FACTORS THAT LED TO THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC

1. Rise of One Man Rule (Gracchi Brothers)
2. Marian Reforms
3. Corruption & Bribery
4. Caesar’s Civil War

3. REFORMS OF THE GRACCHI BROTHERS

- Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus: two brothers who served as tribunes during the late Republic
  - Born plebeians
  - Tiberius Gracchus – consulship in 133 BC
  - Gaius Gracchus – consulship 122 BC
  - By the time of their consulships the Republic was overrun by corruption and inequality

1. REFORMS OF THE GRACCHI BROTHERS

- Tiberius Gracchus
  - Believed Rome’s problems were caused by the decline of the small farmers
  - Proposed Laws to Help as tribunes...
    - Parceled Out Land to Small Farmers
    - Decreased Rents
    - Limits on land ownership

Reforms were very unpopular w/ Patricians
- Assassinated by wealthy Senators
1. REFORMS OF THE GRACCHI BROTHERS

Gaius Gracchus
- Like Tiberius he felt Rome’s problems were caused by the decline of the small farmers
- Also believed the Senate was too powerful
- Reforms
  - Setup Commission to Re-distribute Land
  - Increased Power of Assembly of Tribes & Limited that of Senate
  - Extended Citizenship to People w/in Roman Confederation
  - Lowered Grain Prices
- Assassinated by elites just like his brother

2. GAUIS MARIUS REFORMS THE LEGIONS

Punic Wars display weaknesses in the Roman Army
- Marius elected consul in 107 BC
- Leading general
- Elected 7 times as consul (record!)
- Known as “the third founder of Rome.”
- Determined to transform the Roman army into a “modern” fighting machine

2 - GAUIS MARIUS REFORMS THE LEGIONS

- What were the Marian reforms?
  - Lifted the land requirement → actively recruited poor Romans
  - Made soldiers full time fighters and paid them
  - No more “citizen soldiers”
  - Soldiers who had completed their term of service (usually 20 years) would be given a pension by their general and a plot of conquered provinces.
  - What might the result of this be on the soldier-commander relationship?

2 - GAUIS MARIUS REFORMS THE LEGIONS

- Unintended consequences?
  - Soldiers fought not to protect their possessions but to earn a living.
  - It was in their best interest to always be at war
  - Loyalty of the legions began to shift away from the Roman state and towards the generals who led the army.
  - It became common-place for a general to prolong his command by using the army to influence or blackmail the senate.
**GAIUS MARIUS REFORMS THE LEGIONS**

**CORRUPTION & BRIBERY TAINT THE REPUBLIC**

**THINK:** If you found out that almost all the officials in the US government were corrupt and taking bribes, how would you feel towards your government?

**Graft:** illegal acceptance of bribes by government officials

1. In the later years of the Republic, Roman had become increasingly **commercialized**.
2. Government fell into debt during the Punic Wars.
3. Wealthy Romans provided loans to government.
4. Leaders promised to pay them back (w/interest)

1. **1st case of a Roman official taking bribes** occurred in 171 B.C. when a senator was exposed for taking handouts from a foreign diplomat in exchange for political favors.
2. After this, the stage was set.
3. Bribery was common in both domestic and foreign affairs.
4. Aristocrats even began to buy their way into political and military positions.
3. INCOME INEQUALITY

- Inequality was built into the Roman system
  - Patricians v. Plebeians

- During the late Republic, the rich elites were able to seize almost complete control of the government
  - i.e. corruption & bribery

3. INCOME INEQUALITY

- Constant warfare led to endless expansion
  - Rather than sharing the new land, most of it was gobbled up by the wealthy
  - Poor and average Romans couldn’t farm on it.
  - What few farms remained became large plantation like enterprises
  - slaves were imported and used to replace the Italian worker and the small farmer.

4. RISE OF THE GENERALS & CAESAR’S CIVIL WAR

Marius’ reforms had ripple effects

Biggest change?
- Loyalty of the legions shifted away from the Roman state and towards the generals who led the army.
  - It was the generals who conquered lands and provided their soldiers with pay and new opportunities (land)
  - Ambitious generals/consuls would use support against Rome

4. RISE OF THE GENERALS & CAESAR’S CIVIL WAR

- **Lucius Cornelius Sulla**: General and Consul
  - Elected Consul in 88 BCE
  - Entered into rivalry & power struggle w/ Gaius Marius over command of the Legions
    - in 88 BC the Roman province of Asia was attacked and Romans and Italians were massacred
  - Senate decided on Sulla (consul) to be commander of the army
    - But the Tribune called for the command to be given to Marius.
    - Sulla was called upon to relinquish command of his army
      - Instead, he marched on Rome and forced the reversal of this decision.
4. RISE OF THE GENERALS & CAESAR’S CIVIL WAR

Lucius Cornelius Sulla marches on Rome

First Triumvirate: political alliance between men in the Roman Republic: Gaius Julius Caesar, Marcus Licinius Crassus, and Gnaeus Pompey.

Pompey & Crassus
- Both served as generals under Sulla and crushed rebellions in Sparta + Spain
- Both elected as consuls in 70 BC
- After their terms they were 2 of the most influential Romans

Caesar
- Nephew of Marius
- Led successful military conquest of Spain
- Extremely charismatic and popular (especially amongst his troops & the poor)
- Senate feared him

Caesar
- As consul (59 BC)
  - Won thanks to manipulation of the system by Pompey and Crassus
  - Cancelled Taxation on Poor Farmers
  - Gave Public Lands to Fathers w/ 3 or more Children
  - Both angered the Senate and the elites
- As Proconsul - (58 BC)
  - appointed to govern Cisalpine Gaul (France) along with command of 4 legions
  - Completely conquered the region
  - Battle of Alesia (52 BC) - defeated the Gallic leader Vercingetorix

Triumvirate breaks apart
- 53 BC Crassus killed in battle
- Caesar’s daughter and wife of Pompey dies in childbirth
  - Weakened Pompey and Caesar’s relationship
- Pompey was appointed sole consul as an emergency measure
  - Turned on Caesar
  - Had the senate declare Caesar’s governorship terminated
  - Ordered him to return to Rome as a private citizen to be prosecuted for his “crimes” while consul.
4. RISE OF THE GENERALS & CAESAR’S CIVIL WAR

- Rather than returning to Rome, Caesar crossed the Rubicon River with his legions and marched on the city in 49 BC.
- Considered an act of war.
- Pompey fled to Spain and then Greece.
- Defeated by Caesar’s much smaller force at the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 BC.
- Pompey himself escaped from the battle and went to Egypt where he was later killed.

- Caesar & Cleopatra (sittin’ in a tree...)
  - Famous Love Affair
  - Had Son, Caesarian (sounds like some medical procedure???)
  - Cleopatra Given Control of Egypt
- 46 BCE
  - Julius Caesar Suppressed Revolt in Asia Minor
  - Sent Message to Rome; “Veni, Vidi, Vici!”
- 45 BCE
  - Julius Caesar Returned to Rome!
  - Established Himself “Dictator for Life”
  - Initiated Numerous Reforms

The Assassination of Julius Caesar

- March 15th, 44 BCE. "The Ides of March"
- Fearful that Julius Caesar would use his popularity to name himself "King of the Romans," Senatorial Conspirators stab him 23 times under the Statue of Pompey, his former friend & rival.
- Most Famous Conspirators: Brutus "the Assassinator" & Cassius
- "Roman Civil War (part deux)" Began Soon After

Political Reforms of Julius Caesar

- Increased # in Senate (300 to 900)
- Extended Citizenship to Conquered People (Spain, Gaul, & N. Africa)
- Forgave Debts of Poor Farmers & Gave Land Grants
- Coined New Money
- Comprehensive Building Plan (roads & public buildings)
- Introduced New Calendar (Egyptian, Solar-based, 365 days +1 every 4 years)