Directions
You may write in this book during perusal time.

After the examination session
Take this book when you leave.
Planning space
### Source A — The Roman Magistracies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consuls</th>
<th>Praetors</th>
<th>Aediles</th>
<th>Quaestors</th>
<th>Tribunes</th>
<th>Censors</th>
<th>Dictator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1-2-6-8-16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2-4-8-20-40</td>
<td>Originally 2 — later 10 by mid 5th century.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Origin</strong></td>
<td>Replaced king in 509 BC.</td>
<td>366 BC. Created by the patricians to offset opening of consulships to plebeians.</td>
<td>Plebeian in 494 BC. Curule in 366 BC.</td>
<td>One of the earliest officials — probably dated back to kings. Helped the consuls.</td>
<td>494 BC after the First Secession of the Plebeians.</td>
<td>443 BC — to cope with increasing business of magistrates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Functions</strong></td>
<td>Chief officials. Commanded army, summoned the Senate, and conducted the elections.</td>
<td>Judicial officials. City Praetor was supreme civil judge in Rome. They usually went to govern the provinces.</td>
<td>Local government officials. Duties included regulation of markets, care of streets and buildings, police duties, the organisation of games and festivals.</td>
<td>Financial officials. Responsible for taxes, treasury, army pay and all monetary matters.</td>
<td>People’s officials. Duties included defending the interests of the plebeians, who could call on them for assistance against patricians.</td>
<td>Registrars. In charge of the census and public morals, superintended public works of all kinds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relative importance</strong></td>
<td>Under Republic, held supreme power during their year in office. Under Empire, lost all real power.</td>
<td>Just below the consuls on the cursus honorum.</td>
<td>One of the steps of the cursus honorum, though not essential. A means of gaining popularity by providing games for masses.</td>
<td>Lowest rung on the cursus honorum. Stepping stone to higher office.</td>
<td>Had right of veto against laws and actions of magistrates. His person was, while in office, sacrosanct.</td>
<td>Essentially an honorary position. Crowning achievement of a successful political career.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous comments</strong></td>
<td>Idea of two consuls was that one stayed in Rome, while the other led army into battle.</td>
<td>Like consuls, praetors were entitled to a triumph.</td>
<td>Curule Aediles were originally patrician.</td>
<td>Quaestors had no insignia, like the other magistracies.</td>
<td>During the later Republic, a number of tribunes abused their power and became demagogues.</td>
<td>A famous censor was Cato the Elder.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Williams, CM 1996, *Chronicles: Investigating the Ancient World, Book Two*
Source B — Key facts concerning the Senate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Function</td>
<td>Council of elders whose main function, in theory, was to advise first the kings, and then the consuls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Traditionally dated back to the time of Romulus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kings expelled, but Senate survived.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Originally drawn from the patricians — later any full citizen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From Sulla’s time chosen from ex-praetors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Augustus added a high property qualification of one million sesterces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nomination</td>
<td>Originally made by the kings and then the consuls but later by the censors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Right of all higher magistrates to be in the Senate but they were not necessarily senators, unless they had been enrolled as such.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers</td>
<td>Fluctuated: originally 100 and then 300, until the time of Sulla who increased it to 600; 900 under Julius Caesar and then 600 again under Augustus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting place</td>
<td>For many centuries was the Curia Hostilia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Towards the end of the Republic and under the Empire other magnificent Senate houses built.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insignia</td>
<td>Tunica laticlavia — an undergarment and a tunic with a broad [purple] vertical stripe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Golden ring and calcens senatorius, a special shoe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting times</td>
<td>Under the kings, only when summoned by the king.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under the Republic, when summoned by a magistrate, usually the consul.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No fixed days for meeting until the time of Augustus, who made it twice a month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent of power</td>
<td>In theory, advisory only, but during the Republic, from the Second Punic War, became the real governing body of Rome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Had permanence, unlike magistrates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In charge of foreign affairs and managed the public finances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nominally under the control of the magistrates but in reality their master.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magistrates unable to discharge their duties without the Senate’s sanction and assistance, and if it came to an impasse, the Senate could override the consuls by imposing a dictator.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Williams, CM 1996, Chronicles: Investigating the Ancient World, Book Two

Source C

Towards the end of the pre-revolutionary period the nobles themselves began to be divided into two groups — a larger group which came to be called the optimates (i.e. supporters of the “best” men), determined above all to uphold the power of the aristocratic oligarchy, and a smaller group, styled populares, or “demagogues”, by their opponents, which included both genuine reformers and ambitious men seeking their own advancement. Since the optimates succeeded in retaining firm control of the Senate, the populares were driven to seek the support of the people, and for this purpose to use the powers of the tribunes of the plebs, who had the right of initiating legislation in the Assembly. This proved to be political dynamite.

Handford, SA (trans) 1963, Sallust: The Jugurthine War/ The Conspiracy of Catiline, pp. 17–18
Source D

Of these various paths to fame, it seems to me that the holding of civil and military posts, and indeed all political activities, are in these days the least desirable. For the deserving do not obtain the honours of office; and the ill-deservers who do obtain them gain nothing thereby either in security or in true honour. The use of force to rule one’s country or subjects — even if a man is in a position of power, and employs that power to right wrongs — is a perilous course: for it invites counter-measures, and any attempt at revolution is a certain forerunner of massacre, banishment, and other acts of warlike violence. On the other hand, to struggle in vain against odds, and after exhausting efforts to gain nothing but hatred, is the height of folly — a folly that no one is likely to be guilty of, unless he is possessed by a dishonourable and fatal desire to sacrifice his own honour and freedom in order to increase the power of a set of oligarchs.

Sallust, *The Jugurthine War*, p. 36 (Handford)

Source E

My earliest inclinations led me, like many other young men, to throw myself wholeheartedly into politics. There I found many things against me. Self-restraint, integrity, and virtue were disregarded; unscrupulous conduct, bribery, and profit-seeking were rife. And although, being a stranger to the vices that I saw practised on every hand, I looked on them with scorn, I was led astray by ambition and, with a young man’s weakness, could not tear myself away. However much I tried to dissociate myself from the prevailing corruption, my craving for advancement exposed me to the same odium and slander as all my rivals.

Sallust, *The Conspiracy of Catiline*, p. 177 (Handford)
Marius

Source F

Marius was overcome by ambition and resentment, those worst of counsellors, and refrained from no word or act provided that it won him popularity. He relaxed his former strict discipline over the troops under his command in winter quarters, and talked about the war in a mixture of criticism and boastfulness to the men of business, a large number of whom were present in Utica. “With only half the army under his own command he would have Jugurtha in chains in a few days; Metellus was deliberately allowing the war to drag on …” All this talk appealed the more strongly to the men of business because they had suffered severe financial loss because of the long duration of the war, and for greedy spirits nothing ever moves fast enough … In these ways Marius won over the Roman knights, both those serving with the army and those engaged in business, and got them to write to their friends at Rome attacking Metellus’ conduct of the war and demanding that Marius be appointed commander-in-chief. So he won powerful support for his candidature from many voters as a candidate of real worth. Coincidentally, … the plebs were now looking for non-nobles (“new men”) whom they could raise to high office. Thus the whole tide of events was in full flood for Marius … The upshot was that the nobility was routed, and for the first time for many years a consulship went to a “new man”. And when subsequently the tribune T Manlius Mancinus asked the people whom they wanted as commander in the war against Jugurtha, their overwhelming choice fell on Marius. Although shortly before the Senate had extended Metellus’ command, its decision was thus frustrated. 

Salust, The Jugurthine War, pp. 64–73 (Handford)

Source G

His appearance was greeted with enthusiasm by the people. He was introduced to the assembly by one of the tribunes and, after making a number of damaging attacks on Metellus, he asked for the consulship, promising that he would either kill Jugurtha or capture him alive.

He was triumphantly elected and at once began to raise troops. Contrary to law and custom he enrolled in his army poor men with no property qualifications, a class of people who used not to be accepted by commanders in the past, who gave arms, like other honours, only to those in the right income groups — the idea being that the possession of property guaranteed a man’s loyalty to the state. But Marius made enemies in other ways than this; particularly in the violent speeches, full of contempt and arrogance, by which he offended the aristocracy. He had carried off the consulship, he would proclaim, as spoils of war from the effeminacy of the noble families and of the rich; and, he said, if he wanted to make an impression on the people, he would do it by showing the wounds on his own body rather than by an exhibition of sepulchral monuments or of other people’s portraits.

He would often refer by name to those generals who had come to grief in Libya (Bestia, for example, and Albinus), men of famous families, but unfortunate individuals, lacking in military ability, who had been defeated through want of experience; and he would ask his audience if they did not think that the ancestors of these people would have been more pleased to have had descendants like himself, seeing that they themselves had become famous not because of high birth but because of merit and noble deeds.
These speeches of his were not mere exhibitionism. He was quite deliberately making himself hated by the upper classes, and the people, who were delighted when insulting language was used against the Senate and who always measure the greatness of a man’s spirit by his capacity to make much of himself in words, kept on encouraging him and urging him, if he wished to give pleasure to the masses, to show no mercy to important personages.

Plutarch, *Fall of the Roman Republic: Six Lives*, pp. 20–21 (Wamer)

**Source H**

His fellow-consul having died, Marius returned to Rome for the consular elections. There were many good candidates, but Lucius Saturninus, having been courted by Marius, harangued the people with the message that they must elect Marius. Marius pretended that he did not want to be elected again, whereupon Saturninus called him a traitor for seeking to avoid command at the hour of his country's greatest danger.


**Source I**

Marius found an instrument ideally suited to him in the boldness of Sulpicius. A great admirer and imitator of Saturninus in all other respects, Sulpicius nevertheless considered him too timid and dilatory in pushing his policies. He himself did not hesitate, but surrounded himself with an armed bodyguard of 600 knights, whom he named his "anti-Senate".

Plutarch, *Marius*, 35 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)
The Civil War

Source J

But Sulpicius was not prepared to wait, and ordered his supporters to come to the Forum with hidden daggers and to do whatever was needed to be done, not sparing even the consuls, if it came to that. With everything in readiness, he denounced the suspension as illegal and ordered the consuls to rescind it forthwith, so that he might put his proposals to the vote … The consuls refused, and Sulpicius' followers drew their weapons and threatened to kill them. Pompeius managed to escape, and Sulla retired to consider the matter, but Pompeius' son, who was married to Sulla's daughter, was killed by the Sulpicians while he was voicing his opinions too freely. Then Sulla re-appeared and rescinded the suspension and hurried off to join his army at Capua, meaning to set out from there to the war against Mithridates. For as yet he had no inkling of the designs against him personally. But once the suspension had been lifted and Sulla had left Rome, Sulpicius went on to carry his law and — what was the object of the whole operation — at once had Marius elected as commander in the war against Mithridates in place of Sulla.

Appian, Civil Wars, 1.55–56 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source K

Sulla was assigned the province of Asia. He had left Rome and was spending some time outside of Nola … when the tribune Sulpicius, eloquent, full of energy, a man of renowned wealth, influence, connections, of great strength of character and intellect … all of a sudden despicably and precipitately abandoned upright policies and joined up with C Marius, now over seventy but still greedy for every command and every province, and carried a law in the popular assembly to abrogate Sulla's command and assign the Mithridatic War to Marius, and other pernicious and destructive laws not supportable by a free state. On top of that he had some of his supporters sent to kill the son of the consul Q Pompeius who was the son-in-law of Sulla.

Velleius Paterculus, Historiae Romanae, 2.18 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source L

When the tribune P Sulpicius, urged on by C Marius, had promulgated pernicious laws, that the exiles should be recalled and the new citizens and those of freedman status be distributed among (all the tribes) and C Marius be appointed to command against King Mithridates of Pontus, and when he had brought force to bear on the consuls Q Pompeius and L Sulla who were opposing him, after Q Pompeius, the son of the consul Q Pompeius and the son-in-law of Sulla had been killed, the consul L Sulla came to Rome with his army and fought there against the faction of Sulpicius and Marius and drove it out of Rome.

Livy, Epitome, Bk 77 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source M

Sulla, however, saw that he was still surrounded on all sides by his enemies who had many armies and large resources at their disposal. He therefore used deceit as well as force in order to gain power. He invited Scipio the other consul, to discuss peace terms and, when Scipio agreed to do so, a number of meetings and conferences took place. Sulla, however, constantly found some pretext or other for dragging out the
discussions, and in the meantime was working on the loyalty of Scipio’s soldiers by means of his own men, who, like their general, were practised in the use of deceit and all kinds of trickery. On this occasion they went into the enemy’s camp and mixed with the men inside. Some they won over immediately to Sulla’s side by bribery, and others by promises, by soft words, and by arguments. In the end Sulla came close up to the camp with twenty cohorts; his men greeted Scipio’s men, and Scipio’s men returned their greetings and came over to them. Scipio, entirely deserted, was captured in his tent, but then let go; and Sulla, who, by using his twenty cohorts as decoy-birds, had trapped forty cohorts of the enemy, led the whole lot of them back to his camp. On this occasion too Carbo is said to have remarked that in making war on Sulla he had to deal with one who had both a fox and a lion in his heart, and that what chiefly worried him was the fox.

Plutarch, *Fall of the Roman Republic: Six Lives*, p. 99 (Warner)

**Source N**

Sulla returned to Rome with his army … Twelve members of the Senate, and among them C Marius and his son Gaius, were adjudged enemies of the state (hostes). P Sulpicius hid in a villa, but was betrayed by his slave and killed … The young C Marius crossed to Africa. His father went into hiding in the Minturnensian marshes, but was brought out thence by the townspeople; a Gallic slave who had been sent to kill him was so overawed by the great man that he went away again, and Marius was put on shipboard by the townspeople and conveyed to Africa.

*Livy, Epitome, Bk 77* (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

**Source O**

At daybreak Sulla and Pompeius summoned an assembly of the people ... and introduced these measures: that no proposal might be put to the people without previous consideration by the Senate … and that voting should not be by the tribes but by centuries … They reckoned that by these two measures no law would be put to the masses before the Senate had approved it, and that with the voting dominated by the better-off and sensible citizens instead of by the poor and desperate there would be no springboard for revolution. They proposed many other curtailments of the powers of the tribunes, which had become highly tyrannical, and so low as to render it easily overlookable. All the measures which Sulpicius had carried after the suspension of public business announced by the consuls were declared illegal and invalid.

*Appian, Civil Wars*, 1.59 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

**Source P**

The Italian peoples were granted citizenship by the Senate. The Samnites … joined Cinna and Marius, and cut up Plautius and his army. Cinna and Marius, with Carbo and Sertorius, attacked the Janiculum, but were forced to retreat when beaten by the consul Octavius. Marius stormed Antium and Aricia and Lanuvium. With no hope of further resistance remaining to the optimates thanks to the inaction and perfidy of commanders and troops, who were corrupted and either unwilling to fight or anxious to scatter, Cinna and Marius were admitted to Rome. They treated it like a captured city and laid it waste with murder and looting.

*Livy, Epitome, Bks 79–80* (Stockton, LACTOR 13)
Dictatorship

Source Q

Sulla gave their freedom to more than ten thousand of the youngest and strongest of the former slaves of the proscribed, and enrolled them in the citizen body, making them Roman citizens. They were given the name “Cornelii” by him, so as to have ten thousand of the commons ever ready to obey his orders.

Appian, Civil Wars, 1.100 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source R

Sulla now devoted himself entirely to the work of butchery. The city was filled with murder and there was no counting the executions or setting a limit to them. Many people were killed because of purely personal ill feeling; they had no connection with Sulla in any way, but Sulla, in order to gratify members of his own party, permitted them to be done away with. Finally one of the younger men, Gaius Metellus, ventured to ask Sulla in the Senate at what point this terrible state of affairs was to end and how much further would he proceed before they could expect a cessation of what was now going on. “We are not asking you,” he said, “to pardon those whom you have decided to kill; all we ask is that you should free from suspense those whom you have decided not to kill.” Sulla said that he would do this. According to some accounts this last speech was made not by Metellus, but by one of Sulla’s creatures called Fufidius … Then immediately, and without consulting any magistrate, Sulla published a list of eighty men to be condemned. Public opinion was horrified, but, after a single day’s interval, he published another list containing 220 more names, and next day a third list with the same number of names on it. And in a public speech which he made on the subject he said that he was publishing the names of all those whom he happened to remember.

Plutarch, Fall of the Roman Republic: Six Lives, p. 104 (Warner)

Source S

Innocent men were proscribed for their wealth, distinguished men were tortured, Rome was made a desert by banishments and murders, the property of wretched citizens was sold or given away as if it were so much booty taken from the Cimbri.

Sallust, Historiae, 1.55.17M (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source T

The Romans elected Sulla to be their autocrat for as long as he chose. There had from long ago been dictators with autocratic power, but for a limited period of time. Under Sulla this autocracy first became of unspecified duration and so complete. But they added this condition to satisfy propriety, that they elected him dictator to enact such laws as he might deem fittest and to establish a sound constitution.

Appian, Civil Wars, 1.99 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source U

To keep up the pretence of constitutional government Sulla allowed consuls to be elected … But Sulla, as dictator, was superior to the consuls, as if he were a king …

Appian, Civil Wars, 1.100, 101 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)
Unseen sources (Sources 1–13)

Source 1
The Italian question had been settled, but it was not long before calamity overtook Rome itself. Marius, if he was no statesman, was no violator of law and order — until, at the very end of his life, his character was perverted by resentment at his misfortunes and the evil example set by others. But his rival Sulla was both less scrupulous and more astute.
Sallust, The Conspiracy of Catiline, p. 153 (Handford)

Source 2
Marius enlisted recruits not in the traditional manner nor on the basis of property-qualifications, but taking any citizen who chose to volunteer, propertyless men (capite censi) for the most part.
Sallust, The Jugurthine War, p. 86 (Handford)

Source 3
Marius won a fourth consulship after hypocritically pretending that he did not seek it.
Livy, Epitome, Bk 67 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source 4
Marius now aspired to a sixth consulship, with more ardour than any man had ever shown for a first. He courted the people, and ingratiated himself with them … P Rutilius Rufus (consul in 105 BC), in other respects a truthful and decent man, but a man who had a private quarrel with Marius, tells us that he won his sixth consulship by the huge sums which he distributed among the electorate … The people had never before bestowed so many consulships on one man, except for Valerius Corvinus. And there was the great difference that there was 45 years between the first and sixth consulships of Corvinus …
Plutarch, Marius, 28 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source 5
The consul Sulla was assigned the governorship of Asia and the command against Mithridates. He was still at Rome. Marius, thinking it an easy and very lucrative war, wanted the command for himself, and with many promises persuaded the tribune Publius Sulpicius to work to help him get it.
Appian, Civil Wars, 1.55 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source 6
Sulla could have captured Mithridates had he not been in such a hurry against Marius and hence ready to conclude any sort of peace.
De viris illustribus, 76 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)
Source 7

I think nothing of what Sulla did is more to be admired than this: while for three years the Cinnan and Marian factions held Italy in bondage, he did not seek to hide his intention to make war on them nor did he abandon the task in hand, believing that he must first crush Rome's enemy before avenging Rome's citizens …

Velleius Paterculus, Historiae Romanae, 2.24 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source 8

When Marius arrived from Africa, he offered to serve under Cinna's command, as a private individual under a consul. While others were for accepting the offer, Sertorius opposed it … But Cinna sent for Marius, and their forces were divided into three divisions, one under the command of each. When the war was over, Cinna and Marius indulged in every kind of atrocity; Sertorius alone put no man to death out of revenge nor was he guilty of any outrages …

Plutarch, Sertorius, 5 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source 9

Soon after the victorious Sulla had entered Rome, in defiance of religion and promise of mercy, he killed three thousand men who had surrendered, unarmed and unsuspecting as they were. Subsequently many more, I will not say innocent men, but some even of Sulla's own following, were killed, reportedly over nine thousand. Butchery was unrestrained throughout Rome with assassins ranging everywhere in search of revenge or loot … At last Q Catulus spoke up openly and asked Sulla: "Who on earth are we going to live with if we kill armed men in war and unarmed men in time of peace?". Thereupon on the suggestion of the chief centurion (primus pilus) L Fursidius [Fufidius], Sulla initiated the publication of the infamous proscription-list. The first list contained 80 names, among them those of four ex-consuls, Carbo, Norbanus, Marius, and Scipio, and also Sertorius, then reckoned the men most to be feared. A second followed with five hundred names … But even these lists apparently provided no confidence or end of wickedness. Some were murdered after being proscribed, others proscribed after they had been murdered.

Orosius, Historiae adversus paganos, 5.21 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Source 10

Flaccus also told them that whoever was elected should hold office not for a predetermined period, but until he had restored stability to Rome, Italy, and the whole Empire, which had been severely shaken by wars and factional strife. Common sense referred this view to Sulla himself, and there could be no doubt about it: at the end of his letter, Sulla was unable to restrain himself and revealed this too, that he thought here also he could be of great service to the state.

Appian, Civil Wars, 1.98 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)
Source 11

In our own times, when the victorious Sulla ordered the execution of Damasippus and other adventurers whom national calamities had raised to high positions, who did not approve his action? The men were criminals and troublemakers, whose revolutionary intrigues had harassed the state, and it was agreed that they deserved to die. But those executions were the first step that led to a ghastly calamity. For before long, if anyone coveted a man's mansion or villa — or in the end merely his household plate or wearing-apparel — he found means to have him put on the list of proscribed persons. So those who rejoiced at the death of Damasippus were soon haled off to execution themselves, and the killing did not stop till Sulla had glutted all his followers with riches.


Source 12

Apart altogether from the massacres, the rest of Sulla’s conduct also caused offence. He proclaimed himself Dictator, thus reviving a type of authority which had not been used for the last 120 years. A decree was passed giving him immunity for all his past acts, while for the future he was to have the power of life and death, the power to confiscate property, to found colonies, to found new cities or to demolish existing ones, to take away or to bestow kingdoms at his pleasure. In conducting the sales of confiscated estates, which he did sitting raised up on a platform, he behaved in such an arrogant and tyrannical way that he became more hated for his gifts than for his depredations. Good-looking women, musicians, ballet dancers, ex-slaves of the lowest possible type received at his hands the territories of nations and the revenues of cities, and women were forced to marry some of these creatures of his.

Plutarch, *Fall of the Roman Republic: Six Lives*, p. 106 (Warner)

Source 13

These were Sulla’s instructions; and the Romans unwillingly accepted this sham of an election as a token pretence of freedom and chose Sulla as a despot with absolute power for as long as he wished. They neither followed legal voting procedure, nor imagined the matter to be in any way under their own control, but they had absolutely no other recourse. Even in the past the dictator’s power had been despotic, but it was limited by its brief duration. Now for the first time it became unlimited, and a true despotism. However, to give the word a fair sound they added this, that they were electing him dictator to make laws, of which he would be the sole arbiter, and to revise the constitution. In this way the Romans, who had bad kings for more than 240 years, and after that had enjoyed democracy and annually elected consuls as their leaders for another 400 years, again had a taste of monarchy.

Appian, *Civil Wars*, 1.99 (Stockton, LACTOR 13)
Brief notes on the sources and authorities  
(from Stockton, LACTOR 13)

Appian

Appian was born in Alexandria towards the end of the 1st century AD. After holding 
local office there he moved to Rome where he practised as an advocate, after entering 
government service as an imperial procurator. His Romaica is divided into subject 
patterns, including the Civil Wars in five books …

Livy

Titus Livius of Padua lived either from 59 BC to AD 17 or from 64 BC to AD 12. His 
history of Rome … was written in annalistic form and totalled 142 books, of which 
only 35 have survived … His reputation was high from his own lifetime onwards, and 
shortened or "pocket" versions were made, one Épitome being already in circulation in 
Martial's day (late 1st century AD). For the missing books covering the period 
133–80 BC we can refer to the surviving Epitome (or Peroiche) of these books. This 
particular version is probably of late imperial date, and pretty certainly an abbreviation 
not of Livy himself but of an already existing Épitome. The reduction is drastic, a 
whole book of Livy being compressed into a dozen or two lines of summary, little 
more than a bare list of contents. The epitomator's accuracy, carefulness, and judgment 
are all sadly of the poorest.

Velleius Paterculus

After an early career in the army, he entered politics and became praetor along with his 
brother in AD 15. He may have been involved in Sejanus' downfall in AD 31; but two 
Vellei Paterculi, perhaps his sons, were suffect consuls in AD 60 and 61 … His Historiae Romanae was in two books, the first (of which much is missing) going to the 
Fall of Carthage in 146 BC, the second continuing to AD 30. Which sources he draws 
don for his material is far from clear.

Orosius

Paulus Orosius in the early 5th century AD was a pupil of St Augustine, who persuaded 
him to write the Historiae adversus paganos from the creation of the world to the 
founding of Rome and then the history of Rome to AD 417. Again, he used a lot of 
Livian material.

de viris illustribus

A work sometimes attributed to Aurelius Victor, this is a rag-bag of stories and 
anecdotes about famous men of the Republican period. It was compiled probably in 
the 4th century AD.

Sallust

Gaius Sallustius Crispus was born into the local aristocracy at Amiternum around 86 
BC. He was tribune of the plebs in 52 BC, when he was on the other side from Cicero 
and Milo. A partisan of Caesar's in the Civil War, he was praetor in 47 BC, later 
governing Africa Nova, after which he only narrowly escaped conviction on an 
extortion charge. He retired from public life and turned to the writing of history, dying 
in about 35 BC. Early monographs of Catiline and the Jugurthine War (both extant) 
were followed by a full-scaled history (Historiae) which began in 78 BC (the year of 
Sulla's death) and he may not have gone much beyond about 67 BC by the time Sallust 
died; but this, his major work, survives only in excerpts, fragments and citations.

Plutarch

Born in Boeotia in Greece and dying sometime after AD 120 at an age of something 
over seventy, he was a voluminous writer. His best known and most enduring popular 
work was his collection of biographies or Lives of famous Greeks and Romans; but he 
wrote many other works, both philosophical and antiquarian.
Acknowledgments


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