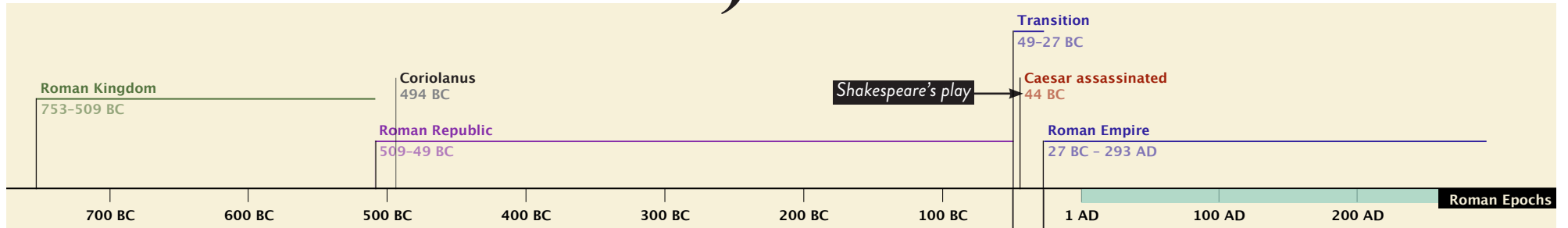


THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR



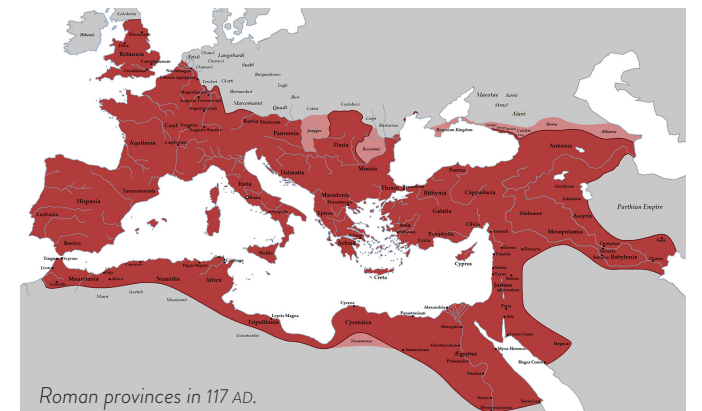
The enforced vestal virgin, Rhea Silvia, has twins fathered by the god Mars. The stolen and abandoned twins, **Romulus and Remus**, are fed by a woodpecker and nursed by a she-wolf in a cave, the Lupercal. They grow up, found a city, argue, then Romulus kills Remus and names the city Rome. **OR** it was founded by **Aeneas** about this time. It is ruled by **kings** for almost 250 years.

The **Monarchy** is overthrown and replaced by a **Republic**, a government by the people, headed by two consuls elected annually by the citizens and advised by a senate. A constitution gradually develops, centered on the principles of a separation of powers and checks and balances. All public offices are limited to one year.

The **Republic** grows corrupt, begins to flounder and decay. A **triumvirate** is formed of Pompey the Great, Marcus Crassus, and Julius Caesar.

A **second triumvirate** is formed of Octavius Caesar (Julius Caesar's great-nephew), Marcus Lepidus, and Mark Antony. In 27 BC, Mark Antony loses the Battle of Actium and kills himself, Lepidus is exiled, and the young Caesar becomes Augustus Caesar, Exalted One.

In 49 BC, Caesar crosses the Rubicon and is appointed temporary dictator three times; on March 15, 44 BC, he is appointed Dictator for Life, assassinated, and civil war ensues.



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Main characters and numbers of lines

Caesar and his Supporters

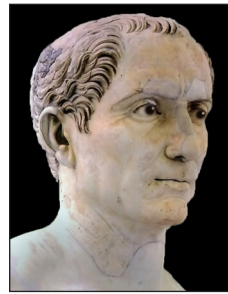
- 156 Julius Caesar
 - 27 Calpurnia, his wife
 - 339 Mark Antony
 - 48 Octavius Caesar
 - 4 Lepidus
- } *Ruling triumvir
after Caesar's death*

The Conspirators

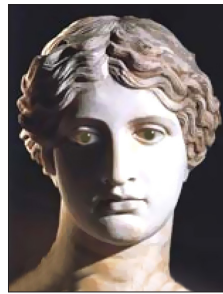
- 744 Brutus (his wife, Portia, 94 lines)
- 509 Caius Cassius
- 139 Casca
- 40 Decius Brutus
- 25 Cinna (but not really)
- 17 Metellus Cimber
- 15 Caius Ligarius
- 8 Trebonius

Other Senators

- 9 Cicero
- 2 Publius Cimber
- 2 Popillius Lena



• Julius **Caesar**, 55 y.o. **Calpurnia**, 31 y.o.



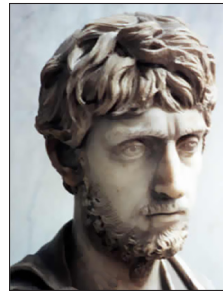
• Marcus Junius **Brutus**, • **Portia**, 27 y.o.
41 y.o.



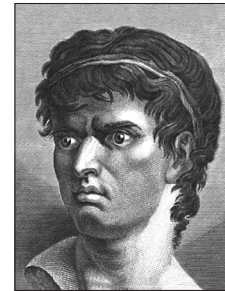
• = dies in the play



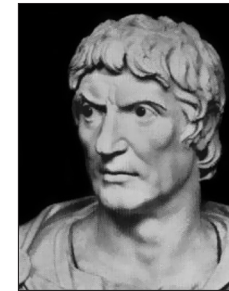
• Caius **Cassius** Longinus,
43 y.o.



Publius **Casca** Servilius



Decius (Decimus) **Brutus**,



Lucius Cornelius **Cinna**

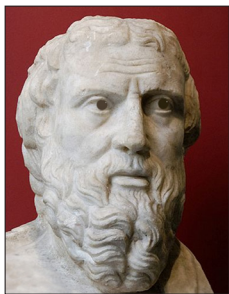
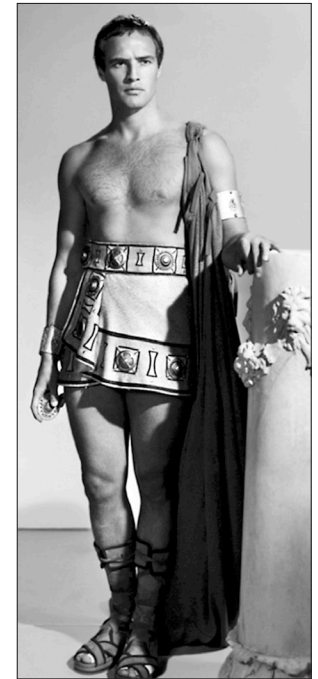
39 y.o. (not really him, above)

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat;
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.

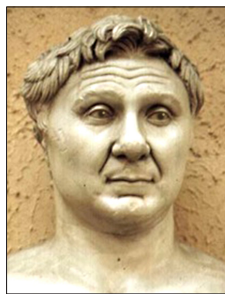
Men at some time are masters of their Fates:
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

Why, then, lead on. O, that a man might know
The end of this day's business ere it come.
But it sufficeth that the day will end,
And then the end is known. Come, ho! away!

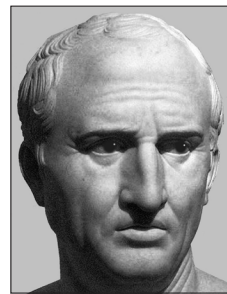
And whether we shall meet again I know not.
Therefore our everlasting farewell take:
For ever, and for ever, farewell, Cassius.
If we do meet again, why, we shall smile;
If not, why then, this parting was well made.



Plutarch (c. 46–120 AD)
Author of *Parallel Lives
of the Noble Greeks and
Romans*



Pompeius Magnus
(**Pompey** the Great),
murdered 58 y.o.,
before the play starts.



• Marcus Tullius **Cicero**,
63 y.o.



Gaius **Octavius** Caesar
(later Augustus, 19 y.o.)



Marcus Aemilius **Lepidus**, **Mark Antony**, 39 y.o.
44 y.o.