

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## 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.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# THE BREAKDOWN OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

## FROM OLIGARCHY TO EMPIRE

Christopher S. Mackay

*University of Alberta*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire  
Christopher S. Mackay  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press  
32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA  
[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521518192](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521518192)

© Christopher S. Mackay 2009

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2009

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Mackay, Christopher S., 1962-

The breakdown of the Roman republic: from oligarchy to empire /  
Christopher Mackay.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-51819-2 (hardback)

1. Rome—History—Republic, 265–30 B.C. 2. Rome—Politics and government—265–30 B.C. I. Title.

DG254.M25 2009

973'.05—dc22 2008048943

ISBN 978-0-521-51819-2 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

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*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Maps</i>	xi
Introduction	1
1 Historical Background	10
2 Tribune of Ti. Gracchus	36
3 Tribunates of C. Gracchus	58
4 Numidia, Senatorial Failures, and the Rise of C. Marius	84
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

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## – CONTENTS –

15	Consulship of Cicero	229
16	Consulship of C. Caesar	238
17	Caesar in Gaul	252
18	Last Decade of the Free Republic	263
19	Civil War and Caesar's Victory	285
20	Caesar's Domination and Assassination	304
21	Turmoil after the Ides of March	315
22	Struggle of the Warlords	337
23	Final Showdown	351
24	The Augustan Settlement and the “Restored” Republic	362
	Epilogue	397
	<i>Appendix: Roman Nomenclature</i>	405
	<i>Chronology</i>	413
	<i>Suggestions for Further Reading, Ancient and Modern</i>	421
	<i>Bibliography</i>	433
	<i>Index</i>	435

*Illustrations of Roman coinage follow page 294.*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## ABBREVIATIONS

*BMCRR:* Grueber, *Coins of the Roman Republic*

*OGIS:* Dittenberger, *Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae*

*RRC:* Crawford, *Roman Republican Coinage*

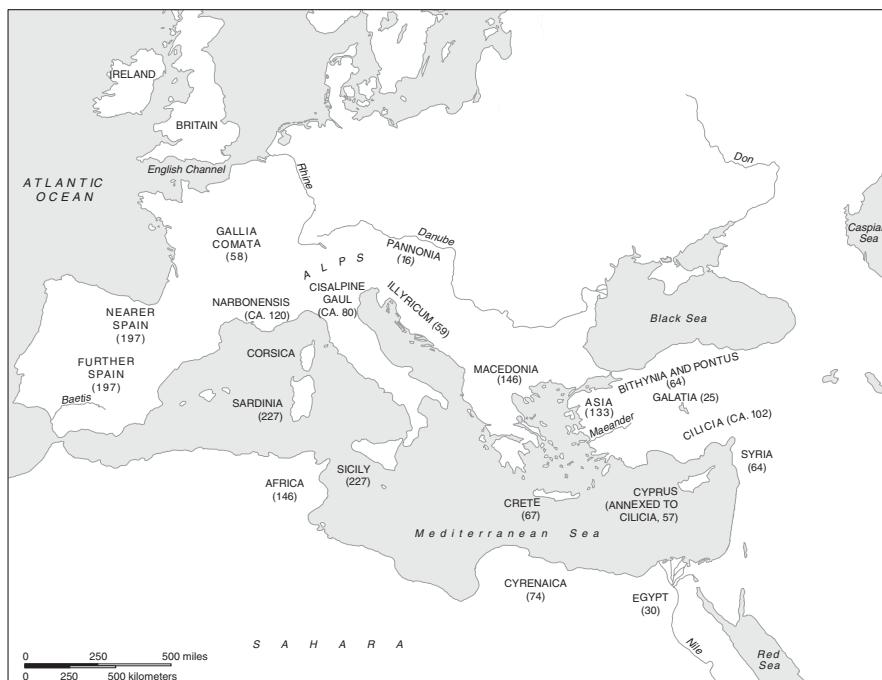
*RS:* Crawford, *Roman Statutes*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Map 1. Major Provinces

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Map 2. Italy

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Map 3. Western Europe

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Map 4. Greece and the Near East

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Map 5. Greece

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51819-2 - The Breakdown of the Roman Republic: From Oligarchy to Empire

Christopher S. Mackay

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# THE BREAKDOWN OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

*From Oligarchy to Empire*