

49 B.C.E. Roman Forum

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Head Chairs: Matthew Garchik and Grayson
Schementi

Assistant Chair: Owen Dudney

Hello delegates,

We are Matthew Garchik and Grayson Schementi and we are so excited to chair the Roman Forum. We have 12 years of combined MUN experience and have traveled around the country doing MUN. Our committee gathers the leaders of Rome beginning in **49 B.C.E., right after Pompey flees to Greece and Caesar controls Italy and Spain.** The goal of our committee is to agree on peace terms and then work to re-unify Rome. Our committee focuses on the division of Rome during the Civil War starting in 49 B.C.E. and ending in 45 B.C.E., dividing the Roman Republic between two factions: those fighting for Pompey and those fighting for Caesar. We hope delegates research their positions well so that everyone has a full understanding of how their ancient Roman felt about the conflict and what solutions are possible. The goals of this committee are first to find peace between Pompey and Caesar through creative solutions and compromises, and second to fight for the reunification of Rome, including plans for a new government. This committee is a GA, but we will provide crisis notepads so that members can order “hits” on other people in the committee. This is the only crisis element of our committee, meaning we will use traditional resolutions rather than directives, and it is at the chair’s discretion who gets killed and who does not. Keep in mind that even if your position historically dies in, say, 48 B.C.E. (like Pompey), that won’t happen in committee unless someone orders a hit on you. We are looking forward to heated debate, creative solutions, and engaged delegates. See you soon!

Grayson and Matthew

Topic 1: The Great Roman Civil War

How This Works:

We are starting our committee in September of 49 B.C.E.. Caesar has control over Spain and Italy and Pompey has retreated to Greece. Events that historically occurred after August of 49 B.C.E. won't happen in committee unless resolutions are passed that say they will happen. Our meeting functions under the assumption that Pompey took Caesar up on his offer to "sheath" the swords. Caesar and Pompey are equally interested in finding peace, but the Senators and the military commanders may have different ideas. Again, if your position would traditionally die in 48 B.C.E. (like Pompey), that won't happen unless somebody orders a "hit" on your position. Make sure to also speak from the first person, as you are representing your historical figure directly. We begin our committee at the point where Caesar takes the Iberian peninsula and Italy and Pompey controls Greece and Macedonia in September of 49 B.C.E.

History of the Great Roman Civil War:

Gnaeus Pompey Magnus began his career by gaining respect when he pushed back the kingdom of Pontus, even while outnumbered. He got rid of his private militia after his victories in Pontus, though he had enough to form a dictatorship if he wished, and he returned to politics as usual. However, Pompey was more skilled in battle than in politics and could not get the Senate to pass the treaties he created after the Gallic Wars with the kingdom of Pontus.

Caesar was a priest for the Julii clan before entering the realm of politics. He studied the politicians of the time and realized that to gain power, he must create policies that benefit the common people. He worked as one of eight praetors, defending Spain from pirates and honing his military skills. He figured that upon returning to Rome, he would find a way to get on Pompey's good side, since Pompey was the most powerful man in Rome, in order to be given more land expenses. When returning home, he was elected as a consul for 59 B.C.E. and passed policies that turned public lands into private land for Pompey's veterans and poor Romans without property. He also ratified Pompey's treaties that had not been able to get through the Senate and had his daughter marry Pompey. In return, Pompey passed laws that gave Caesar more land and more power. Through bribery and extortion, Caesar gained control of the Balkans and Gaul. Many politicians of the era would have supported Pompey if not for the bribes that Caesar provided.

In 59 B.C.E., Rome had three rulers called consuls. At the time the three consuls were Marcus Crassus, Gaius Julius Caesar and Pompey the Great. Pompey and Caesar rose to power in an alliance called the First Triumvirate along with Marcus Crassus, the richest man in all of Rome. After their one-year term, the three men parted ways. Pompey remained around Rome while Crassus went off to Syria and Caesar was given governorship of Southern France.



After Crassus' death in 53 B.C.E., Caesar and Pompey were fighting for the same political power. The Senate supported Pompey as sole consul, even though some argued this created anarchy. Caesar, on the other hand, was the champion of the people. In 50 B.C.E., the Roman Senate ordered that Caesar disband his army as he was becoming a threat to the stability of the government; however, he did not do this.

Explanation of The Great Roman Civil War:

In 49 B.C.E., Caesar brought his army across the Rubicon River, the boundary between the province of Cisalpine Gaul to the north and Italy to the south. A law prevented armies from crossing this river to prevent coups, so the Senate charged Caesar with treason, thus beginning the war between Pompey and Caesar. Caesar's followers and the common people supported his actions and were known as the Populares. Pompey and his followers were known as the Optimates. The Senate was under the impression that Caesar had crossed the river with a large army (in actuality it was only 1 legion) so they supported Pompey. By March, Caesar had taken control of all of Italy and forced Pompey to flee to Greece. Caesar quickly took Spain by August, forcing Petrius and Afranius to flee.

Action Towards Peace:

Throughout the beginning of the war, Caesar frequently proposed to Pompey that they both sheath their swords and attempt to have peace talks, but Pompey argued that since Caesar

was his legal subordinate, Caesar must be the one to surrender. However, no such meetings were ever recorded taking place.



Summary of Issue:

Because of a growing divide between two of the most powerful men in Rome, each person was forced to choose a side. Through bribery, extortion, and convincing rhetoric, Julius Caesar amassed a large following of ordinary citizens fighting for what they believed in. Through military experience and aristocracy, Gnaeus Pompey Magnus reached classic military men and the Roman Senate. These two would fight in a Civil War that changed the Roman Republic, Europe, and the world forever.

Questions to Consider:

1. Which side of the Caesar-Pompey conflict are you on and why?

2. Would it benefit you, at any point, to switch sides? How loyal are you to your cause?
3. With our historical foresight, how can you avoid death? What tactics can you use to convince others you need to stay alive?
4. What is the ideal form of peace you are looking for?
5. Who are your friends? Who are your enemies?
6. What room is there to compromise? Can you see places where you would have to give something up in order to ensure peace? Where would your enemies have to give things up in order to ensure peace?
7. Who can you trust? Who might you want to kill and why?
8. What military experience do you have? Political? Are you trying to find political ground or military ground?
9. What incentives are there for peace? Is peace possible? Do you agree with your commanders that a peace meeting is even necessary?
10. What is a list of five things that absolutely must be in a final peace agreement?
11. What is a list of five things that absolutely cannot be in a final peace agreement?
12. What's at stake for your character?

Topic 2: Post-War Reform and Reunification of Rome

How This Works:

A lot of people that are supposed to be dead according to history probably won't be dead by this point. Because of this, we aren't assuming that Julius Caesar is in power. However, the ideas that he brought forward are still going to be debated. Remember, even if you traditionally supported or antagonized Caesar, most Romans constantly changed their stances. If you supported Caesar in the last topic, you might not in this one, so keep that in mind as you research. Also, Caesar's assassination is not set in stone; his opponents may not find a good opportunity or have a good motive for killing him. Don't expect that a sound resolution will be a hit on Julius Caesar as, depending on the peace agreed upon, there may be no reason to assassinate him. However, by all means, murder his ideas in fiery speeches and harsh written resolutions.



History of Roman Reform and Reunification:

Assuming the events of the Civil War played out as historically accurate, afterward, Caesar set out to create a constitution that suppressed armed resistance, created a strong central

government, and turned the Roman Republic into a united body. Caesar had his own ideas of how to do this; most involved claiming dictatorship, installing political puppets in and increasing the size of the Senate so it became less effective, stepping down from his solo run as Consul but setting a precedent that the emperor takes control over who is elected to the Consul, putting his face on coins and giving himself the first speech in the Senate. However, others had different ideas about Caesar's policies and behavior. Former Pompey supporters advocated against Caesar. Many who supported Caesar began to question his emerging dictatorship and so, on the Ides of March, March 15th, a group of assassins, including Cassius, Decimus, and Brutus, killed Caesar.

Explanation of Roman Reunification:

Caesar advocated for suppression of armed resistance. Of course, he did this by starting a Civil War with Pompey, but

he also planned on invading neighboring nations before he was assassinated. Caesar wanted to create a strong central government in order to prevent the arguably



anarchical rule that was overseen by Pompey. He wanted to do this by creating the Julian Calendar and regulating subsidized grain as well as reducing government debt. He also wanted to

unite the country, as most Romans believed that only those from Rome—and maybe Italy—should be considered true Romans and deserved more privileges than the rest of the Republic. Caesar wanted to give public lands to the poor and rebuild infrastructure in Northern Africa. He wanted to allow local governments to establish tax rates that made sense to them and he wanted to grant citizenship to people around the Republic, not just in Italy. These three goals of his potential Constitution, as well as his rise to dictatorship, are what eventually got him killed.

Action Towards Reunification:

People took different stances on Caesar's constitution, and because he was assassinated we will never truly know if the vision he proposed would have been carried out in the manner he wanted. However, many politicians did not agree with Caesar and preferred a stable aristocracy with a powerful Senate, centralized power in Rome and broader Italy, publicization of



land, spending money on rebuilding Rome rather than North Africa, and regulating taxes in Rome. Because Caesar had established himself as emperor, politicians didn't get to voice their opposition to his policies. However, the historical motives for his assassination indicate that some people were clearly dissatisfied with his proposed vision of the future, while others were supportive.

Summary of Issue:

Caesar's ideas for reform were supported by many and hated by many, and led to the deaths of many more. Discerning what is good and what is bad for Rome in the eyes of the era's politicians is paramount in understanding who these people were and how they thought. The goals to suppress armed resistance, create a strong central government, and unite the entire Republic are divisive and controversial and there is much room for debate. Think of this as the Roman Constitutional Convention. The proposed reforms could change the landscape of the nation. Many people are willing to see that change, but many are not.

Questions to Consider:

1. Do you agree with Caesar's reforms? Why or why not?
2. Are you accepting bribes? How loyal are you to your cause? Does reforming Rome trump making money or vice versa?

3. With our historical foresight, how can you avoid death? What tactics can you use to convince others you need to stay alive?
4. What are the best reforms? Are these them? Is Rome fine the way it is?
5. Who are your friends? Who are your enemies? Are they shifting? Why?
6. Are you set in stone on your position? Are you willing to give a little to get a little? Why or why not?
7. Who can you trust? Who might you want to kill and why?
8. What's your background? How does it inform your decisions? Why do you stand for what you stand for?
9. Are reforms necessary? Does your traditional side agree with all of your points? How can you show your individuality?
10. What's your worst-case scenario?

Bibliography

Position List

1. Julius Caesar, "Caesar"
2. Gnaeus Pompey Magnus, "Pompey"
3. Gaius Julius Caesar Octavian, "Augustus"
4. Marcus Antonius, "Mark Antony"
5. Titus Labieus, "Titus"
6. Gaius Cassius Longinus, "Cassius"
7. Decimus Junius Brutus Albius, "Decimus"
8. Marcus Junius Brutus, "Brutus"
9. Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, "Lepidus"
10. Lucius Antonius, "Lucius Antonius"
11. Lucius Caninius Gallus, "Gallus"

12. Lucius Aemilius Lepidus Paullus “Paullus”
13. Marcus Tullius Cicero, “Cicero”
14. Quintus Cicero, “Quintus”
15. Marcus Porcius Cato Uticensis, “Cato”
16. Marcus Livius Drusus Claudianus, “Livius Drusus”
17. Publius Cornelius Dolabella, “Dolabella”
18. Publius Servilius Vatia Isauricus, “Vatia Isauricus”
19. Publius Cornelius Sulla, “Sulla”
20. Publius Atteus Varus, “Varus”
21. Faustus Cornelius Sulla, “Faustus”
22. Gaius Asinius Pollio, “Pollio”
23. Gaius Antonius Hybrida, “Hybrida”
24. Gnaeus Pompeius, “Gnaeus Pompey”
25. Sextus Pompeius, “Sextus Pompey”
26. Lucius Munatius Plancus, “Plancus”
27. Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus “Domitius”
28. Servius Sulpicius Rufus, “Rufus”
29. Quintus Fabius Maximus, “Maximus”
30. Marcus Terentius Varro, “Varro”
31. Marcus Petrieus, “Petrieus”
32. Gaius Trebonius, “Trebonius”
33. Gaius Oppius, “Oppius”
34. Tillius Cimber, “Tillius”
35. Lucius Afranius, “Afranius”
36. Quintus Caecilius Metellus Pius Scipio Nasica, “Metellus Scipio”
37. Cleopatra VII Philopator, “Cleopatra”