

FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

Usurping Generals

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.



Landless Soldiers

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.



Trying to come up with enough soldiers to fight in north Africa and also against Germans in Gaul at the same time, men who didn't own any land were taken into the army, from 108 BC onward. After fighting for several years, these landless men would come back to Rome expecting land allotments as a reward for their service.

Defensive Senate



The Senate struggled to keep wealthy Romans (*equites*) from going overseas and fleeing their subjects. Under attack from the late 100s BC, the Senate fought the rise of anyone not allied to itself, especially generals. Successful generals tended to be *not* from (or allied to) old senatorial families (such as Marius and Pompey, with Caesar as well). The Senate refused to provide land grants to Pompey's veteran soldiers, and continued to fight Caesar's attempts to get them land, when he was consul.