The image features two classical columns, one on the left and one on the right, flanking the central text. The columns are light-colored with detailed capitals. The background is black.

THE DECLINE OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

Ms. Rosenberg

Western Civilizations I



ROME FOLLOWING THE PUNIC WARS

- Farmland across Italy in ruins
- Farmer-soldiers abandon land, move to cities, face unemployment
- Gap between rich and poor expanded
- Farms become large, state-run commercial businesses
- Massive increase in slave labor
- Unrest among people - changes must be made to avoid anarchy

TIBERIUS AND GAIUS GRACCHUS (133-121 BC)

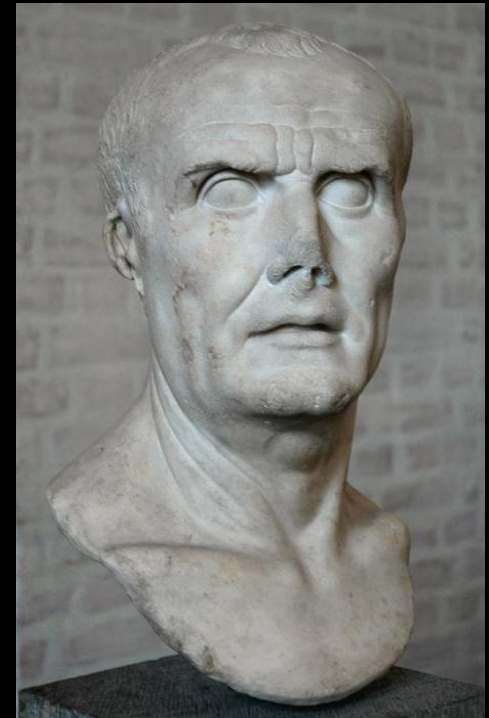
- Very popular among the plebeians
- Attempted to limit land ownership
- Fixed grain prices
- Attempted to extend citizenship
- Both assassinated, leading to a revolt = beginning of the end to the Roman Republic





GAIUS MARIUS (107-86 BC)

- Military reformer who opened the army to poorer citizens who were rewarded with land for their service
- Soldiers became loyal to their generals instead of the state
- Rivalry with Sulla led to civil war in 88 BC





SULLA (88-80 BC)

- Powerful military general, defeated Marius in civil war
- Appointed Dictator, worked to return power to the Senate from the Assembly and put down plebeian revolts
- Used his own troops to kill opponents





POMPEY AND CRASSUS

(elected in 70 BC)

- Generals who allied with the plebeians
- Overturned Sulla's laws, gave power back to the Assembly
- Pompey expanded Roman territory in the East
- Crassus ruled from Rome
- Expanded their partnership to include a new and powerful general



JULIUS CAESAR

- General having success in Spain, Gaul
- Popular among the people of Rome
- Suggested an alliance with Pompey and Crassus to rule as a coalition





FIRST TRIUMVIRATE

(60-53 BC)

- Motives for the alliance:
 - Pompey – obtain land
 - Crassus – gain money and political power
 - Caesar – earn fame, glory, and wealth
- Fear of each other led to civil war – Pompey feared Caesar's power
- Crassus died, Caesar violated Pompey and 'invaded' Rome
- Pompey was killed in Egypt



RULE OF JULIUS

CAESAR (46-44 BC)

- Appointed Dictator-for-Life
- Brought Egypt under Roman rule following relationship with Cleopatra
- Made numerous reforms:
 - Gave veterans land as reward for loyalty
 - Increased defensive features in the provinces
 - Improved debt problems
 - Large public works projects
 - Revised the calendar (added July)

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH... (March 15, 44 BC)

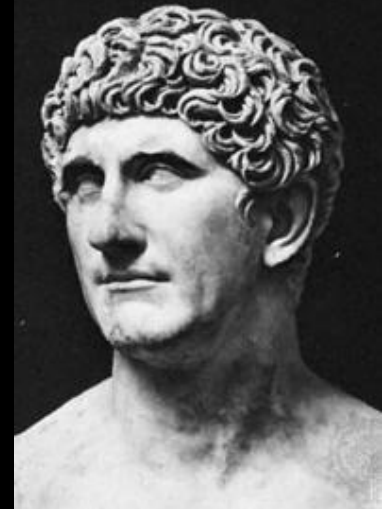
- Immense support of the populace led to patrician hostility
- 60 senators conspired to assassinate Julius Caesar during a meeting of the Senate – stabbed dozens of times





THE AFTERMATH

- Civil War erupted
- Confusion over who would lead next:
 - Mark Antony – Caesar’s friend
 - Octavian – Caesar’s nephew
- Following war, Octavian defeats Mark Antony & Cleopatra and restores peace to Rome
- Given new title “Augustus,” Octavian becomes First Roman Emperor





REASONS FOR THE

DECLINE OF THE REPUBLIC

1. Decrease in war reparations
2. Higher taxes and inflation
3. Loss of power in provinces
4. Decreased food supply
5. Assembly of Tribes loses power again
6. Widespread corruption of politicians
7. Lack of competent officials
8. Poor land management
9. Growth of the Latifundia
10. Growing middle class demands power
11. People judged by wealth instead of character
12. Too much dependence on slave labor

THE END



Last updated: November 2010