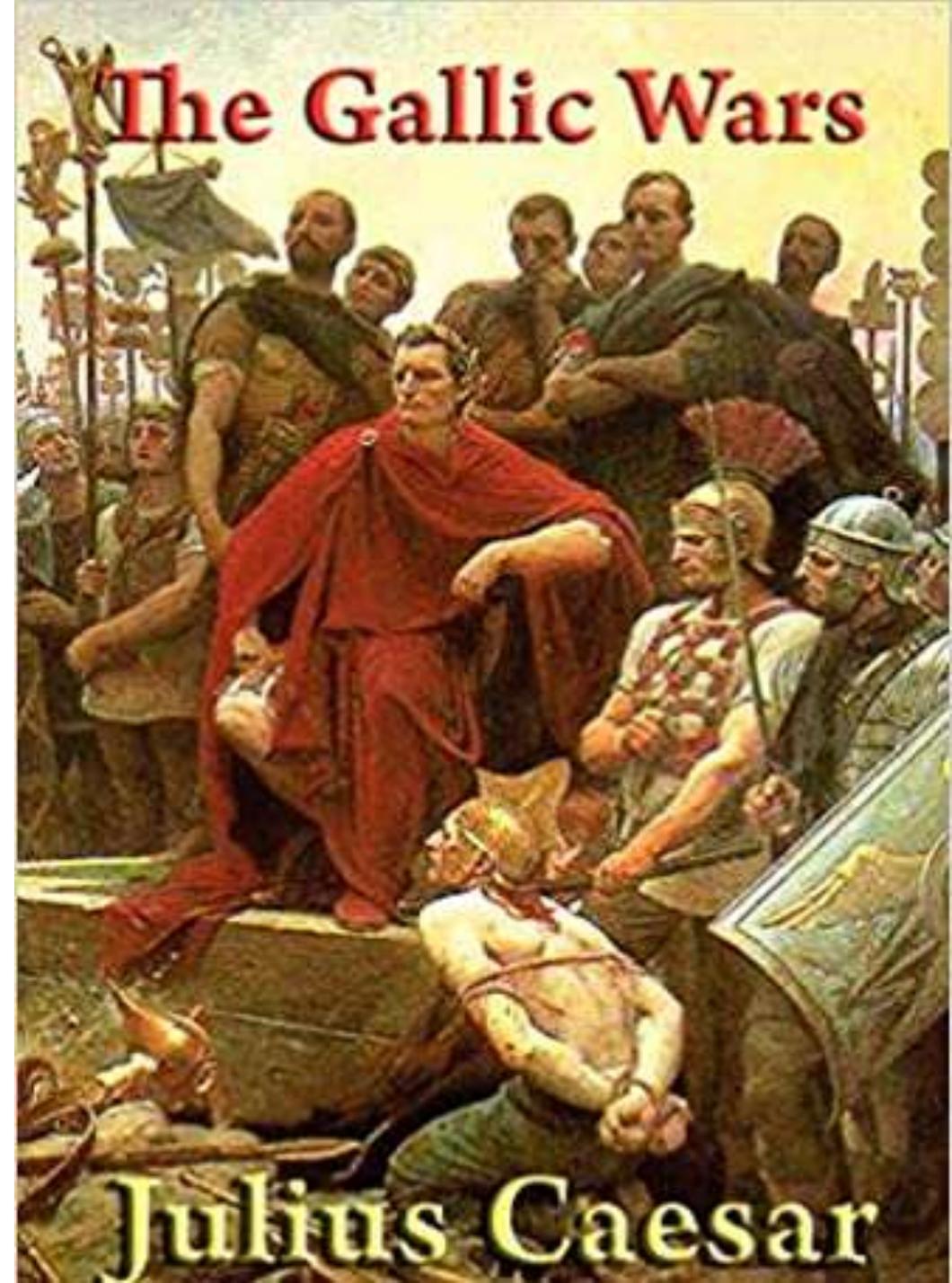
The publication of the *Gallic Wars*

A huge success

A **compelling story** written in clear and simple language

Thrilling accounts of battles

The goal: to appeal to the Roman voters



Early doubts?

Caesar not prepared to
submit to the Senate

Conquest of Gaul: the right
to conquer power in Rome

The cost: a **civil war**



A classical painting depicting a group of men in a discussion, with a cityscape in the background. The scene is set in an outdoor urban environment with classical architecture. In the foreground, a man in a dark, heavy coat is seated on the left, looking towards the center. Another man in a red robe stands in the center, gesturing with his hands. To the right, a man in a white tunic is seated, looking towards the center. In the background, a cityscape with domes and classical buildings is visible under a hazy sky. The overall tone is serious and historical.

Decision to act in the winter

Tradition in Rome: fighting only allowed between 21 March & 23 September

Logistical problems & lack of supplies

A **legion** (nearly 5,000 infantry & 300 cavalry) brought from Gaul:
experienced soldiers

2 more legions ready to march

The plan

A small number of soldiers to be involved

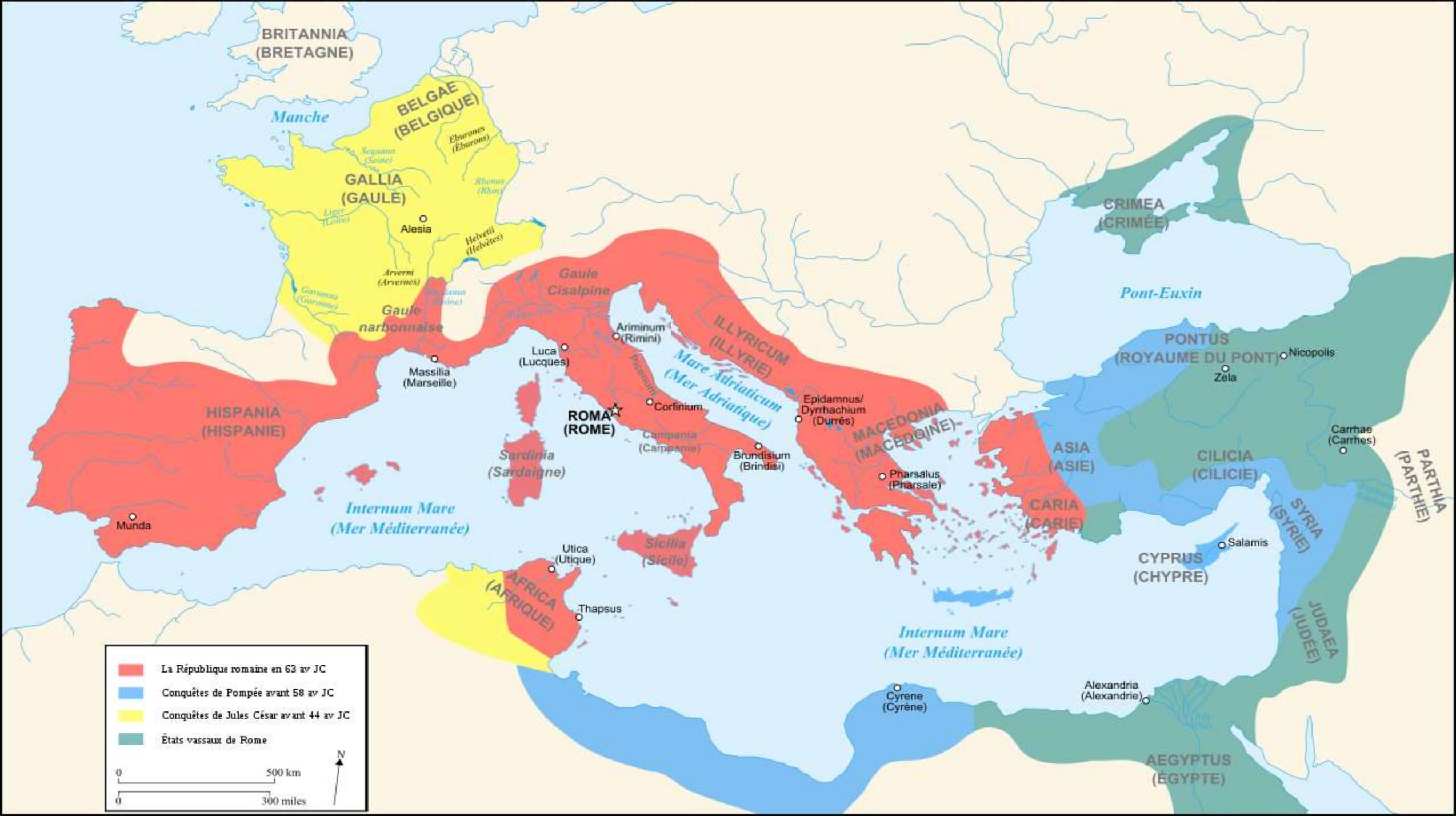
The element of surprise

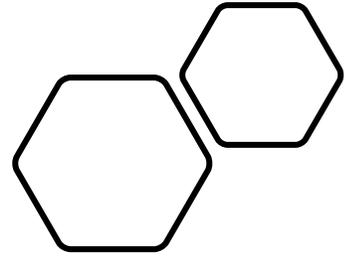
Speed

Deception: a normal evening

Secret departure







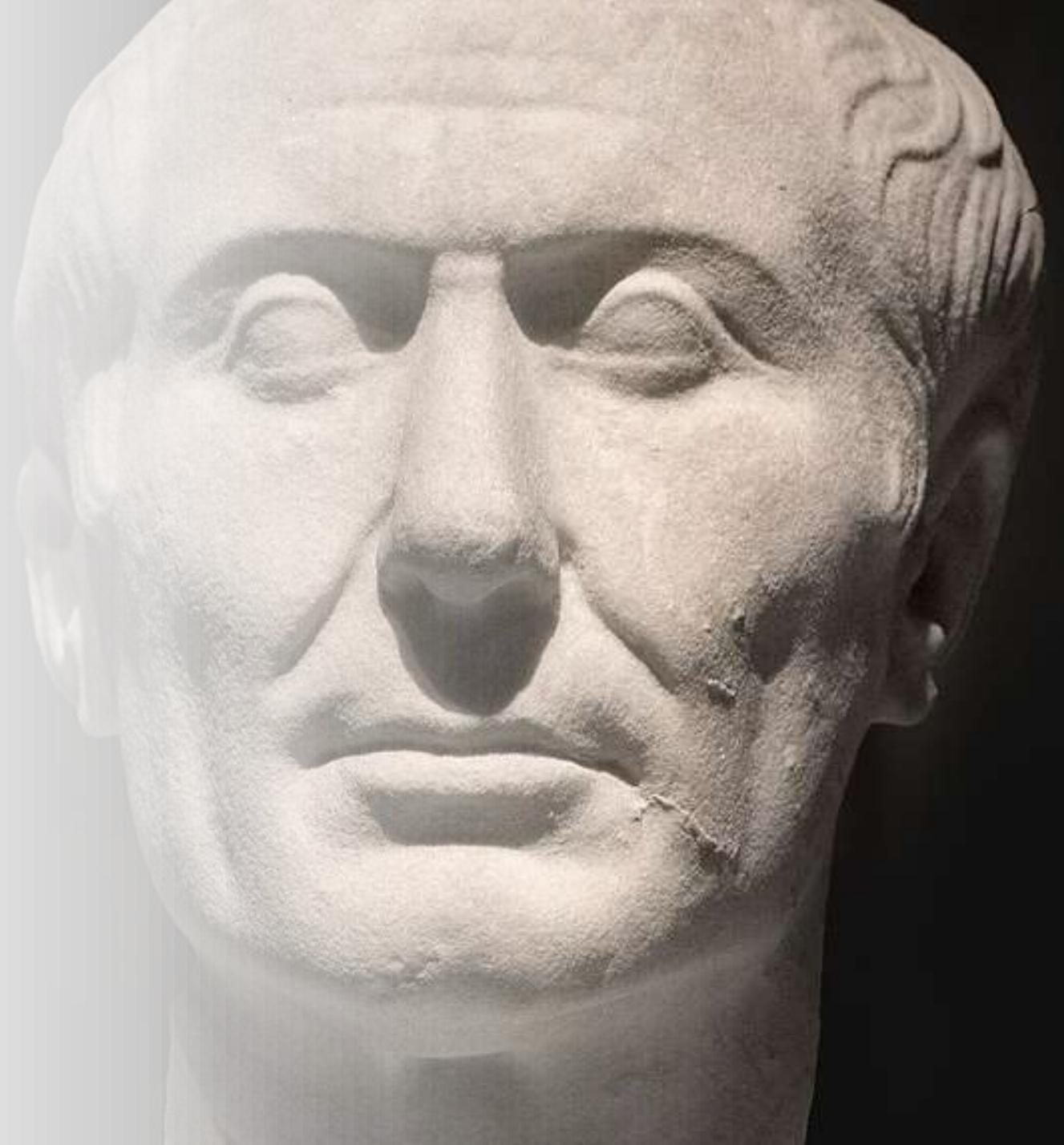


Julius Caesar in 49 BC

50 years old

Pontifex maximus (chief
priest of the Roman state
religion) since 63

Believed in his destiny
(Gallic wars comforted his
belief)





Victory in Gaul (58-51)

Enormous fortune

An army devoted to him

Military exploits no other
Roman generals had ever
achieved



A 20-day *supplicatio*
ordered by the Senate

A **thanksgiving** ceremony

20 days: a timeframe never
granted to anybody before
Caesar

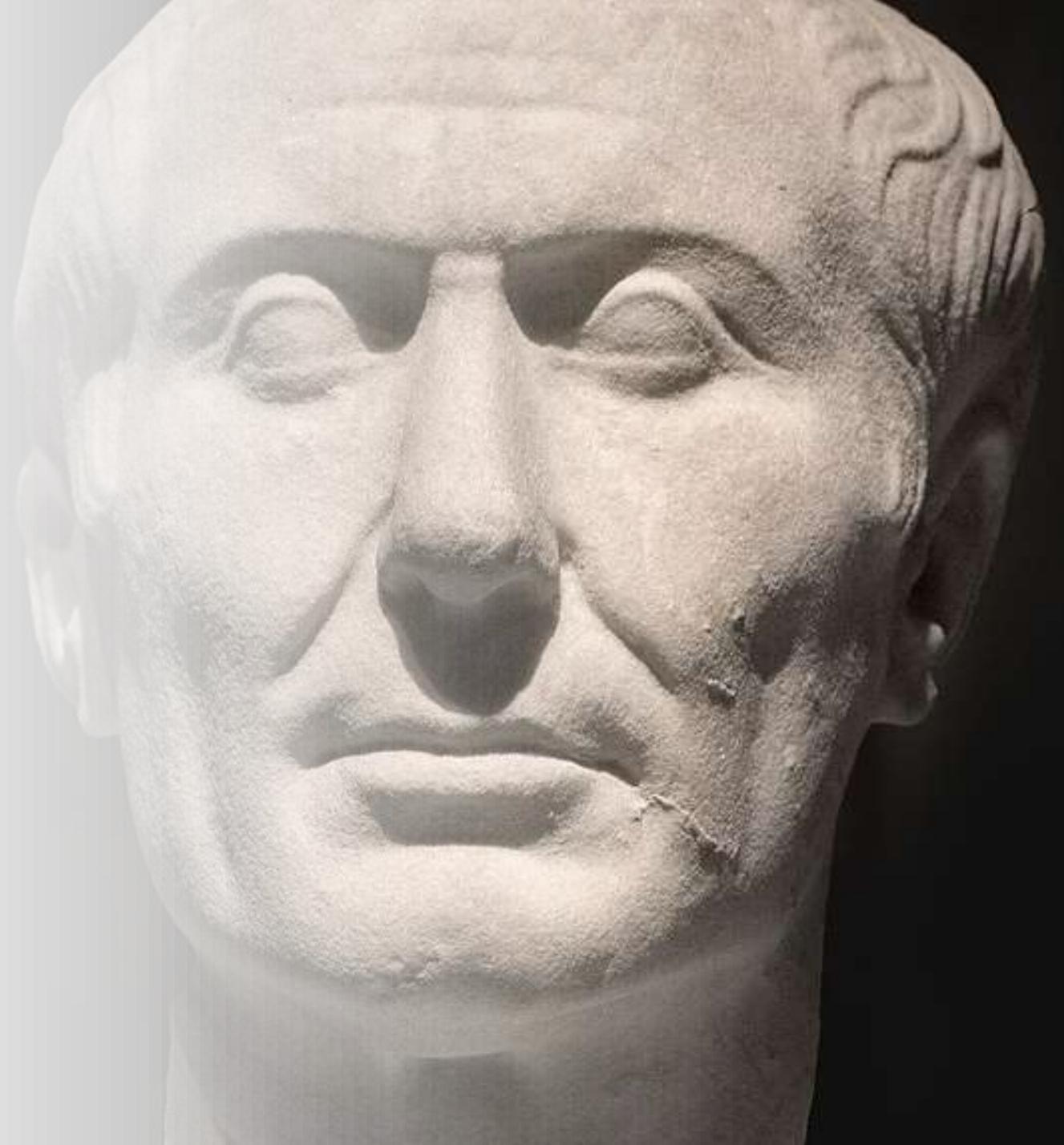


Julius Caesar

A member of the highest Roman
aristocracy

Sided politically with the **Populares**
("favoring the people" or the
plebians – commoners)

Supported the 10 plebeian **Tribunes**
(tremendous powers to oppose and
veto the decisions of the
Magistrates – Elected officials)



The *Optimates*

Conservative political faction

No to the providential man

The Roman Republic born out
of fear of ever being rule by
one man

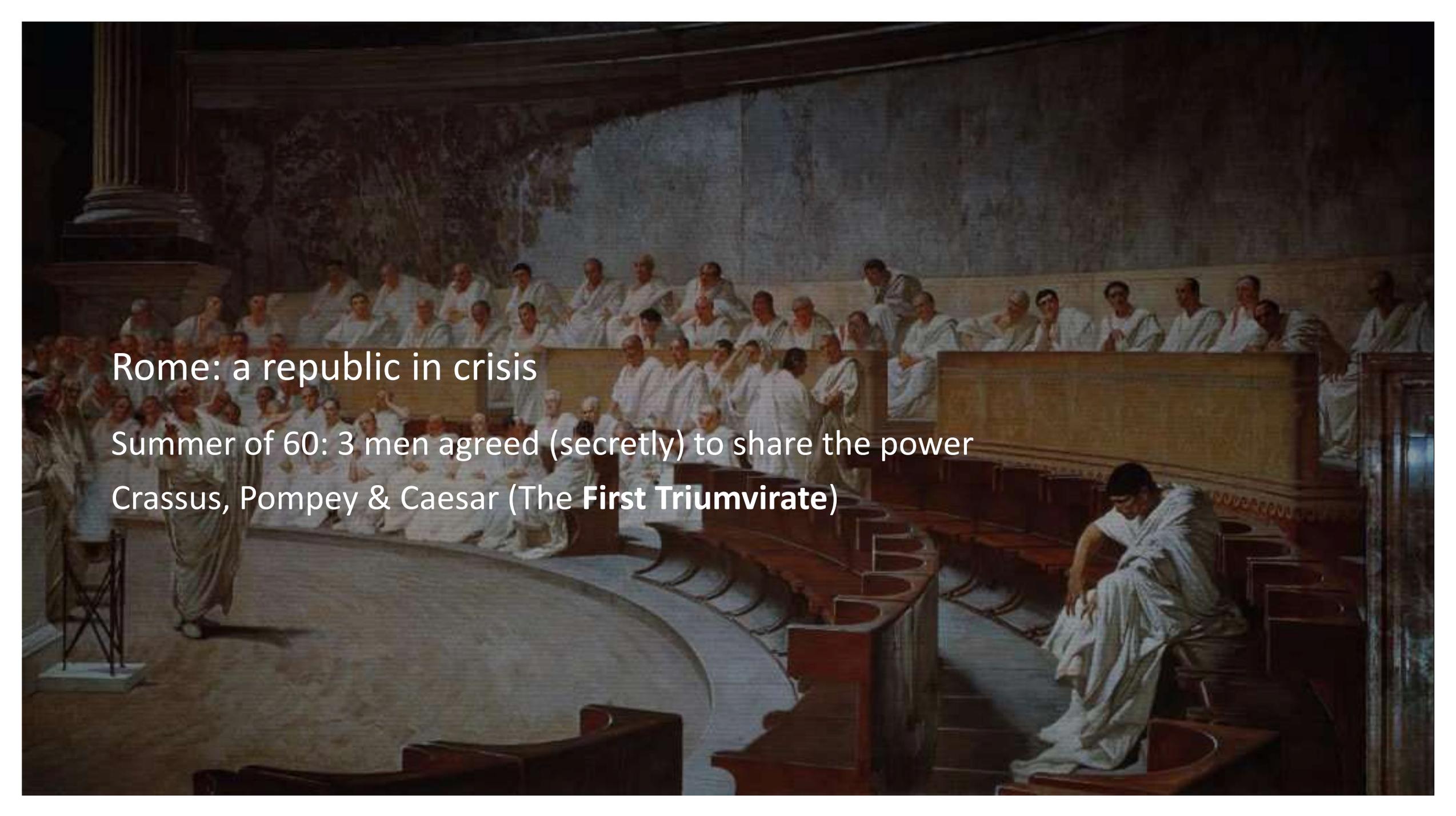
No individual should hold too
much power

The *Optimates*

Caesar acclaimed by his troops
as *imperator*

The Senate (and the
aristocracy) to remain all
powerful

Caesar perceived as a threat to
the Republic AND the ruling
elite



Rome: a republic in crisis

Summer of 60: 3 men agreed (secretly) to share the power

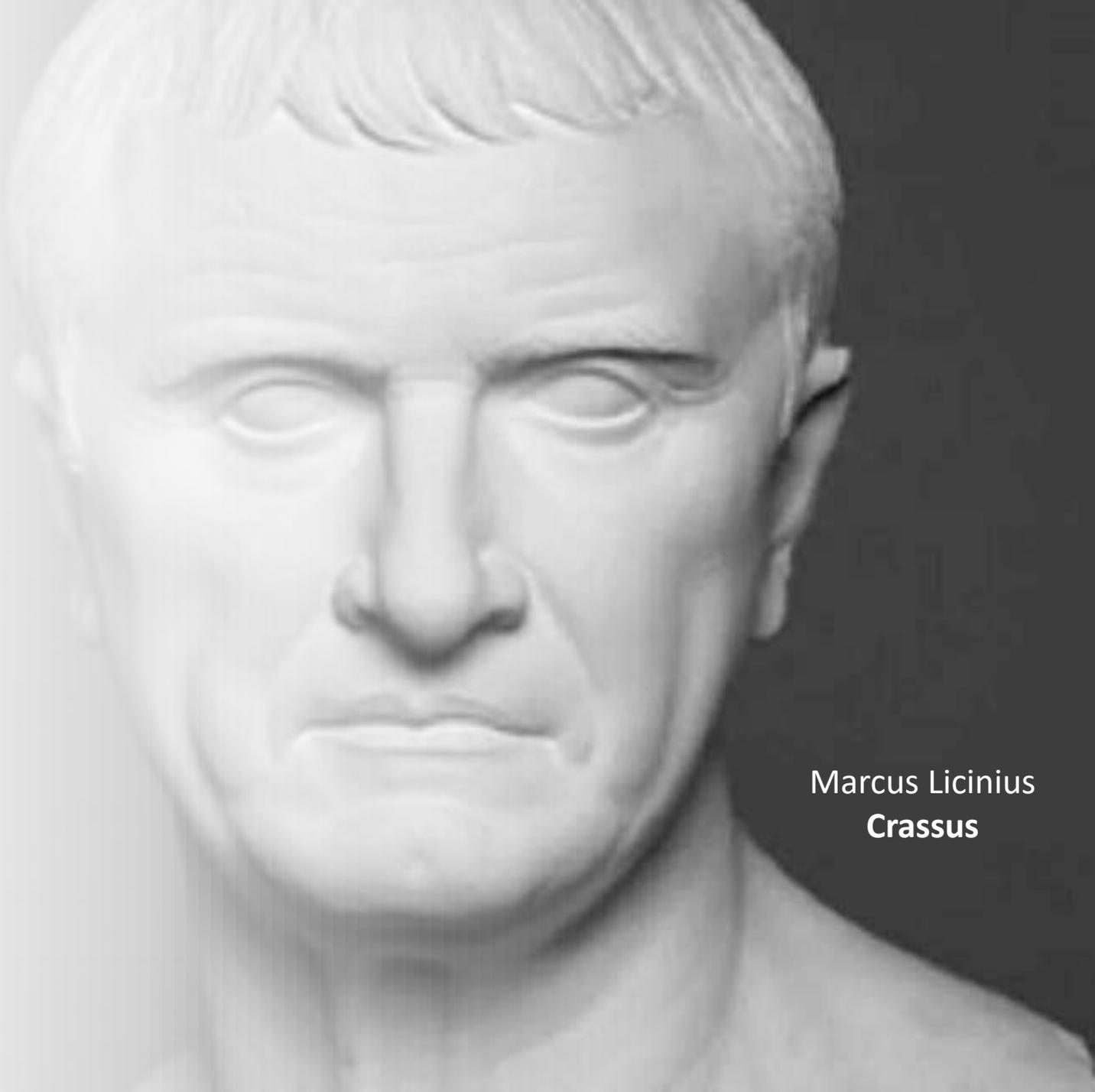
Crassus, Pompey & Caesar (The **First Triumvirate**)

Marcus Crassus

The oldest of the 3
(Born in 115)

The wealthiest
Representative of the
Publicans (public contractors
or collectors of taxes)

Disliked Pompey and envious
of Caesar's successes in Gaul



Marcus Licinius
Crassus

Gnaeus Pompey

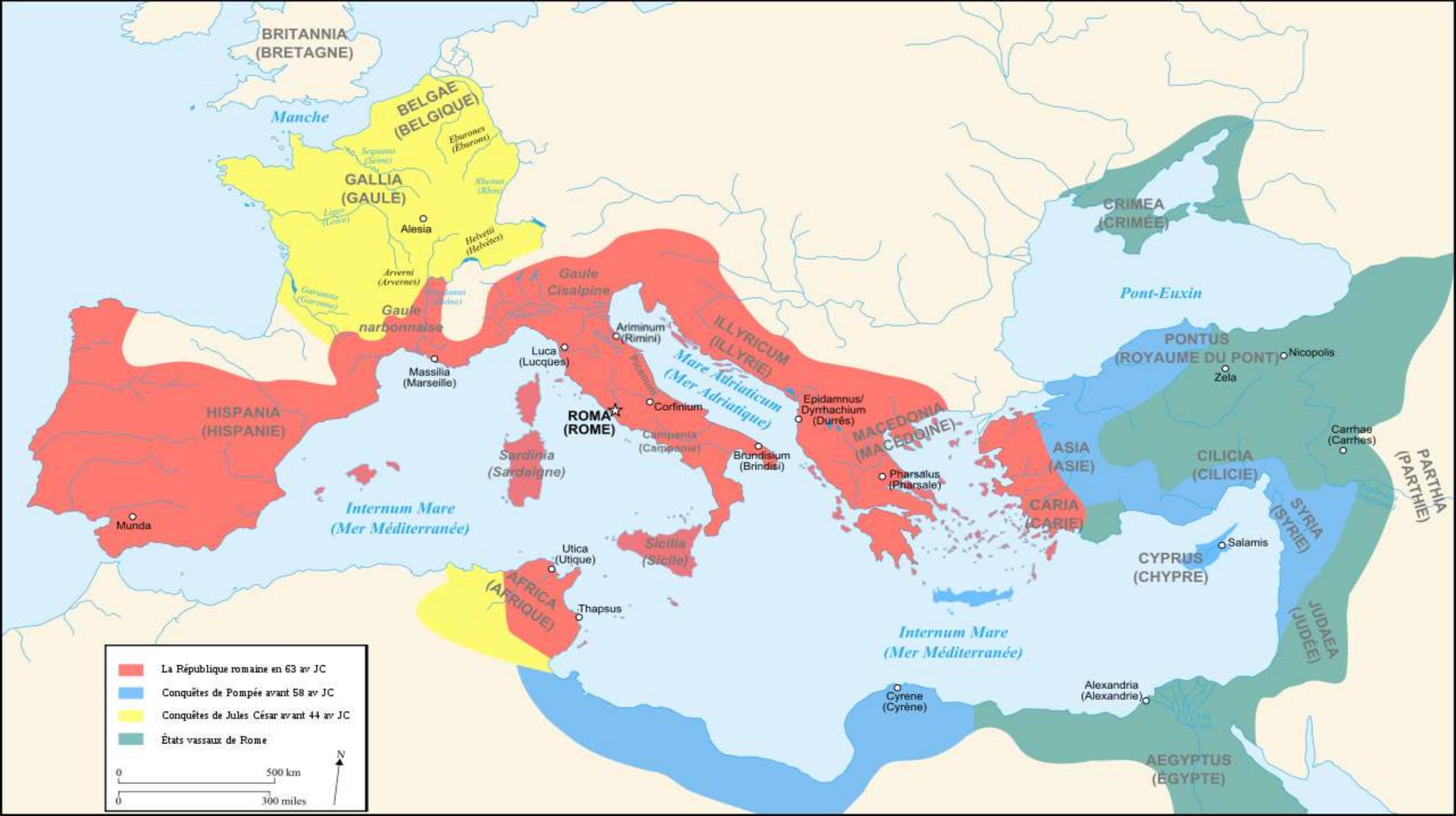
Born in 106

Recent nobility

Dubbed "*Magnus*" ("Great")
by his soldiers at the age of 25

Excellent general (never
defeated), administrator &
diplomat

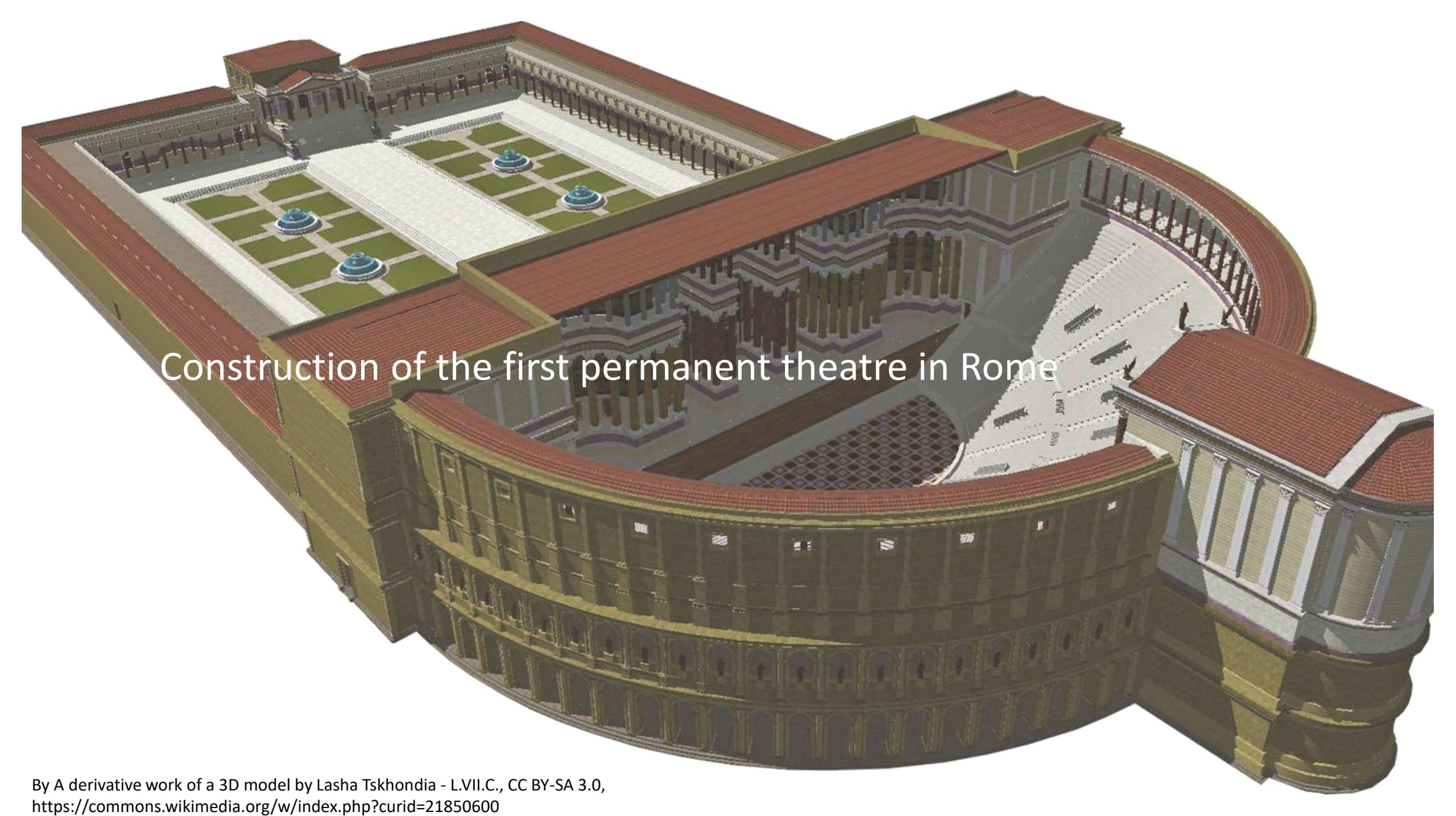






Triumph (civil & religious ceremony to publicly celebrate the success of a military commander) in 61

The most elaborate ever organized



Construction of the first permanent theatre in Rome

Gnaeus Pompey

His army disbanded upon
his return: political mistake



Julius Caesar

The youngest

Reduced political influence until
59 BC

Political alliance with Crassus &
Pompey

Pompey married Caesar's only
daughter (Julia)



The image shows three marble busts of Roman figures, likely members of the First Triumvirate, displayed in a museum setting. The busts are arranged horizontally. The leftmost bust is a young man with a serious expression, looking slightly to the right. The middle bust is a man with a stern, somewhat angry expression, looking directly forward. The rightmost bust is a man with a more relaxed expression, looking slightly to the left. The background features a white wall with a red vertical stripe and a curved architectural element with horizontal lines.

Fragile alliance

Each member of the Triumvirate mistrusted the other 2!

Caesar elected **Consul** in 59

Consul: highest elected political
office in Rome

Elected for 1 year

Two consuls in power at any given
time

Caesar's Consulship: intense
political activity (pro-*Populares*)





**Caesar away from Rome
(58-49)**

Regularly informed of Rome's
political life

Romans continually
informed of his military
exploits

59 BC



Cenabum

Alesia

Vesontio

Bibracte

Avaricum

Nemossos

Narbo

Massalia

Geneva

Octudorus

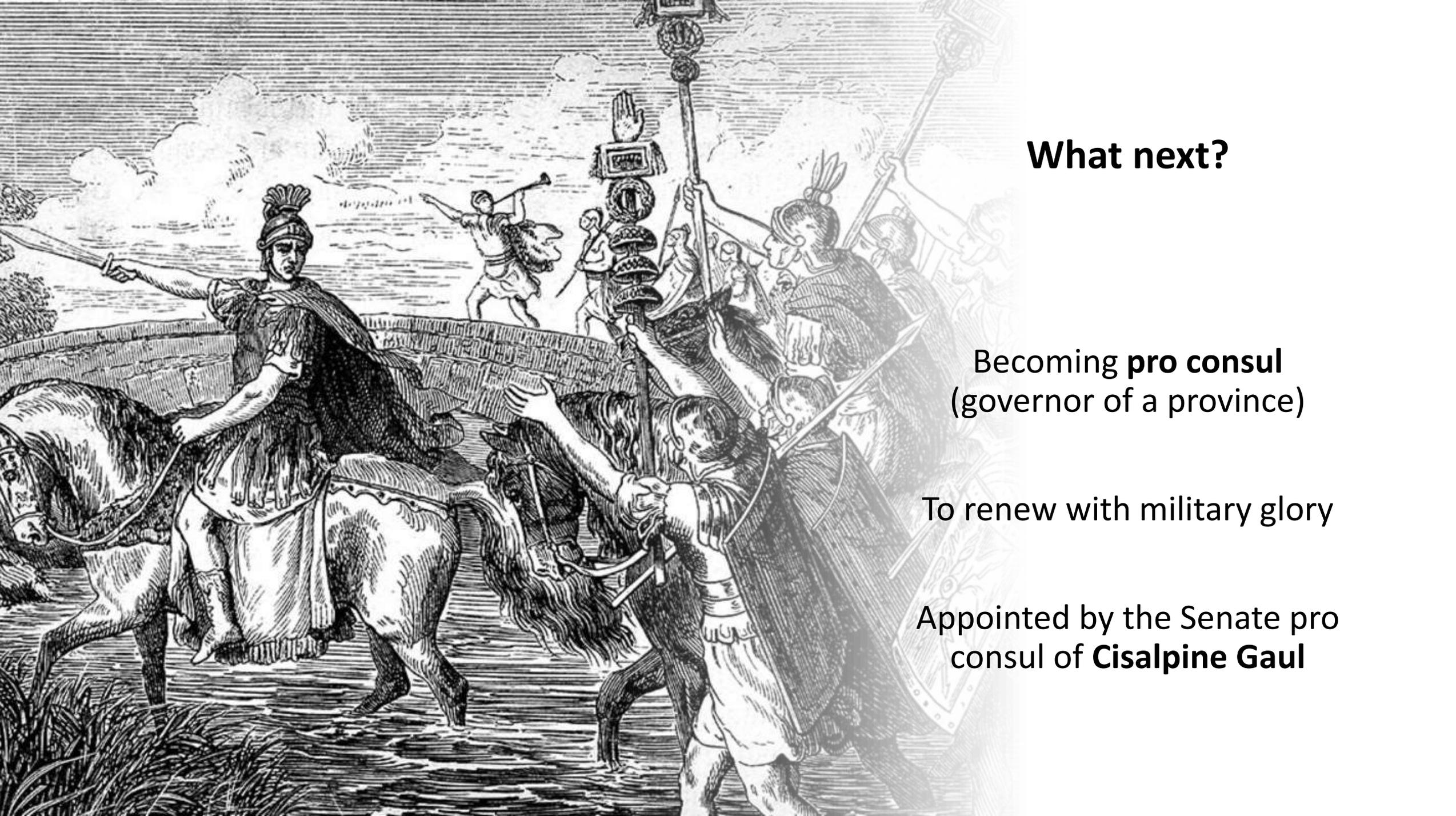
Mediolanum

Genua

Luna

Florentia





What next?

Becoming **pro consul**
(governor of a province)

To renew with military glory

Appointed by the Senate pro
consul of **Cisalpine Gaul**

The image shows three marble busts of Roman figures, likely from the late Republic or early Empire, displayed in a museum. The bust on the left is a young man with a serious expression, looking slightly to the right. The middle bust is a man with a stern, somewhat angry expression, looking forward. The bust on the right is a man with a more relaxed expression, looking slightly to the left. The background features a white wall with a curved architectural element and a red wall section.

Prelude to civil war

Political alliance reconducted in 55

55: Crassus pro consul of Syria



	La République romaine en 63 av JC
	Conquêtes de Pompée avant 58 av JC
	Conquêtes de Jules César avant 44 av JC
	États vassaux de Rome

0 500 km
0 300 miles



The Parthian Empire in 94 BC, during the reign of Mithridates II (r. 124 – 91 BC)

Legend

- Territories controlled by the Parthian Empire
- Tigranes II*** Name of governor or vassal prince
- SUREN*** Other hereditary dynasties
- HYRCANIA Province or geographical region
- Ecbatana City or town

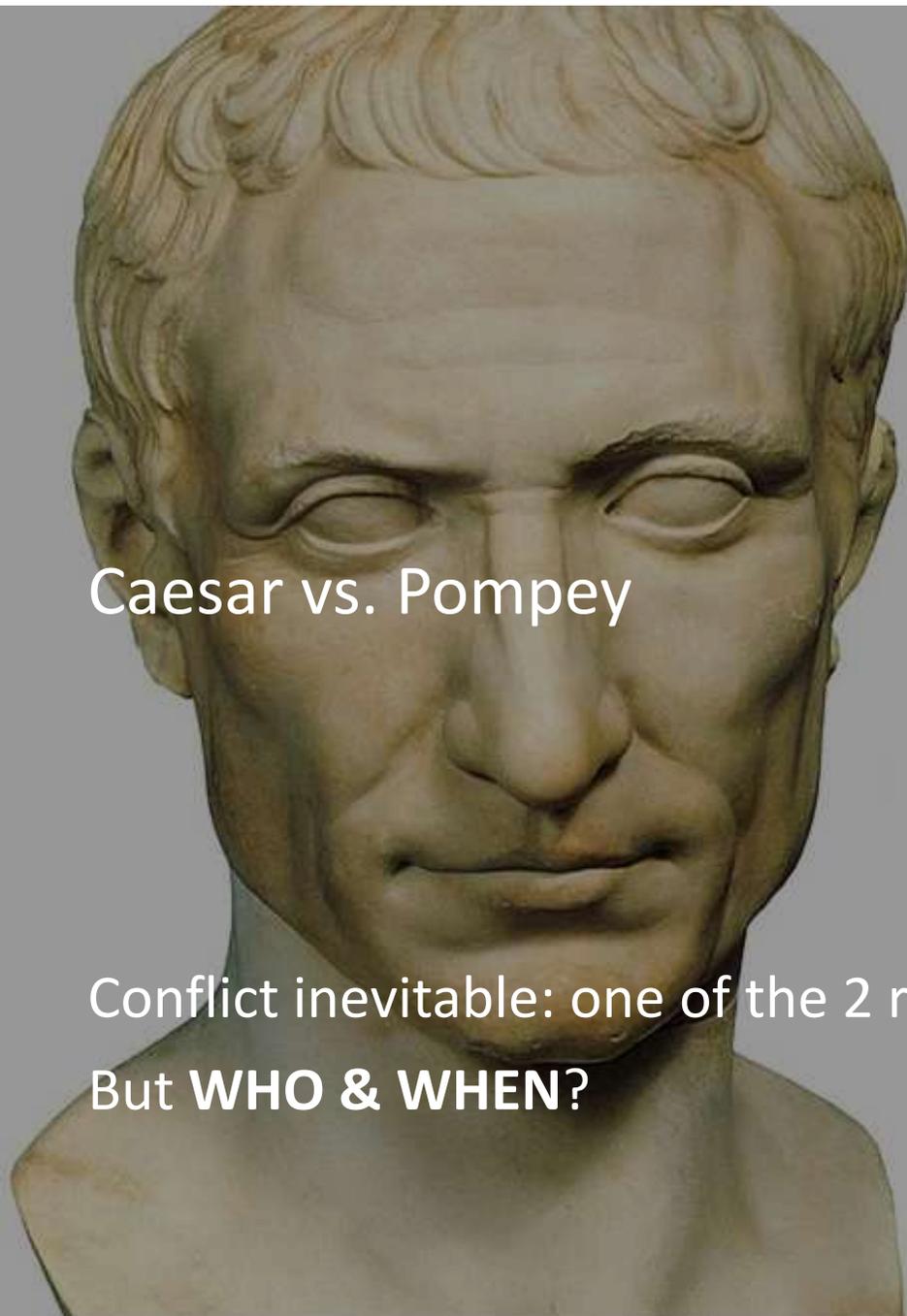
Battle of Carrhae (53)

Crassus defeated
7 Roman Eagles captured: a
crushing defeat

Crassus decapitated

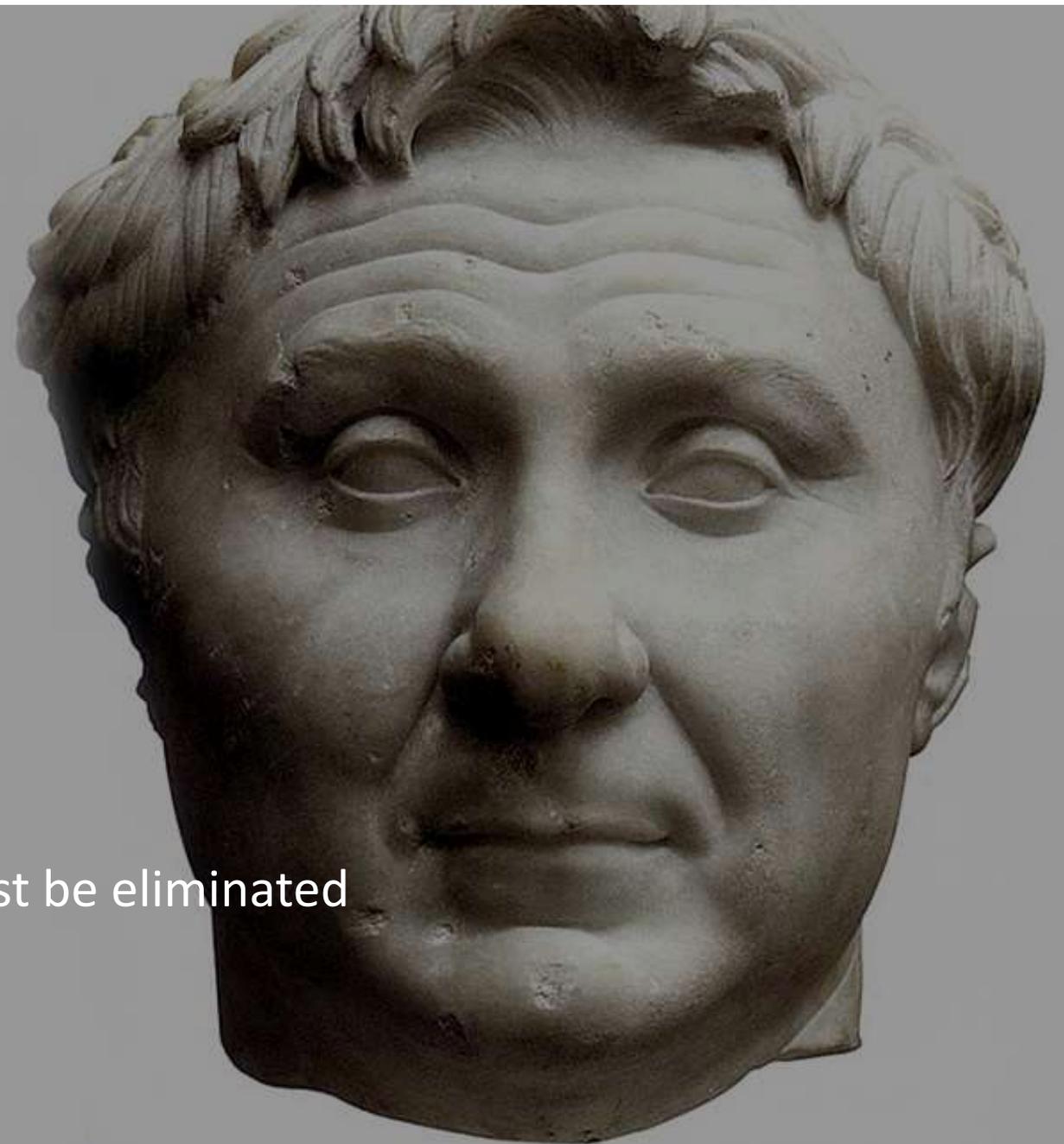
54: the death of Caesar's daughter
The end of the Triumvirate

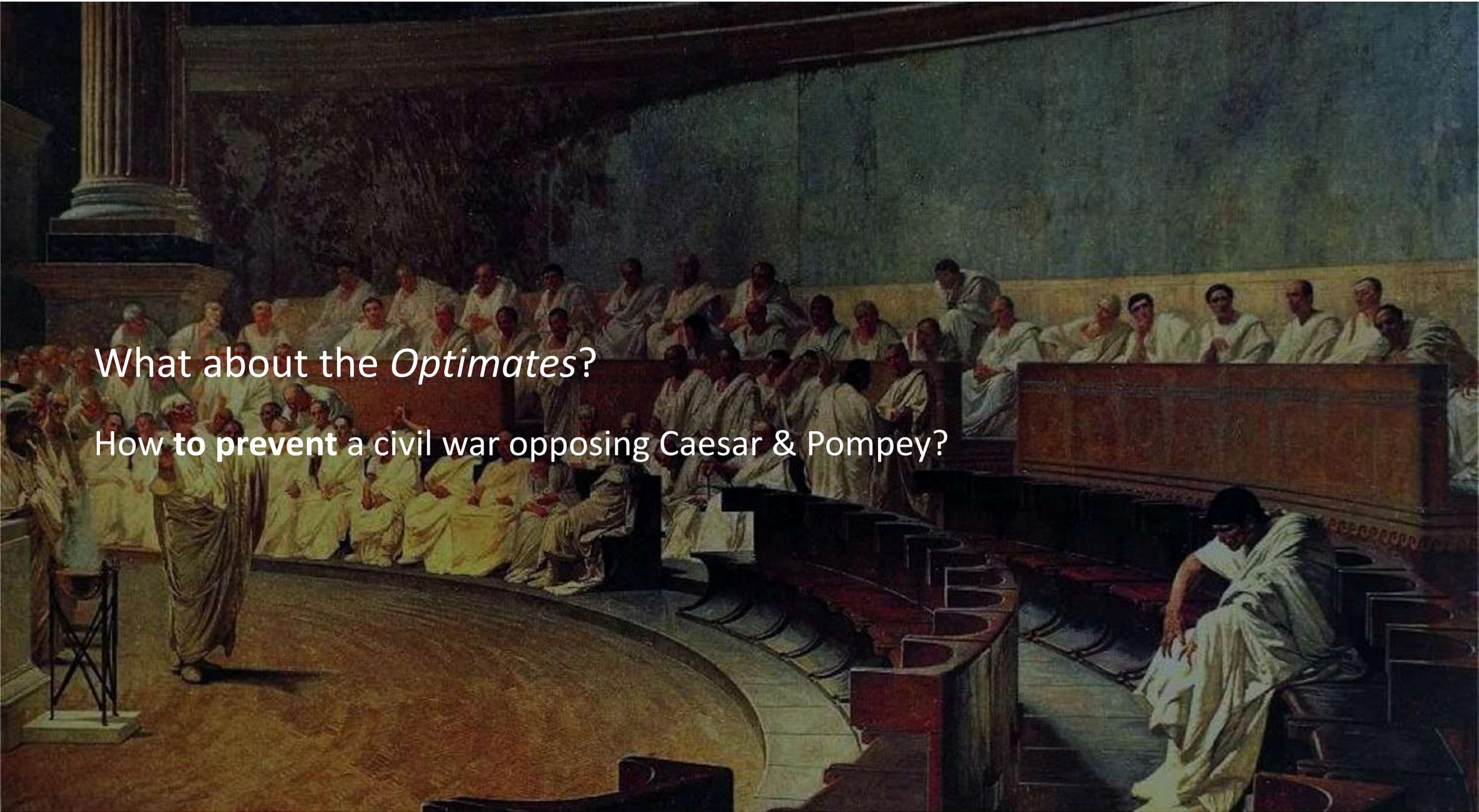




Caesar vs. Pompey

Conflict inevitable: one of the 2 rivals must be eliminated
But **WHO & WHEN?**





What about the *Optimates*?

How to prevent a civil war opposing Caesar & Pompey?



Cato the Younger

Cicero

The leaders of the *Optimates*

Growing political instability

The solution?

To place Rome under Pompey's
protection



Pompey entrusted to restore order in Rome

Fight against corruption
Candidate to political offices
MUST reside in Rome

A maneuver against Caesar



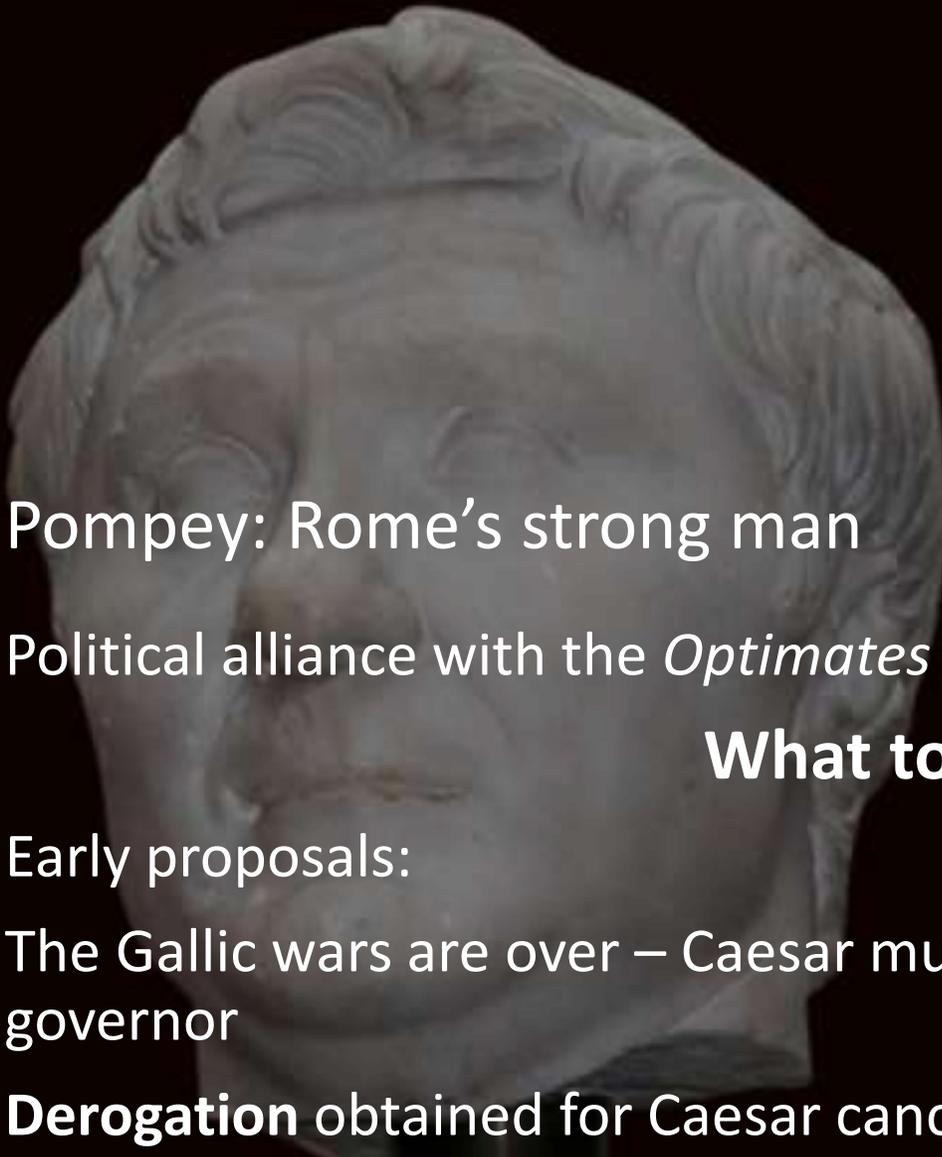


Caesar's political allies in Rome

Caesar to be able to get elected while in Gaul

What did it mean?

Political immunity upon his return



Pompey: Rome's strong man

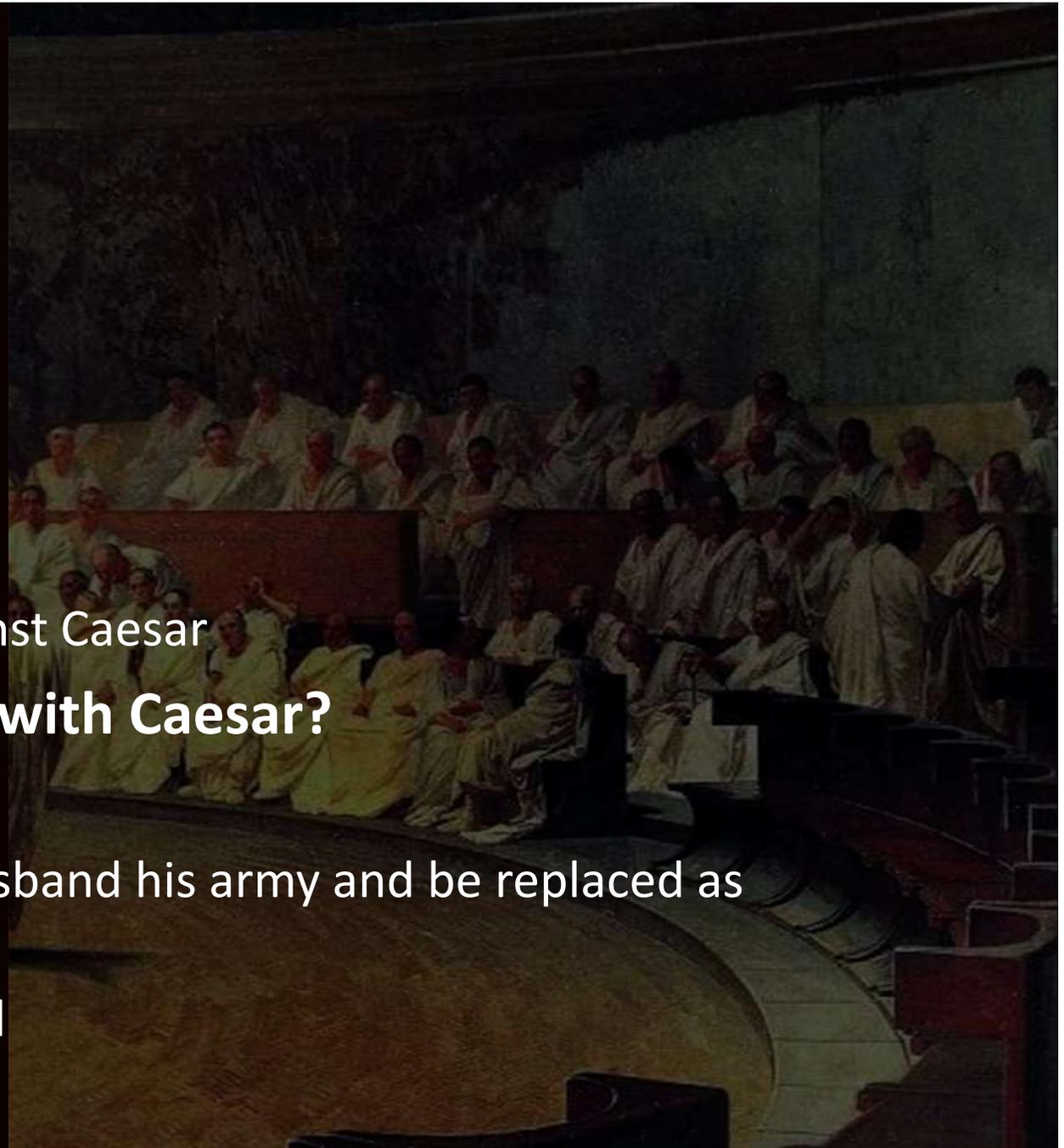
Political alliance with the *Optimates* against Caesar

What to do with Caesar?

Early proposals:

The Gallic wars are over – Caesar must disband his army and be replaced as governor

Derogation obtained for Caesar cancelled



59 BC



50: Caesar back in Cisalpine Gaul
A hero's welcome



The release of his *Commentaries on the Gallic War*

A **political masterpiece** to help his electoral campaign (the seeking of a second Consul)

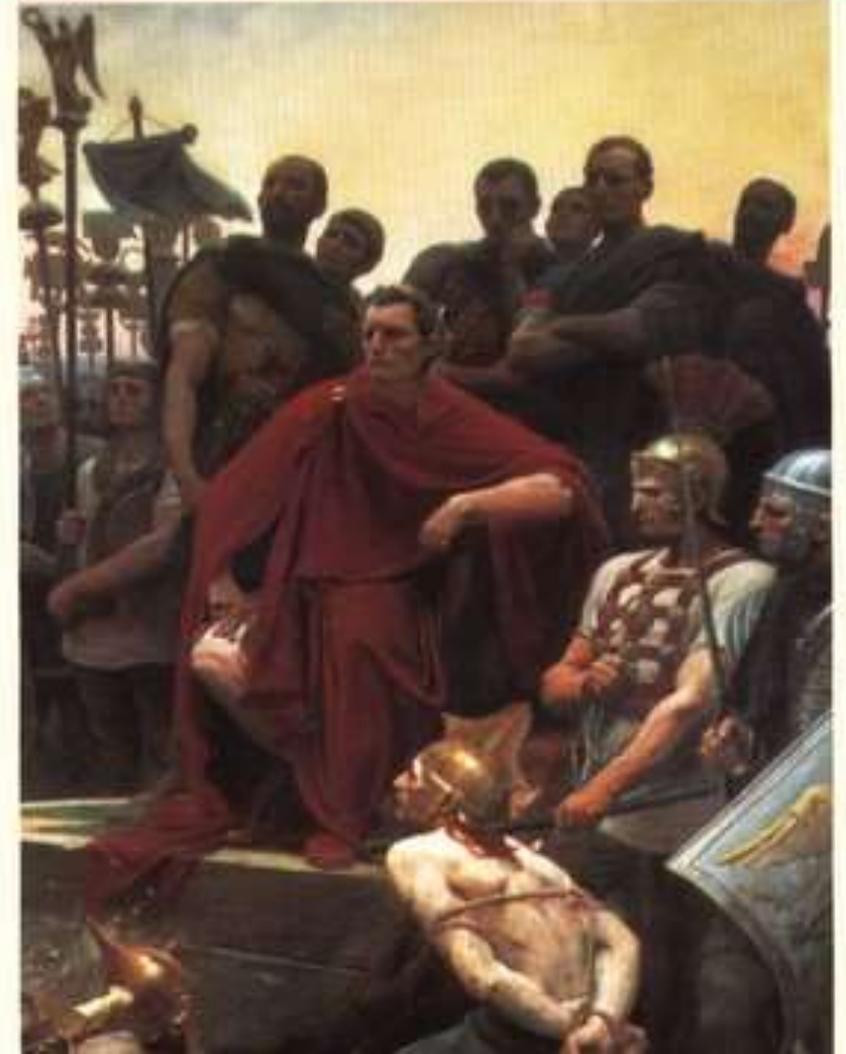
To establish his political acumen

7 books (one per war year)

A success but the Senate convinced?

CAESAR
THE GALLIC WAR

A new translation by Carolyn Hammond



—

Cato the Younger

Caesar to be declared
traitor



Caesar: numerous spies
in Rome

Finding support amongst senators
(interest free loans, bribes...)



Cicero & Pompey

Caesar perceived as a threat to the existing political & social order

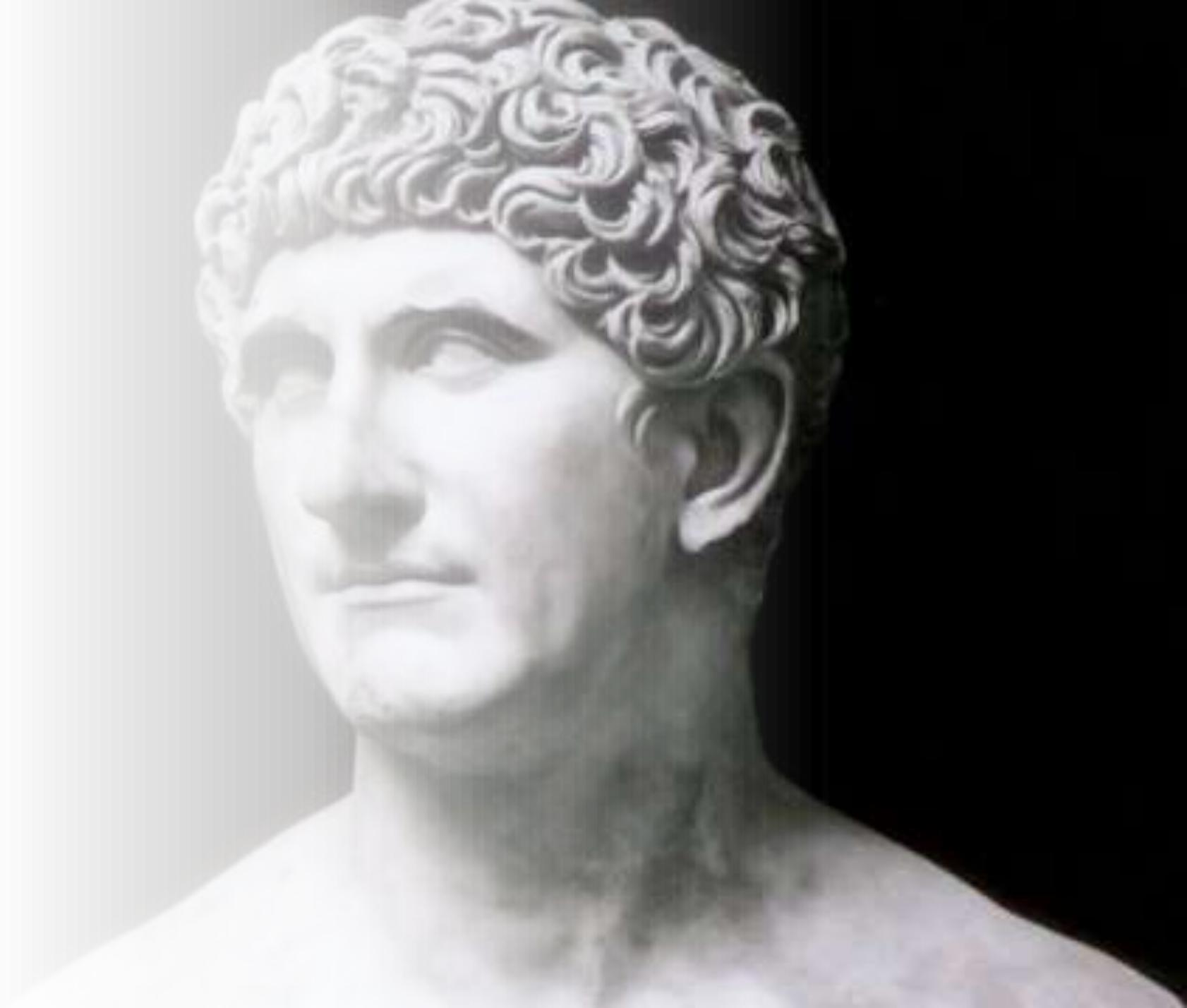


—
A new elected plebian
Tribune

Mark Antony

Caesar declared a traitor
(*hostis*) to Rome

Mark Antony's **veto** to the
motion ignored by the
Senate





Ampol, Ksp. P. 10056





17 January 49

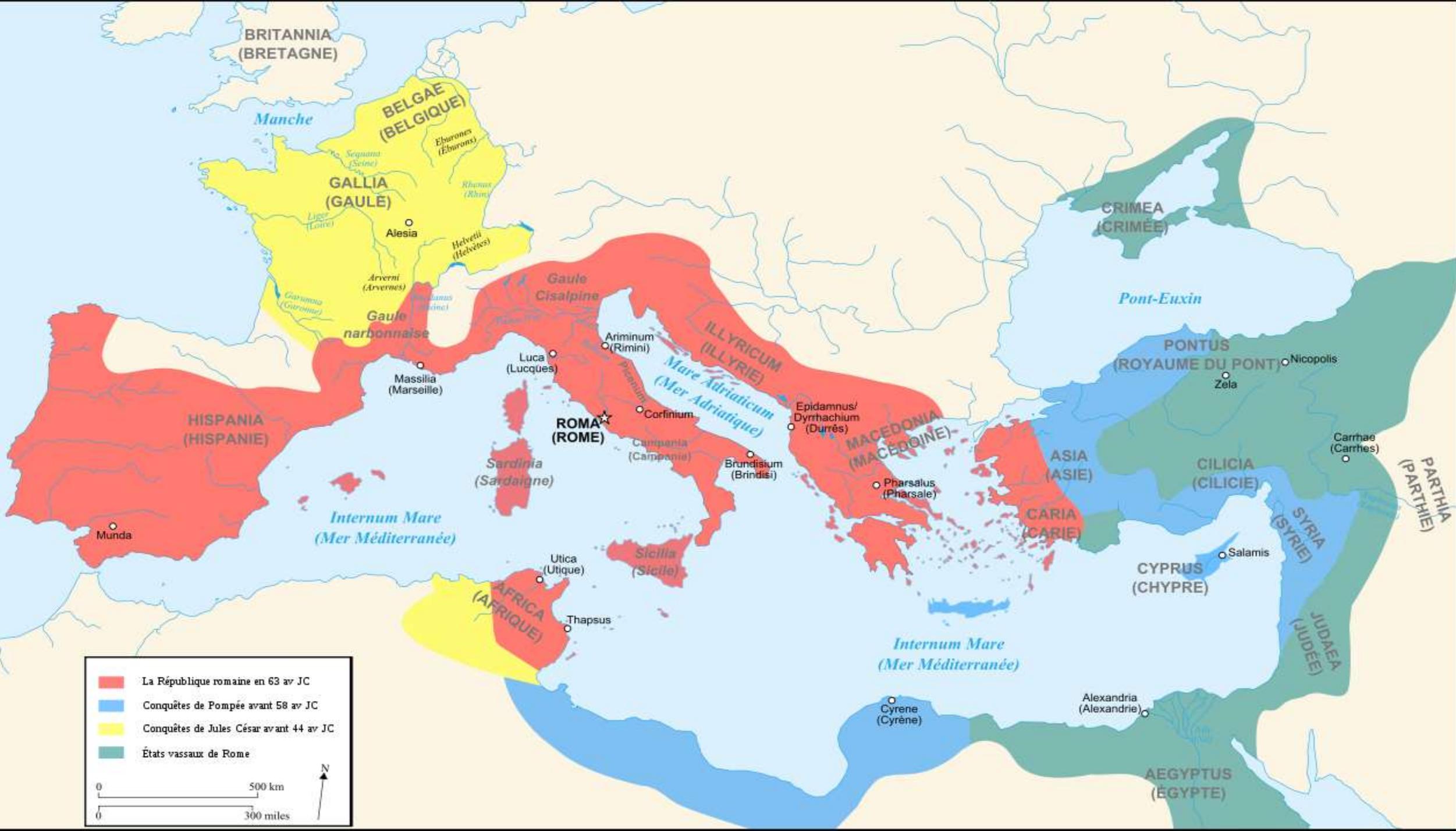
Pompey appointed supreme
commander of 18 legions

Ability to raise an army of 130 000
men

Multiple allies in Africa & the
Orient

A confident Pompey





■	La République romaine en 63 av JC
■	Conquêtes de Pompée avant 58 av JC
■	Conquêtes de Jules César avant 44 av JC
■	États vassaux de Rome

0 500 km
0 300 miles

N

A painting depicting a military scene. In the center, two figures on horseback are prominent. The figure on the left is on a dark horse, and the figure on the right is on a white horse. They are both wearing red and brown armor. The background shows a landscape with a river or stream in the foreground, a green field, and a line of soldiers in the distance. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

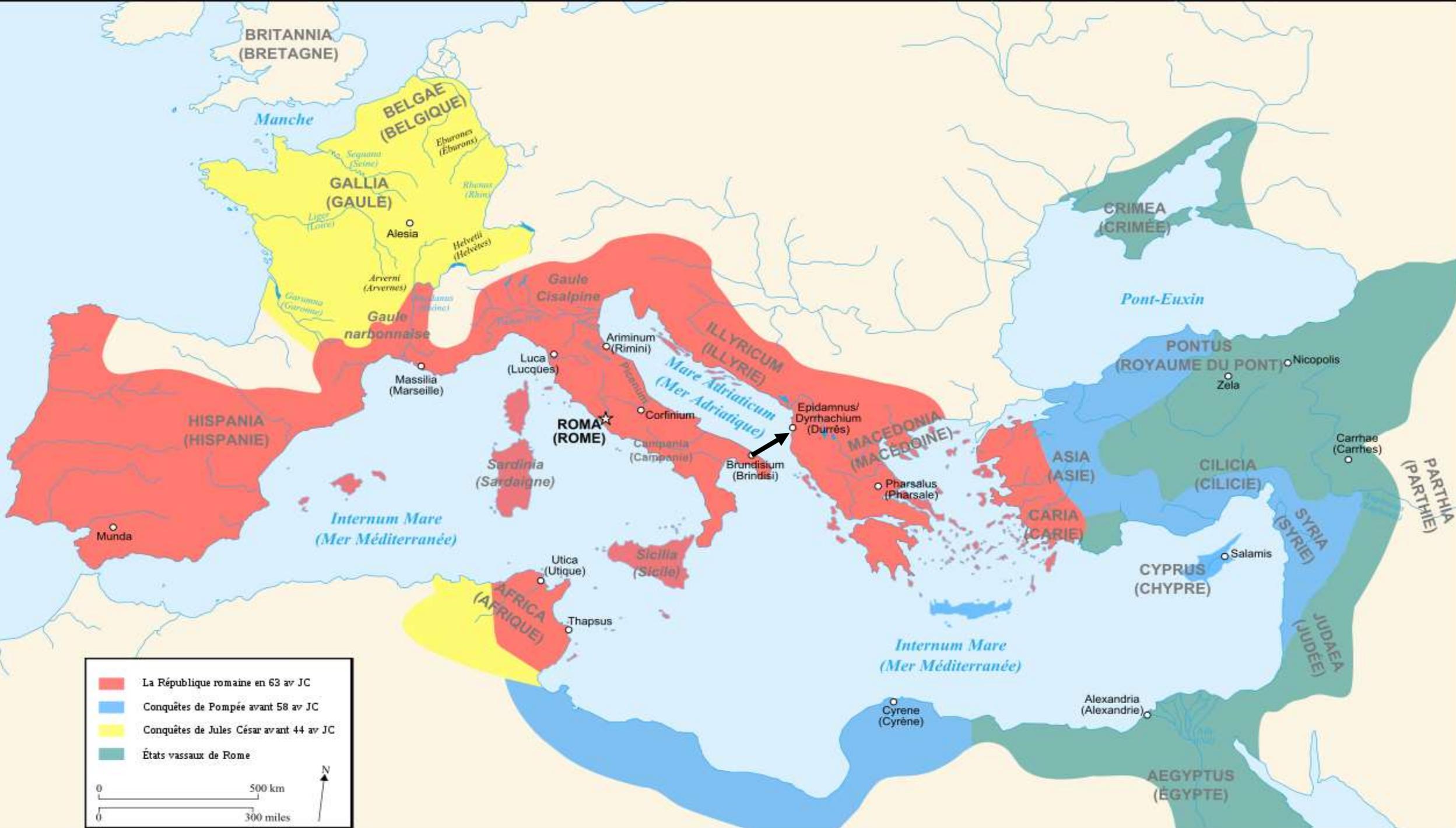
Caesar on the attack

A rapid advance towards Rome

Panic in Rome

Pompey on the defensive: decision to abandon the capital





■	La République romaine en 63 av JC
■	Conquêtes de Pompée avant 58 av JC
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0 500 km
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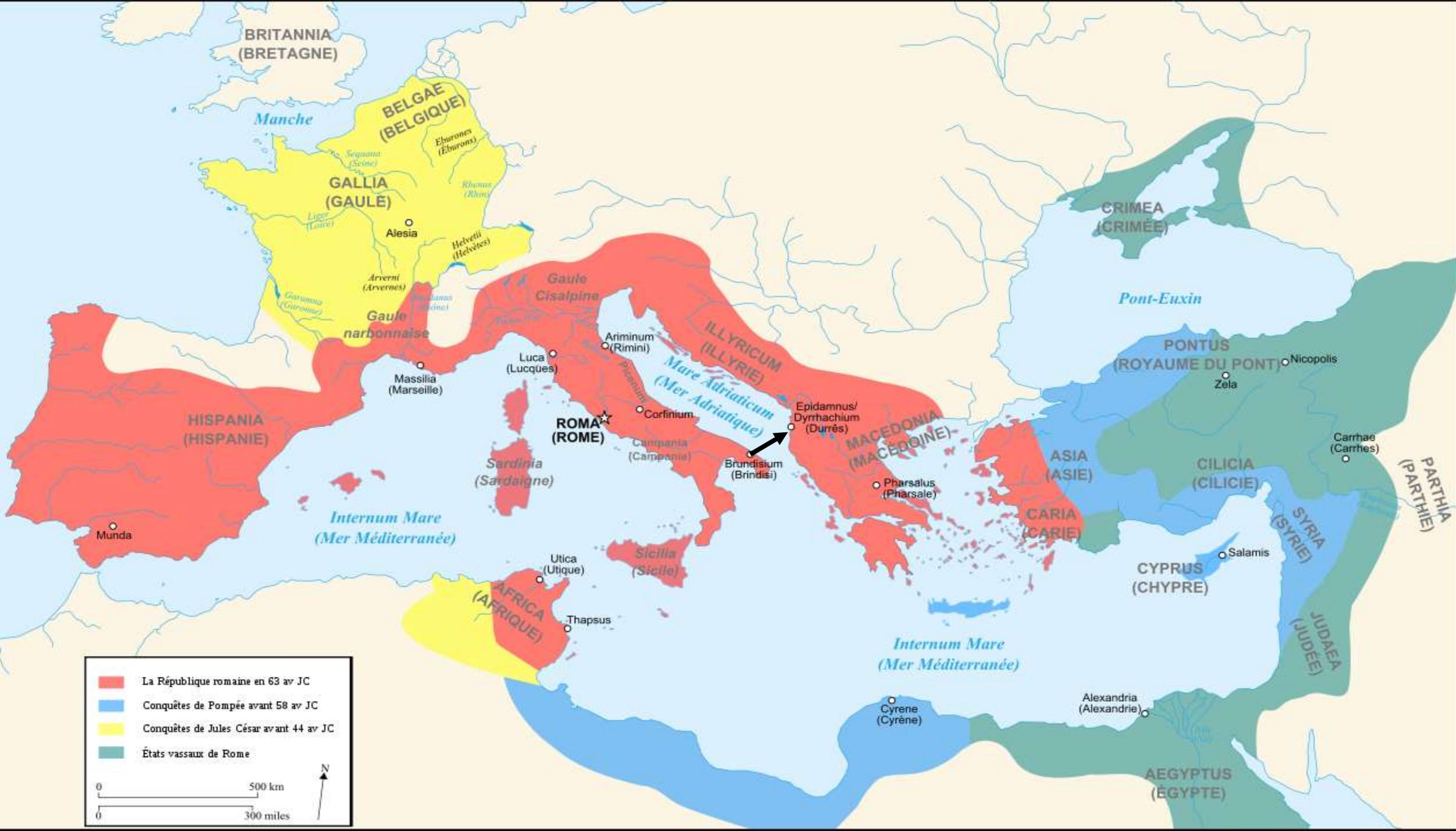
31 March 49

Caesar entered Rome

An empty victory

Pompey's army (scattered
around the Mediterranean)
still a formidable foe







Caesar in a precarious
position

No navy

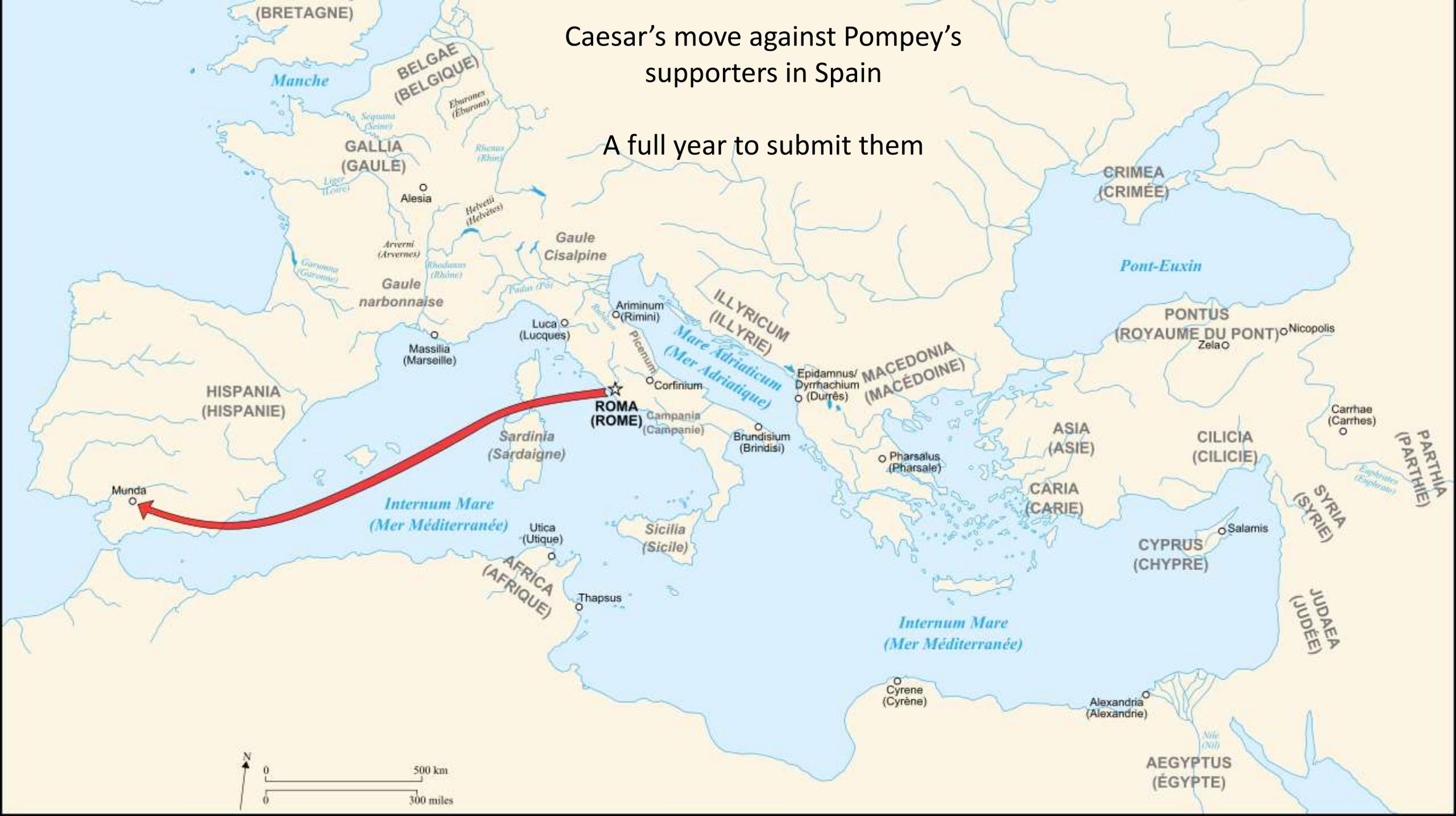
No reliable grain supplies

Pompey's huge army in Spain

No senators on his side (most
have left Rome to follow
Pompey)

Caesar's move against Pompey's supporters in Spain

A full year to submit them



In pursuit of Pompey

Caesar initially defeated by Pompey

Caesar quickly running out of
supplies

Pompey pressured to act

45 000 infantry vs. 22 000 for Caesar

Enormous advantage



9 August 48

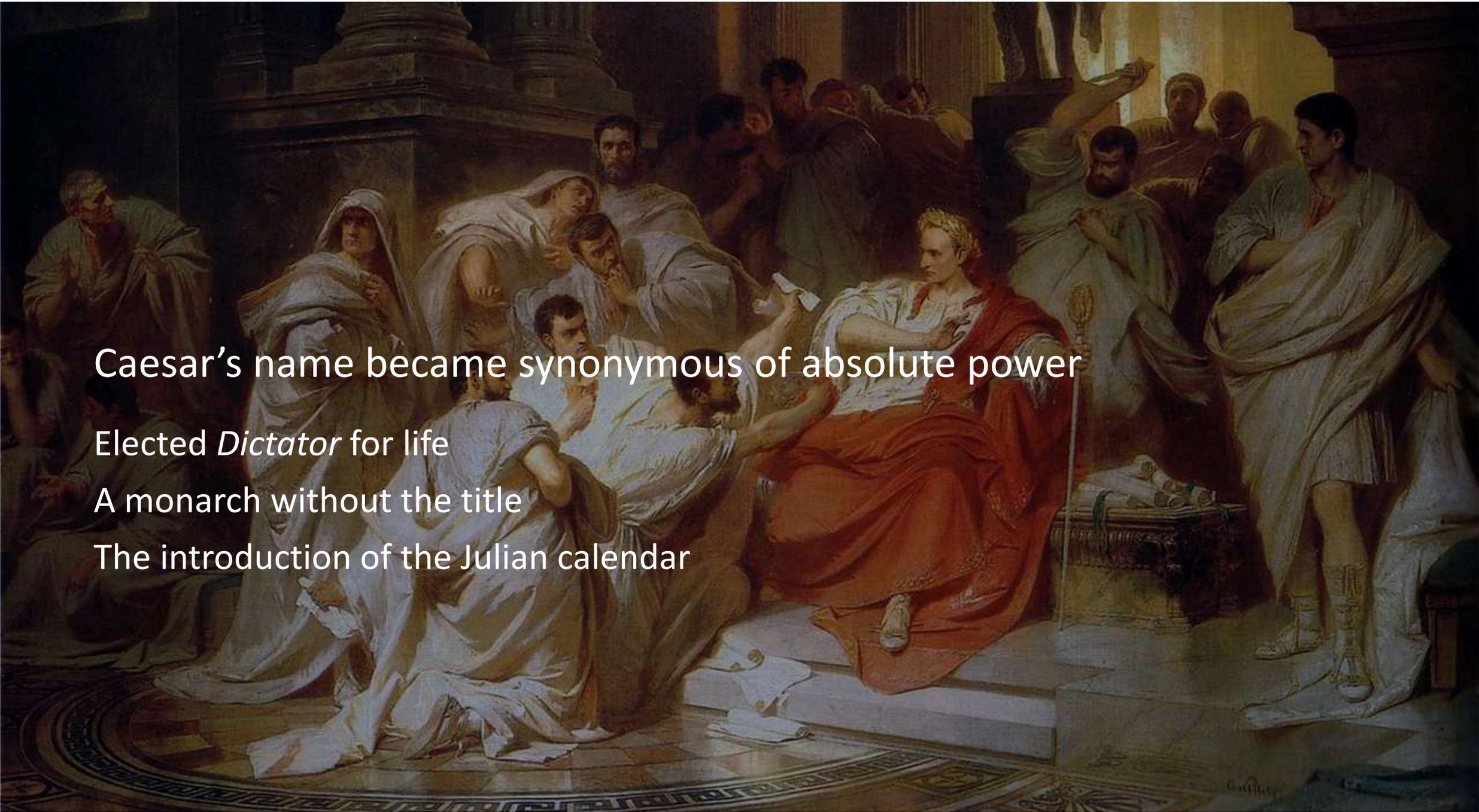
Pompey defeated in Greece
(Battle of Pharsalus)

Flight to Egypt

Assassinated by courtiers of
Ptolemy XIII







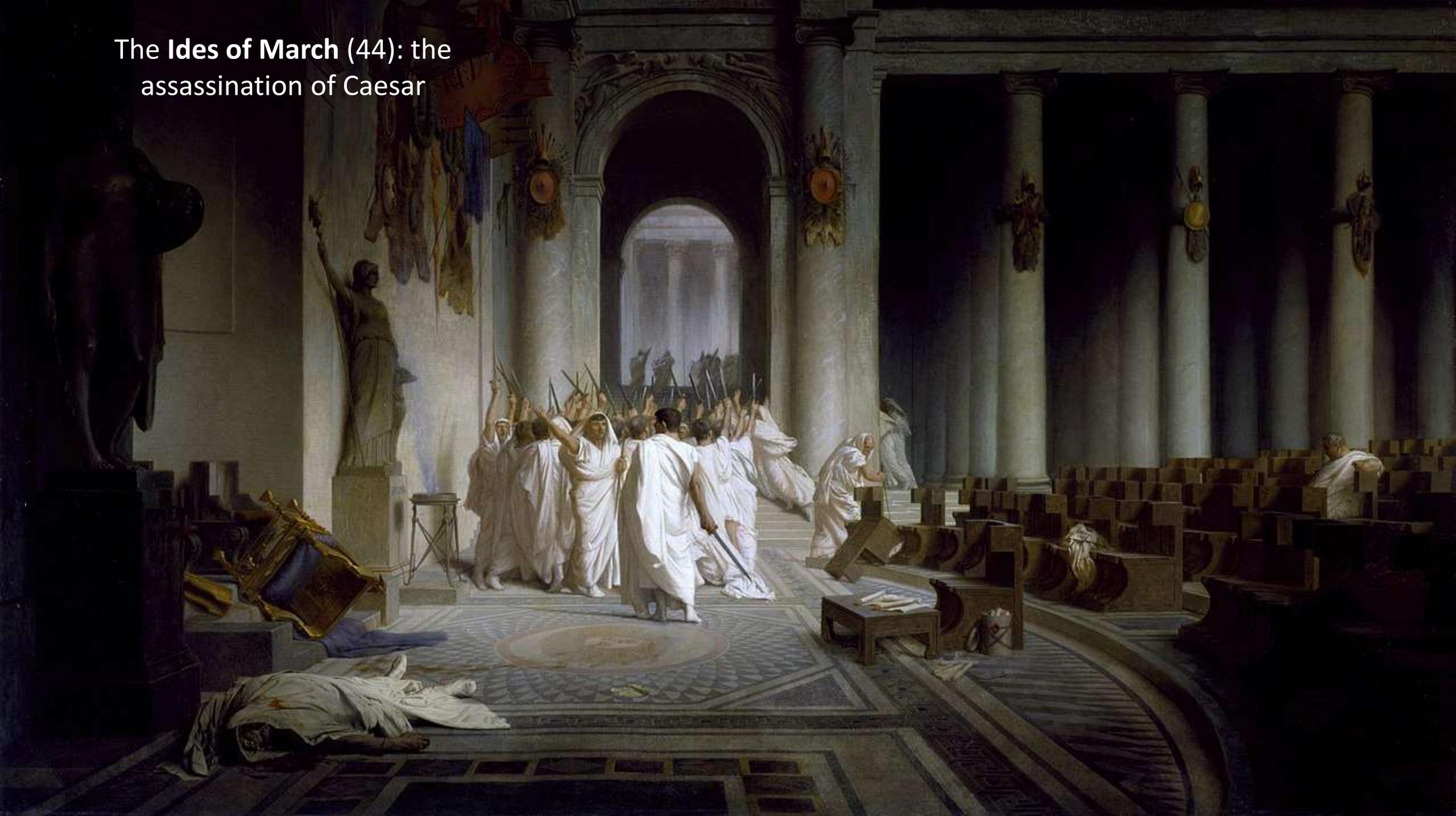
Caesar's name became synonymous of absolute power

Elected *Dictator* for life

A monarch without the title

The introduction of the Julian calendar

The Ides of March (44): the
assassination of Caesar





- Italy
- Provinces
- Vassal states

Augustus and the establishment of the Roman Empire

Pax Romana

The first civilization which united Europe and the Mediterranean

Roman Empire
under Caesar Augustus



In two weeks...

29 September 1066: William the Conqueror invaded England

