

Julius Caesar 100BC-44BC

- patrician background

- became famous in Rome

because of military career

- defeat of the Gauls

(people of present day France)

- invasion into Britainia

- most famous quote

Veni, Vidi, Vici

I came, I saw, I conquered

- his popularity w/ the people  
makes politicians in Rome  
nervous

- he is ordered home to

become a private citizen

- he refuses,
  - instead marches his army on Rome
  - eventually wins a Civil War - defeats Pompey
- he gets appointed...
  - Consul for Life
  - and eventually Dictator for Life
- he ruled absolutely but allowed senate and assembly to continue to exist
- made armies loyal to only him, resettled military vets, instituted building projects for plebeian jobs, re-did

the unfair tax system,  
created calendar we use  
today, stabilized economy  
- plebeians loved him,  
govt. feared his popularity  
and power

- he is killed by political  
enemies in the senate  
on 3/15/44BC

"The Ides of March"

Importance

- 1) Conquest of Gaul
- 2) ended Roman Republic  
creates Roman Empire
- 3) hugely popular historical  
figure (czar, kaiser)

4) his murder backfires against the senate

- Roman population blames senate for the years of civil war that follow the assassination
- JC's murder actually leads to a change-over to empire and dictatorship, not a strengthening of the Republic