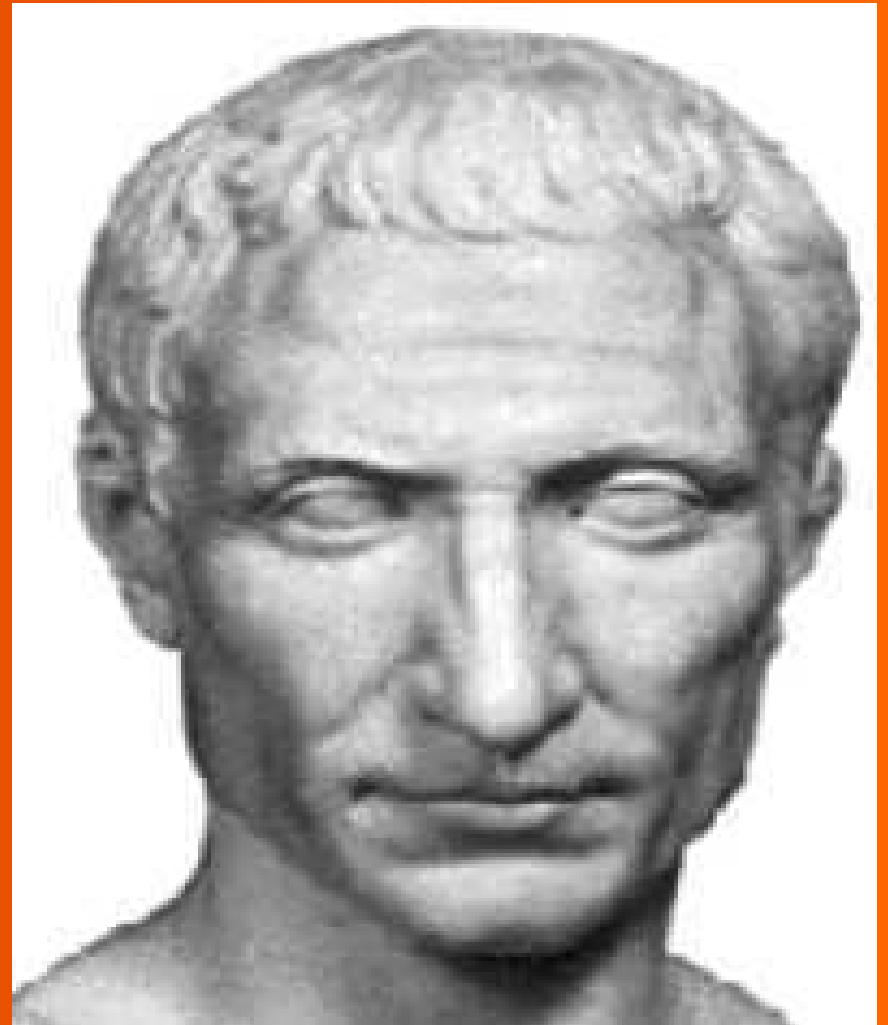


Julius Caesar

Rise to Power

- 60 BC a military leader named Julius Caesar joined forces with Crassus, a wealthy Roman, and Pompey, a popular general
- With their help, Caesar was elected to the Consul in 59 BC
- The First Triumvirate, formed by Caesar, Crassus and Pompey, ruled Rome for the next ten years



Caesar's Military Accomplishments

- Caesar served only one year on the Consul and appointed himself the governor of Gaul (present day France)
- Caesar led his legions(Roman army) to a successful campaign, conquering all of Gaul
- Caesars's legions were very loyal to their leader
- Caesar's military successes in Gaul made him popular with the people of Rome



Caesar's Rise to Power

- Pompey feared Caesar's rising power and popularity, and ordered him to return to Rome without his army
- On January 10, 49 BC, Caesar defied Pompey's orders, crossed the Rubicon River and marched into Rome
- Pompey fled Rome and Caesar's armies, defeated Pompey's forces throughout the Roman Empire
- 49 BC Caesar returned to Rome where he had the support of the army and the masses
- The same year the Roman Senate appointed Caesar dictator for life



Caesar's Accomplishments as Leader



- Caesar ruled as an absolute ruler, one having total power
- Caesar's Reforms:
 - Granted citizenship to many people in the provinces
 - Expanded the Senate
 - Created jobs for the poor through construction projects
 - Set up colonies so the landless could own land
 - Increased pay for soldiers



Caesar's Downfall

- Caesar's power and popularity were resented by wealthy nobles and members of the Senate
- Some considered Caesar a tyrant
- Members of the Senate led by Marcus Brutus and Gaius Cassius plotted Caesar's assassination
- March 15, 44 BC (Beware of the Ides of March) Caesar was stabbed to death in the Senate Chamber
- After Caesar's death, civil war broke out and finally order was restored under the leadership of Caesar's grandnephew Octavian



Et tu, Brute?