

FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

Military leaders showed a greater willingness to coerce the Senate to give them commands, even to the point of marching on Rome with their troops (which Sulla and Caesar both did). The Social War, a civil war between Rome and its allies (non-citizen Italian cities), got many used to fighting traditional Roman legions.



After the Second Punic War (218-202 BC), more and more land in Italy was assimilated into large farms that employed slaves. This left a large number of citizens without land.



Soldiers who didn't own any land were taken into the army, and after fighting for several years, they came back to Rome expecting land allotments as a reward for their service.



The Senate lost the leadership of the military. The generals tended to be *not* from old senatorial families. The Senate was jealous of the power of these generals, and didn't want to share land with their landless soldiers. It refused to give Pompey's veterans any land, and continued to fight Caesar's attempt to get them land when he was consul.