

READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 8-3

The Fall of the Republic *For use with pages 277-283*

Key Terms

latifundia: large farming estates (page 278)

triumvirate: a political alliance of three people (three people ruling as a team) (page 280)

Drawing From Experience

Have you ever worked on a group project that no one really wanted to do? It is hard to keep everyone working. It helps if there is a reward for hard work, such as a good grade.

In the previous section, you learned how Rome became more democratic and how it took over the Mediterranean Sea region. In this section, you will learn about Julius Caesar and Augustus and why the Roman Republic ended.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Below are some people who lived when the Roman Republic was ending. List one accomplishment for each of them.

1. **Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus** _____
2. **Marius** _____
3. **Sulla** _____
4. **Julius Caesar** _____

Trouble in the Republic *(pages 278-279)*

Main Idea The use of enslaved labor hurt farmers, increased poverty and corruption, and brought the army into politics.

Even though Rome's armies were doing well, Rome had problems at home.

Rich Versus Poor By 100 B.C., the plebeian farmers were in trouble. Many could not work on their farms because

READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 8-3 (continued)

they were in the army. Others had watched Hannibal ruin their small farms.

At the same time, rich Romans were buying land. They formed large farming estates called **latifundia**. Enslaved people from Carthage worked the land. Since there were no wages, the rich could charge less for their crops than the plebeian farmers. This ran the plebeian farmers out of business.

Many farmers sold their farms and went to the cities for work. But enslaved people did most of the work. Jobs were hard to find and did not pay much. The plebeians became very angry.

Roman politicians thought that the plebeians might riot. They started giving the poor "bread and circuses." This meant free food and shows. The "bread and circuses" won the votes of the poor.

Why Did Reform Fail? Two brothers—Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus—thought the poor should get their farms back. They asked the Senate to take public land from the rich and give it to the poor.

Many Senators did not want to give up any of their land. In 133 B.C., they killed Tiberius. Twelve years later, they killed Gaius.

The Army Enters Politics Most soldiers had joined the army because it was their duty as citizens. However, they were not paid, and they were losing their farms. In 107 B.C. a military leader named Marius became consul. He paid farmers to be soldiers and promised them land.

By paying the soldiers, they became professionals. But they no longer felt loyalty to Rome. They felt loyalty to the general who paid them.

Having a loyal army gave a general a lot of power. Generals became politicians. To keep their men's loyalty, the generals worked to pass laws that gave the soldiers land. In 82 B.C., General Sulla forced Marius and other generals out of Rome. He made himself dictator.

READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 8-3 (continued)

Over the next three years, Sulla made the Council of Plebs weaker and the Senate stronger. Then he retired. Sulla had shown other generals how to use their armies to grab power. For the next 50 years, civil war tore Rome apart.

5. What change did Marius make to the army?

Julius Caesar (pages 280-281)

Main Idea Military hero Julius Caesar seized power and made reforms.

By 60 B.C., three men held the most power in Rome. They were three generals: Crassus, Pompey, and Julius Caesar. The three joined together in the First Triumvirate. A triumvirate is a political partnership of three people.

Caesar's Military Campaigns Each member of the Triumvirate had a military command. Pompey was in Spain. Crassus was in Syria. Caesar was in Gaul.

Caesar became a hero to Rome's lower classes. But the Senators thought that he was too popular. When Crassus was killed in 53 B.C., they gave Pompey complete control of Rome. Four years later, they ordered Caesar to give up his army. Caesar knew that if he obeyed the Senate, his rivals might kill him. But if he did not obey, then he was starting a civil war against Rome.

Caesar kept his army and marched 5,000 men into Italy. Pompey tried to stop Caesar, but Caesar drove Pompey out of Italy and into Greece. Then, in 48 B.C., he destroyed Pompey's army completely. After that, the Senate named Caesar dictator of Rome for one year.

Caesar's Rise to Power In 44 B.C., Caesar made himself dictator for life. He also filled the Senate with people who supported him. Caesar knew many reforms were needed. So he freed men in Rome's territories, started new colonies so that farmers and soldiers would have land, and forced patricians to hire free workers.

READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 8-3 (continued)

Caesar also created the Julian calendar. It had 12 months, 365 days, and a leap year. It was used in Europe until A.D. 1582. This is very close to our calendar today.

Caesar's supporters thought he was a strong leader who brought peace to Rome. His enemies thought that he wanted to be king. Caesar was told to "beware the Ides of March" (March 15), but he did not. On March 15, 44 B.C., his enemies stabbed him to death. They were led by Senator Cassius and Caesar's good friend, Senator Brutus.

6. Why did Brutus, Cassius, and others kill Caesar?
-