**MR. WEISS WORLD HISTORY – ROMAN REPUBLIC CAMPAIGN POSTER ASSIGNMENT**

**Romans had elections just like we have in America. Roman campaigns, however, focused more on the positive qualities of the man running than the negative qualities of the men against whom he would have been running.**

**Good qualities for the Romans included former positions held (some positions HAD to be held before advancing further on the (cursus honorum) and what you accomplished while you were in these positions, successes in the military (specifically command positions in important battles)…this could include you’re your victories or your families victories, and perhaps most importantly, what position your family has in roman society…How many generations have you been roman, how rich are you, and what has your family done since you have been in Rome?**

**You may want to include what you plan to do while you are in office and who you will help. Will you work for the common people and be a populares sort of ruler? Or will you work to preserve the older, richer families of Rome as an Optimate? What do you plan to do while you are in office that you think would make people more likely to vote for you? Will you create new buildings in Rome? Will you invade a neighboring civilization to increase Rome’s glory?**

**Your grade will be based on the following criteria:**

**2.5 points: Is the position you are running for clear (CONSUL)? Have you included the previous offices you have held?**

**2.5 points: what did you do during your previous offices (or before your political career began that makes you worthy of holding this position?**

**2.5 points: Have you made it clear why YOU would be the best candidate? What are you going to do for Rome once you get into power?**

**2.5 points: Have you made it clear that you possess the qualities the Romans would like to see in their leaders?**

**2.5 Points: Have you made it clear whose vote you are trying to get? Is it the Optimates or the Populares? Does you campaign include platforms that would be desirable for these different groups?**

**2.5 points: EFFORT – were you on task during the work time, and did you clearly put in effort to this assignment?**

**TOTAL POINTS: /15**

Campaign and Election Day is Wednesday, Nov. 4th

Also, remember that while you may bribe, voting is done by secret ballot. There is no way to ensure that your bribes work ☺

Voting will be done on the honor system…please do not vote for yourself!

**CONSULS**

The office of *consul* was the most prestigious of all, and represented the summit of a successful career. The minimum age was 42 for plebeians and 40 for patricians. Years were identified by the names of the two consuls elected[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cursus_honorum#cite_note-2) for a particular year; for instance, *M. Messalla et M. Pisone consulibus*, "in the consulship of [Messalla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Valerius_Messalla_Niger" \o "Marcus Valerius Messalla Niger) and [Piso](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Pupius_Piso_Frugi_Calpurnianus" \o "Marcus Pupius Piso Frugi Calpurnianus),"dates an event to 61 BC. Consuls were responsible for the city's political agenda, commanded large-scale armies and controlled important provinces. The consuls served for only a year (a restriction intended to limit the amassing of power by individuals) and could only rule when they agreed, because each consul could [veto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veto) the other's decision.

The consuls would alternate monthly as the chairman of the Senate. They also were the supreme commanders in the Roman army, with each being granted two legions during their consular year. Consuls also exercised the highest juridical power in the Republic, being the only office with the power to override the decisions of the Praetor Urbanus. Only laws and the decrees of the Senate or the People's assembly limited their powers, and only the veto of a fellow consul or a tribune of the plebs could supersede their decisions

After the last king Tarquin the Proud was expelled the rule of Rome was awarded to two elected Consuls and a pyramid of more or less important support positions under them. By law, Consuls could only be Patricians elected by the Senate.

The Consuls were elected for a determined period of time (one year). In times of extreme danger they could be replaced by a single Dictator who held power for six months. In order to be eligible the person would have to be at least 42 years of age.

The first dictator in Roman history was nominated in 498BC. Possibly the most famous dictator from the "early days" of Rome was Cincinnatus (consul in 460BC and dictator in 458 and 439BC). He was a farmer-Patrician who worked his land. He was called to become dictator and lead the war against the Aequians, a local Italic people. He did his job, won the war, received great honors, including a crown of gold, and then proceeded to returned to till his land. These myths of early Rome attest to the nostalgia for the austere nature of the Roman forefathers.

The elected Consuls had government of the Senate itself which they could assemble or dismiss at their own leisure. They also had military command over armies. For example, Julius Caesar had himself elected Consul by his friends in the Senate in order to be allowed command of an army and this allowed him to go and conquer Gaul. Consuls also had authority over wars, state coffers and the administration of justice. They were honored by having the years named after them. Julius Caesar was honored by having a year named after him alone as the year of "Julius and Caesar".

The important position of Consul existed throughout the Republic and Empire although with time the powers of the Consul shifted and attenuated to a degree, particularly when absolutist emperors took over. The very first Consuls had the power of Kings except that it was attenuated by the brevity of their tenure and the fact that there was never only one Consul in power, but two. Later this power was tempered by the institution of Tribunes to represent the Plebeians and further reduced by the power of the emperors.

The consuls had a number of symbols of authority. Amongst these were the toga they wore, which ahd a purple border around it. This was called a Praetexta or Toga Palmata. In the early days such togas were reserved to those who had deserved a public Triumph. The Consuls were also accompanied by a group of twelve men called Lictors.

**PRAETORS**

This position was created for two primary reasons. Firstly, Consuls were often absorbed in foreign wars which meant that someone needed to be found to administer Justice and other business in Rome. The second reason is possibly more political: the social wars took exclusivity of Consulship away from the noble Patricians and so, through the Senate, they created a new position of power exclusive to themselves.

After holding either the office of quaestor or aedile, a man of 39 years could run for *praetor*. The number of Praetors elected varied through history, generally increasing with time. During the republic, six or eight were generally elected each year to serve judicial functions throughout Rome and other governmental responsibilities. In the absence of the Consuls, a Praetor would be given command of the garrison in Rome or in Italy. Also, a Praetor could exercise the functions of the Consuls throughout Rome, but their main function was that of a judge. They would preside over trials involving criminal acts as well as grant court orders or validate "illegal" acts as acts of administering justice. As a Praetor, a magistrate was escorted by six lictors, and wielded [imperium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperium). After a term as Praetor, the magistrate would serve as a provincial governor in the office of Propraetor, wielding Propraetor imperium, commanding the province’s legions, and possessing ultimate authority within his province(s).

Of all the Praetors, two were more prestigious than the others. The first was the Praetor Peregrinus, who was the chief judge in trials involving one or more foreigners. The other was the Praetor Urbanus, the chief judicial office in Rome. He had the power to overturn any verdict by any other courts, and served as judge in cases involving criminal charges against provincial governors. The Praetor Urbanus was not allowed to leave the city for more than ten days. If one of these two Praetors was absent from Rome, the other would perform the duties of both

At first only one Praetor was elected in order to look after Justice, this was around the year 389 of the city, about 364BC. Around the year 250BC a second Praetor was added. One, called the *Praetor Urbanus* was charged with Justice among the citizens of Rome whilst the other, the *Praetor Peregrinus*, appointed Judges in all matters related to foreigners. By the time Sicily and Sardinia were taken, two further Praetors were added to assist the Consuls in the government of the provinces. Thereafter the number increased to keep pace with the growth of Roman dominions. In the time of Caesar there were as many as fifteen.

**OTHER RELATED INFORMATION**

The ***CURSUS HONORUM*** ([Latin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language): "course of offices") was the sequential order of public offices held by aspiring politicians in both the [Roman Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Republic) and the early [Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire). It was designed for men of [senatorial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_senate) rank. The cursus honorum comprised a mixture of military and political administration posts. Each office had a minimum age for election. There were minimum intervals between holding successive offices and laws forbade repeating an office

**MILITARY TRIBUNE:** The cursus honorum began with ten years of military duty in the Roman cavalry (the *[equites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equites" \o "Equites)*) or in the staff of a general who was a relative or a friend of the family. The ten years of service were intended to be mandatory in order to qualify for political office, but in practice, the rule was not always rigidly applied

**QUESTOR**: The first official post was that of *quaestor*. Candidates had to be at least 30 years old. However, men of [patrician](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrician_(ancient_Rome)) rank could subtract two years from this and other minimum age requirements.Twenty quaestors served in the financial administration at Rome or as second-in-command to a governor in the provinces. They could also serve as the paymaster for a legion. A young man who obtained this job was expected to become a very important official. An additional task of all quaestors was the supervision of public games. As a quaestor, an official was allowed to wear the [toga praetexta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toga), but was not escorted by [lictors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lictor" \o "Lictor), nor did he possess [imperium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperium)

**AEDILE**: At 36 years of age, former quaestors could stand for election to one of the *aedile* positions. Of these aediles, two were plebeian and two were patrician, with the patrician aediles called Curule Aediles. The plebeian aediles were elected by the [Plebeian Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plebeian_Council) and the curule aediles were either elected by the [Tribal Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_assemblies) or appointed by the reigning consul. The aediles had administrative responsibilities in Rome. They had to take care of the temples (whence their title, from the Latin *[aedes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aedes_(Roman)" \o "Aedes (Roman))*, "[temple](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_temple)"), organize games, and be responsible for the maintenance of the public buildings in Rome. Moreover, they took charge of Rome's water and food supplies; in their capacity as market superintendents, they served sometimes as judges in mercantile affairs.

The Aedile was the supervisor of public works; the words "edifice" and "edification" stem from the title. He oversaw the public works, temples and markets. Therefore the Aediles would have been in some cooperation with the current Censors, who had similar or related duties. Also they oversaw the organization of festivals and games (*ludi*), which made this a very sought after office for a career minded politician of the late republic, as it was a good means of gaining popularity by staging spectacles

**OPTIMATES AND POPULARES:** (Latin: respectively, “Best Ones,” or “Aristocrats”, and “Demagogues,” or “Populists”), two principal patrician political groups during the later [Roman Republic](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/507905/ancient-Rome) from about 133 to 27 bc. The members of both groups belonged to the wealthier classes.

The Optimates were the dominant group in the [Senate](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/534333/Senate). They blocked the wishes of the others, who were thus forced to seek tribunician support for their measures in the tribal assembly and hence were labeled Populares, “demagogues,” by their opponents. The two groups differed, therefore, chiefly in their methods: the Optimates tried to uphold the oligarchy; the Populares sought popular support against the dominant oligarchy, either in the interests of the people themselves or in furtherance of their own personal ambitions. Finally, it is well to remember that the Senate’s authority was based on custom and consent rather than upon law. It had no legal control over the people or magistrates: it gave, but could not enforce, advice. Until 133 bc any challenge to its authority was little more than a pinprick, but thereafter more deadly blows were struck, first by such Populares as Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus, then by Gaius Marius, and finally by the army commanders from the provinces.

**LEGION**: A legion was a unit of soldiers in the Roman Army. Those soldiers, called legionaries, were heavily armed with shields, armor, helmets, spears, and swords. Certain legions had reputations for extraordinary ruthlessness in battle. In the early Roman Republic, each legion consisted of 3,000 men, but by the Roman Empire, the size of each legion had been significantly reduced.

**ROMAN SENATE:**

While a number of factors contributed to Roman domination of the Mediterranean, much of the Romans' success stemmed from their internal development, particularly a radical approach to citizenship, and from a policy of "defensive" (as they preferred to see it) wars that ultimately gained them more territory. In time, that expansion, coupled with internal strife, led to rule by a series of generals, each with a personal following among the [legions](http://ancienthistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/588529?terms=roman+republic), who were able to dictate to the [Roman Senate](http://ancienthistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/588529?terms=roman+republic) and upset the republican system. It was a change that would lead to rule by one man, an emperor, during the [Roman Empire](http://ancienthistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/588529?terms=roman+republic).

In republican times, the Roman Senate was the chief administrative body in Roman society.