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Julius Caesar

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Rome, once the capital city of the Roman Empire, was the birthplace of western civilization¹ as well as to a man, a leader, a warrior that brought strength and lead Rome into prosperity more than ever. Julius Caesar, one of the world's legendary leader and at the same time dictator, had changed the Roman Empire forever. He reformed the entire political institution, swept away the old and corrupted system of the Roman republic and brought justice, equality, law and order to the Roman Empire that was about to be falling apart. His military superior brought more land and power to Rome, which leads to the increase in size and strength of the Roman Empire, making Rome safe from possible rival attacks.² Caesar had set a remarkable example for future leaders to follow the path of a political reformer and mastermind like him. Therefore, without doubt, Caesar's contribution in reforming the Roman Republic, changing its history overturned, was the most important contribution for the Romans and humanity.

The Caesar family is a member of an old aristocratic and as tradition follows, Julius Caesar was expected to join the Roman political path. However, Caesar was not just an ordinary traditional Roman, since at a young age, he realized that money was the key to Roman politics and this showed how

¹ Anon. "Rome." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 26 Jan. 2012.
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome>>

² BBC. "BBC – History." *BBC*. 26 Jan. 2012.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/caesar_julius.shtml>.

corrupted the system was. Caesar was raised up in a period of unrest and civil war in Rome, due to the expansion of the empire this had brought in cheap slave labor and made many Romans left unemployed.³ This influenced him later on in his life when he became a consul and established order emphasizing on lower class Romans.

It was during 59BC where Caesar was elected as consul with the help from Pompey and Crassus, his political allies. He was assigned as the governor of Cisalpine Gaul (northern Italy), Ilyricum and Transalpine Gaul (southern France).⁴ It was not until now that Caesar discovered his excellence in militarism, his campaigns helped Rome grew larger in size, strength and power. During Caesar's eight year as governor of Gaul, he had added the entire modern France and Belgium to the Roman Empire.⁵ He did not only conquest Gaul but also gained the loyalty of his 50,000 soldiers, which showed how successful he was as a general.⁶ For a man like Caesar, Gaul was certainly not the only among his victories, it also includes Egypt, Pontus, Africa and parts of Asia Minor. At the end of Caesar's career as a general, he had changed the geography of the Roman Empire, from purely Mediterranean into western European.⁷

³ Website Contributors. "Julius Caesar." *The Roman Empire*. 2 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.roman-empire.net/republic/caesar-index.html>>.

⁴ Anon. "Julius Caesar." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 4 Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar>.

⁵ BBC. "BBC – History." *BBC*. 4 Feb. 2012. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/caesar_julius.shtml>.

⁶ Website Contributors. "Julius Caesar." *History Learning*. 4 Feb. 2012. <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/julius_ceasar.htm>.

⁷ Website Contributors. "Julius Caesar." *The Roman Empire*. 8 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.roman-empire.net/republic/caesar-index.html>>.

Nevertheless, not everyone approved Caesar's accomplishments. As his popularity grew among the Roman citizen, especially the middle and lower class, the senate saw this as an intimidation. In 50 BC, they ordered Caesar to return to Rome after his term as governor had ended, but Caesar denied and was accused of betrayal.⁸ This resulted in a civil war where Caesar defeated the republican forces. This was the critical point in his life, as he is now the master of Rome; he used his power to established order and begun reforming politics and the constitution of the Roman Empire. Caesar was ambitious to accomplish three objectives; to bring order back to the empire, to form a strong central government in Rome and to unite the cities into one cohesive empire.⁹ This had proved that Caesar was not merely a defeater, but a builder, a visionary leader.

The rise of Caesar denotes a decline in the power of the wealthy senatorial class in Roman politics, the shift of power from the patrician class to middle and lower class was due to the laws he established. For example, sumptuary law limiting the consumption of certain luxuries, law to redistribute the public lands to the poor and laws regarding to debt relieve, which eliminated a quarter of all debts owed. Furthermore, Caesar also extended the Latin rights and replaced the tax system with the earlier version that enable each city to collect tax however they wanted, without the need of a mediator.¹⁰ In contrast, of his political reformation, Caesar's remodel of the calendar was considered as one of the most important reforms he had accomplished. At that time the calendar used was based on the movement of the moon, he replaced it

⁸ Anon. "Julius Caesar." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 10 Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar>.

⁹ Website contributors. "Julius Caesar Biography." *Ancient Rome*. Web. 10 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.ancient-rome.biz/julius-caesar-biography.html>>.

¹⁰ Anon. "Julius Caesar." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 10 Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar>.

with Egyptian calendar, which was instead regulated by the sun. This helped to resolve the disorder the old calendar provoked and it is almost identical to calendars use today.¹¹

Julius Caesar was a kind of man of which the world rarely gets to see. His superiority in both military and politics had made the Roman Empire flourish into one of the greatest civilizations in history. If not because of Caesar, Rome would only be remembered as a corrupted republic without any significance in the world today. Caesar had reformed Rome into an empire that leaders' today look up to as a path to walk upon. His ambition, talent and vision had proved through many generations that he, Julius Caesar was the man who united the Roman Empire.

¹¹ Anon. "Julius Caesar." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 11 Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar>.