Meet the Chairs

Welcome Roman Senators!

My name is Sera Saju and I will be your head chair for the Roman Senate at Southmunc IV. I'm currently a senior at South and this is my third year in Model UN. Apart from Model UN, I serve as president of South's Human Rights Club, volunteer at the Children's Specialized Hospital, and enjoy reading murder mysteries. As someone who has always been interested in history, I am extremely excited to be chairing for a committee taking place in such an intriguing time period. During this committee, you will be acting as Roman senators who must keep the Republic from civil war and although it is meant to be fun, I hope that it will also be a great learning experience. In addition to being a chance to rewrite history, this committee will allow you to put to the test your ability to solve challenging problems and collaborate with others.

During this session of the Roman Senate, we will have crisis to ensure that you come up with the best solutions possible and to keep committee interesting. Throughout the duration of the Roman Senate, I hope you will keep a few things in mind. First of all, because this is meant to be a learning experience, take as many risks as possible. Speak when no one else is willing to speak, come up with bold and creative solutions, and suggest difficult compromises.
Next, remember that speaking, writing, and collaborating are all equally important. Therefore, I hope that delegates take the opportunity to participate in all these aspects of Model UN. Also, remember that who you are in this committee does not matter. Whether you are Brutus or a character the dias made up, you have just the same chance as the other delegates in doing well at Southmunc IV. What matters during this committee are your speeches, solutions, and overall presence as a senator. Lastly, any questions or concerns can be sent to serasaju@gmail.com and I will be sure to get back to you. With that being said, let's make sure we all have an unforgettable experience. See you at the Roman Senate!

Regards,
Sera Saju

Hello Delegates!

My name is Malay Trivedi and I am ecstatic to be your chair for the Roman Senate this year! I am currently a Senior at South and have been doing MUN since freshmen year. In addition to being one of the chairs of The Roman Senate, I am also on the SouthMUNC Secretariat and the Vice President of SouthMUN.

Other than MUN I do various other activities at South and I am an officer for Future Problem Solving, Investment Club, Human Rights, to name a few. I like to play Table Tennis in
my free time and I have a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. I have been interested in Ancient mythology and civilizations since a young age and eagerly devoured any literature regarding it.

Given that research is difficult for a committee such as our own, we will be rewarding those who find accurate information, and will be placing a strong emphasis on creativity in this committee. In a good speech, I look for someone who can captivate the audience. That being said, I do not want to hear just fluff speeches, or have the main ideas of a speech compromised for showmanship. I would much rather see a speech with solid ideas and advancement of character as opposed to a colorful speech with no real meaning.

One final tip, creative ideas are what will bring you to the top of this committee, and that is one of the main things I will be looking for in delegates. In Committee, I will be in character and will be representing Marc Antony. Given that I will be representing a character, I will have my own motivations and reasoning for decisions. Interactions with my character will be important in determining your success. Lastly, this is going to be a very fun committee and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I will. I am really looking forward to seeing you in committee, and please feel free to send me an email at malay.trivedi@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns. For my final SouthMUNC, and for many of your firsts, let’s make this the best committee yet!

-Malay Trivedi
Restoring Order to the Republic

Background

Although the consuls led the armies and the Roman assemblies oversaw legislation and elections, it was the Roman Senate that controlled money, administration, and foreign policy. Therefore, the Senate was the predominant branch of government and it was the one which controlled the day-to-day lives of Romans.
During the time of the Roman Kingdom, the Senate was a group of Rome’s wealthiest and most powerful men who would advise the king. At this time, the Senate was second only to the King. Therefore, its power was almost limitless. Once the Roman Kingdom was overthrown in 509 B.C., the Senators advised the two consuls of the Republic instead of the king.

By the time leading up to Caesar’s assassination, the power of the Senate has only increased. Not only are these Senators wealthy, but they are essentially their own social class. Because of the prestige and unbroken lineage of the senators, the Roman Senate was most definitely the most powerful political institution within the Republic.

Within the Roman Senate were two political parties: the optimates and the populares. Once headed by Pompey, the optimates wished to extend the power of the Senate. This political party was seen as the one that backed the interests of the aristocrats. Opposing the optimates were the populares. This political faction, as the name suggests (populares = “favoring the people”), was the one that favored the interests of the plebeians, or the commoners. Julius Caesar was a popularis (a politician who supported the populares). During the actual Roman Senate, the optimates were given priority over the populares. In fact, they were often given more speaking time or were the only ones allowed to speak on certain issues. However, during this session of the Roman Senate, the political party of the senator will not be taken into account by the dais.
Julius Caesar

When Caesar returned to Rome, the Roman people expressed great love for him. Not only was Caesar a great leader on the battlefield, but he was also a great leader in Rome. Upon his return, he instituted many reforms that he felt was necessary for the common people. These reforms included offering land for veterans, giving grain to the poor, limiting the terms of the provincial governors, and increasing the size of the Senate. He also created many public works projects that not only cleaned up Rome, but also provided jobs for the countless unemployed people in the Republic. Furthermore, he created a new calendar (the Julian calendar which is still in use today), provided entertainment though gladiator fights and banquets, and built a public library. Without a doubt, he was a man loved by the people.

However, it was this love the people had for Caesar that made Caesar so dangerous in the eyes of the Senate. His friends and foes alike began to worry that Caesar was gaining too much power for his own good. Once Caesar was named dictator for life in 44 BCE, many Senators felt that their worst fears were coming true- the Roman Republic was falling apart. With the completely unconstitutional act of making Caesar dictator for life, many believed that they no longer had a voice in Rome.
Soon, the Senators began to perceive Caesar as arrogant and believed that he was being honored too much. His birthday became a public holiday, his birth month was renamed July (Julius), and he was named father of the country. He began to wear the attire of the ancient Roman Kings and statues of him were put up across Rome. He even constructed his own palace. Eventually, he was seen more as a divine figure than a dictator.

The Senators really became concerned after the festival of Lupercalia in February. Mark Antony, a Roman commander and very close friend of Caesar’s, presented Caesar with a diadem, or wreathed laurel. While Caesar insisted that Jupiter was the only King of Rome, many Senators did not believe that Caesar was being true. In fact, many people thought the staged the whole event to show that he did not want power. Whether or not Caesar considered himself king, this event was an event that got many to join the conspiracy.

**The Conspiracy**

The conspiracy was set in motion in 63 BC. The consul for the year, Marcus Tullius Cicero, intercepted messages that Catiline had sent in an attempt to recruit more members. As a result, the top conspirators in Rome were executed by authorisation of the senate, and the planned uprising was disrupted. Cicero then sent an army, which cut Catiline's forces to pieces.
It is essential to understand the importance of the conspiracy and why it affected the people it did.

The most important result of the Catilinarian conspiracy was that the *populares* party became discredited. The prior 70 years had witnessed gradual erosion in senatorial powers. The violent nature of the conspiracy, in conjunction with the senate's skill in disrupting it, did a great deal to repair the senate's image.

*The Assassination*

On the morning of the Ides of March, Caesar’s wife Calpurnia woke up begging Caesar not to leave the house, claiming that she had a dream where she was holding his bloody body. But because it was an important celebration in Rome and he had called a meeting of the Senate, Caesar ignored Calpurnia’s concerns. Soon, he went to a friend’s house for a sacrifice. Upon realizing that the animal innards were blemished, he agreed to postpone the Senate meeting.

Later on, Decimus insisted that Caesar come to the meeting, claiming that his absence to a full Senate would be seen as insulting. Agreeing with Decimus, Caesar decided to go to the Senate himself to announce that the meeting would be postponed.

Unaware that Decimus was involved in a conspiracy against him, Caesar walked into the
Roman Senate

meeting room. Very quickly, the Senators approached the throne, revealing their daggers. Within minutes, the Roman dictator laid dead from the 23 stabs he had received. Afterwards, the conspirators marched through the streets of Rome yelling "People of Rome, we are once again free!"

**Mob Violence**

Mob violence was a serious issue even before the death of Caesar. These consistent acts of violence dated as far back as the death of the Gracchi brothers in 133 BCE. From there on out, mob violence only got worse.

Following the death of Caesar, people took to the streets. In one case, a poet named Cinna (a friend of Caesar’s) was mistaken for Senator Cinna. The man was “torn to pieces” according to Plutarch’s account of the story. There were also many cases of people setting conspirators’ houses on fire. Apparently, the people did not care about liberty or the Republic. Instead, they only cared for avenging Caesar’s death and punishing the conspirators.

Many say that this mob violence, which has long been a problem in Rome, stemmed from the government no longer working properly because its members no longer valued the laws upon which the Republic was founded. As Senators, your task is an important one. Because this problem is one that has existed long before the conspiracy, the Senators will need to decide what
Roman Senate

measures need to be taken to ensure that the people will once again have faith in their government.

**Political Control**

Knowledge is key to understanding how political control worked. The Senate conducted war, appropriated public funds, and issued currency. It did not, however have legislative or executive powers until the 2nd Century C.E., thus all its propositions first had to be ratified by the people's assemblies. However, due to its immense prestige, and the fact that all elected officials were Senators, nearly all Senate consultations were enacted as a matter of course. The Senate was further empowered to authorize the nomination of a dictator to deal with state emergencies. This was seen as an extreme measure, whereby a magistrate was given extraordinary authority as “dictator”. This “supreme magistrate” would possess unquestioned authority for a short time to handle important matters of state safety. The dictator thus served as both chief executive of the government and supreme commander of the army. Dictatorships were limited to six months, but generally the official resigned the office immediately upon the conclusion of the business for which he had been appointed. The practice was shunned during the later half of the Republic, as the Senate began to opt to avoid dictatorships by declaring “martial law”. The Senate then would move to empower consuls, who were the highest elected political and military magistrates, to protect the safety of the Republic.

When, talking about Political Control it becomes imperative to understand how it affects the control over a group of people. People like Marcus Libo, Marcus Memmius, and Lucius
Severus should take special notice over and should focus their ideas and solutions regarding political control as it is later explained in Senator assignments. Since the moment of conflict, there has been a struggle of political control. At the moment octavian is back at Rome and gaining power. There is much unrest currently, and it is up to the Senate to settle this chaos and come up with a solid and well-planned solution on what shall occur next. The Roman Senate is encouraged to act quickly and efficiently in order to maintain power over the people. The Fate of Rome and its people are in your hands, be wise.

Economic Instability

Prior to his assassination, Caesar implemented multiple actions in order to reform the economy. Before his rule, simply the economy in Rome was in severe recession. Real estate values had significantly dropped and lenders refused to give out money making matters worse. Furthermore, the rich aristocratic who controlled the Senate supported legislation that would make themselves richer and take away from the common people. However, Caesar implemented great economic reform when he came into power. First of all Caesar supported many projects that would allow certain industries to boom: Caesar ordered the draining of marshes for more farmland and the creation of a canal for better shipping/trading. He was also a large supporter of creating infrastructure which significantly helped the economy. Furthermore, Caesar limited loans at a twelve percent interest rate to prevent loan-sharks taking advantage of the poor.
However, Caesar biggest economic reform was the distribution of grain; Caesar made sure that everyone could afford to have enough food to eat well.

However, when Caesar perished, so did many of his great economic reforms. What made the economic conditions worse in Rome was the bloody civil war occurring. This lead to mass overspending, especially by military, and the burden was put on the Roman citizens. The Romans experienced mass inflation and taxation, which happened to widen the gap between the wealthy and the poor even more. Furthermore, many of the wealthy citizens of Rome fled to avoid taxes, making the financial situation worse. Rome’s economy was also affected by a labor deficit: the Romans depended on slaves to do jobs such as working on farms and assisting craftsmen. However, when Rome’s expansion stopped, so did the flow of all the people they captured (who would become slaves). This lack of labor destroyed many of the essential industries of Rome, such as agriculture. The consequences of all of these actions formed to cause great economic instability in Rome having widespread effects.


**Senators**

Note: Some of these characters are made up or have descriptions that may not be historically accurate. For the purposes of this committee, please rely on only the descriptions given in the brief in order to avoid any confusion.

**Mark Antony:** Set directly after the death of Caesar, Mark Antony became the official leader of the Roman Senate. Though all of the conspirators had thought to kill Antony along with Caesar, they decided not too in order not to appear bloodthirsty. Antony has not yet determined whether Caesar was at fault and the conspirator’s intentions were valid, or whether the conspirators acted only for ambition’s sake. This is in the time directly after the death of Caesar and prior to any action on Antony’s part against the conspirators. Given the appropriate circumstances, this committee’s decisions, and the actions of every individual may very well change the course of history and lead to Mark Antony being on the side of the conspirators. Mark Antony will be played by your chair: Malay Trivedi. In committee you will address Malay solely as Mark Antony.

**Gaius Cassius Longinus *conspirator:** Gaius Cassius Longinus, often referred to as Cassius, was the leading instigator of the plot to kill Julius Caesar and is the brother in law of Brutus. A talented general, Cassius commanded part of the fleet of Pompey, Caesar’s rival, during the civil war between Caesar and the Optimates. After Pompey was defeated, Caesar made Cassius one of his legates. However, Cassius decided to return to Rome. After Caesar was
named dictator for life, Cassius became confident that Caesar was gaining too much power and convinced Brutus that Caesar needed to be eliminated. It is Cassius who wins over the support of those who joined in on Caesar’s assassination. During this meeting of the Roman Senate, Cassius is working to maintain the power of the Senate, prevent the punishment of the conspirators, and keep Rome away from civil war unless there is no other option.

*Marcus Junius Brutus* *conspirator:* Although Cassius was “the moving spirit” of the assassination plot, it was Brutus that became the leader of the conspirators. From very early on, Brutus aligned with the Optimates (the conservative faction). When civil war broke out between Pompey and Caesar, Brutus chose to follow Pompey. After the battle of Pharsalus, Brutus wrote a letter to apologize to Caesar and Caesar accepted. Caesar then took Brutus into Caesar's inner circle. When people began to fear Caesar was getting too much power, Brutus was persuaded into joining the conspiracy. Brutus' goals during this meeting include keeping the Senate in control, providing amnesty for the conspirators, and maintaining peace in Rome.

*Servius Sulpicius Galba* *conspirator:* During the Gallic wars, Servius Galba was legate of of Caesar's 12th legion. Later on, however, he joined the Cassius and Brutus in the conspiracy against Caesar. One of his reasons for joining the conspiracy was that he was angered by Caesar's opposition to his campaign for the consulship. Also, some say that Caesar had an affair with Galba's wife. Therefore, although Galba did fear Caesar was gaining too much power, Galba's involvement in the conspiracy was more for personal reasons than for political. Like the other conspirators, Galba wants amnesty for his role in the conspiracy.
**Quintus Ligarius** *conspirator:* Following the defeat of Pompey, Ligarius was one of the men who continued the fight against Caesar. He was captured and spared, but not allowed back into Italy. When Ligarius' family asked Cicero to convince Caesar to allow Ligarius to return to Rome, Ligarius was accused to treason. Thanks to Cicero's persuasion, Ligarius was pardoned and allowed to come back to Rome. Although Caesar did pardon Ligarius, Ligarius never forgave Caesar. This grudge was one of the main reasons that Ligarius joined the plot against Caesar. Although he was ill in bed when Brutus first told him about the conspiracy and did not take part in the assassination, Ligarius still played a big role in the conspiracy. Like the other conspirators, Ligarius wants amnesty for his involvement in the conspiracy.

**Lucius Minucius Basilus** *conspirator:* A military commander and politician, Basilus was a trusted friend of Caesar. Caesar had denied Basilus provincial command and had then tried to appease Basilus with money. Outraged by these events, Basilus joined the conspiracy against Caesar. During this meeting, Basilus is concerned both for his own safety and for the safety of the republic.

**Gaius Servilius Casca** *(brother of Publius Servilius Casca Longus)* *conspirator:* Gaius Servilius Casca’s family had always been very close with Caesar. In fact, he himself was a very close friend of Caesar’s. Despite this, both him and his brother joined in on the conspiracy. It was his brother, Publics Servilius Casca, who struck the first blow. Gaius Servilius Casca’s goals in
this committee include getting amnesty for the conspirators and maintaining the power of the senate.

**Publius Servilius Casca Longus (brother of Gaius Servilius Casca and the one responsible for the first stab) *conspirator:** Despite his family being loyal to Caesar, with Casca's brother Gaius Servilius Casca even being a close friend of Caesar's, both siblings joined in the assassination. Publius Servilius Casca Longus struck the first blow, attacking Caesar from behind and hitting his neck, after Tillius Cimber had distracted the dictator by grabbing his toga. The other assassins then joined in. Publius Servilius Casca Longus held the office of Tribune of the People. Publius Servilius Casca Longus seeks advancing his office.

**Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus *conspirator:** Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus was a Roman politician and general of the 1st century BC and one of the leading instigators of Julius Caesar's assassination. Decimus Brutus was a distant cousin of Julius Caesar, and on several occasions Caesar expressed how he loved Decimus like a son. Decimus was named an heir in the second degree in Caesar's will. Decimus’ main goal is to use Caesar’s will as an excuse to steal the throne for himself.

**Lucius Tillius Cimber *conspirator:** Lucius Tillius Cimber was a Roman senator. He was one of the assassins of Julius Caesar, creating the diversion that enabled the first-striking assassins to attack. Cimber was initially one of Caesar's strongest supporters. Caesar granted Cimber governorship of the provinces of Bithynia and Pontus in 44 BC. Motivated by ambition,
the chaos and dis concord provides an opportunity for Lucius Tillius Cimber to rise through the ranks. Cimber’s main goal is power.

*Gaius Trebonius* *conspirator:* Gaius Trebonius was a military commander and politician of the late Roman Republic. A trusted associate of Julius Caesar, he was later among those who instigated the plot to assassinate the dictator. While working with Caesar, Trebonius was severely publicly defamed due to his support of Caesar’s debt laws. As a result, Trebonius joined the plot to kill Caesar, and waited outside with Mark Antony when Caesar was being stabbed. Not liked by many in the Senate, Trebonius seeks to either sway public opinion back into his favor, or to remove all of those who are obstacles to him.

*Lucius Cassius Longinus (brother of Gaius Cassius Longinus)* *conspirator:* Lucius Cassius Longinus was a Roman senator, a leading instigator of the plot to kill Julius Caesar, and the brother of Gaius Cassius Longinus. Lucius has lived in the shadow of his brother and all of his brother’s friends for far too long. With a decently sized network of spies, Lucius now sees his opportunity at gaining more power and making a name for himself.

*Caecilius (brother of Bucolianus)* *conspirator:* Caecilius comes from a wealthy family who have cemented their legacy in the history of Rome. Though he was already very wealthy and was living lavishly, Caecilius was hungry for more power. Other conspirators were able to convince Caecilius to assist in the assassination of Caesar. Caecilius is hoping that, after the
Roman Senate

chaos from the assassination, that he will become a leader with more power in Rome’s
government (Caecilius believes this can happen due to family’s history in Rome).

   **Bucolianus (brother of Caecilius) *conspirator:** Bucolianus, the brother of Caecilius,
was introduced into the world of politics by his brother. His brother hoped that the two together
would be the leaders of Rome. However, frankly, Bucolianus is not too interested in politics and
power as his brother is. What Bucolianus truly cares about is the welfare of the people of Rome,
especially the needy and sick. Bucolianus only participated in the assassination of Caesar
because his brother, Caecilius, convinced him that Caesar was beginning to be cruel to the needy
(even though in reality Caesar was pretty generous to the needy).

   **Rubrius Ruga *conspirator:** Rubrius Ruga was a supporter of Caesar; he agreed with a
lot of the actions of policies of Caesar that were able to tackle on debt and unemployment.
However, Rubrius Ruga knew that there was a growing feeling of discontent towards Caesar
from many other Senators. Therefore, Rubrius believed that there will be a big power shift
sooner or later. Therefore when asked to assist in the assassination of Caesar, he reluctantly
agreed because he wanted to be a part of the group that seized power.

   **Marcus Spurius *conspirator:** Marcus Spurius never particularly liked Caesar, but not
for political reasons. Marcus Spurius was not too upset about the power Caesar, but he disliked
him due to the fact that Caesar never truly treated him to well. Caesar only was friendly to
Marcus Spurius when he needed something and even though Marcus Spurius attempted to be
friendly towards Caesar, the gesture was unreciprocated. Therefore, when the opportunity to kill Caesar came to light, Marcus Spurius jumped on the opportunity.

**Publius Sextius Naso *conspirator:** Now, Publius Sextius Naso is an old man probably reaching towards the end of his life. However, he hopes that the Roman Empire will continue to flourish for thousands of year past his death. Naso believed that current leadership, Caesar, was getting too much power and did not see positive effects from it in the future. Knowing that he probably won’t get any power from this assassination, due to his deteriorating health, Publius Sextius Naso hoped to return Rome into a true democracy.

**Lucius Aelius:** Lucius, a longtime friend of Caesar’s, spent his entire career as a Roman Senator supporting Caesar. The fact that he was a populare made him support Caesar more. When Caesar starting gaining too much power, Lucius did become fearful. But unlike many other senators, Lucius did not let greed or fear cloud his judgement. Lucius had heard rumors of the conspiracy, but had not participated in it. However, Lucius did not warn Caesar about the conspiracy either. After realizing his mistake and losing his friend, Lucius wants to make sure that measures are taken to prevent a conspiracy such as the one against Caesar. He also wants the conspirators to be held accountable, but not as much as he wants the chaos in Rome to be stopped.

**Decimus Agrippa:** Once a supporter of Caesar, Decimus has disliked Caesar gaining power recently. However, because they were political allies he always stayed by Caesar’s side. Knowing this, the conspirators never asked Decimus to join the conspiracy nor did any of them
make Decimus aware of it. At this point, Decimus is hoping that providing economic stability for the republic will put the people back at ease.

**Gaius Rufus:** A man who was once in the military, Gaius likes to command with an iron fist. He believes the right course of action is to first quell the mob violence and then focus on political and economic stability. Although he realizes that the power of the Senate is weakened in this time period, he believes that the Senate’s access to money can help them in this situation.

**Marcus Libo:** New to the Roman Senate, Marcus has not had the chance to form a solid opinion of Caesar. Therefore, he was not part of the conspiracy. As someone who has traveled to many places, he realizes how important political control is for a governing body. So he is now focused on the Senate maintaining political control and improving the economy. He believes that peace with the people will follow.

**Quintus Clarus:** As an optimate, Quintus never agreed with most of Caesar’s actions. However, it has always been Quintus’ opinion that more work will get done when there is compromise involved. Therefore, he has always tried to compromise with the populares on issues. Similarly, Quintus hopes that both the conspirators and non conspirators can set aside their differences and work together for the good of the republic. He believes one big step in this would be to refrain from taking action against the conspirators.

**Marcus Memmius:** A popular and a former general, Memmius agrees with Caesar on most political issues. But after the festival of Lupercalia where Caesar refused the crown (which...
he believes was a staged event), Memmius began to believe that Caesar cares more about his power than the good of Rome. Although he never wanted Caesar to die, he believes that this an opportunity for the Senators to take back political control of Rome.

**Marcus Octavius:** Although Octavius never heard about the conspiracy beforehand, he wasn’t surprised to learn that Caesar had been assassinated. Octavius believed that Caesar had become too power and too arrogant. He believes that now the Optimates and Populares may finally have a chance to compromise on some issues. Being a populare, a group that is often given less power in the Senate, he believes that the Senate will be able to use the love of the people to manage the chaos.

**Gaius Fimbria:** As an optimate, Fimbria never agreed with many of Caesar’s reforms. But he feels that assassinating Caesar only made the situation worse. He thinks that some form of punishment for the main players in the conspiracy may appease the people, but he also thinks that the Senate would have a hard time agreeing to punishing Senators. Overall, he believes that once the Senate reestablishes control in Rome, everything else will fall into place.

**Publius Maximus:** Although a populare, Maximus believed that Caesar instituted many reforms to gain support of the people, not to help the people. Maximus was never involved in the conspiracy, but believes that the conspirators assassinated Caesar for the good of the Republic. He now thinks that the best course of action is to institute reforms similar to that of Caesar’s in order to regain the support of the people.
**Marcus Niger:** Like many others, Marcus Niger began to suspect that Caesar was after power after the festival of Lupercalia. However, he never acted on his suspicions. Despite never being involved in the conspiracy, Niger sees the conspirators cause as justified. During this committee, he not only wants to keep the conspirators from punishment, but wishes for the people to see that the conspiracy was for their benefit.

**Publius Rufus:** Publius Rufus was angered by the conspiracy. Assassinating Caesar was not only unjust, but it also threw the Republic into chaos. However, he believes that punishing the Senators will only create more chaos. Instead, he wants to work for an agreement where the conspirators are spared punishment but are removed from political power in order to appease the people.

**Lucius Severus:** Lucius Severus, an optimate, thinks that the best shot of calming the chaos is to ask for the help of the rich and elite of Rome. Oftentimes, this class has much power over the commoners. This would also help the Senate reestablish its political control over the Republic.

**Decimus Carbo:** A longtime supporter of Caesar, Decimus hopes that the Senate will see that the only way people will be appeased is if the conspirators are given some sort of punishment (no matter how small) and there are some reforms that help alleviate the economic crisis that is currently going on.
Marcius Murena: Murena not only believes that reforms to help the people are in order, but also that creating jobs is a major issue. By creating jobs, the economic issues would be solved and the current mob violence would stop. Furthermore, this would allow for the support and time for the Senate to regain power.

Decimus Ofella: Ofella believes that the best way to regain political power would be through a combination of winning the favor of the elite and creating reforms and public works projects that would appease the commoners. Through this, Ofella thinks that the Senate will not only achieve political power, but also economic instability and a stop to mob violence.

Definitions

Assemblies - The Roman assemblies functioned as Rome’s legislative branch and so they (theoretically) passed all legislation. The two types of assemblies included the committee (comitia), in which all Roman citizens enacted laws, elected magistrates, and tried judicial cases, and the council (concilium), which was an assembly for a specific group of citizens.

Consul - A consul was the highest elected political office of the Roman Republic. Two consuls were elected annually. Both served as consul for one year and had veto power over the other’s actions. The two consuls alternated holding imperium, or power of command, on a monthly basis.

Populares - The political party favoring the commoners.
Optimates - The political faction favoring the aristocrats. This party wished to extend the power of the Senate.

Questions to Consider

1. What does the Senate need to do in order to maintain authority over the people?
2. Should there be a form of punishment given to those who participate in mob violence. If so, what?
3. How should Octavian’s claim to power be dealt with?
4. How will the lower and middle class of Rome be appeased? Will new reforms similar to Caesar’s be in place?
5. How will it be assured that the conspirators are not held punishable for their actions in assassinating Caesar?
6. How will the financial disparity between the classes be dealt with? What can be done about the unemployment of the lower classes?

Works Cited

Roman Senate


