THE BREAKDOWN OF THE
ROMAN REPUBLIC

From Oligarchy to Empire

In this book, Christopher S. Mackay recounts the last century of the Roman Republic in a readable narrative treatment. Within this narrative he analyzes the breakdown of the traditional Republican form of government as a result of the administrative and political crises brought about by the Roman conquest of the Mediterranean basin in the Middle Republic. He also shows how the many reforms instituted by Augustus, which effectively created the new imperial form of government, were a reaction to the failings of the Republic. Illustrated with an extensive collection of coin images that document the changes in contemporary political ideology, this volume also focuses on the political significance of the key personalities, including Marius, Sulla, and Caesar, who played a large role in the events that led to the demise of the Roman Republic.

Christopher S. Mackay is a professor in the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta.
THE BREAKDOWN OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

FROM OLGARCHY TO EMPIRE

Christopher S. Mackay
University of Alberta

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire
Christopher S. Mackay
Frontmatter
More information
Kelliae meae
coniugi atque adiutrici
optime de me merenti
### CONTENTS

*Abbreviations* | page ix
---|---
*Maps* | xi

**Introduction**

1. Historical Background | 10
2. Tribunate of Ti. Gracchus | 36
3. Tribunates of C. Gracchus | 58
5. Ascendancy of C. Marius | 100
6. The Italian Allies, M. Livius Drusus, and the Social War | 118
7. Sulla, Marius, and Civil War | 134
8. Roman Territorial Expansion before the First Mithridatic War | 147
9. First Mithridatic War | 161
10. Sulla’s Victory in Civil War | 173
11. Sulla’s Settlement | 185
12. The 70s B.C.: Attacks on the Sullan Regime and the Rise of Pompey | 196
13. Third Mithridatic War, War with the Pirates, and the Ascendancy of Pompey | 210
14. The 60s B.C.: Rome in the Absence of Pompey | 222
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Consulship of Cicero</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Consulship of C. Caesar</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Caesar in Gaul</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Last Decade of the Free Republic</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Civil War and Caesar’s Victory</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Caesar’s Domination and Assassination</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Turmoil after the Ides of March</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Struggle of the Warlords</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Final Showdown</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>The Augustan Settlement and the “Restored” Republic</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epilogue</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Appendix:** Roman Nomenclature

**Chronology**

**Suggestions for Further Reading, Ancient and Modern**

**Bibliography**

**Index**

Illustrations of Roman coinage follow page 294.
ABBREVIATIONS

BMCRR: Grueber, *Coins of the Roman Republic*

OGIS: Dittenberger, *Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae*

RRC: Crawford, *Roman Republican Coinage*

RS: Crawford, *Roman Statutes*
Map 1. Major Provinces
Map 2. Italy
Map 3. Western Europe
Map 4. Greece and the Near East
Map 5. Greece
THE BREAKDOWN OF THE
ROMAN REPUBLIC

*From Oligarchy to Empire*