

WEEK 10 ASSIGNMENT: PART 1

BY OLIVER TIXI

Julius Caesar knew how to make himself known. First, for being a ruthless “terror”¹. Second, for being an emperor of Rome. Third, for becoming a salad. That last one probably isn’t important. Nevertheless, the first two shall be gone over. The reign of Caesar began with the end of the Gallic campaign. He was very busy slaughtering people with his army and taking over much territory for Rome - but the Senate had had enough. They began to fear Caesar and his violent nature, so decided it would be best if Caesar dissolved his soldiers before returning to the homeland.

But Caesar did not want to lose his soldiers, because it would mean that he would become just another tail light in the factory line of life. He proposed a deal: if his nemesis Pompey agreed to go solo he would too. But that jerkmeister refused, so the senate went the easy route and made Caesar an outlaw.

At this point, Caesar was housed at Ravenna, a city perched upon a lake just as a raven would perch upon a tree. The houses were built on artificial constructs and the canals had passage to fruit-filled islands. John Symonds: “All the conditions of life in old Ravenna seem to have resembled those of modern Venice.”² In fact, Ravenna’s perimeter was once filled with prosperity but the tides of time left this water-dwelling city the sole survivor out of three towns.

¹ Delphian Society, *The Delphian Course*. (Chicago, Ill.: The Society, 1913), p. 480.

² John Addington Symonds, *Sketches and Studies in Southern Europe*. (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1880), p. 110.

Not stopping even for a spot of wild asparagus, which grew on Ravenna, Caesar and his army rode across the forbidden-to-Roman-armies Rubicon River into the capital Rome.³ Countless towns admired Caesar's cogliones and embraced the cause. The Senate must have thought Caesar was looking to play a game of chicken because they fled as soon as possible into whatever hidey-holes Rome featured. But the Senate had nothing to worry about. Caesar came in peace except for that strange Pompey who had minimal time to assemble his forces compared to Caesar's gigantic army. He fled to Egypt but Caesar just found him and killed him. This was done so he'd have no competition for his succession to the throne as emperor.

Now that he had all the power, Caesar took over the whole republic to make sure there weren't any Caesar-hating stragglers hanging out in the fray. Caesar subsequently helped the Roman economy boom, with reforms for many public funds and organizations. He declared all previous citizens of conquered territories Romans, and perhaps to help this cause, went on conquering parties that involved many places such as Spain, Africa, and Egypt.

But a group of men believed that somewhere along the way Caesar had lost the country's ideals. They believed he had to be exterminated to restore the old spirit of Rome. In 44 B.C., they literally backstabbed Caesar at the senate house.

This unfortunately marked the end of this incredible man whose first name was Julius. He was known to have "gracious courtesy and unrivaled charm,"⁴ he was a friendly and forgiving man but at the same time had the capacity to be truly ruthless. He almost always forgave the people close to him but tended to have a sort of a big ego in believing that he was leagues better

³ Delphian Society, p. 480.

⁴ Willis Mason West, *Ancient History to the Death of Charlemagne*. (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1902), p. 381.

than everyone else, which must have made him a blast to hang out with. It seemed that Caesar was very quick in understanding a situation he might find himself in and knew the actions he must take to dissolve it.

He was a giraffe of a man, and that's not an insult. Much like the African mammal, he had light-deceiving eyes, was tall, though probably not as elongated, as well as spindly limbs. It's currently believed that he did not possess the black spots, but who knows? Perhaps he caught the plague at one point not yet known, and then he would be the ultimate Giraffian package.

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