

JULIUS CAESAR AND THE ROMAN PEOPLE

Julius Caesar was no aspiring autocrat seeking to realize the imperial future but an unusually successful republican leader who was measured against the Republic's traditions and its greatest heroes of the past. Catastrophe befell Rome not because Caesar (or anyone else) turned against the Republic or its norms and institutions, but because Caesar's extraordinary success mobilized a determined opposition that ultimately preferred to precipitate civil war rather than accept its political defeat. Based on painstaking reanalysis of the ancient sources in light of recent advances in our understanding of the participatory role of the People in the republican political system, a strong emphasis on agents' choices rather than structural causation, and deep skepticism toward the facile determinism that often substitutes for historical explanation, this book offers a radical reinterpretation of a figure of profound historical importance who stands at the turning point of Roman history from Republic to Empire.

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*To Sara, Eric, and Matthew
again*

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Acknowledgments

My elder son was in middle school, I believe, when he asked me in all innocence whether my book on Caesar *was done yet*. He is now entering his senior year of college. At last I can reassure him that it *is* done. But this moment has been a very long time in coming. For their patience I express my gratitude not only to my beloved family but to my colleagues in the Department of Classics at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and many others at this campus which has provided me with a supportive academic home for twenty-eight years now.

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A book of this size and scope on a subject on which dozens of scholarly articles and books appear every year cannot but be somewhat out of date the moment it is published. My manuscript was initially submitted to the Press in November 2018 and final revisions were completed in July 2020 during a global pandemic. In general I have considered a publication date of 2018 to be the cutoff point for full consideration here. While I was still able to make some limited use of some especially pertinent pieces published in 2019, these could hardly reshape my entire treatment, as perhaps they may have deserved to do. Readers may regard any reference to a scholarly work with a very recent publication date as a suggestion to explore further.

I have generally quoted foreign-language scholarship in my own English translation. I beg the authors' forgiveness if in any case I have ever erred or misled by my rendering.

This project was supported by various grants, the most essential of which was an American Council of Learned Societies Senior Fellowship in 2011 which gave me a full year of relief from teaching duties in which to write the initial draft of this book. (Little did the ACLS or I know how many more drafts would be forthcoming.) The University of California, Santa Barbara generously supplemented my ACLS grant and also gave me a further sabbatical quarter, as well as two Academic Senate grants to fund research assistants. From the series of chairs of my department through the time of the book's gestation I have received much kindly consideration in the timing of my teaching and departmental duties. My former student Noah Segal and my current student Chris Erdman both

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Abbreviations

Comprehensive lists of the standard abbreviations of ancient sources and of scholarly journals or resources may be found in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* and *L'année philologique*.

The following abbreviations used in this book do not appear in those lists:

<i>I.It.</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Italiae</i> , Rome, 1931–1963.
Nic. Dam., <i>Bios</i>	Nicolaus of Damascus, <i>Bios Kaisaros</i> , <i>FGrH/BNJ</i> 90 F 125–139
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary Online</i> (December 2020 update).
<i>OLD</i>	P. W. Glare, ed., <i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i> , Oxford, 1982.
<i>RS</i>	M. H. Crawford, ed., <i>Roman Statutes</i> (Bull. of the Institute of Classical Studies 64), 2 vols., London, 1996.
Sherk	R. K. Sherk, <i>Roman Documents from the Greek East: Senatus consulta and epistulae to the Age of Augustus</i> , Baltimore, 1969.