

GALMUN 2024



Crisis

Research Report



1. Definitions

Republic: A system of government where citizens elect representatives to hold power. In the Roman Republic, this involved the Senate (legislative body), Consuls (chief executives), and Tribunes (protectors of plebeian rights).

Patricians: The elite class in the Roman Republic, holding significant wealth and political influence.

Plebeians: The common people of the Roman Republic, who gradually gained political influence through assemblies and tribunes.

Imperium: The supreme power wielded by Roman magistrates (like consuls) during the Republic and later by emperors. It encompassed military command, judicial authority, and the right to levy taxes.

Province: A territory conquered and governed by the Roman Republic and later the Empire. Provinces varied in the level of autonomy they enjoyed.

Pax Romana: "Roman Peace," a period of relative peace and stability within the Roman Empire, particularly during the reign of Augustus.

Emperor: The supreme ruler of the Roman Empire, holding absolute power. The position transitioned from a more disguised form under the "Principate" (early Empire) to a fully autocratic role in the "Dominate" (later Empire).

Senate: A crucial legislative body in the Roman Republic, later retaining some influence under the emperors.

Roman Law: A highly developed legal system that influenced legal codes across Europe for centuries.



2. Introduction

Our crisis simulation deals with themes of war, political intrigue, propaganda and murders in the late Roman Republic. The Roman story started in 509 BC when Romans got rid of their Etruscan kings and became a Republic. This period was full of arguments between the rich patricians and the common people, the plebeians. But Rome also kept fighting and winning wars, like the big ones against Carthage. Powerful leaders like Julius Caesar left their mark, and by 27 BC, the Republic had become a mighty Empire stretching from Hispania to Syria and from Gaul to Egypt. The first emperor, Augustus (formerly known as Octavian), brought in a golden age called the Pax Romana. This was a peaceful and prosperous time for about 200 years.

However, the Roman transition from a Republic to an Empire was not a peaceful affair. In the final decades of the republic, powerful Roman generals fought against each other in order to become sole rulers of the Republic, leading to many civil wars and political emergencies. In our Crisis, which begins in 32 BC, we deal with the conflict between Octavian and a famous Roman general Mark Anthony, a friend of Julius Caesar and the lover and husband of Cleopatra Queen of Egypt, who went against the Roman Senate's wishes and gave away important lands in the East, including Syria, to Cleopatra and her children. This caused a lot of worry in Rome. People suspected that Antony and Cleopatra were planning something against the Empire. So, both sides started getting ready for war. Anthony, feeling loyal to Cleopatra, gathered his forces in the East. Meanwhile, Octavian, Caesar's adopted son and heir, got the Senate and the Roman army in the West on his side.

With tensions running high, the fate of the Roman world is uncertain. What will these leaders do? What will happen next? Who will become the sole Emperor of the Roman Empire? Will other states and factions take advantage of this Roman inner-conflict? We'll find out in this crisis committee.





3. Background Information

We will now go over different events of Roman history, starting from the establishment of the Roman Republic, its many victories and its expansion over many regions, the rise of army general such as Julius Caesar and others and until finally explaining the background for the current conflict in the crisis with the tension between Octavian on the one hand and Mark Anthony and Cleopatra on the other.

3.1. The Rise of the Roman Republic



The Roman Republic's ascent to power began with a decisive event: the 509 BCE revolt led by Lucius Junius Brutus against the tyrant king of Rome. This uprising marked the end of the institution of Kingship. Brutus, along with his fellow citizens, established a republic, a system where there are no dictators or kings, Rome belongs to all of its citizens. Rome soon expanded to rule the area around the city. This is due to several factors that have significantly contributed to the Republic's flourishing. Central

Italy offered a strategic advantage. The Alps provided a natural northern barrier, while surrounding seas offered protection on other flanks. This strategic positioning facilitated the Republic's early development and territorial ambitions.

Roman military prowess was another key factor. Victories led to the incorporation of new territories. However, the Romans adopted a nuanced approach compared to some conquerors solely relying on force. They often acknowledged and respected, to an extent, the traditions and cultural identities of the conquered. This policy of accommodation helped quell potential rebellions and fostered a degree of loyalty, reducing the strain on Roman military resources.

The meticulously crafted political structure of the Roman Republic also deserves recognition. A system of checks and balances ensured that no single individual held absolute power. The Senate, composed of patrician families, noble and rich families, wielded significant legislative and executive authority. They sent representatives to the Senate, the highest legislative body in Rome. Meanwhile, elected officials from the Senate such as consuls served as the Republic's chief





executives, overseeing military operations and administration. The plebeians gradually gained political influence through the formation of assemblies and the appointment of tribunes who safeguarded their rights. This intricate system, while not without its challenges, provided a framework for relatively stable governance that balanced the rights of Patricians and Plebeians, ensured that no single figure ruled Rome alone and facilitated the Republic's territorial expansion.

3.2. Who was Julius Caesar?

By the First Century BC, Rome was in Turmoil. Powerful Roman generals and figures began to appear who would ignore the republican ideal of the Republic and began trying to rule it in a dictatorial manner. This came as a result of many factors, but chief amongst them was the Marian Reforms (107 BC) that transformed the Roman army from a volunteer citizen army to a professional army that was not under the control of the senate. As a result, Roman Armies, known as legions, began being loyal to their generals, who used their loyalty to gain political power in Rome. This led to the rise of the dictator Sulla, who became the first one to seize power by force in the Republic from 82 until 78 BC. This was not a good experience, as Sulla was hated by everyone in Rome. However, it was during and after his reign that other generals began preparing plans of their own to take control of power in the Republic.



It is in this context that Julius Caesar came onto the scene. He was born in 100 BCE and even though he came from an aristocratic family, he wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Though his family boasted aristocratic lineage, their wealth couldn't compete with the power Caesar would eventually command. His youth unfolded during a precarious time for the Roman Republic. The noble families, plagued with internal power struggles, grappled with the weight of a growing empire. Caesar, even in his late teens, displayed a keen political sense. He embarked on a calculated strategy of establishing and forging alliances with influential figures – a tactic that would become his signature move. He married Cornelia, the daughter of a prominent but ostracized politician. This bold move, while enraging the dictator Sulla and forcing Caesar into temporary exile, also showcased his unwavering ambition and willingness to gamble. Exile wasn't a setback for Caesar. It allowed him to improve his military skills and foster a reputation for daring and, some might say, ruthlessness. Returning to Rome, he became a relentless force in the pursuit of power. He used his sharp legal mind and captivating oratory



skills as public prosecutor, captivating audiences and establishing himself as a man of the people, popular with the plebeians. But Caesar wasn't just a brilliant military strategist and ruthless popular leader; he understood the importance of collaboration with other Roman families and figures. He forged a crucial alliance with Pompey Magnus, another important Roman political and military leader. This combined force propelled Caesar through the ranks of the Roman political machine. Strategic marriages, like his union to Pompeia, granddaughter of the very Sulla who had ostracized him, further cemented his position within the Roman elite. By 59 BCE, Caesar had secured the position of consulship, a position that placed him at the helm of the Republic. This marked a turning point, paving the way for his military campaign in Gaul and the expansion of the Roman Republic in the East to Syria and Egypt.

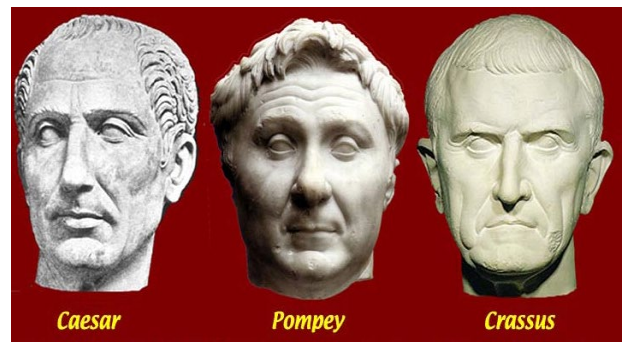
3.3. The First Triumvirate:

The result of the rise of Julius Caesar and other figures led to the formation of an unofficial alliance known as the First Triumvirate in 60 BCE. This act brought together three powerful figures who decided to rule the Roman Republic together:

Julius Caesar: A charismatic politician on the rise, with a growing military reputation.

Pompey Magnus: A celebrated general leading a loyal army.

Marcus Licinius Crassus: The wealthiest man in Rome, with an insatiable hunger for riches.



Despite past rivalries, these men recognized a common enemy: the gridlocked Roman Senate. For them, the Republic's system of checks and balances, while ensuring stability, often resulted in frustrating delays in legislation and political appointments. This frustrated many segments in Roman society, especially the common people and the soldiers in the Roman legions. The Triumvirate offered a solution –the senate needs to be led by Three strong personalities that would make sure that republican politics and division does not stop the passing of important laws that are needed for the greater good. However, their intentions were not pure. By combining their influence and resources, they pushed through laws they favoured, and they secured lucrative governorships that boosted their wealth and power, and they eliminated political rivals who threatened their positions.



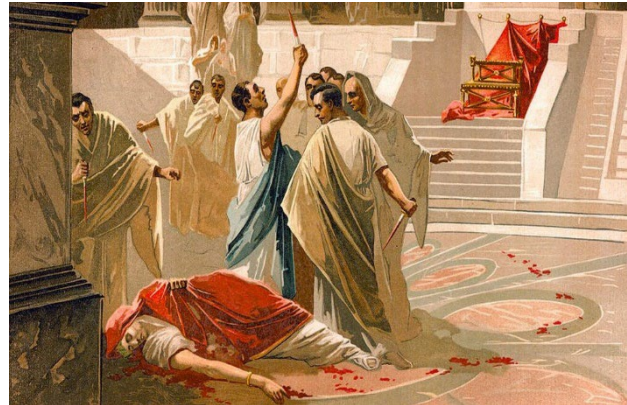
The Triumvirate's success did not last. Caesar's growing popularity and military success threatened to upset the balance of power between the three. Pompey, initially comfortable sharing the spotlight, became increasingly wary of Caesar's ambition. Crassus's untimely demise in 53 BCE, after his defeat in the East, further destabilized the alliance. The First Triumvirate fractured, dissolving into rivalry and, ultimately, civil war between Julius Caesar and Pompey.



3.4. The rise and assassination of Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar defeated his rival Pompey in a brutal civil war (in 45 BC), allowing Caesar to become the most important figure in Rome. However, Julius Caesar never officially accepted the title King, despite the fact that he was the figure who was de facto calling the shots. His triumphs weren't just military, conquering many provinces like Gaul and Egypt, he also implemented popular initiatives like land redistribution to the poor, making him extremely popular with the common people, who preferred his strong rule over the dysfunctional rule of the Senate. He was also popular with many Senators, who were eager for a piece of Caesar's influence. They showered him with honours. Many statues were erected, temples were dedicated to his name, and an entire month – July – was named after him. However, many senators remained afraid of his dictatorial power. Especially because the title of "dictator," originally intended for temporary wartime use, was bestowed upon Caesar multiple times in a row. In 44 BCE, after much popular support, the senate was forced to declare him "dictator perpetuo", essentially a dictator for life. This was horrifying for many senators and patricians, who felt that they needed to protect the republic from the power of these military generals and their manipulation of the common people. This must be done to stop Rome from returning to being a dictatorial tyranny or even worse, a kingdom. Additionally, some senators, ambitious in their own right, saw their own influence waning under Caesar's shadow.

This has led a number of senators and important Roman figures to form a secret group called “The Liberators.” These senators, led by Marcus Junius Brutus, planned the assassination of Julius Caesar in order to return power to the senate. On the Ides of March (March 15th), 44 BCE, Caesar entered the Senate House where he was met with the Liberators, cloaked in the guise of well-wishers, who surrounded him and then brutally assaulted him. Caesar was stabbed multiple times and died. The assassination led to a civil war between those who supported his assassination and those loyalists who wanted to bring the assassins to justice. Rome was once again in a state of chaos.



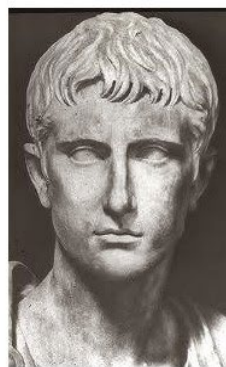
3.5. The chaos in Rome after Caesar's assassination

The assassination of Julius Caesar brought Rome once again to a state of civil war. On the one side stood the forces who committed the assassination, led by Brutus, who wanted to protect the republic and preserve its republican spirit and the rule of the Senate. On the other side were the supporters of Julius Caesar, who wanted to avenge his death. These pro-Caesar camp formed a new Triumvirate, in 43 BC, called the Second Triumvirate, that was made up of the following persons:

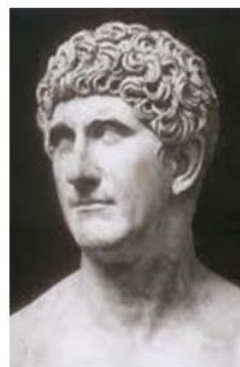
Octavian: Julius Caesar's nephew and adopted heir, was still a young man but with large ambitions.

Mark Antony: Caesar's trusted lieutenant and a formidable military leader.

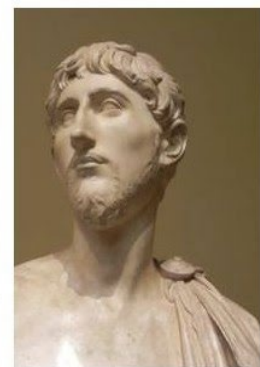
Marcus Aemilius Lepidus: Though less prominent than Antony or Octavian, held significant military powers.



Octavian



Antony



Lepidus

These three leaders formed a pact to share power in order to avenge the death of Caesar and bring back stability to the Roman Republic.

3.6. The Second Triumvirate:

The Second Triumvirate united and fought against the senatorial forces led by Brutus. They faced each other in the Battle of Philippi, 42 BC. Philippi wasn't a single battle, but a series of two brutal clashes. In the first, Antony decisively defeated Cassius, who mistakenly believed Brutus had also fallen and took his own life. However, Brutus had actually won against Octavian's forces.

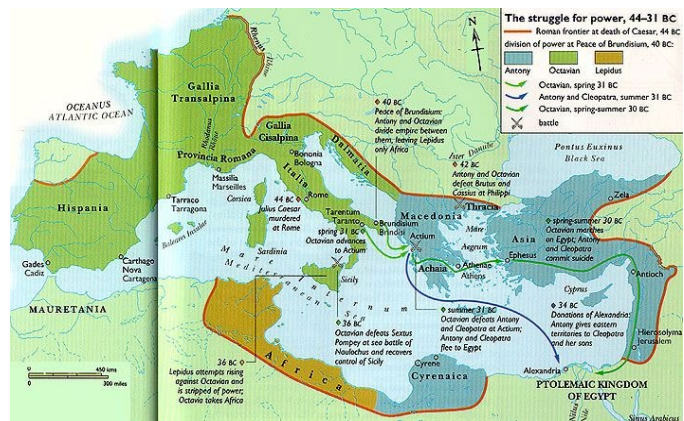


Three weeks later, a second engagement saw the combined might of Antony and Octavian overpowered Brutus, who chose suicide over capture.

The victory at Philippi proved decisive for the Second Triumvirate, as Rome once again returned under the control of powerful Generals. The three divided the empire into three zones of control: Octavian in the West, Lepidus in Africa and Mark Antony in the East. Together they ruled the Roman Republic, each in their own zone, and expanded its borders. But, just like with the First Triumvirate, the three leaders still tried to increase their power and control in competition with the others. The seeds of future conflict between the triumvirs themselves were there from the very beginning.

3.7. The Downfall of the Second Triumvirate

The Second Triumvirate, forged in the fires of Julius Caesar's assassination, promised stability but ultimately crumbled under the weight of ambition. Though initially successful, cracks began to show as the triumvirs (Mark Antony, Lepidus, and Octavian) vied for ever-greater power. Lepidus, the weakest of the three, was the first to be cast aside. Octavian, the shrewd



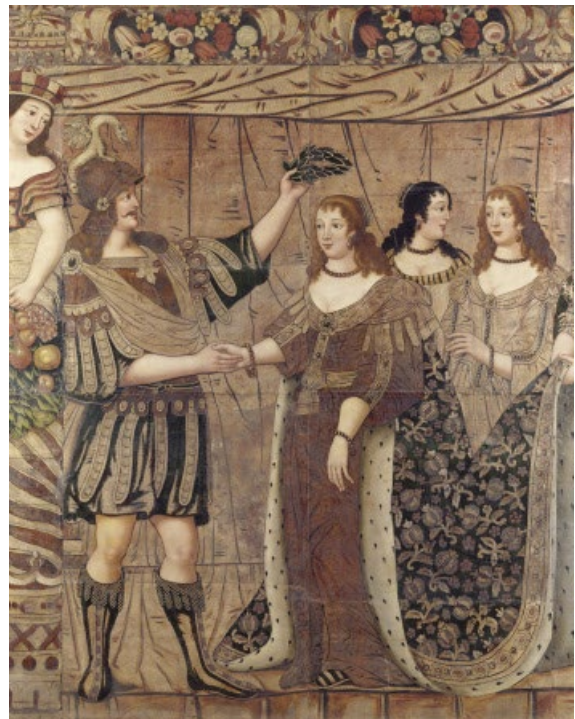
politician, saw an opportunity and painted Lepidus as a rebel. Stripped of his authority, Lepidus faded into obscurity, his role in the triumvirate was over and his territories and regions fell under the control of Octavian in 36 BC. He also brought down Roman rebels who wanted to bring back the Republic, and sent his general to defeat a native rebellion in Illyricum by 35 BC.



Antony, fuelled by ambition and a desire to outshine his rival Octavian, went into many wars in the East in 36 BC until 33 BC. He had a disastrous war with Parthia (a powerful Iranian empire known for its mounted archers, existing in northeastern Iran from roughly 700 BC to 200 AD). He marched north towards Armenia, demanding the return of lost Roman treasures, but underestimated the Parthians' fierce cavalry tactics. Despite early successes, disaster struck when his siege equipment was destroyed and his Armenian allies deserted him. Harassed by Parthian archers on a brutal retreat, Antony lost a third of his army and his reputation as a brilliant military leader was damaged.

Antony also became more involved in Eastern politics and culturally became estranged from Roman culture, leading to further tension. In 41 BC. his affair and relationship with Cleopatra, the Queen of Egypt, ruined the reputation of Mark Antony amongst the patricians and the senate in Rome. Cleopatra joined him on his campaigns in the East against the Parthians and the Armenians, and they even got married at Antioch in 36 BC. This was not only illegal under Roman Law, it was a betrayal of Octavia, Anthony's legal wife, and the sister of Octavian. As part of their marriage and alliance, Mark Antony gave independence to the Kingdom of Egypt from Roman control and has even given portions of the Roman territory in Syria and Lebanon to Cleopatra. He even gave her Jericho, a portion of Herod's kingdom. This not only enrages Octavian, it infuriated most Romans in the West, and they backed Octavian in the struggle between the two leaders.

This tension peaked after the event known as the Donations of Alexandra that took place in 34 BC. At the celebrations when Mark Antony celebrated a victory triumph in Alexandria for his gains from the Parthians, he awarded Armenia to his and Cleopatra's oldest son, Alexander Helios. The area west of Armenia was awarded to their second son, Ptolemy Philadelphus. Their daughter, Selene, was given Cyprus. Furthermore, at the celebration, Caesarion, Cleopatra's son, was publicly declared to be the son of Julius Caesar and thus the king of kings and the legitimate heir to the Roman Empire. The celebrations in Alexandria were a serious offence to Romans. By granting Egypt more autonomy and powers and giving Cleopatra more political and military support, many in Rome saw Mark Antony as betraying the Roman Republic and falling under the spell of an eastern witch, and they understood his actions as proof that he was trying to end the Republic and to become tyrant king of Rome.





The true clash, however, was yet to come. Octavian and Antony began preparing for war. Though the triumvirate pact was still legal, and no side began the conflict, both sides prepared their legions and navies and also engaged in political and propaganda wars. Antony's alliance with Cleopatra only added fuel to the fire and was frequently used by Octavian to delegitimize Anthony. It was in the Autumn of 32 BC, that Octavian illegally obtained the will of Mark Antony from its safe in the temple of the Vestal Virgins in Rome. Octavian then skilfully read the will to the Roman public and exposed its contents. He claimed that Mark Antony's will made provision for turning parts of the Roman Empire over to Cleopatra. Worse yet, Mark Antony's will called for moving the Empire's capital from Rome to Alexandria. The Roman people were outraged, and Octavian officially declared Mark Anthony as a traitor. Senators who supported Mark Anthony escaped to the East and established a rival senate in Athens. The Roman Republic was, once again, in a state of civil war.

4. Current Situation

It is now the **Autumn of 32 BC**. The Roman Republic was split amongst the Octavian Faction, in control of the West and Rome on the one side and with the Anthony Faction on the other side in the East. Each side has many generals who supported their faction leaders but also had ambitions of their own. Two rival senates were formed, the first was the original senate in Rome that supported Octavian and the second was the pro-Anthony senate in Athens. Each side wanted to take full control of the Roman Republic and become its sole ruler. Other political actors are also involved. The Kingdom of Egypt under Cleopatra has formed a strong alliance with Mark Anthony and has provided military, naval and economic support in the hope of improving their conditions and regaining their lost glories. Many client kingdoms in the East are officially on the side of Anthony, but might find good opportunities to increase their power or even to regain their independence. The Parthians and Armenians are also observing the situation, waiting for the right moment to reduce the Roman threat over their lands. Many generals, kings and queens are involved with this conflict, each looking to increase their power and prestige. Each one of them is thinking and plotting their destinies. Some might ask, “Will Rome remain a republic?” Others ask, “Will I finally kick the Romans out of our land? Or should I use the Romans to gain more power?” Many, however, ask the daring question: “Should I try to become the sole emperor of Rome?”



5. The Roman Empire's Timeline

509 BC - Rome becomes a republic.

3rd century BC - Rome becomes the dominant power in Italia.

146 BC - Rome defeated Carthage and became the dominant power in the Western Mediterranean and Hispania.

146 BC - Rome takes over Greece and Macedonia.

189-63 BC - Rome takes over most of Asia minor, creating many client states in the area.

107 BC - The Marian Reforms.

82-78 BC - Sulla ruled as dictator of Rome.

63 BC - Pompey Magnus expands the Roman Republic's control to Syria and Judea.

60 BC - The First Triumvirate was formed by Julius Caesar, Pompey Magna and Crassus.

58 BC - Julius Caesar conquers Gaul.

46 BC - Julius Caesar turns Egypt into a client state that is loyal to Rome.

45 BC - Julius Caesar becomes sole ruler of Rome after defeating Pompey.

44 BC - Julius Caesar is assassinated.

43 BC - The Second Triumvirate was formed by Octavian, Mark Anthony and Lepidus.

42 BC - Battle of Philippi, Second Triumvirate victory.

41 BC - Mark Anthony begins a relationship with Cleopatra.

36 BC - Mark Anthony married Cleopatra, giving independence to Egypt.

36 BC - Mark Anthony begins wars against the Parthians and the Armenians.

36 BC - Lepidus was defeated by Octavian, making Octavian sole ruler in the West.

35 BC - Octavian and his generals have a bitter war against local rebels in Illyricum.

34 BC - The Donations of Alexandria, Mark Anthony gives more Roman provinces to Egypt and declares Caesarion as the son of Julius Caesar.

32 BC - Octavian reads the will of Mark Anthony, declaring him a traitor and officially beginning the war between both sides.






6. Questions to consider












- What are your character's ambitions? Do they prioritize personal gain, the stability of the Empire, or some other goal?
- Should you remain loyal to your faction leader and help them become rulers? Or could you gain power at their expense?
- What are your character's abilities? How can you expand these abilities?
- What is the legacy of Julius Caesar? Should the Roman state remain a republic or should it be ruled by a Caesar, an emperor? Does your character believe the Roman state should return to a more republican form of government, or is strong centralized leadership necessary for survival? Should the Empire remain unified, or is division the best course of action?
- How does the rise of other empires or kingdoms impact the Roman Empire's choices?
- Should you gain independence from Rome? Or should you stay part of the Roman World and gain powers within the system?
- Can you gain advantage of Roman divisions in order to expand your borders or to regain land lost to Rome?
- Should the Empire prioritize maintaining peace within its existing borders or continue its expansionist policies?

7. Characters

Here is the list of characters, their factions and their roles. This list is incomplete and might be changed.

Name	Faction	Role
Gaius Octavian	Roman Republic - Octavian Faction 	Faction Leader, Triumvir of the West
Marcus Agripa	Roman Republic - Octavian Faction 	Major general and admiral
Titus Taurus I	Roman Republic - Octavian Faction 	Major general and admiral



Gaius Maecenas	Roman Republic - Octavian Faction 	Head of the Praetorian Guards and chief administrator of Rome.
Mark Anthony	Roman Republic - Anthony Faction 	Faction leader, Triumvir of the East
Gaius Sosius	Roman Republic - Anthony Faction 	Major general and admiral
Cleopatra	Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt 	Queen of Egypt
Caesarion	Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt 	Heir to the throne of Egypt, Julius Caesar's declared heir.
Phraates IV	Parthian Empire 	King of Kings of Parthia
Monaeses	Parthian Empire 	Major nobleman and general
Artaxias II	Kingdom of Armenia 	King of Armenia
Herod the Great	Kingdom of Judea 	Client King of Judea
Malichus I	Kingdom of the Nabateans 	Client King of the Nabateans
Archelaus of Cappadocia	Kingdom of Cappadocia 	Client King of Cappadocia
Polemon I	Kingdom of Pontus 	Client King of Pontus
Mithridates II	Kingdom of Commagene 	Client King of Commagene



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