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Augustus Caesar

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From the beginning of time, people sought perfection through planning on everything they did, step by step. From going out for hunting to writing an essay, people would plan ahead for what they expect to cross their path. For example, if the hunter feels ill, would a deer suffice his family's hunger in case he cannot hunt for a day or two? Or he should hunt more for his family? How well will one do in the future is determined by how well one prepare for it. Talking about planning and preparation, Augustus Caesar should be undeniably accounted as one of the gurus in this field because of his broad vision for future in many situations throughout the phases of his life; for instance, his uneasy settlement for treaty with Mark Antony, his former political enemy, to pursuit for his greater good, the vengeance for his stepfather, Julius Caesar; his establishment of many important elements for his city Rome; and finally, his subtle afford to remain in high power without appointing himself a king, but by creating the Principate instead.

Being adopted by Julius Caesar after his father's death when he was a child, Gaius Octavius Thurinus, later known as Augustus Caesar, inherited Caesar's political power after his assassination by Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus.¹ Despite his youth, the 19-year-old Caesar gathered his own army and fortune through his late father's allies in order to take back his father's power, which was held by Mark Antony; Because of his lack of support from senators and veterans,

¹ NNDB contributors. "Caesar Augustus." NNDB, tracking the entire world. 1 Feb. 2013.
< <http://www.nndb.com/people/956/000087695>>

Augustus marched to the city of Rome hoping to restore the power for his own but failed.² Later on, with the help from Cicero, an orator who persuaded the consuls at the time to turn their back against Antony as the threat to republican government, Augustus, this time with commanding power, along with the two consuls mounted north to fight Antony at Mutina, forcing him to fall back to Transalpine Gaul. Fortunately for Augustus, both consuls were dead, and with the conflict of interest between Augustus and the senate, he seized control of the troops and rejected to continue invading Gaul. Instead, Augustus marched back to Rome inquiring the consulship from the senate.³ After elected as a consul, Augustus along with Antony and Lepidus formed the Second Triumvirate, where he gradually gained power of his own. Augustus and Antony killed hundreds of the republican senators who were involved in the assassination of Julius Caesar. Not long after that, the two leading triumvirate moved east to revenge for Augustus's stepfather. M. Brutus and Cassius committed suicide after a short struggle.⁴ Since Julius Caesar's death, Augustus not only developed hatred toward the assassins of his father, but also to M. Antony who held power in succession. But for the sake of his stepfather, he sought his way through the point where Antony had no other choice other than cooperating with his plan to defeat his archenemy. This example shows how well Augustus prepared to play along in the game of the pursuit for his real goal.

As the Roman's first emperor, even though it was unofficial, Augustus Caesar established foundations for the empire that lasted almost fifteen centuries. His works were so great that there was saying wishing the secessions to be more fortunate than Augustus, while his name and surname were used as the title for the emperor of the

³ Karl Galinsky, *Age of Augustus*. 2005. P.18-19

³ Christopher S. Mackay, *Ancient Rome*. 2004. P.160-162

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "Liberators' civil war." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberators%27_civil_war>

Roman Empire till the end of its time. Furthermore, many countries also adopted the name Caesar as the title for their rulers ever since. He recognized the importance of the use of law within his empire, which he tried to promote in many ways.

Government's police and fire fighting departments were one of his most reputable creations that brought about peace for ages; the Praetorian Guard was one of them. The department was responsible for police, the emperor's safety, as well as depicted the political force controlled by the emperor.⁵ From his incredible fortune, Augustus built roads linking the whole Italy, which not only enabled the troops to patrol throughout the country, but also led to the extensive growth of the Roman Empire due to the ease in transportation and trading. Finally, with his great wealth, Augustus also rebuilt a total of 82 temples in his reign to illustrate how much he cared about the Roman Gods. In spite of his reputation at the time, Augustus did not forget to institute the keepers for future political stability and in the same time, people's safety. In accordance with his plan, Augustus appeared modest and humble yet the most powerful and influential figure of his time.

The Romans at the time had a reputable hatred towards kingship, which Augustus was heartily well aware of. The assassination of his adoptive father was a one fine example for the attempt to be like one. After his victory over Antony and Cleopatra, Augustus was the one with sole power in the city and the question was, now what? Since he did not want to risk being like Julius Caesar, he returned all of his power to the senate of Rome, of course, not without some plot behind his action. Knowing that such a move would create another civil war in the city of Rome, one that the senate could not afford, his restoration of the Republic was only an excuse for

⁵ Wikipedia contributors. " Praetorian Guard." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 2 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorian_Guard>

his reattainment of power, but this time, with the senate giving it back to him.⁶ Consequently, the Roman state was ruled by a diarchic government; peaceful provinces were with a senatorial proconsul, and the ones with military force were overseen by Augustus as an Imperium. He later received many more titles through series of events, an Imperium of the consul in Rome after he came back from his campaigning in Spain to contain the electoral riot, a Pontifex Maximus or the chief of the priests after his former co-triumvir's – M. Aemilius Lepidus – death, and Pater Patriae or 'father of the fatherland'. With his great power and responsibility, it was essential for Augustus to find an heir of his own, but because of the fact that he was never announced as an emperor, he had no law to guarantee the position for his successor. Another problem was that he had no son, so his plan was to mark his heir through the marriage of his only daughter, Julia. Unfortunately, all of his candidates did not work out, they were all dead some how, leaving Augustus with his adoptive son, Tiberius, which was his rightful succession.⁷ Although the Romans were not fan of monarchy, it was too late for them when they realize that they could not live without one. It was all along Augustus's subtle scheme to integrate the need of an emperor into the Roman society.

In conclusion, Augustus Caesar was a man with schemes. He sought his ways to any position he desired, from treason to senator, from consul to Triumvir, and to the emperor. His vision for the future Rome in both structural and political area was so great that his every action contributed in some way to the initiation of Pax Romania – or peace of Rome – for centuries after his death.⁸ So it is undoubtedly

⁶ Christopher S. Mackay, *Ancient Rome*. 2004. P.182-183

⁷ Karl Galinsky, *Age of Augustus*. 2005. P.40-50

⁸ Lucid café contributors. "Augustus" *Lucid café* . 2 Feb 2013
<<http://www.lucidcafe.com/lucidcafe/library/95sep/augustus.html>>

agreed that Augustus was a man of true vision who established peace for the Roman Empire with the fruitful successions for almost fifteen hundred years.