

# Biography



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## Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar was born on July 12, 100 B.C. into a rich family. He was said to have come from Aeneas, the son of the goddess Venus. In 85 B.C., his father died suddenly, leaving Caesar the head of the household at sixteen.

Caesar had been engaged since boyhood to Cossutia. But he broke up with her and married Cornelia, the daughter of Cinna. Cinna was a former Consul. A Consul is the most important person in Rome. Two Consuls rule and they can veto each other. Later Cinna was killed by his own soldiers. Caesar joined the army. He didn't come back till 78 B.C. hearing that Sulla, who was his enemy ever since a relative named Marius had treated his family bad, had died.

Once Caesar was sailing on the Aegean Sea when he was captured by pirates. They demanded 20 talents of gold. Caesar insisted they ask for 50 talents saying that he was worth more than 20. He also said he would kill them when he was set free. They didn't believe him. After he was set free, Caesar hunted down the pirates and captured them. He put them in Pergamon and had them crucified.

In 69 B.C. Caesar was elected Quaestor, which is the second most important man. The same year his Aunt Julia and wife, Cornelia, died. He buried them and gave them huge, grand funerals. Caesar traveled to Hispania where he served as Quaestor. When he came back he married Pompeia, the great-granddaughter of Sulla.

Soon after Caesar was elected Aedile, who took care of festivals and kept order on the roads. He used much money on games, it was mostly borrowed money, to become more popular with the

The story about pirates adds interest to this biography.

There are a lot of good facts here and throughout the biography, though some of them are organized awkwardly.



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common people. This later put him in dept.

In 63 B.C. Caesar ran for Chief Priest of the Roman religion. He had to run against two former Consuls: Quintus Lutatus Catulus and Publius Servilius Vatia Isauricus. After he won he changed the calendar to a one with 365 days a year with an extra day every four years.

In 62 B.C., Caesar was elected Praetor, or commander of an army. He also divorced Pompeia because she was suspected of wrongdoings. When his praetorship was over, he was elected Governor of Outer Iberia. Caesar also conquered the Callaici and the Lusitani. His troops hailed him “Imperator” during the battles.

Caesar went back to Rome because he wanted to run for consul. Later in 59 B.C., Caesar was elected consul. He gave his daughter Julia to Pompey for his wife and married Calpurnia, the daughter of another consul. The same year he married, Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey banded together and took control of Rome so that there were now three consuls. The agreement between the men was called the First Triumvirate.

Caesar was later appointed Governor of Northern Italy, the western Balkans, and southern France. He was now governor of four provinces. He was deeply in debt and being governor only made it worse. Caesar needed to pay back all the money he had borrowed.

Caesar had some unconquered territory around him even though he governed a large area. Some of the inhabitants, the Gauls, were known to be very fierce and independent. But Caesar managed to defeat many of them. In the next eight years, Caesar worked to defeat the Gauls, traveling to Britain and Germania, earning much profit from his victories. In 52 B.C., Caesar defeated the Gauls at the Battle of Alesia. His army killed three million men, sold one million into slavery, and



conquered eight hundred cities. The Gallic Wars devastated the Gauls and made Caesar much more popular at home.

In 55 B.C., Pompey and Crassus had been elected consuls again. They had made Caesar a consul also, this time for five years. But it was the last act of the First Triumvirate. The next year, Julia, Caesar's daughter and Pompey's wife, died in childbirth. They were both heartbroken. Then in 53 B.C., Crassus was killed.

In 50 B.C., the Senate, afraid Caesar would get too much power, ordered him to come home without his army. Caesar knew they would kill him if he obeyed, so he marched towards Rome with his army. On January 10, 49 B.C., Caesar led a legion across the Rubicon. This started a civil war. Caesar chased Pompey, who had turned on Caesar, and his army but they got away. Pompey fled to the city of Alexandria. There, Pompey was murdered.

Caesar started fighting in the Egyptian civil war between their rulers, Ptolemy and Cleopatra. Caesar sided with Cleopatra. They won, and Caesar put Cleopatra back on the throne. He lived for a while in Egypt, and he and Cleopatra had a child together. Meanwhile, Caesar was elected consul for a third and fourth time.

Caesar finally went back to Rome in September of the year 45 B.C. He became the first living man to appear on a Roman coin. Many statues of him were placed all around Rome. Caesar was given the honor of wearing a purple robe, the color of royalty. Caesar gave up his fourth consulship, but then he was elected consul for life. He was also given the title of "Liberator."

After he was given another title, "Pater Patriae," which means Father of the Fatherland, he was elected Dictator for ten years. Soon afterwards, he was made Dictator for Life. A senator even asked to make



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him a king. It was said that a king would conquer Parthia.

Unfortunately, Brutus, one of Caesar's best friends, began to plot against Caesar with Caesar's brother-in-law Cassius, and other men. Cassius told the men to kill themselves if anyone found out they were going to kill Caesar. On the Ides of March, March 15, 44 B.C., Caesar went to the forum where the Senators, including Brutus, were waiting for him.

Mark Antony, a loyal soldier under Caesar, tried to warn him, for he had found out about the plot. He headed for the forum, but Caesar was met by the senators first at the Theater of Pompey. After going inside, one of the senators named Casca tried to cut Caesar's head off. Caesar turned and caught him by the arm. Casca called out to the other senators for help and soon they swarmed around him. Caesar tried to get away but he tripped and fell. Brutus ran over and stabbed him. According to Shakespeare, Caesar's last words were, "Et tu, Brute?" or "You too, Brutus?" In all, he was stabbed over 23 times.

Caesar made it possible to later emperors to come to power in Rome. He was a very powerful leader who helped Rome grow stronger and larger. After his death came the time of the Roman Emperors.

The high amount of detail given for Caesar's assassination makes it vivid and memorable.

The conclusion is a weak point, as it does not obviously follow what comes before.