

Roman Senate:

Topic: The Role of the Senate in the Aftermath
of Caesar's Assassination: Power V acuum
and
Political Alliances

Written by: Gustavo García and Mabel
Martinez



Letter to Senators:

Welcome senators to the Roman Senate! My name is Gustavo Garcia, and I'll be your moderator. Mabel Martinez will be your director, and we'll be your chair for this SPISMUN 2025. We are grateful and honored to have you on our committee and be your chair. I am looking forward to seeing you all here and seeing your debate. The Roman Senate is not an easy committee, and it may be very confusing if you are not familiar with Roman history. We encourage you to investigate and research a lot for this committee, as you may get lost during the debate. The committee will discuss the aftermath of Caesar's assassination and how it affected the Roman Republic and the Senate. The power vacuums that led to civil wars and if the Republic will ever recover from this loss. Senators will express their position within the senate and how they'll apport the current situation of the Republic. Political alliances such as the Second Triumvirate are crucial for the success of the Senate and its prosperity. Solutions that are considered irrelevant to the historical context will be discarded and further result in a written warning, so be careful and prepared. I am also aware that the committee may act as a court, so further investigate and review the cases so you do not get lost and participate more. I am excited about this SPISMUN 2025 edition, and I am hoping all of you will have an amusing experience on my committee too! Please enjoy your time here at the Roman Senate, and I hope all of your senators do well! If you have any questions, concerns, or doubts, please refer to me or your director for us to further discuss and explain according to your situation, don't be shy to ask us for something, just remember to investigate a lot, that's what I'm most worried about because of historical context within the senate.

Delegates, I wish you the best of luck in this simulation. I very much appreciate you being on my committee and taking on the task of reading the background paper and participating in SPISMUN 2025. I believe most of you will succeed in my committee and I further encourage you, as I said before, to investigate and engage a lot in debate, as I put a lot of effort into building this background paper and making it the most understandable and interesting possible. Finally, if you have any doubts, concerns, or questions, again, reach out to me or your director through our emails or mine, (Gustavo) and we'll further discuss and explain according to your situation, concern, or doubt. As it may sound repetitive, thank you for reading this background paper and I hope you all understand and have a great experience in my committee.

Best regards, Gustavo Garcia :)



Court overview:

The Roman Senate was the governing and advisory council that proved to be the most permanent and powerful element in the Roman constitution. Under the early monarchy, the Senate served as an advisory council; in 509 BC, it contained 300 members, and a distinction between the heads of greater and lesser families existed. With the ending of the monarchy in Rome in 509 BC, the Senate served and became the advisory council for the consuls. It remained as a power secondary to the magistrates. However, consuls held office for only a year, though the Senate was a permanent body. A consul would rarely venture to disregard the Senate's advice. In the early Republic though, the Senate

remained as an advisory council and had no executive power. In the last two centuries of the Roman Republic, the Senate became an automatically constituted body, independent of the annual magistrates.

In 312 BC, the selection of senators was transferred from the consuls to the censors, who regularly chose former magistrates. The Senate's powers had extended far beyond its ancient authority. The

Senate had received more effective control over the observance of specific unwritten laws and rules, regulating the relation of the Senate and the magistrates, to the ones to whom it formally gave advice. The Senate became the chief governing body of Rome and managed advice on home and foreign policy. The Senate also acquired the authority to assign duties to the magistrates, to determine the two provinces to be entrusted to the consuls, to prolong a magistrate's period of office, and to appoint senatorial commissions to help magistrates organize conquered territories. Its earlier influence upon foreign policy developed into a definite claim to conduct all of the negotiations including a foreign power, although the formal declaration of war and approval of treaties were referred towards the people.

The Political Rise of Octavian:

First of all, inheriting Caesar's legacy was the first and most important part of Octavian's political rise, he was Caesar's adopted son and primary heir, which also granted him wealth, status, and a powerful, well-respected name; Caesar. He was just 18 when Julius Caesar was assassinated, and also was in Greece for military training at the time. He had very little experience regarding politics and battle and was a relatively unknown figure in Rome. Returning to Rome in April 44 BCE, he faced immediate problems and obstacles to claim his inheritance. One of the main problems was Mark Antony, the powerful consul who assumed leadership after he was assassinated and had taken control of various resources of Rome on Octavian's lack of presence, this led to various senators viewing Octavian as an inexperienced leader likely to fail in a power struggle against Antony. After that, Octavian recognized that he needed allies and loyal followers to keep and strengthen his position as Caesar's successor. By claiming and emphasizing his role as "Caesar's son", he immediately attracted the attention of Caesar's veterans, supporters, and followers. An unexpected political support for Octavian came to be after Antony began consolidating power by securing Caesar's papers, treasury, and loyalists, the senate, including prominent politicians and Cicero, saw an opportunity in Octavian. Cicero hoped to use Octavian as a counterbalance to Antony's power. Octavian, with senatorial backing and support, led his forces against Antony, who was already struggling and battling against Decimus Brutus at Mutina in northern Italy. In April 43 BCE, his forces defeated Antony, who later fled to Gaul. However, his victory at Mutina was momentary, as his victory created tensions with the Senate. The Senate further tried to strip Octavian of his command, which he refused to do. Realizing that he needed autonomy to protect his interests, Octavian began to take a different approach, leveraging his military control to negotiate directly with power. Other events such as; The Formation of the Second Triumvirate, the Proscriptions, the Power Struggle Against Antony, the Campaign Against the Liberators and the Battle of Philippi, and a Final Confrontation and the Battle of Actium, were all key to the political rise of Octavian, as they developed and demonstrated Octavian's capabilities, power, decision taking, determination, and leadership in the political field, specially those that include battles and political struggles and conflicts.

- **Formation of Second Triumvirate:** Following the events of the Battle of Mutina, Octavian, Lepidus, and Antony, recognized that a power-sharing agreement was necessary and mutually beneficial. The three of them met at Bologna in October 43 BCE and further formed an alliance, which was soon recognized as the Second Triumvirate. Unlike the past informal alliances like that of one of the First Triumvirate, the new Triumvirate was a legally sanctioned body with extraordinary power to reshape and restructure Rome's governance for 5 years.
- **The Proscriptions:** To ensure the Triumvirate's control and fund their campaigns, the Triumvirs decided to institute the proscriptions, a series of purges targeting political enemies, such as Cicero, designated to eliminate political opposition and raise money. These brutal purges allowed the Triumvirate to confiscate the property and the wealth of rich families. The waves of purges and violence killed many of Rome's elites and damaged Octavian's moral image, but still, ultimately helped to secure the Triumvirate's power base and prepare conflict with the Liberators, Brutus and Cassius.
- **Power Struggle Against Antony:** Taking advantage of Antony's relationship with the queen of Egypt, Cleopatra, which already alarmed Rome due to it giving the impression that Antony was aligning himself with a foreign power, who could be an enemy, Octavian portrayed Antony as disloyal to Rome and under the sway of a foreign queen. After this, Octavian launched massive and aggressive propaganda against Antony, casting him as a disloyal Roman senator and a traitor, who intended to hurt and undermine Rome's values and further install a foreign queen as a co-ruler. Through various speeches and coinage, Octavian emphasized his commitment to "traditional Roman values", which further strengthened the opposition against Antony and turned public opinion from the Senate against Antony & Cleopatra.

The Formation of the Second Triumvirate (43 BCE) After Caesar's assassination, Mark Antony controlled all of the republic, but he had to do business with Brutus and Cassius, the assassins. He made them governors of provinces in the east. However, Octavian, thinking that making them governors was too kind, and making use of the anger from Caesar's veterans, launched a war against Mark Antony, who further was defeated at Modena in northern Italy.

After his victory, Octavian returned to Rome demanded the consulship, and surprised the senate and the world by allying with Antony. This remarkable change in decision was made by Aemilius Lepidus, like Antony, a former general in Julius Caesar's army.

Lepidus became the third member of the Second Triumvirate, which was recognized in November 43 by the People's Assembly. The board of the three to reconstitute the state accepted the powers of a dictator and took various measures:

- The execution of 4,700 opponents of the state, including Cicero
- Land bills to give farms to Caesar's veterans
- Declare war against Brutus and Cassius, Caesar's murderers, who were defeated at the war of Philippi;
- The Second Triumvirate took measures against the Senate, including the appointment of all magistrates. Those who opposed the regime found refuge in Sicily, where a son of Pompey the Great, Sextus, organized a resistance against the Second Triumvirate. In 36 BCE, he was defeated in a naval battle led by Lepidus and Octavian, afterwards, Octavian proceeded to strip Lepidus from his position and powers. A long time after, Antony, who was in charge of the east and in deep love with Cleopatra, was defeated in 31 BCE in the naval battle of Actium. From there on, Octavian was the sole and only ruler of Rome; from 27 BCE and further, he called himself Augustus.

The Senate's Reaction to the Battle of Philippi (42 BCE)

● **First Battle of Philippi** In the first battle of Philippi, consisted of 2 engagements in the plain to the west of the ancient city of Philippi. Several early attempts by Antony and Octavian to draw the enemy down the plain failed. Consequently, Antony, while still making a show of troop maneuvers on the plain, attempted to cross the red reed marshes undetected and cut the Republic's camps supply lines. Cassius soon found out about the plan and responded by trying to cut Antony's advance forces by building a transverse wall from his camp to the marshes. Since Octavian's plan was discovered, he decided to make a direct attack on Cassius' wall, overwhelming the enemy and destroying their fortifications. Meanwhile, Brutus was doing well against Octavian's forces and legions whom he caught by surprise by Brutus' over-eager advance troops, which had necessitated the whole Republican army mobilizing in support. Later, Octavian- ill and missing the battle - had taken refuge in the marshes avoiding any try of capture. Brutus sent reinforcements because of Cassius' loss of a camp, but Cassius, holding out with a small force of the Acropolis of Philippi, interpreted it more as Antony's forces and so committed suicide. So, the first battle of Philippi ended in a draw, with 9,000 losses on the Republican side and more than double that from Octavian's army.

● Second Battle of Philippi

Following the first battle, both sides returned to their respective camps to re-group. Brutus, taking over Cassius' camp, hunted to stick to the original plan of holding positions and stations until the enemy was forced to surrender due to a lack of resources. Brutus harassed the enemy camps via night attacks on their positions and even changed the course of a river to wash away part of the enemy's territory and camp. Lacking resources for war and having lost their backup in the Adriatic, Antony, and Octavian were forced to make their move before winter and also forced them to leave the field. At first, Brutus refused to taunt their enemy again to make them come out and face them. Eventually, ill-discipline got the upper hand and Brutus' army took their initiative and descended the plain.

The use of artillery weapons in the war and a tightly packed battlefield was considered impractical to opposing armies which immediately clashed in hand-to-hand combat. At first, the Republicans did well against the enemy's left wing but Brutus, with few troops at his disposal, stretched his lines thin to ward off an astonishing maneuver. Consequently, Antony recklessly pushed forward against the enemy center and smashed it, moving left, attacking the rear of Brutus' army lines. The Republican troop's order was completely inadequate and broke down and eventually, chaos arose. The Republican leader found refuge in nearby mountains when his four remaining legions moved to plead for clemency and mercy from Antony, Brutus however, took his own life after all. In total, 14,000 soldiers surrendered and while some of them managed to escape by ship to Thassos, the Republican cause came to an end and Julius Caesar's murder had been avenged.

4. The Struggle between the Liberators and the Cesareans

Caesar's assassination caused an immediate aftermath, plunging chaos into the Roman Republic.

The act caused a power vacuum that led to a massive series of violent clashes and civil wars. The immediate aftermath saw a struggle for power among Caesar's supporters and assassins, destabilizing the political system and structure of Rome. Mark Antony initially tried to broker peace but eventually turned against the conspirators, Brutus and Cassius, leading to the formation of the Second Triumvirate with Octavian and Lepidus. This alliance was not formed because of trust between the parties, instead they shared a desire for revenge against Caesar's assassins.

This alliance took control of Rome and the western provinces, effectively limiting the Senate's influence, which planned on utilizing Brutus and Cassius' military might, who had amassed armies in the eastern provinces. But as the Triumvirate hunted down and ultimately defeated the Liberators at the Battle of Philippi in 42 BCE, the Senate's power was weakened. The conflict was characterized by fierce and disorderly combat, and after Brutus and Cassius killed themselves,

Antony and Octavian finally ruled.

5. The Proscriptions of 43 BCE

The second triumvirate formed by Antony, Lepidus, and Octavian, took drastic measures against their political enemies, including executions, targeting of senators, declaring war against Caesar's murders, etc. The Senate took several measures to survive the political shifts and the targeting of multiple senators and political figures including Cicero. The senate ensured their security by immediately legitimization Caesar's acts, setting alliances with powerful key political members and figures used public oratory propaganda, attempted reassertion through other assassinations and conspiracies against other senators and political figures, etc. Everything the Senate applied to survive the massive purges and civil wars eventually ended in marking the end of the Republic and the political dominance of the Senate. Initially, Mark Antony and Octavian fought each other at the Battle of Mutina in 43 BCE, though, they soon decided that it was better to work together and serve their purposes as they should. Still, Lepidus considered a less recognizable and influential character in the second triumvirate, commanded considerably strong military strength. Examples of strategies the Senate applied:

- Alliance with key figures: Initially, the senate tried to establish an alliance with key figures, such as Antony and later, Octavian. At first, the senate leaned towards Antony, as he seemed as the better option due to his power, however, the senate succeeded in allying with Octavian after they considered Antony to have too much power among the senate, which later sort of failed and led to the defeat of Mark Antony but then stripped of the senate's political powers.
- Use of public oratory: Before being selected to be executed, Cicero, a senior member of the senate and orator, used speeches such as the Philippians, to sway political views and influence the senate to go against Antony, his enemy. The oratory initially positioned the senate as a defender of the Republic but still, intensified divisions within itself.
- Attempted Reassertion through assassinations and conspiracies: Some senators, as they had already done, resorted to conspiracies and assassinations to try to reclaim control, as they did with Julius Caesar. However, the efforts soon backfired, as important, powerful, imponent members of the senate were killed in the Proscriptions, undermining and destroying the senate's power over the Republic.

Use of public oratory: Before being selected to be executed, Cicero, a senior member of the senate and orator, used speeches such as the Philippians, to sway political views and influence the senate to go against Antony, his enemy. The oratory initially positioned the senate as a defender of the Republic but still, intensified divisions within itself.

- Attempted Reassertion through assassinations and conspiracies: Some senators, as they had already done, resorted to conspiracies and assassinations to try to reclaim control, as they did with Julius Caesar. However, the efforts soon backfired, as important, powerful, imponent members of the senate were killed in the Proscriptions, undermining and destroying the senate's power over the Republic.

- Hiding, appealing to family connections and allies, and bribing officials: Several senators and important figures attempted to escape Rome, and those who did succeed eventually moved into areas less controlled by the Second Triumvirate, most of them aimed to move to areas controlled by the liberators, the main enemies from the Second Triumvirate, who were defeated later. Sometime later, they tried to bribe powerful officials to erase their names from the lists made by the Second Triumvirate or let them escape the inevitable punishment and destiny that would be provided by the Triumvirate.

The Senate did not respond as they believed that escaping or avoiding the enemy was the best way of leading with the problem. However, some senators stood up and called upon political alliances with the Liberators, they believed that a victory against the Cesareans meant they could return to Rome, and the exiled senators contributed to the Liberators by giving them resources, military knowledge, influence, etc. Unfortunately for the senate, this strategy not only backfired but also resulted in the Battle of Philippi and the loss and suicide of the Liberators/Caesar's murderers. The Proscriptions caused huge damage to the political system of Rome, as the purpose was to eliminate possible enemies or contributors to Caesar's assassination, mostly because of revenge. The Proscriptions caused multiple consequences both long-term and short-term; mass fear and distrust between Roman institutions, weakening of the senate and republic's institutions, social and economic disruption, and power vacuums. The Proscriptions spread fear among senators and Roman citizens as whoever was shown the list was stripped of their rights and was further demanded into a public execution. Also, the senate, which was in a big struggle due to the massive civil wars, lost powerful and prominent members of the senate, such as Cicero, who influenced the republic and the people. Additionally, the triumvirs gained power over the republic due to the weakening of the senate and powerful Roman institutions, confiscation of power and lands caused a significant increase in poverty and had a devastating economic impact on Rome, many elite families such as those from the senate, were stripped their wealth and further eliminated from Rome. Political, social, and economic shifts within Rome because of the triumvirs caused a not-so-promising future and legacy for future generations of Rome, as they were reminded of the great dangers of political institutions and instability within their societies, which also caused public outcries, a shift towards autocracy, etc. In conclusion, the process and the time of the Proscriptions were very violent and caused damage to the political, economic, social, and future state of Rome, which was the start of the Empire's Fall.

Legal Overview of the Case(s)

- The Political Rise of Octavian

At the moment, legally, Octavian's adoption of Caesar's will made him not only his son but also his heir. The inheritance granted by Caesar not only included his wealth or properties but also his social and political status and obligations, giving him the right to lead Caesar's supporters and veterans. As well as having Caesar's name and social and political status, Octavian also pressured the Senate to give him powerful titles, privileges, and powers, acquiring him the title of imperator (military commander), but he also used his influence to secure a consulship at his young age by his army's loyalty and political pressure within the Senate.

Following his victory over Cleopatra and Antony, Octavian sought to reshape his power in a way that appeared legal and traditional not only to the Senate but also to public opinion and view. In 27 BCE, he formally "restored" the Republic, returning some of its former powers to the Senate, but also keeping most of the real control for him. Finally, he was granted the title Aof Augustus and became the Princeps (the first citizen), creating a Principate, a system that preserved the appearance of the Republic and the Senate while centralizing his powers and authority.

- The Formation of the Second Triumvirate

The Second Triumvirate was legally established by the Lex Titia, a law that gave Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus extraordinary powers to supposedly "restore the Republic." The law was approved by the Senate, effectively giving the Triumvirate an official governing body with powers that were unparalleled to others, including the Senate itself. The Lex Titia granted the triumvirs a unique constitutional position that allowed them to bypass normal checks and balances on power, legislate independently, and exercise near-dictatorial power and control over Rome for the next 5 years. Not only did Lex Titia grant the triumvirs these powers, but also gained legal authority and power over life and death without appeal, control over Rome's military and finances, and last and most important, the ability to enact or establish laws without the Senate's or public approval.

- The Senate's Reaction to The Battle of Philippi

Various decisions made by the Triumvirate and the Senate regarding the Triumvirs' victory shaped the Senate's power and legality over the Republic; After the Triumvirs defeated the Liberators in the Battle of Philippi, the Senate's powers as well as their decision-making were undermined and diminished, due to the triumvirs using the victory to further consolidate power. Additionally, bad decision-making by the Senate, likely under pressure, that confirmed the triumvirs' rule to divide the Roman territories among Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus, really resulted in the Senate surrendering most of its governing and legal power to the triumvirs. Following the events of the Battle of Philippi, the massive and violent purges in the proscriptions were legally justified as part of the triumvirs' special emergency powers, which allowed actions that wouldn't be legal under the Roman Constitution, to be.

- The Struggle Between the Liberators and Cesareans

After Caesar's assassination, the Senate tried to balance the recognition of the Liberators' decisions and motivations to kill Caesar and the powerful influence of Caesar's supporters. At first, laws were passed to confirm Caesar's acts to protect his followers and prevent immediate civil wars and further chaos induced in Rome.

Even though the Senate still governed when Brutus and Cassius gathered forces in the East under quasi-legal authority, they were assigned command over the provinces they ruled, using their senatorial power and authority to justify their recruitment of armies.

Eventually, the declaration of war against the Liberators in 42 BCE was justified under emergency powers granted by the Senate to the Second Triumvirate to restore order in Rome, giving the triumvirs' actions a veneer of legality.

- The Proscriptions (43 BCE)

The proscriptions were a series of legally sanctioned lists that claimed enemies of the state, these lists condemned those who were involved in the lists to be legally prosecuted due to the lists allowing the Triumvirate to seize their property and further, killed by the Triumvirate without trial and repercussions, consequences, or punishment. Before this, the triumvirs passed laws to formalize the proscriptions. By registering the proscriptions in public records, the triumvirs successfully removed the legal protections of the ones on the lists to be killed legally. However, the proscriptions still caused damage and blurred the boundaries of legal and extra-legal punishment, as thousands of citizens and prominent members of the Senate were prosecuted without any trial procedures, which made a significant mark and shift from traditional legal safeguards, showing the big influence of the triumvirs' near-to absolute power over the Republic.

- Conclusion

These events shaped the Republic's law and the Senate's powers, political influence, authority, and position in Rome. Laws like Lex Titania and the bad decision-making by the Senate caused the enforcement of the Second Triumvirate as many of their laws and decisions didn't have to pass through the Senate after its weakening. Examples of political overpower such as the proscriptions are a reminder of how politically unbalanced ancient Rome was, inducing fear, and injustice into its political system. So, the Second Triumvirate's political power and the Senate's authority diminishing and elimination of prominent members of the Senate were crucial events that shaped Roman politics and eventually, as mentioned earlier, caused the downfall of the Roman Empire, starting with the death of Julius Caesar. Also, taking into account that Cleopatra's intervention and relationship with Antony and Caesar influenced various of their decisions, such as where to move, what political position to take, both in Rome and Egypt, and powerful alliances that were a supposed threat to the Roman Republic.

Evidence of the Case:

1. Suetonius' Life of Augustus

Suetonius outlines and describes Octavian's rise, ranging from Octavian's adoption by Caesar to his political strategies to consolidate power, which further led to Octavian's designation as the Princeps, Suetonius also describes how Octavian eventually balanced public support by Rome's citizens and make tactical alliances with powerful political leaders and parties to gain power and become the leader of Rome.

2. Coins and Inscriptions

There were various coins inscribed 'divi fillius' (son of the divine Caesar). These coins offer more physical evidence of the political rise of Octavian, as they show that he was the ultimate ruler and helped him associate with Julius Caesar's legacy, coins and the inscriptions were an effective medium of propaganda in favor of Octavian, as they strongly supported his legacy with physical evidence and records.

• The Formation of the Second Triumvirate

1. Lex Titia

The Lex Titia legally took place over the creation of the second triumvirate in 43 BCE, granting the triumvirate extraordinary powers for the five years they ruled. Lex Titia provided the triumvirs almost unchecked authority over Rome, which eventually led to the proscriptions and the assassination of various members of the senate and citizens. Summaries of the law and its application legally may be found in Roman legal history.

2. Appian Civil Wars

Appian, an ancient historian, explains how the Triumvirate used the law to overpass the Senate, marking a significant departure from Republican norms, as many of them were broken, but the Lex Titia protected the triumvirs from being punished as the law was legally applied and approved by the Senate.

• The Senate's Reaction to The Battle of Philippi

1. Appian Civil Wars

Appian also underlines the aftermath of Philippi, as well as shows how the power balance shifted in favor of the triumvirs, particularly Octavian and Antony. The Senate had few options available, so they chose to legitimize the changes imposed by the victors. It provides detailed descriptions of the event, the naval battles, and the consequences of struggling to balance and control the power within the battles.

2. Dio Cassius (Roman History book 47)

Dio describes how the Senate reacted after the defeat of Brutus and Cassius at Philippi. Following the events of the battle, the Senate was pressured to deal with the triumvirate's authority, marking various power shifts away from the Senate, as the Senate's power was taken away by other events and the creation of the Lex Titia.

• The Struggle Between The Liberators and The Cesareans

1. Dio Cassius Writings

Dio Cassius, a Roman administrator and historian, held various offices which gave him opportunities for historical investigation. His narratives show the hand of the practiced soldier and politician. His account of the late republic and the age of the Triumvirs is especially full and is interpreted in light of the battles over supreme rule in his day. Cassius provides a detailed narrative of the political turmoil and power struggles that ensued after Caesar's death. He highlights the formation of the Second Triumvirate by Mark Antony, Octavian, and Lepidus, and their efforts to consolidate power and defeat Caesar's assassins, Brutus and Cassius, culminating in the Battle of Philippi in 42 BCE. In Book 52 there is a long speech by Maecenas, whose advice to Augustus reveals Dio's vision of the empire.

2. Plutarch's Life of Brutus and Life of Antony

Plutarch, another ancient historian, described in his biography the motivations of the Liberators and key Cesareans. He emphasized the ideological conflict, with the Liberators seeing themselves as the defenders of the Republic, and the Cesareans, seeking revenge for Julius Caesar's assassination, which led to various events in ancient Rome. Plutarch's Life of Brutus and Life of Antony provides a more deep and personal ideological insight into the conflict, as it describes the motivations of both parties and their actions as well.

Evidence of the Case:

- The Proscriptions (43 BCE)

1. Cicero's Philippics

Even though Cicero didn't survive the proscriptions, he still left a mark. His philippics reveal the dangerous and violent atmosphere of the series of attacks the tension and opposition against Antony, and the growing split between the Senate and the Caesarian movement. The speeches offer the increasingly polarized political climate within the event, as almost all of his speeches were directed at Antony or Octavian.

2. Lex Titia

The Lex Titia, a law accepted by the Senate, gave immense power to the Triumvirate, which was to legally kill and prosecute various citizens and members of the Senate. The law also gave them the power to inscribe people, citizens, and members from the Senate, and whoever was on the list to be legally prosecuted and killed as they were declared enemies of the State. Evidence of the law was diminished after the 5 years of rule of the Triumvirate, but it is described in various books by ancient historians, it was a very violent and impactful law and event for the Republic, as it marked the beginning of an era where citizens and Senators could be legally killed with no consequences to the murderers.



Objections:

1. **Misleading:** an ambiguous, misleading, confusing, vague, or unintelligible question is a question without a clear, obvious, succinct, factual answer.
2. **Argumentative:** Parties are not permitted to be argumentative with a witness in any given trial. It is not permitted to repeatedly ask the same question of a witness, nor is it allowed to directly dispute what the witness says in the manner of an argument.
3. **Asked and Answered:** Once a question has been asked and answered, it is generally not allowed for that question to be asked again. If the question is asked again, then the opposing party might object because the question has been asked and answered.
4. **Speculation:** A speculative question or speculative evidence is normally disallowed from a trial because it is not based on fact. Speculation arises when a witness is asked to answer a question, to which he or she does not know the immediate, factual answer, or when a witness provides an answer, which is not based on immediate facts of his or her experience.
5. **Hearsay:** When a party objects to evidence based on hearsay, the other party is objecting to a type of evidence that is related secondhand, from questions asked or answers given outside of the court.
6. **Incompetent:** A party might raise an objection based on grounds of incompetence if a witness was not considered to be competent in providing answers to questions. A witness might be considered incompetent, if he or she were not mentally competent and stable, or if he or she were particularly young, for example.
7. **Inflammatory:** An inflammatory statement or question is normally grounds for an objection and the disallowing of the question or the evidence, as it is manipulative and irrelevant.
8. **Leading Questions:** Leading questions are questions, that are designed to suggest an answer to the question. Leading questions are often „yes or no" questions, though not all „yes or no" questions could be accused of leading the witness.
9. **Privilege:** Objections based on privilege are objections based on the notion that a witness does not have to give testimony or evidence in certain areas if that witness holds privilege of particular types.
10. **Narrative:** An objection to questions that might result in narration on the part of the witness is allowed because narrative answers do not allow opposing counsel to object to questions or evidence before the introduction of those questions or evidence.

Quorum:

1. Mark Antony
2. Marcus Tullius Cicero
3. Gaius Octavian (Augustus)
4. Fulvia
5. Marcus Aemilius Lepidus
6. Lucius Cornelius Cinna
7. Publius Cornelius Dolabella
8. Lucius Marcius Philippus
9. Lucius Antonius
10. Quintus Tullius Cicero
11. Lucius Munatius Plancus
12. Aulus Hirtius
13. Gaius Vibius Pansa Caetronianus
14. Marcus Junius Brutus
15. Gaius Cassius Longinus
16. Sextus Pompeius
17. Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus
18. Gaius Trebonius
19. Gaius Cassius Parmensis
20. Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus



Bibliography:

Ides of March: The death of Caesar. (n.d.).

https://penelope.uchicago.edu/encyclopaedia_romana/calendar/ides.html

After the assassination. (2018, June 5). Roman History 31 BC - AD 117.

<https://ancientromanhistory31-14.com/an-end-of-the-republic/caesars-dictatorship/after-the-assassination/>

Julius Caesar assassinated. (n.d.).

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/julius-caesar-assassinated/#>

XAppIan, The Civil Wars, THE CIVIL WARS, INTRODUCTION. (n.d.).

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0232>

M. Tullius Cicero, Letters, Introduction. (n.d.).

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0022%3Ayear%3Dvolume+1+intro>

LacusCurtius • Cassius Dio 's Roman History. (n.d.).

https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cassius_Dio/home.htm

