March 15, 44 BC: Librators or Murderers?

- Brutus spares Caesar’s cronies
  - M. Aemilius Lepidus
  - Marcus Antonius (Antony) = current consul
- Antony seems conciliatory at first
  - decree of amnesty
  - Offers Brutus & Cassius governorships in East
- Brutus also allows public funeral for Caesar:
  - Antony uses funeral oration to stir up mob to riot against Caesar’s murderers
  - Displays Caesar’s bloody and torn toga

Caesar reaches beyond the grave?

- Antony also reads to the public Caesar’s will:
  - 300 sesterces willed to each Roman citizen
  - Caesar’s private gardens to become public park
  - Caesar adopts grand-nephew Octavian as son and heir
  - Names Brutus as guardian in case Caesar had young children
- Angry mob
  - sets fires in forum
  - dismembers Cinna (oops, wrong Cinna)
  - chases Brutus & Cassius out of Rome
- Antony left in charge of Rome...

Enter Teenage Octavian

- April 44: Gaius Octavius (18 years old)
  - Learns of Caesar’s murder and his will
  - returns to Rome from studies in Greece
- Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus
- Brilliant & ruthless manipulator: did the end justify the means?

Caesar Octavianus

- Once at Rome, Octavian hosts lavish funeral games for his “father” Caesar in 44 BC
- Comet = evidence of Caesar’s deification: Divus Julius; Octavian now divi filius
- But Antony refuses to acknowledge Octavian’s inheritance
- Octavian asks Cicero for help
**Cicero’s mistake:**
- Cicero decides he can use Octavian
  - Antony declares Antony enemy of Rome
  - Antony retreats to Northern Italy with legions
  - Senate allows Octavian to command legions of Caesar’s veterans & send him against Antony
- Octavian defeats Antony at Mutina 43
- Octavian marches back to Rome: demands consulship!
  - NOT the puppet Cicero thought he would be!
  - Octavian now plans to avenge Caesar

**Second Triumvirate**
- Meeting at Bologna: November 27, 43 BC
  - Octavian + Antony + Lepidus
    - *Triumviri rei publicae constituentes consulari potestate*
    - Team up to fight Brutus and Cassius (liberators)
- **Proscriptions:** 300 senators + 2,000 *equites*
  - Including Cicero

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**10 years of bloodshed**
- 42 Philippi
  - Antony & Octavian def. Brutus & Cassius
- Antony stays in East
- Octavian returns to Italy
  - 100,000 soldiers need to be demobilized
- Perusia 40
  - Octavian def. L. Antonius & Fulvia
- 38: triumvirate renewed
  - Octavian gets West, Antony gets East
  - Lepidus gets Africa
  - Antony marries O’s sister, Octavia

**Pompey’s son**
- Sextus Pompey has taken Sicily (grain supply!)
- Octavian and Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa attack
  - 36 BC Naulochus: Sextus defeated
- Octavian now has 600 ships & 24 legions
  - the *restorer*
- Lepidus’ troops desert to Octavian
- 35-33 Octavian campaigns in Illyricum (prep. war vs. Antony)
Octavian vs. Antony

- Antony in Alexandria; falls for Cleopatra
- 33 BC: Octavian launches propaganda assault
  - Antony = debauched, un-Roman drunkard; love-slave of Egyptian queen, who wants to move capitol of Rome to Alexandria!
- 31 BC: Consul Octavian declares war; defeats Antony & Cleopatra at Battle of Actium
- 29 BC: Octavian now supreme commander of all Roman armies (just 34 years old)
- Celebrates triple triumph for Illyricum, Actium, and Egypt & purges senate of enemies
- 27 BC: Octavian announces resignation to senate

Octavian won five decisive civil war campaigns:

1) Mutina (ag. Antony)
2) Philippi (ag. Cassius and Brutus)
3) Perusia (ag. Antony’s brother and wife Fulvia)
4) Sicily (against Sextus Pompey)
5) Actium (ag. Antony and Cleopatra)