Was the decision to move from a republic to a dictatorship necessary or a good idea?

Intro: The choice to move from a republic to a dictatorship was a bad idea nor necessary. In a dictatorship, only one person is in charge of power, creating a bias in what happens in the civilization, which would cause a multitude of problems. However, in a republic, everyone is permitted power, which is shared, so no one would argue for power, creating a sense of stability and security within the society. Rome can prove this with its decision to move from a republic to a dictatorship, as it showed multiple signs of power-hungry emperors and biased decisions. Supporting this comes from the perspectives of both the senators and the plebeians, as they come to reveal how much of a bad idea and unnecessary decision it was to transition.

Body 1: We first have the perspective of the senators. The senators never wanted Rome to go into a Dictatorship because they would lose all of their power. After all, Caesar would take it from them because of how popular he would become with military power and would be great financially. To support this, the crash course episode states, “There were two additional checks on power: First, the one-year term. I mean, how much trouble could you really do in a year, right?” This shows how the senators had power because they would only allow a person to be in power for a year and not let them return for another 10. This shows why the senators didn’t want a dictatorship but a republic. Another piece of evidence stated in the crash course episode is, “ But by 44 BCE, many Senators had decided that Caesar controlled too much of the power in Rome, and so they stabbed him 23 times on the floor of the Roman senate.” This shows since Caesar gained too much power as a dictator, the senators killed him, resulting in the start of the fall of Rome. This death left the senators without power, the dictator dead (Caesar), and multiple civil wars breaking out, officially starting the collapse of Rome. Another piece of evidence supporting my thinking is in [Rome’s Transition from Republic to Empire](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/romes-transition-republic-empire/), where it states, “ Other leaders within the republic feared Caesar would become a tyrant with this new title. To prevent this, a group of senators conspired and assassinated him…He then established himself as the first Roman emperor.” This shows how, since the senators killed Caesar, they still didn’t have that same power back, and Rome shifted into an Empire, starting the fall of Rome years later as many bad aspects came along with it, making Rome fall. As you can see, this whole paragraph explains why the idea for Rome to shift from a republic to a dictatorship was BAD.

Body 2: Our second perspective is the Roman people's (Plebians) perspective. In any country or state, the people have a voice or a say in power. The people get to use their voices to express their opinions. But in a dictatorship, the people don't get to use their voice, which shows why dictatorships aren’t usually a good form of Government. This lack of freedom causes the people to fight and riot to get a say in their government. This is supported by [Rome’s Transition from Republic to Empire](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/romes-transition-republic-empire/) text, "Everyone else was considered plebeian, and no member of this group could hold office. Over a period of nearly 200 years, however, the plebeians fought for and gained power within the government.” This shows how, since the Plebeians didn’t have power, they had to fight against the government to get their power finally. This text also states, “Ultimately, factions emerged (loyal to either the patrician or plebeian classes or to a specific military general), hostiities erupted, and a series of civil wars plagued the republic. ” This shows how the republic's form of government was corrupt as it still had people fighting for power. This fighting would then increase more as changing to a Dictatorship would create more civil wars, and more people would die, making the decision to change to a Dictatorship a bad idea. My final piece of evidence supporting my thinking is in the Smart History Article, which states, “The Republic collapsed in civil war and the Roman empire began.” This shows how since every Plebeian was fighting it, resulting in the Republic collapsing and creating an Empire. Later on, this empire wouldn’t allow power to the people, causing the fall of Rome. In a sense, Rome created its own downfall with how corrupt the system was from the early stages of the start of its dictatorship.

Conclusion: To sum up everything that has been stated so far. The idea of change from a Republic to a Dictatorship was a bad idea as it started the downfall of Rome from the perspectives of the Senates and Plebeians. It caused unnecessary deaths, civil wars, loss of political power, and the downfall of Rome. Everything could have been avoided if everyone in Romes's Government wasn’t so desperate for power. This eventually led to their system being corrupt and fall at such a pace. With this greed for power and these desperate people, Rome then fell under a dictatorship, which would end them indefinitely.

SmartHistory - Dr. Beth Harris - https://smarthistory.org/introduction-to-ancient-rome/ - , March 1, 2017

CrashCourse - John Green - https://youtube.com/watch?v=oPf27gAup9U - 2024-12-22 05:30

National Geographic Article - National Geographic Society - https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/romes-transition-republic-empire/ - October 18, 2024

**CONCLUSION**

From the perspectives of both the senators and the plebeians, the transition from a republic to a dictatorship in Rome was both unnecessary and was the wrong move. Several factors contributed to this point, such as the assassination of Julius Caesar, the loss of political power, public outbreak, and changes within Roman society. These issues might have been avoided had the consuls, mainly Caesar, not been so driven by his greed and desire for power. For instance, Julius Caesar allied himself with some of the most influential and wealthy people in Rome, like Pompey and Crassus, which created the path of greed and also power, eventually leading to the creation of Rome being under a dictatorship.

**CITATIONS**

[SmartHistory](https://smarthistory.org/introduction-to-ancient-rome/?authuser=0) - Dr. Beth Harris - <https://smarthistory.org/introduction-to-ancient-rome/> - , March 1, 2017

[CrashCourse](https://nerdfighteria.info/v/oPf27gAup9U/?authuser=0) - John Green -<https://youtube.com/watch?v=oPf27gAup9U> - 2024-12-22 05:30

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