Lucius Sergius Catilina
- patrician (but poor & unscrupulous)
- unsuccessful run for consul for 63 BC

Marcus Tullius Cicero
• Equestrian from Arpinum
• Defeats Catiline for consulship of 63 BC
  - novus homo
• Commentariolum Petitionis
  - “Little Handbook on Getting Elected”
  - “Every day or so, as you go down to the Forum, you must repeat to yourself ‘I am a new man; I seek the consulship; this is Rome.’”
  - Cicero lucky both opponents = scoundrels (though nobles)

Accusations ag. Catiline’s character:
“Born in his father’s beggary, raised debauching his sister, grown up in civil slaughter, his entry into public life was a massacre of Roman knights. He killed with his own hands his sister’s husband…Marius Gratidianus…Before our eyes, he drove him to the tomb of Catulus, mangled him there with every torture, and, with a sword in his right hand, holding the man’s hair in his left, he severed the man’s neck as he stood there alive, while rills of blood flowed between his fingers! Then he lived with actors & gladiators as accomplices, the former in lust, the latter in crime… He has such impudence, such wickedness, such skill & efficiency in lust that he has raped children almost at their parents’ knees.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTIMATES</th>
<th>POPULARES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cicero (Equestrian)</td>
<td>Catiline (Noble)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novus homo</td>
<td>(starts as Sullan, but soon turns populist)</td>
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<td>Conservative: Uphold power of senatorial elite</td>
<td>Promises to fight for agrarian reform &amp; debt cancellation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wants “Concord of the Orders” (Noble &amp; Eq.): i.e.: Senate backed up by leading equites</td>
<td>A would-be tyrant using the people for support or a real reformer? We’ll never know.</td>
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Catiline’s trouble with the law...

- Initially works for Sulla (inv. in proscriptions)
  - Prosecuted later for torture & murder of brother-in-law Marius Gratidianus during proscriptions
- Prosecuted for murder of his own wife & son
- Prosecuted for sleeping with Vestal Virgin!
- Prosecuted for abuses while gov. of Africa

Acquitted:
- Rumor of bribery: “Catiline left the court as poor as some of his judges had been before the trial.”

Catilinarian Conspiracy

- 64-63 BC: Disappointed Catiline plans a revolt
- Promises grain, land, money, and freedom from oppression of Senatorial oligarchy
- Raises army outside of Rome & plans murder of opponents (incl. Consul Cicero) and arson at Rome itself
- Who joined Catiline?
  Plebs, Sulla’s veterans, and dishonored elite who had been removed from Senate

Cicero (consul) uncovers conspiracy and denounces Catiline in the senate

Cesare Maccari (1888): Cicero Denounces Catiline

- Catiline flees to join army outside Rome
- Conspirators left behind are arrested
- Sen. debates punishment for the captured
  - Cicero (consul with SCU) suggests death penalty
  - Caesar argues against execution (now seen as revolutionary popularis)
  - Cato argues for death penalty (aligns self as conservative optimate)
First Catilinarian (delivered 63, published 60 BC)
Shame on this age and on its principles! The senate is aware of these things; the consul sees them; and yet this man lives. Lives! Yes, he comes even into the senate! He takes a part in the public deliberations; he is watching & marking down & checking off for slaughter every individual among us. And we, gallant men that we are, think that we are doing our duty to the Republic if only we keep out of the way of his frenzied attacks?
You ought, O Catiline, long ago to have been led to execution by command of the consul. That destruction which you have been long plotting against us ought to have already fallen on your own head.

What? Did not that most illustrious man, Publius Scipio, in his capacity of a private citizen, put to death Tiberius Gracchus, though Gracchus was but slightly undermining the constitution?
And shall we, who are the consuls, tolerate Catiline, openly desirous to destroy the whole world with fire and slaughter? There was—there was, I say—once such virtue in this Republic, that brave men would repress mischievous citizens with more severe measures than they would use against the most bitter enemy. We have a resolution of the senate, a formidable and authoritative decree against you, O Catiline; the wisdom of the Republic is not at fault, nor the dignity of this senatorial body. We, we alone—I say it openly—we, the consuls, are wanting in our duty.

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<tr>
<th>Conspirators are Executed, and...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Enmity between Caesar and Cato is born</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Catiline dies in battle (a hero?)</td>
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<td>• Cicero = <em>pater patriae</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>(father of fatherland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>“<em>O fortunatam natam me consule Romam!</em>”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“O Roman <strong>state</strong> most <strong>fortunate</strong> to be born under my <strong>consulate</strong>”</td>
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<td>But Cicero exiled in 58 BC...</td>
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