

Queen Cleopatra

HUM2220 – Mon/Wed or Thursday Night

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Writing for Chapter ____

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Chapter 4

What did Julius Caesar do for the Roman Empire, listing at least, 4 different things?

Julius Caesar (100-44 BC), a famous statesman for the Roman Republic, did many things for Rome. He was an educated Patrician, enlisting in the Roman army to become a General. He expanded Roman territory in one of many campaigns throughout the 'wild west of Europe', conquering all of Gaul, Belgium, Luxemburg, parts of Spain, parts of Britannia, Romania, the Czech Republic, Croatia, - just to name a few places. This helped Rome to expand their farm lands and to use the captured people, as slaves throughout their many Roman provinces. Julius Caesar changed the old laws of the Republic, known as the *Laws of the Twelve Tables* because they were over 400 years old and obsolete. In its place, his hired lawyers created the *Ius Civile* or Civil Laws – which were so good that they were used for the next 500 years – during the Imperial Period of Rome. Julius Caesar realized the calendar was not accurate, so he employed astrologists to accurately create a better, up-to-date calendar – which would include 12 months of unequal length with 365 days, plus adding an extra day to the calendar once every 4 years (Leap Year) – which would keep the calendar in order. Julius Caesar was a 'Ladies Man', known for his passionate love affair with the queen of Egypt, Cleopatra. He was married 3 times, but never had a legal male heir to pass his title down, so before his death in 44 BC, he named his adopted grand-nephew, Octavius, to be his legal heir. Octavius became the first Roman Emperor, adapting the name of Caesar, to be called: *Caesar Augustus*.

When did the Republic of Rome end and why?

The Roman Republic (509-31 BC) was the first part of Roman history that we study. It began with the fall of the Etruscans, who had control of Rome until 510 BC. Toward the end of the Republic, even though it was governed by 300 elected Senators with 2 elected consuls, Julius Caesar, a consul, wanted too much power. The Senate reacted by stabbing him to death on the Ides of March in 44 BC (March 15th). His heir, along with his loyal lieutenant, Marc Antony – were named co-consuls of the Roman Republic. They wanted to avenge Julius Caesar's death. Both men divided Rome and Antony got the Eastern Empire to Octavius' Western Empire, including the city of Rome. However, Marc Antony went to Egypt where he fell in love with Cleopatra. He had a much publicized love affair with her. Octavius started rumors that Marc Antony was giving away all of the hard earned lands of Rome to that 'whore of Egypt'. Needless to say that this ended in a huge sea battle called the *Battle of Actium* in 31 BC with Marc Antony & Cleopatra VS Octavius. Octavius won, Marc Antony lost, returning to Egypt where he killed himself; and Cleopatra committed suicide. When Octavius returned to Rome, he appointed a new Senate, who in turn, called him: Caesar Augustus or Revered Ruler. He now was the first proclaimed Emperor of the Roman Empire and this began the period call: Imperial Rome (31 BC – AD 476).

Was Caesar a good ruler? Name 3 things that he did for the Roman Empire.

Yes, Caesar Augustus who ruled from 31 BC until AD 14 (45 years) – didn't have the likeable qualities that his uncle possessed, however, Augustus was good for the empire. He began the *Pax Romano* or the *Great Roman Peace*, a 200 year period of peace in the city of Rome. Augustus kept a huge Army in Rome, itself. He bragged that he came to Rome, and found it a "city of bricks and left it a city of marble!" – rebuilding a number of buildings in the Roman Forum and many temples. He now paid soldiers to serve in the Roman army – which gave a number of young men the opportunity to rise in rank, and eventually retire, very well off. In the Roman army, men learned new trades – which helped the economy. Augustus created over 250,000 miles of

roads, in which, "All roads lead to Rome" became a true statement. Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah enforcing a higher quality of living, holding his fellow politicians and patricians to a higher moral standard of living. Anyone not living a life-style to be looked up to, was sentenced to exile to the far off places of the Empire. Augustus exiled his sister, who was discovered sleeping with everybody! He demanded that the educated set a higher standard of living for the less educated and poorer classes of people.

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