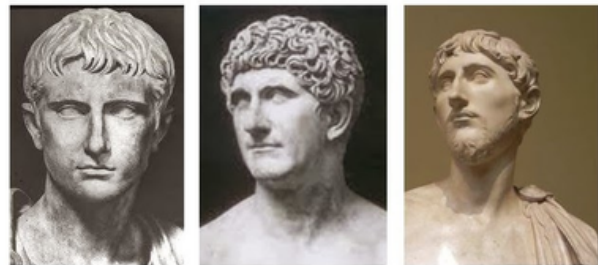




# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - FACT SHEET -

The assassination of Julius Caesar on the Ides of March in 44 BCE left a major power vacuum in Rome. In order to fill that vacuum, stabilise Rome and secure their own positions, three powerful men united to form the Second Triumvirate. The Second Triumvirate was a political alliance of convenience between Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony) who was a consul, Marcus Amelius Lepidus who was a magistrate at the time, and Gaius Octavianus (Octavian)



Octavian

Antony

Lepidus

Each member brought with them their own benefits, ambitions, and drawbacks. Mark Antony was a skilled military commander and right-hand man of Julius Caesar but was hated by the Senate and considered an 'enemy of the Republic'. Lepidus was not as powerful or popular as the other two, but he was a wealthy man with a large military force. Octavian was a skilled commander, and as Julius Caesar's grand-nephew and adoptive son, had the support of a large part of his army and the public who adored Caesar. The three men overcame their differences momentarily to establish the Triumvirate and bring a period of shaky peace to Rome and the Roman Empire.



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - FACT SHEET -

### **The Leadup - Mark Antony**

When Julius Caesar was murdered in 44 BCE, Mark Antony was the surviving consul, although only because Cassius was unable to persuade Brutus that Antony was also a threat. He was a competent and popular soldier who had served as Caesar's right-hand man. Antony in conjunction with Lepidus met with the Senate, led by Cicero, to create a peace plan of sorts. In this plan, the conspirators would receive an amnesty, and Caesar's will and funeral wishes would be carried out without interruption. However, at Caesar's funeral, Antony was able to stoke the fury of the public during his funeral oration, forcing Brutus and Cassius to flee Rome less than a month after the murder. Antony, left at the helm, was able to give the position of Pontifex Maximus to Lepidus, and was able to gather a large amount of power. In 43 BCE he was defeated in the Battle of Mutina against Octavian supported by the Senate, and was ultimately declared an enemy of the republic.

### **The Leadup - Lepidus**

Lepidus was Caesar's magister equitum (Master of the Cavalry). After Caesar's death, he joined Antony against the conspirators. After Caesar's funeral, Antony was able to secure for Lepidus the highest religious position, Pontifex Maximus. After the Battle of Mutina, he continued to side with Antony and was declared an enemy of the republic.



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - FACT SHEET -

### **The Leadup - Octavian**

Having been at Appollonia receiving military training, Octavian was surprised when he returned to Rome to find his grand-uncle Caesar had adopted him and left him a large portion of his estate in his will. He reacted immediately, turning to Antony, however, he refused to give Octavian what was left in the will. Octavian in turn used the name of Caesar, and his adoption, to gain the support of Caesar's legions, and the public, fulfilling gifts to the public established in Caesar's will with his own funds.

When Mark Antony tried to force Decimus Brutus from the province of Cisalpine Gaul, the Senate attempted to use Octavian against Mark Antony and convinced him to use his forces to support Decimus. The consuls at the time had been sent to assist Octavian in battle, but both had died during the ordeal. After the battle, the Senate slighted Octavian by restoring the posts and awarding triumphs to the conspirators who had murdered Caesar. Octavian, angry at the situation refused to cooperate, marched his legions to Rome, and demanded the consulship which he shared with an obscure relative. This relative helped pass the **lex curiata**, legally confirming Octavian's adoption by Caesar, and the **lex pedia** revoking both the amnesty against Caesar's murderers and the declarations against Antony and Lepidus whom Octavian decided to meet.



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - FACT SHEET -

### **The Second Triumvirate - Formation**

The republic's cause had failed, and Rome was again at the mercy of those in control of the legions. After the Battle of Mutina, Octavian met with Antony and Lepidus in Bononia, all three bringing their legions. At this meeting they reconciled their differences and decided to be appointed as Triumviri Republicae Constituendae (One of three men to reconstruct the state) for 5 years, essentially being dictators in everything but name.

The Second Triumvirate was unique to the First between Julius Caesar, General Pompey, and Marcus Licinius Crassus. The First was an informal agreement held only between the members, but the Second was a legally recognised division of power, brought into law by the **lex titia** in 43 BCE.

### **The First Division**

The first division of the provinces was fairly evenly matched, with Antony retaining Transalpine and Cisalpine Gaul, Lepidus keeping the remainder of Gaul and Spain, and Octavian taking Africa, Sicily, and Sardinia. In 42 BCE Lepidus remained in Italy to monitor affairs while Octavian and Antony travelled to the east of the empire to stomp out the remaining support for the republican cause and defeat Brutus and Cassius permanently.





# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - FACT SHEET -

### So What Happened Next?

After the Battle of Phillippi, a second division occurred, with Antony taking most of the wealthy Eastern provinces, Octavian taking Spain and Italy, and Lepidus being left with only the African provinces. Mark Antony was the strongest of the three at this stage. At this point, Sextus Pompey, the son of General Pompey of the First Triumvirate, was still a player in the game, retaining control of Sicily and Sardinia. After the Perusine War in 41-40 BCE, the division was revised again in the **Treaty of Brundisium**, this time with Antony taking most of the Western provinces, Octavian taking most of the Eastern provinces, and Lepidus remaining with the African provinces.

In 37 BCE the Triumvirate was renewed for another 5 years, however Lepidus was slowly being pushed from the agreements. In 36 BCE, Octavian managed to defeat Sextus Pompey with the support of the other triumvirs and gain control of Sicily and Sardinia. However, Lepidus attempted to claim the area and demanded Octavian leave. Lepidus' soldiers, weary of the fighting, began to desert him for Octavian. Octavian spared Lepidus' life, but exiled him to Circeii, leaving only Mark Antony and Octavian in the race for power. The relationship between Antony and Octavian was also beginning to sour because of Antony's relationship with Cleopatra, especially since Antony was still married to Octavian's sister Octavia!

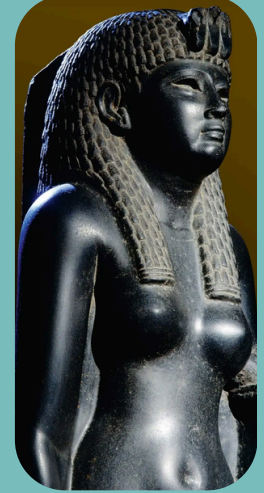


# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - FACT SHEET -

### **Cleopatra**

Cleopatra VII was the Pharaoh of Egypt, who had previously been allied and in a relationship with Caesar. She met Mark Antony in 41 BCE after being summoned to answer rumours she had aided his enemies. She and Antony began a political and personal relationship not long after. However, after the Perusine War as part of the treaty, Antony married Octavia. Antony left Octavia, travelling to the East to stay with Cleopatra in 37 BCE and divorcing Octavia in 33 BCE. This caused Antony's relationship with Octavian to sour further, ending with Octavian publishing Antony's will, suggesting he wanted to take over the empire and make Alexandria the capital of the Roman Empire. Octavian leveraged this and persuaded the Senate to declare war against Cleopatra.



### **The Battle of Actium - The Last Stand**

By 33 BCE the Second Triumvirate legally ended and tensions between Antony and Octavian grew. Antony and Cleopatra approached Greece, and Octavian brought his army to Greece in 31 BCE. Octavian's army, led by Agrippa, cut off supplies to Antony, who retreated to Egypt, with his fleet being captured or surrendering. Antony's army began to desert him, and when Octavian advanced to Egypt in 30 BCE he could not defend it. Antony and Cleopatra each committed suicide, and Octavian and Agrippa annexed Egypt.



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - WHO'S WHO? -

**Julius  
Caesar**

General and politician. Member of the First Triumvirate. Defeated Pompey in civil war. Dictator of Rome from 49 BCE until his assassination in 44 BCE. Married and had a son with Cleopatra

**Gnaeus  
Pompeius  
Magnus  
(Pompey)**

Military general and political ally turned enemy of Julius Caesar. Member of the First Triumvirate. Killed in Egypt while seeking refuge from Caesar.

**Marcus  
Licinius**

A general and statesman, and a lifelong ally and patron of Julius Caesar. Member of the First Triumvirate.

**Crassus  
Marcus**

**Antonius  
(Mark  
Antony)**

General, politician, and ally of Julius Caesar. Member of the Second Triumvirate. Married to Octavia in a treaty, who he left for Cleopatra. Defeated by Octavian at the Battle of Actium.

**Marcus  
Amelius  
Lepidus**

General, politician, and ally of Julius Caesar. Member of the Second Triumvirate. Last to hold the title of Pontifex Maximus before the empire. Exiled to Circeii by Octavian in 36 BCE.

**Gaius Julius  
Octavianus  
(Octavian) to  
be Augustus**

Grand-nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar. Member of the Second Triumvirate. Defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra at the Battle of Actium. Became the first emperor of Rome

**Gaius  
Cassius  
Longinus**

General and Senator. One of the leading members of the plot to assassinate Julius Caesar. Brother-in-law to Brutus. Defeated by Mark Antony and Octavian at Battle of Philippi



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - WHO'S WHO? -

**Marcus Junius Brutus**

Politician and Orator. Leading member of the plot to assassinate Julius Caesar. Originally close to Caesar, but forced as a senator to oppose him. Defeated at the Battle of Phillipi by Octavian and Antony.

**Marcus Tullius Cicero**

Senator, lawyer, scholar, and philosopher who fiercely defended republic ideals. Became an enemy of Mark Antony, and published many speeches against him. Executed by the triumvirate in 43 BCE on Antony's insistence.

**Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus**

Politician and general. Leading member of plot to assassinate Julius Caesar. Ordered to surrender the province of Cisalpine Gaul to Antony but refused. Defeated at Battle of Mutina.

**Sextus Pompey**

Son of general Pompey. Had provinces of Sicily and Sardinia. Defeated by Second Triumvirate in 36 BCE

**Cleopatra**

Last Pharaoh of Egypt. Had an affair with Julius Caesar, travelling with him to Rome, and had a son together. Allied and had an affair with Mark Antony, having 3 children together. Defeated at the Battle of Actium by Octavian.

**Octavia**

Sister of Octavian. Married Mark Antony as part of the Treaty of Brunsidun. Divorced in 33 BCE

**Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa**

A general, statesman, and right-hand man of Octavian. Led forces at with Octavian throughout the civil wars, and remained close to the emperor throughout his life.





# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - TIMELINE -

**44 BCE:** Julius Caesar assassinated in Rome. Octavian adopted in will, inheriting military support.

**42 BCE:** Battle of Phillippi with Octavian and Antony victorious. The triumvirs divide control of the Roman Empire

**40 BCE:** The Treaty of Brundisium negotiated. Mark Antony marries Octavian's sister Octavia

**37 BCE:** Treaty of Tarentum made and triumvirate extended for 5 years. Antony leaves Octavia for Cleopatra

**33 BCE:** The formal powers granted to the Second Triumvirate conclude. The Triumvirate dissolves.

**31 BCE:** Antony brings his forces to Western Greece with Cleopatra following. Octavian challenges the pair. The Battle of Actium takes place

**43 BCE:** Battle of Mutina with Octavian and Antony on opposing sides. Also formation of the Second Triumvirate

**41 BCE:** Battle of Perusia between Octavian and Antony's family finishes with Octavian victorious. Antony meets Cleopatra

**39 BCE:** Treaty of Misenum between Octavian, Antony, and Sextus Pompey to let grain ships sail to Rome

**36 BCE:** Lepidus challenges Octavian, but is defeated and exiled to Circeii instead of being executed.

**32 BCE:** Antony divorces Octavia, and his will reveals he wants to move the capital to Alexandria. The Senate declares war on Cleopatra and Antony joins her side.

**30 BCE:** Octavian annexes Egypt and Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide.



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - ARTEFACT STUDY -



### **Denarius - 07GR517\_2**

This denarius was minted in 41 BCE while Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony) the issuer was on the move. The obverse shows the large bust of Marcus Antonius within a beaded border, and surrounded by the inscription:

M.ANT.IMP.AUG.III.VIR.RPC.M.BARBAT.Q.P, which expanded reads as "Marcus Antonius. Imperator. Augustus. Triumvir Reipublicae Constituendae. Marcus Barbatius. Quaestor pro Praetore". The reverse shows the bust of Octavian within a beaded border and surrounded by the inscription CAESAR.IMP.PONT.III.VIR.R.P.C. which expanded reads as "Caesar. Imperator. Pontifex. Triumvir Reipublicae Constituendae."



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - ARTEFACT STUDY -

After the Battle of Philippi in 42BCE Marcus Antonius travelled to the east of the empire, touring his new provinces and heavily taxing the ones that had supported Brutus and Cassius. Antonius released this coin at the same time as one with his bust on the obverse and the bust of Marcus Amelius Lepidus, the third member of the Triumvirate on the reverse. The name Marcus Barbatius Pollio on the obverse refers to a freedman who was a friend of both Julius Caesar and Marcus Antonius and continued to serve Antonius after Caesar's death. He was the moneyer of this coin, meaning he was in charge of its presentation, manufacture, and distribution.

In the coins released by Mark Antony and Octavian, the pair would emphasise their claims to the power Caesar left behind him. Through their coins, slight details would indicate why their opponent had a lesser claim to power. On this Denarius, Mark Antony used the term 'Augustus', a religious title Octavian didn't have and made his title of 'pontifex' lacklustre. It has been suggested that Antony put the moneyer's name on his coins to show that the decision to not include the term DIVI F (Son of the Divine) Octavian had been using was intentional, and not due to space constraints.



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE - ARTEFACT STUDY -

Using pages 1-11 answer the following questions:

**1** At the Battle of Mutina, Mark Antony and Octavian had been on opposing sides of the battle. Why might they have decided to ally together as part of the Second Triumvirate?

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**2** Match each of the shortened titles with their expanded forms and meanings:

III VIR RPC

IMP

PONT

Q P

AUG

Quaestor pro  
Praetore

Augustus

Pontifex

Imperator

Triumvir  
Reipublicae  
Constituendae

Member of a  
council of  
priests in  
Rome

Commander

One of three  
men to  
reconstruct  
the state

“Majestic”  
Religious  
position

Civil position  
managing  
provincial  
treasury



# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE - ARTEFACT STUDY -

Using pages 1-11 answer the following questions:

**3** What can we learn from this coin about the Second Triumvirate and its activities?

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# THE SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

## - ARTEFACT STUDY -

Using pages 1-11 answer the following questions:

**4**

Using the map on this website

(<https://digitalmapsoftheancientworld.com/digital-maps/roman-republic/the-second-triumvirate-43-30-bc/>)

colour in the map below and show which territories belonged to/were during the second division:

- Octavian
- Mark Antony
- Lepidus
- Cleopatra
- Sextus Pompey
- Client Kingdoms

