

Review of Marius and Sulla

Gaius Marius

Lived: 157-86 BC

- brilliant general who led the Jugurthan War, Gallic (Celtic) Invasion, and the Social (Italian) War
- he was a *novus homo*, which means that no one in his family had ever become consul before
- consequently, he was a *Popularis*, which meant that, in politics, he usually fought for the common man
- was consul 7 times (1st) to be a commander against Jugurtha in 107 BC
(2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th) as the commander in the Gallic Invasion (104-100 BC)
(7th) as commander against Mithridates in 87 BC

Significance: filled his armies with the *capite censi*; took credit away from Sulla in all of his battles

Lucius Cornelius Sulla

Lived: 138-78 BC

- born of an aristocratic family, but one that had dwindled into obscurity over the last 100 years
- received all his wealth by allegedly killing his step-mother and mistress
- brilliant general who was under Sulla in each of the wars mentioned above
- singlehandedly responsible for the Roman victory in the Jugurthan War and for defeating the allied Gallic tribes in their invasion of Italy
- went undercover and infiltrated the Gauls; eventually became a leader among them and had a wife and two kids – all of which he abandoned to come back to Marius and reveal the secrets of the Gauls

Significance: First Roman to ever lead an army against Rome

- proscribed 1000's of people and eventually killed 10,000 in all
- reformed the Republic; gave power back to the Senate (from the tribunes); saved the Roman Republic (at least for another 50 years)
- the first person to hold the office of interrex in 200 years
- the first person to be declared perpetual dictator

The problem between them

- Marius kept taking credit for all of Sulla's achievements
- When the Senate finally tried to give Sulla his own command, it was taken away by a friend of Marius
- This controversy over who would command against Jugurtha started a bloody civil war between the two
(1) Sulla marches on Rome and Marius flees to Africa

- (2) After Sulla leaves Rome to fight in Greece, Marius marches on Rome
- (3) Marius becomes consul and then dies soon after of natural causes
- (4) Sulla marches on Rome and proscribes everyone and their brother to be killed

Sulla's Reforms (to give power back to the senate)

- (1) any bill made by a tribune must be approved by the senate
- (2) tribune's veto limited
- (3) anyone who became tribune could not go on to a higher office
- (4) restored the standing courts (about 8) and staffed their juries with senators
- (5) doubled the size of the senate (so they could staff the juries)
- (6) made the *quaestorship* and the *praetorship* mandatory before becoming consul
- (7) *quaestors* and *praetors* are automatically members of the senate
- (8) did away with the position of *princeps senatus*
- (9) limited the power of provincial governors (hopefully to limit corruption)

What Sulla didn't do:

Because of Marius' new way of staffing his army (with the *capite censi*), the problem of how to deal with armies that are completely loyal to their general and not to Rome still exists.... Enter Julius Caesar

Social Wars (91-88 BC)

Basically, all of the towns in Italy that were allies of Rome rebelled against Rome to win Roman citizenship

Why???

- (1) The citizens of these towns were not citizens of Rome, however Rome still taxed these towns and expected them to help fight in Rome's legions.
- (2) The towns weren't getting any reward from Rome's victories either.
- (3) Also, Roman generals were now starting to take land away from the towns to give to their veteran soldiers.

Rome won, although 1000's were killed and the towns were given citizenship anyway.