

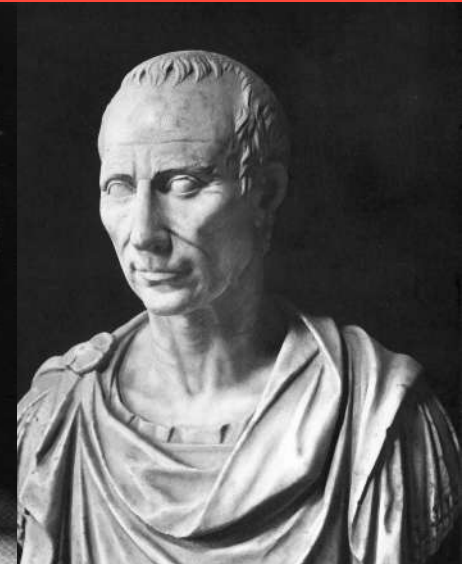
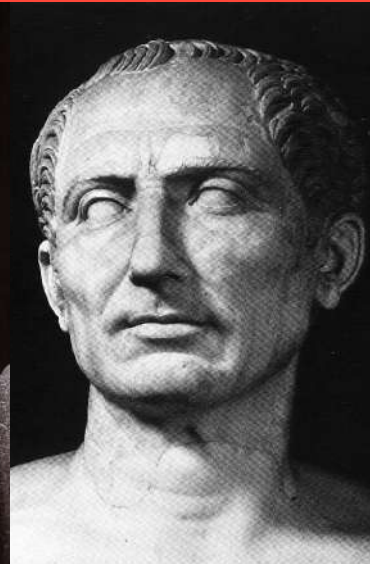
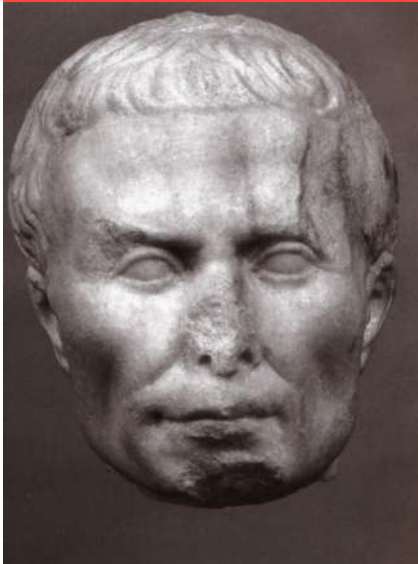


# 10 Hot Tips on C. Julius Caesar

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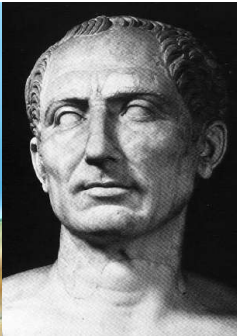
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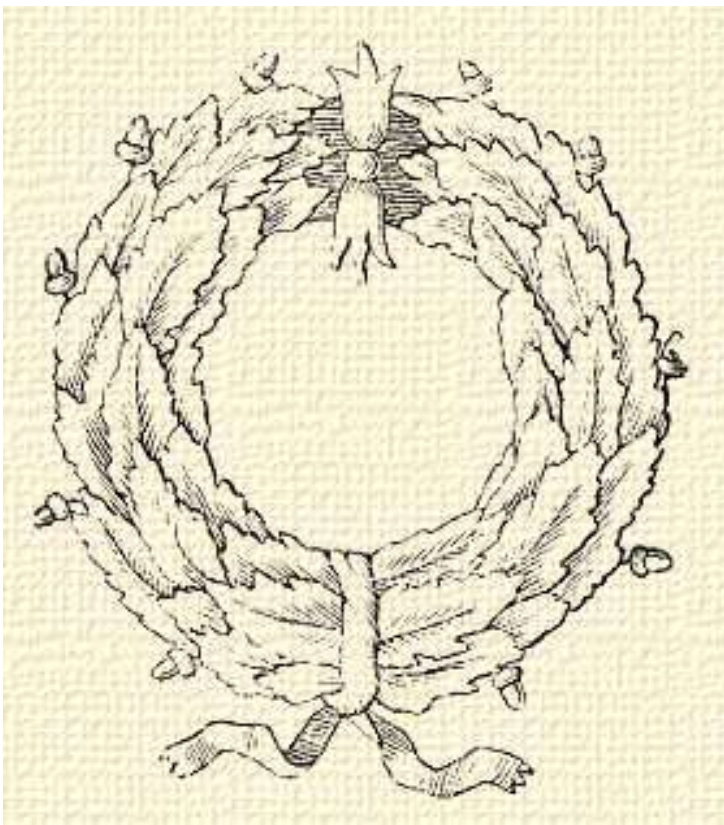


## Hot Tip No. 1

80 BC—Caesar won a distinguished military award (the *corona civica*) as a young man which gave him extraordinary privileges



80 BC–Mytilene



Caesar wins *corona civica*  
(civic crown)

Privileges: e.g., senators  
need to stand when  
Caesar enters the senate;  
and he may have been  
given the right to hold  
offices two years early.





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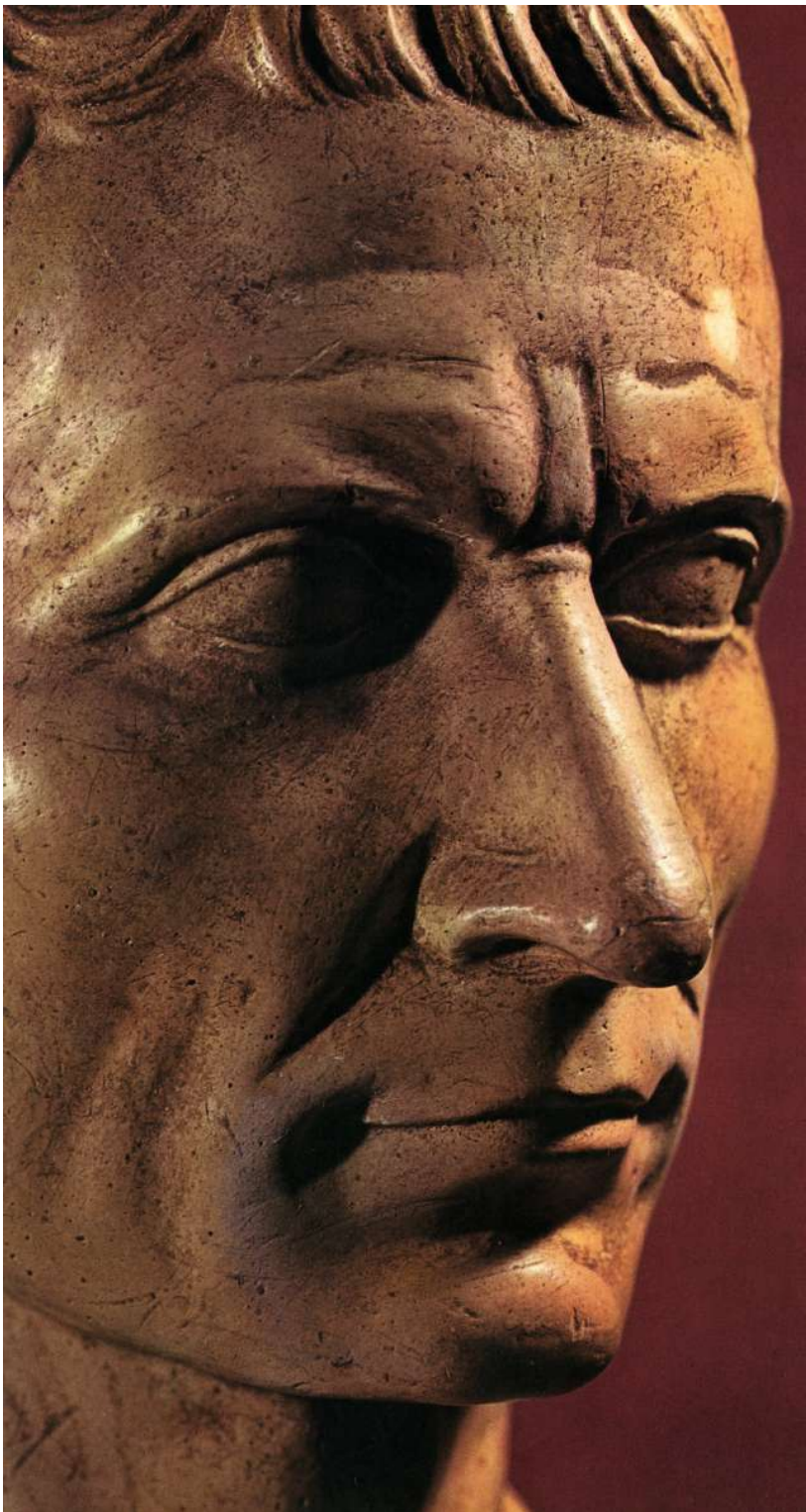
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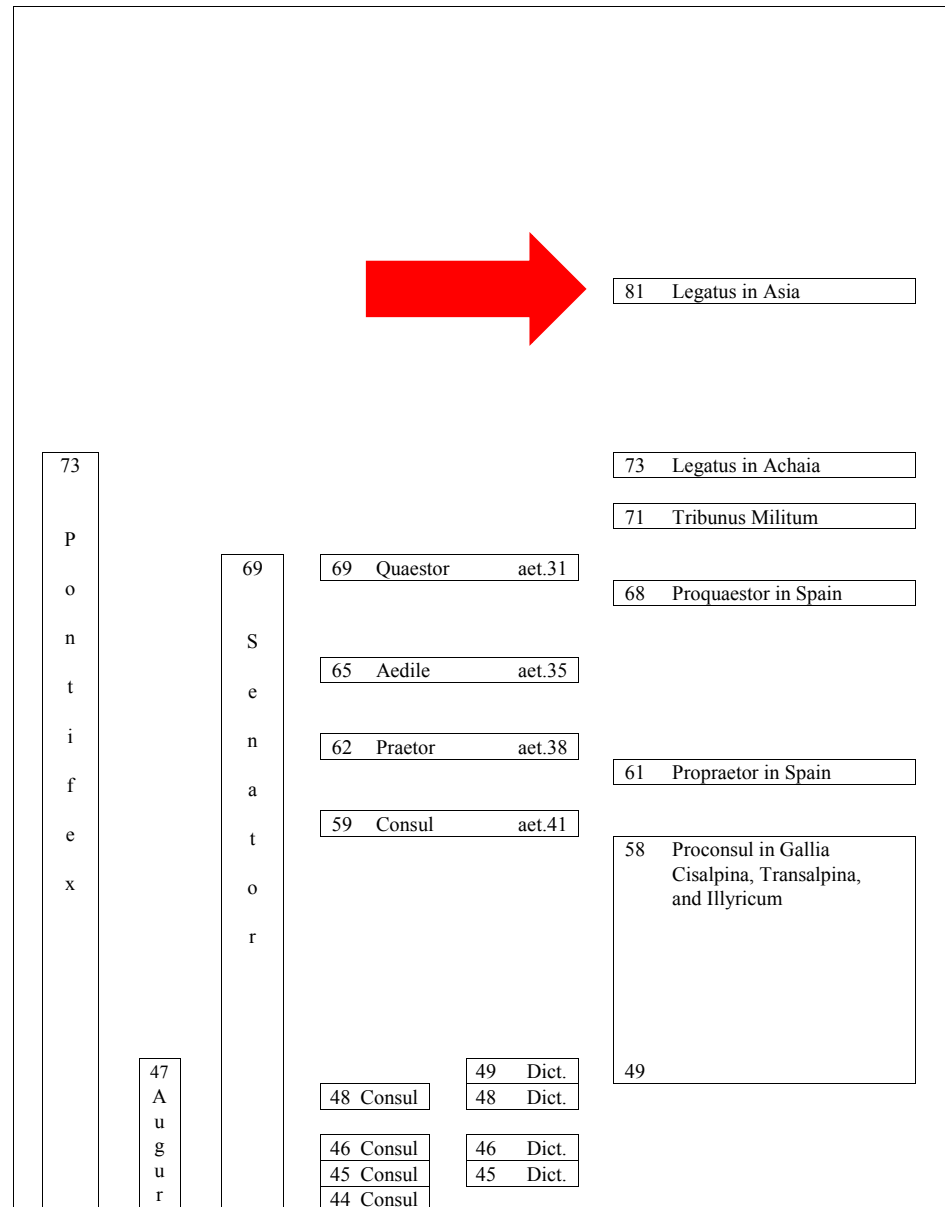


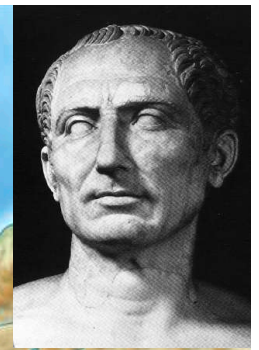
## Hot Tip No. 2

Caesar had enemies from the start of his career



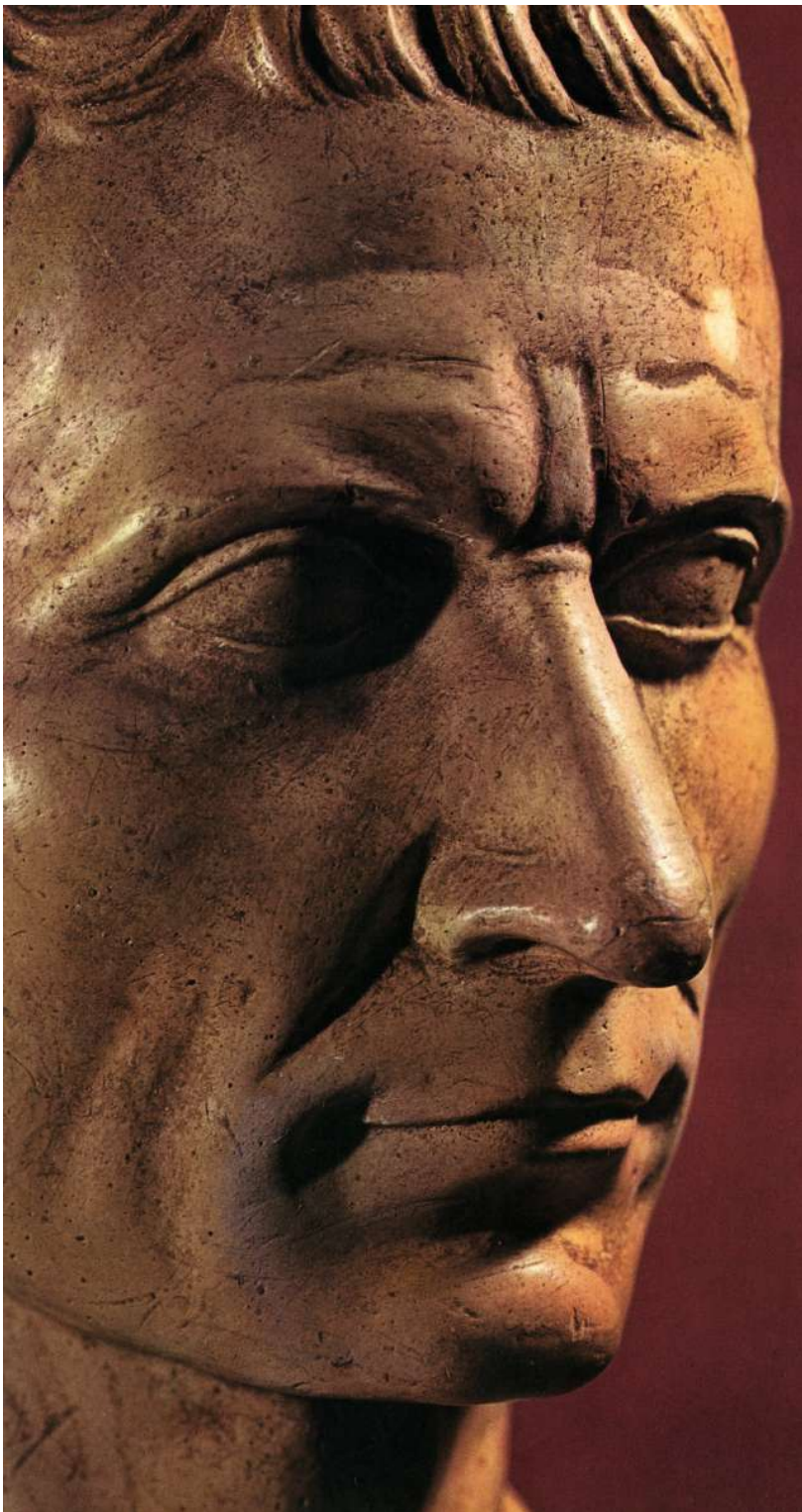
**C. Julius Caesar  
n. 100 BC**





81 BC—Bithynia





*Gallias Caesar subegit, Nicomedes  
Caesarem:*

*Ecce Caesar nunc triumphat qui  
subegit Gallias,*

*Nicomedes non triumphat qui subegit  
Caesarem.*

*Caesar's got on top of the Gauls  
and Nicomedes got on top of Caesar.  
Hey, It's Caesar's triumph now  
and he got on top of the Gauls,  
but no triumph for Nicomedes,  
and he got on top of Caesar.*

*Suetonius, Divus Iulius 49*



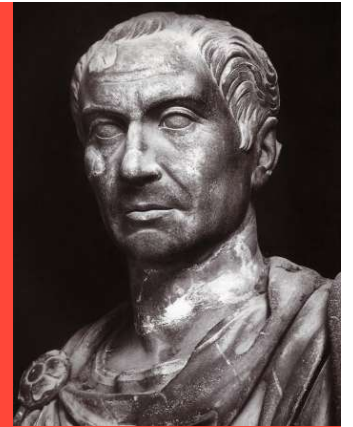
## Hot Tip No. 3

Caesar was a Marian (nephew of Gaius Marius)

## Caesar the Marian

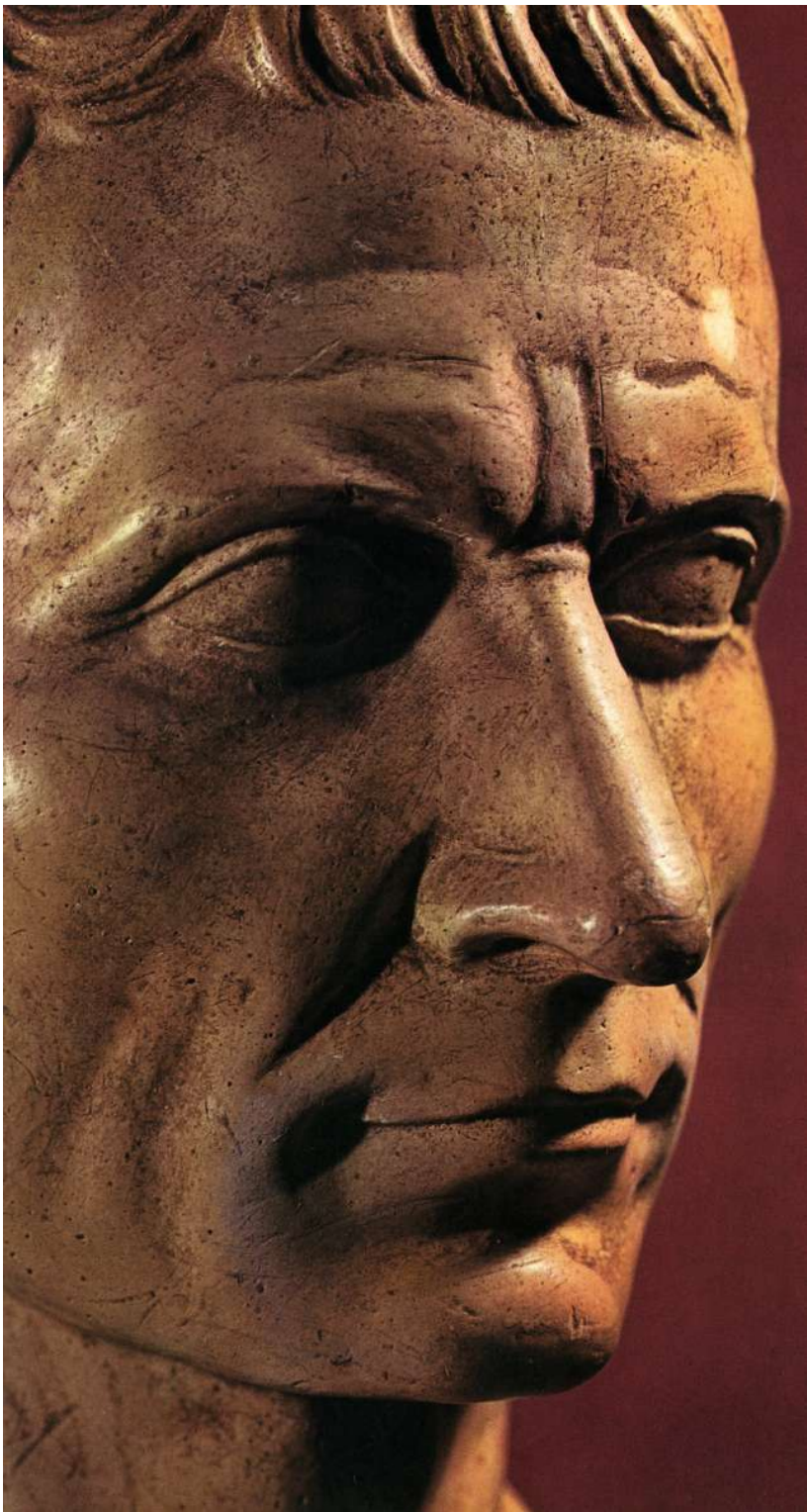
Indeed, they thought the business of impeachment, on general principles and without special provocation, no ignoble thing, **but were very desirous to see their young men fastening themselves on malefactors like high-bred whelps on wild beasts.**

Plutarch, *Lucullus* 1



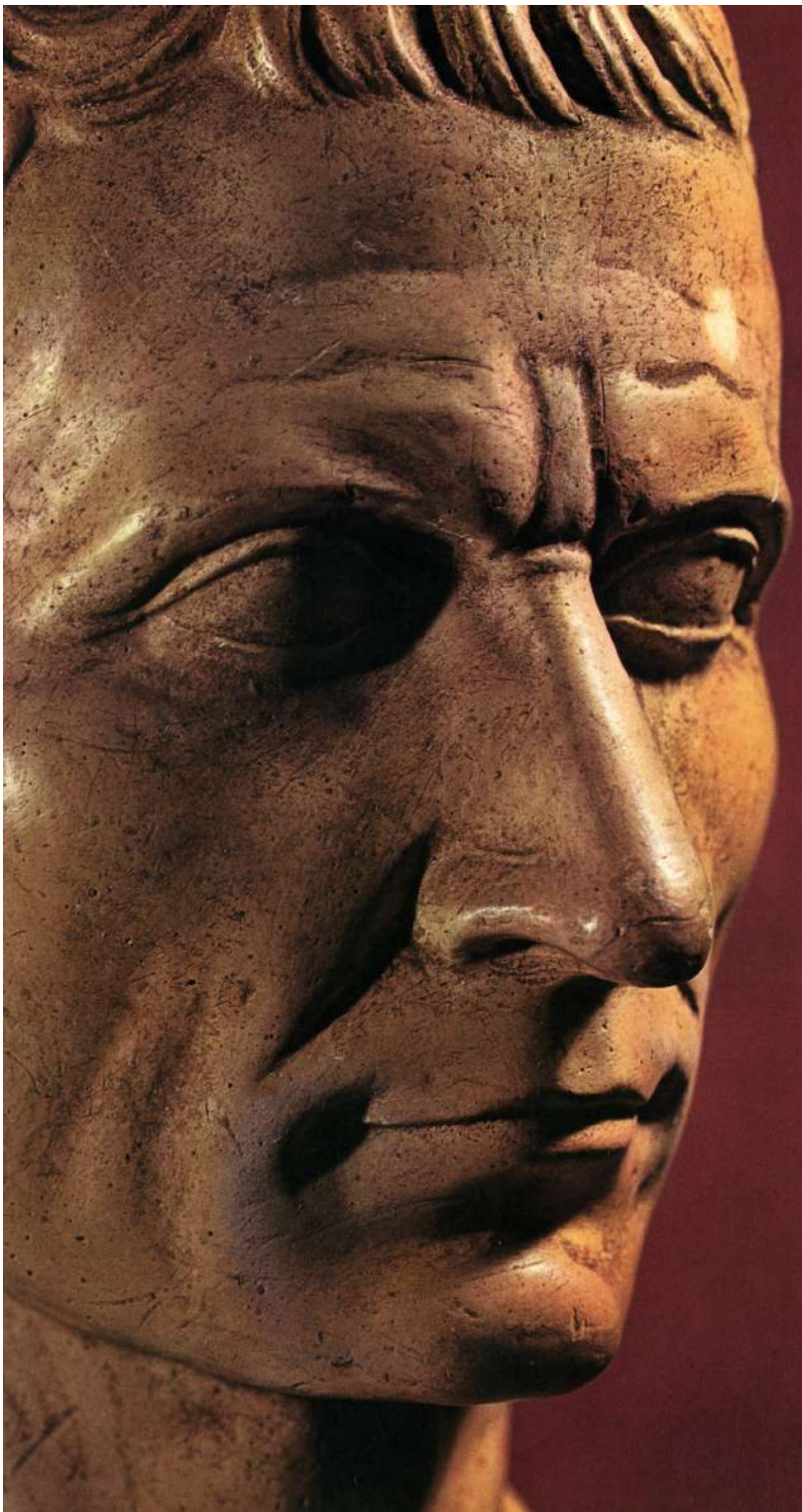
- Returned to Rome on Sulla's death and hoped to become involved in the revolutionary plans of the anti-Sullan M. Aemilius Lepidus (consul of 78 BC)
- Prosecuted Sullan Cn. Cornelius Dollabella for extortion in 77 BC
- Prosecuted C. Antonius, a profiteer of Sulla's proscriptions in 77 BC)





**C. Julius Caesar  
n. 100 BC**

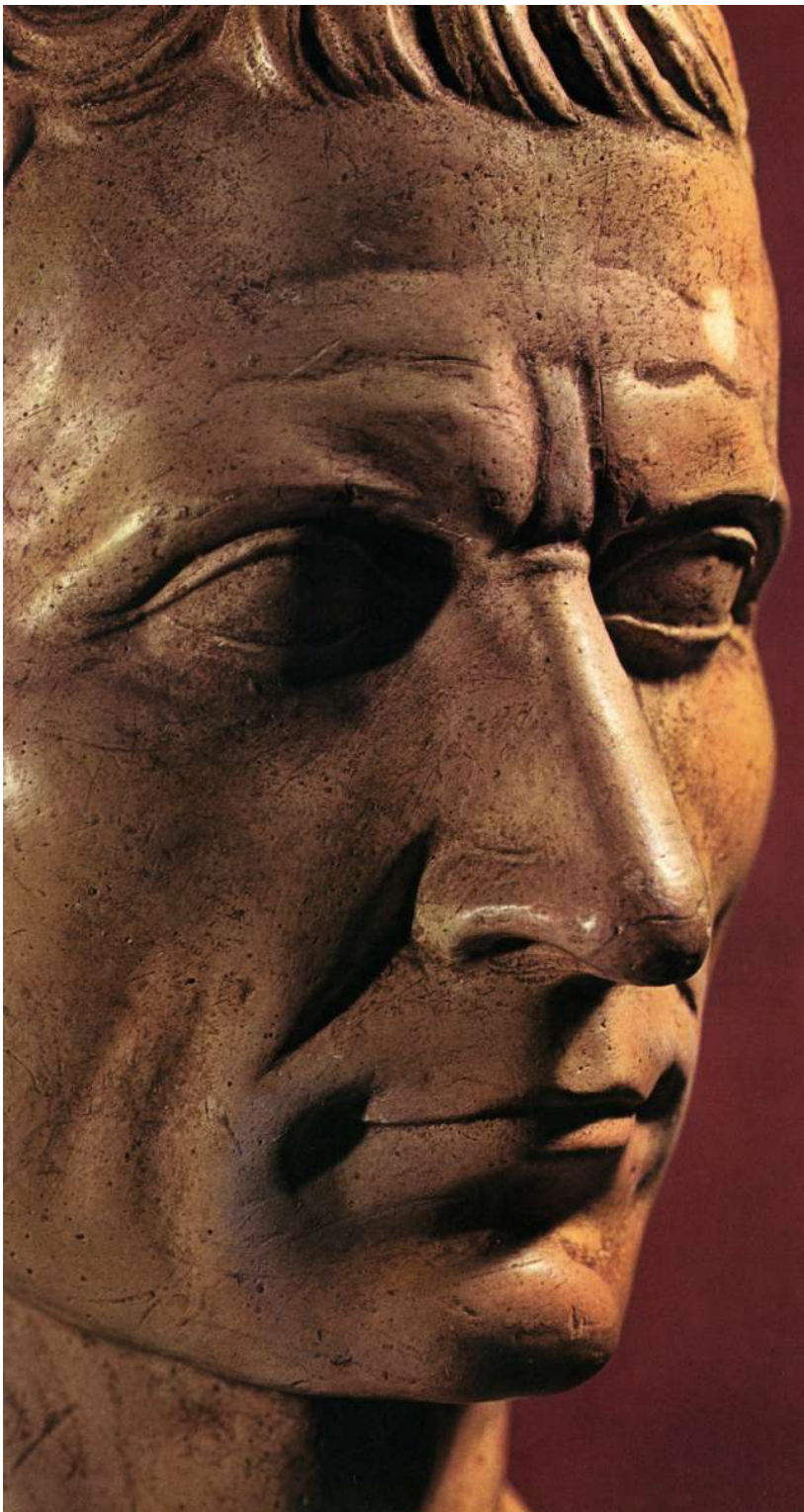
73			81 Legatus in Asia
P			73 Legatus in Achaia
o		69 Quaestor aet.31	71 Tribunus Militum
n			68 Proquaestor in Spain
t	S	65 Aedile aet.35	
i	e	62 Praetor aet.38	61 Propractor in Spain
f	n	59 Consul aet.41	
e	a		58 Proconsul in Gallia Cisalpinga, Transalpinga, and Illyricum
x	t		49
	o		
	r		
		47 Augur	49 Dict.
		48 Consul	48 Dict.
		46 Consul	46 Dict.
		45 Consul	45 Dict.
		44 Consul	



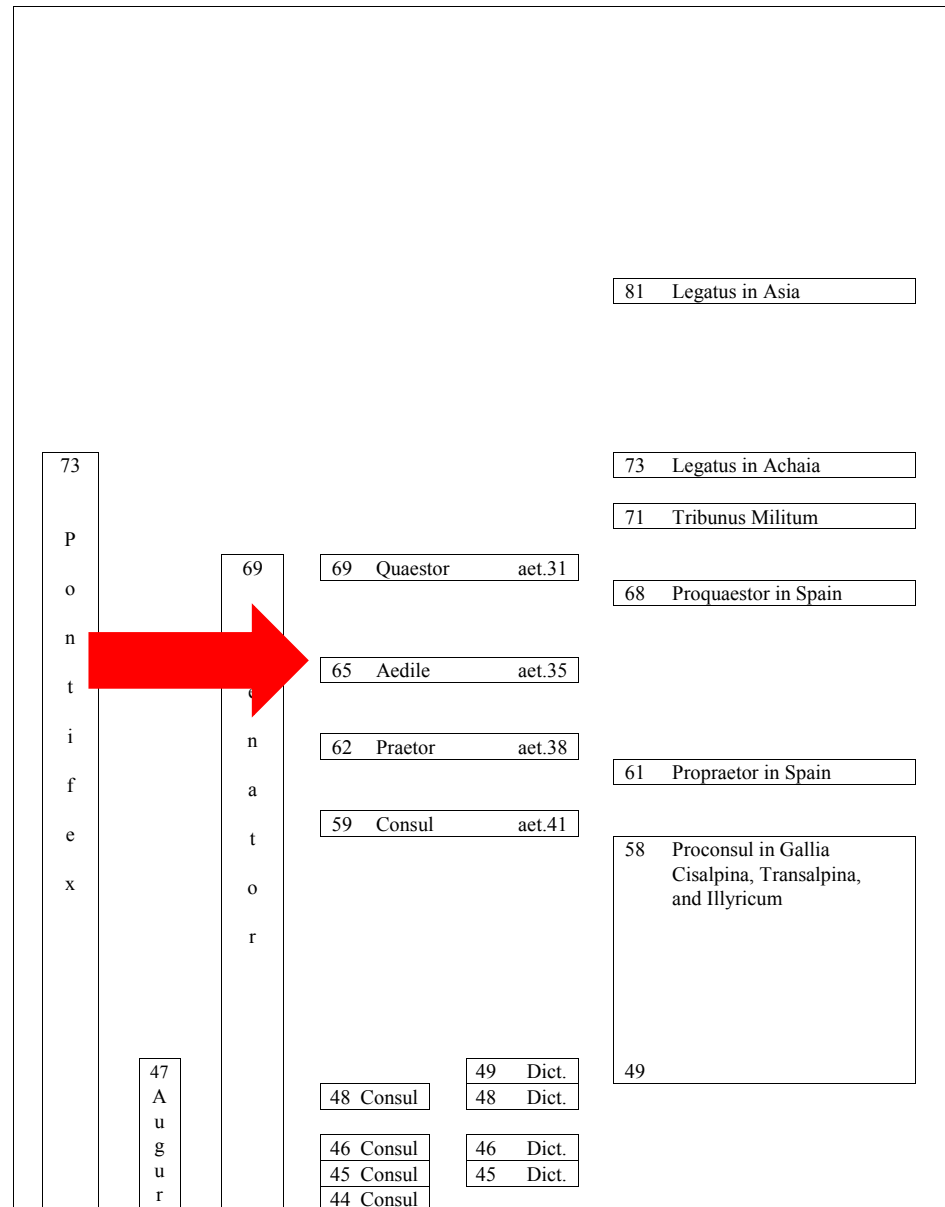
## Caesar the Marian

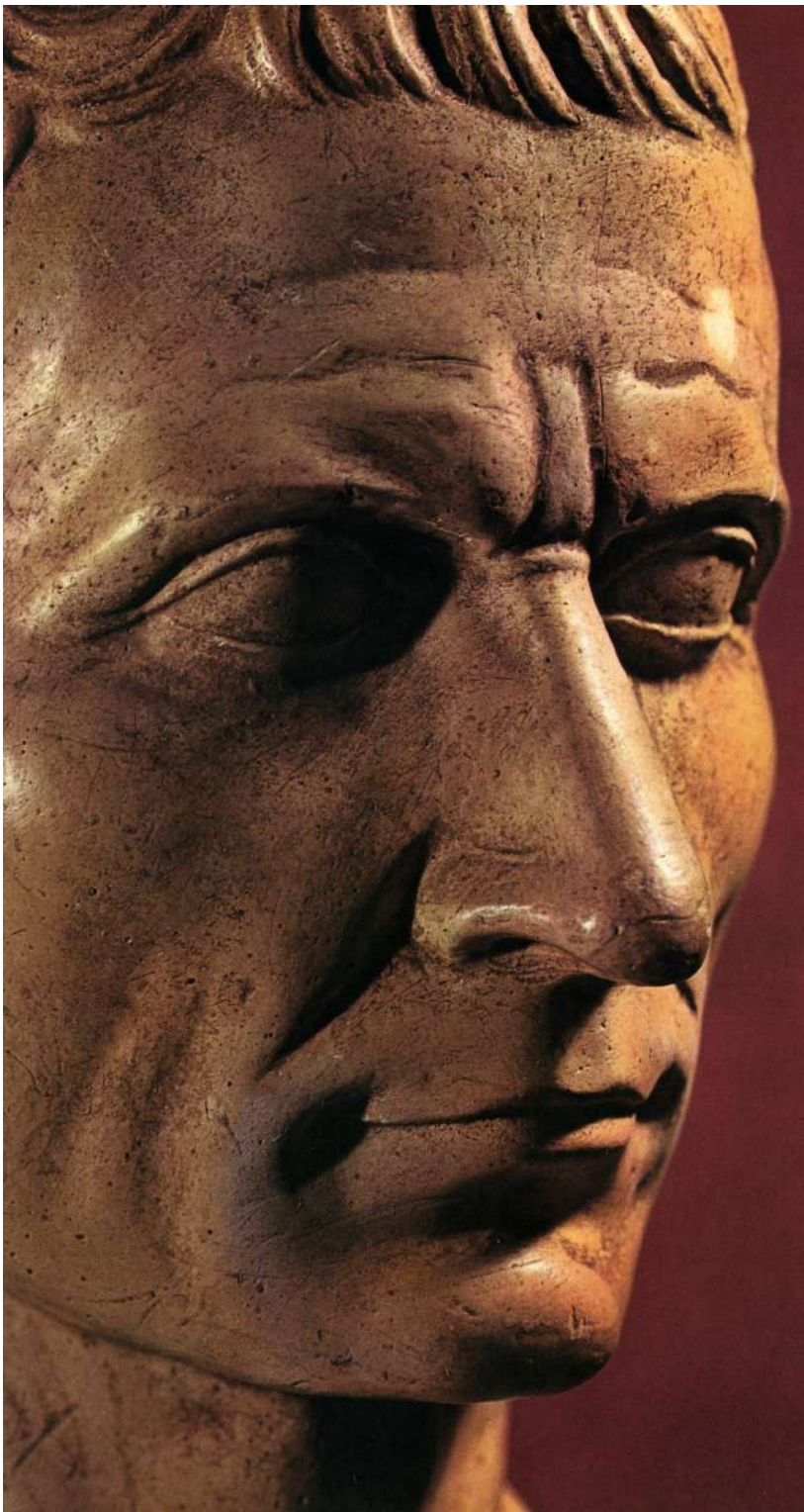
Quaestorship in 69 BC (shows the *imagines* of Marius at aunt Julia's funeral):

“... a second and more conspicuous proof [of the people's goodwill] he received when, as nephew of Julia the deceased wife of Marius, he pronounced a splendid encomium upon her in the forum, and **in her funeral procession ventured to display images of Marius, which were then seen for the first time since the administration of Sulla, because Marius and his friends had been pronounced public enemies.** When, namely, some cried out against Caesar for this procedure, the people answered them with loud shouts, received Caesar with applause, and admired him for bringing back after so long a time, as it were from Hades, the honours of Marius into the city. (Plutarch, *Caesar* 5.1–2)



**C. Julius Caesar  
n. 100 BC**





## Caesar the Marian

Aedileship in 65 BC (exhibiting the images and trophies of Marius):

.... he had images of Marius secretly made, together with trophy-bearing Victories, and these he ordered to be carried by night and set up on the Capitol. At day-break those who beheld all these objects glittering with gold and fashioned with the most exquisite art (and they bore inscriptions setting forth the Cimbrian successes of Marius) were amazed at the daring of the man who had set them up (for it was evident who had done it), and the report of it quickly spreading brought everybody together for the sight. (Plutarch, *Caesar* 6.1–3)



## Hot Tip No. 4

Caesar was a *popularis*



1924 - 25

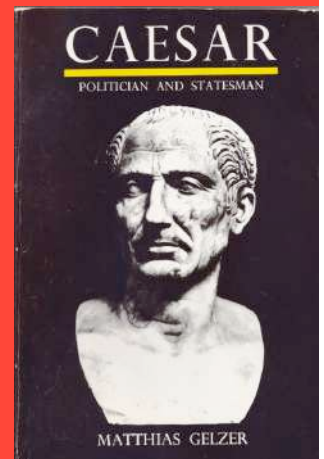


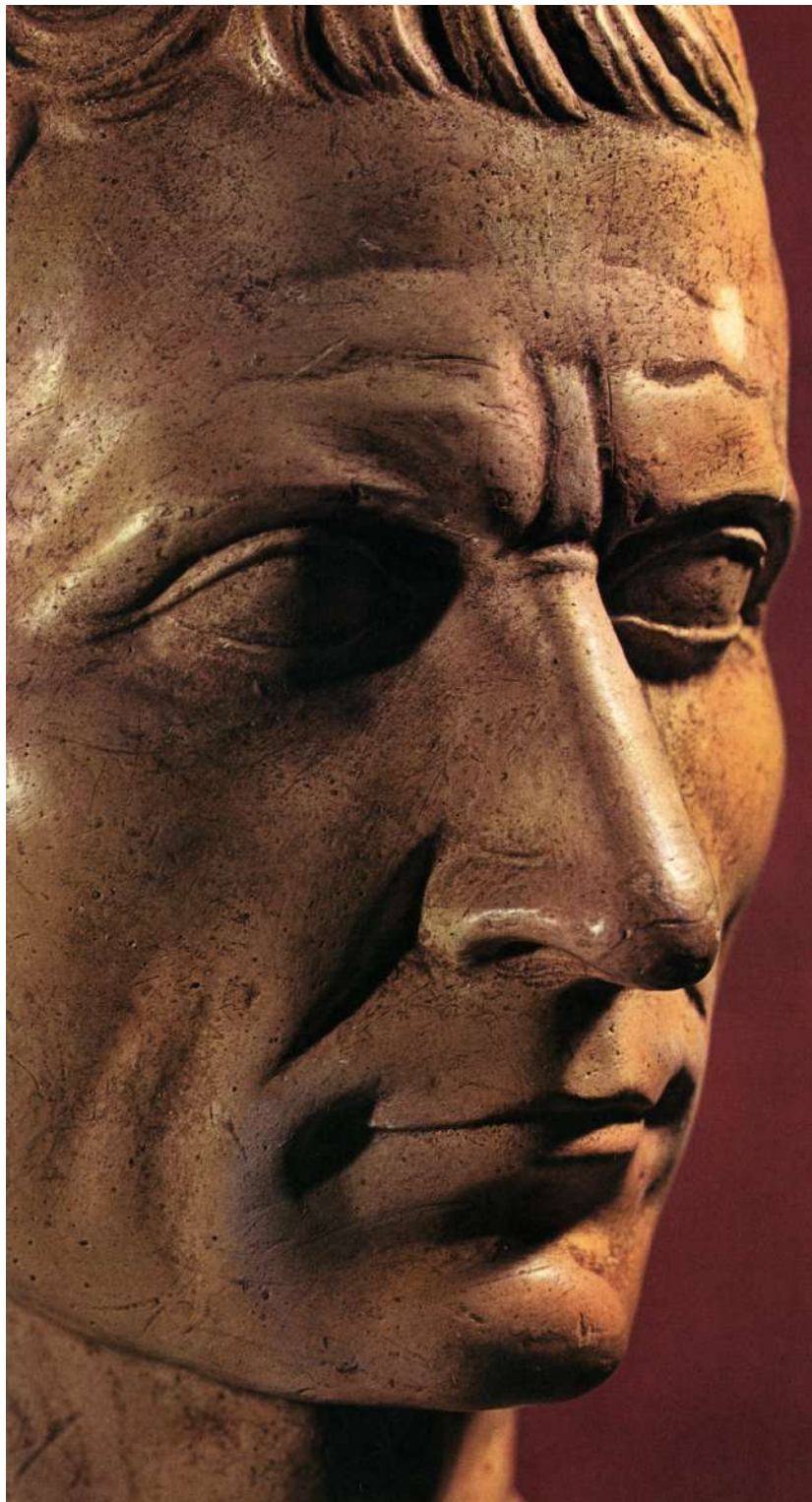
Matthias Gelzer

## Caesar the *popularis*

... there was nothing to prevent [Caesar] from following a normal *optimatus* career. Yet we find him engaged wherever there was an opportunity to clear the way for political activity in opposition to the oligarchic restrictions placed on its scope ...

Matthias Gelzer, *Caesar. Politician and Statesman* (Cambridge, Mass. 1921/6<sup>th</sup> ed., 1968) p. 28





## Caesar the *popularis*

- Supported the removal of restrictions on the tribunate in 70 BC (Suetonius, *Divus Iulius*, 5)
- Supported proposals to cancel debts in 63 BC (Cicero, *On Moral Duties*, 78, 84)
- Argued against the death penalty for the Catilinarian Conspirators in 63 BC (Sallust, *Catiline's War*, 51.21–22)



## Hot Tip No. 5

The main ancient sources on  
Caesar's Early Career — are late  
(Plutarch and Suetonius)

Compares achievements with those of Alexander  
(Plutarch, *Life of Caesar* 11 [61 BC] and Suetonius,  
*Divus Iulius*, 7 [68 BC])



## Hot Tip No. 6

The coalition of Caesar, Pompey and Crassus in 60/59 BC is not the first triumvirate!



# 'First Triumvirate' OR Coalition of Caesar, Pompey and Crassus

December 60 BC: Cicero, *Letter to Atticus*, 2.3.3

After Caesar's election to the consulship, Cicero didn't know about the big three linking up



## Hot Tip No. 7

### **Caesar's Assassination:**

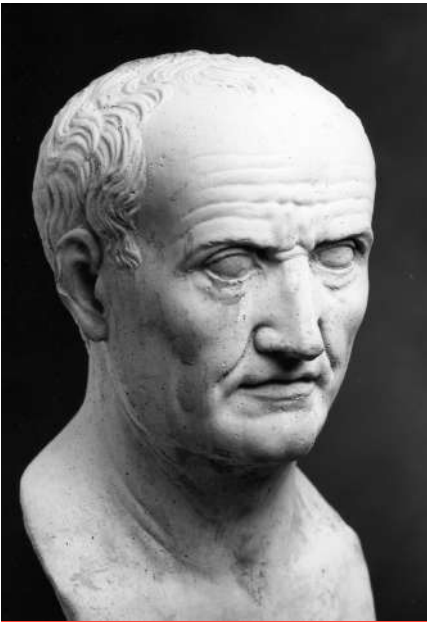
Some of the conspirators were invited to join the conspiracy via philosophical discussion (Plutarch, *Brutus* 12)



**The philosophical case for taking out Caesar:**

David Sedley, 'The Ethics of Brutus and Cassius', *Journal of Roman Studies* 87 (1997) 41–53;

Jeff Tatum, *Always I Am Caesar* (Oxford 2008) 158–166 (summarizes Sedley)



## What did Cicero think about the killing of Caesar?

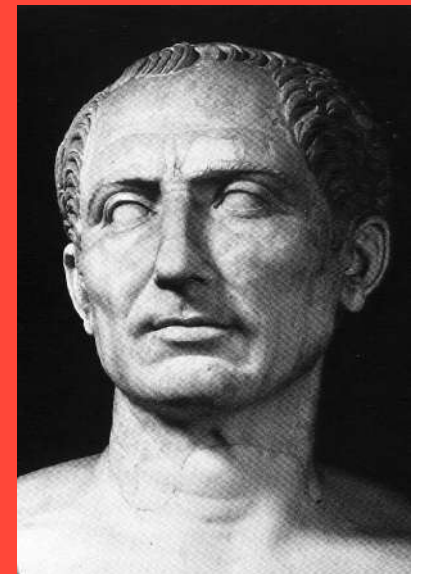
**Answer: He was delighted.**

“My dear Atticus, I’m afraid the Ides of March have given us nothing, except for joy and the satisfaction of our hatred and resentment.”

Cicero, *Letters to Atticus* 14.12.1 (22 Apr. 44 BC)

Why did Cicero see Caesar as a tyrant?

1. He was employing force
2. He was obstructing the conventional political practices of the Roman elite (i.e., controlling entry into office etc.)
3. He is the worst of all things—a *popularis* in power.







## Hot Tip No. 9

**The way things were moving:  
Caesar was the first living Roman to  
put his portrait on a coin**



a. Denarius of Caesar  
44 BC



b. Denarius of Brutus  
43/42 BC



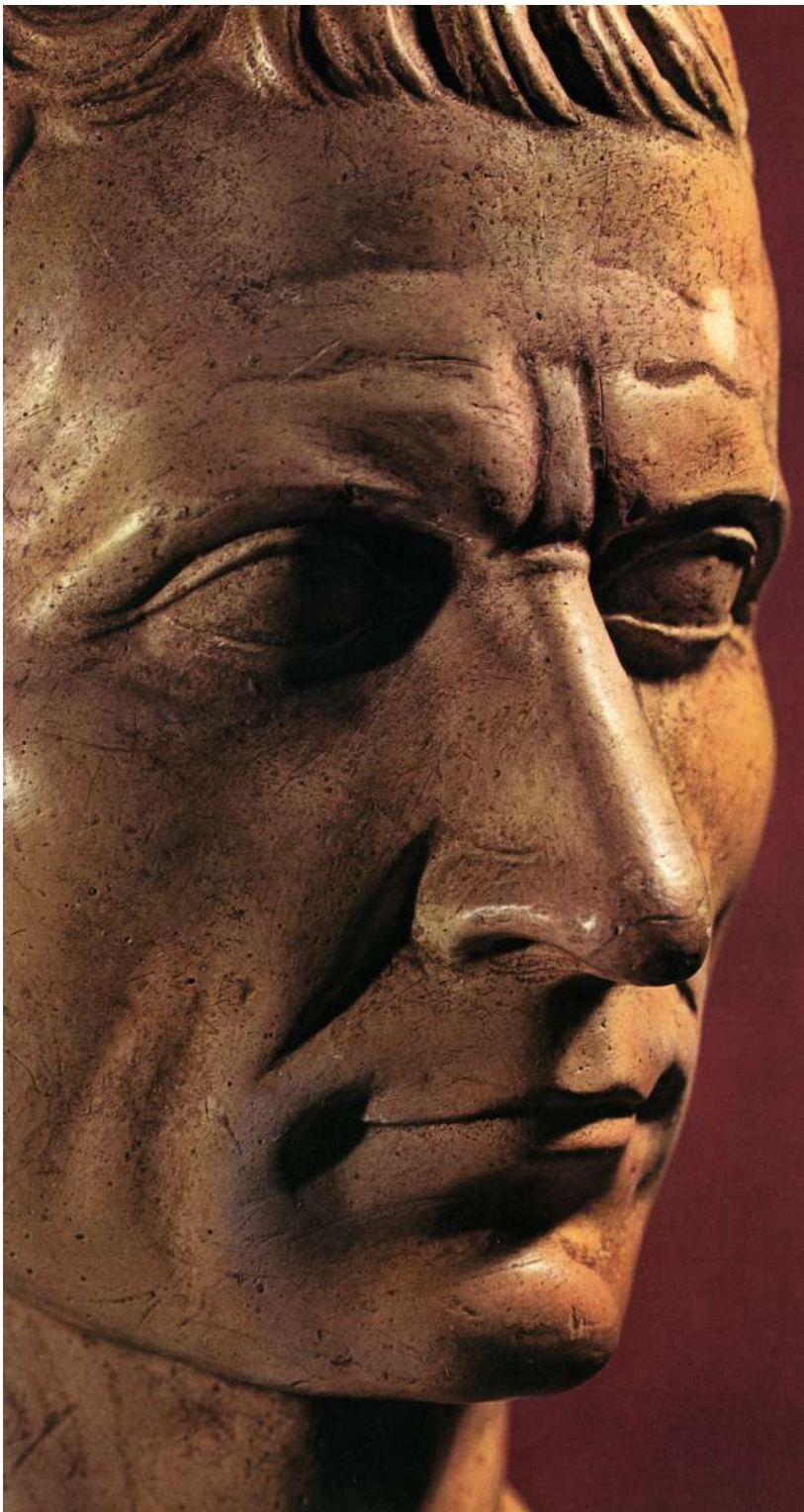
TOM STEVENSON

## JULIUS CAESAR

AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE  
ROMAN REPUBLIC

“**Libertas** was the crucial idea that brought about **Caesar’s assassination**. It overcame the powerful bonds created by *clementia* (clemency) and permitted the characterization of Caesar as a tyrant. **Yet the ideal was aristocratic.**”

*Libertas* did not have the same connotations for the soldiers, the Roman people, the inhabitants of Roman Italy, or those in the provinces.”



## The conspirators called Caesar a tyrant to justify their act

Cassius had been in favour of slaying Antony as well as Caesar, and of destroying Caesar's will, but Brutus had opposed him, insisting that citizens ought not to seek the blood of any but the 'tyrant'—for to call Caesar 'tyrant' placed his deed in a better light.

Velleius Paterculus 2.58.2



## Hot Tip No. 10

The conspirators called Caesar a tyrant to justify their act.

What they wanted was the liberty to pursue the kinds of opportunities that Caesar's success had denied them.



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Questions? And good luck everyone!

