**The First Triumvirate – Things begin to Unravel**

Pompey and Crassus had different visions for Rome's future, and they soon began to clash. Pompey wanted to maintain the status quo, while Crassus wanted to increase his own power. This led to tension between the two men, which was made worse by Caesar's continued absence.

***Summarise in 10 words:***

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Caesar had spent the years away in Gaul, conquests which had made him even richer and more powerful. By 54 BCE, he quickly realized that Pompey and Crassus were no longer allies but had returned to their old rivalries. To restore the power of the alliance, the three men met again in 56 BCE, at the down of Luca, and renewed their political arrangement.

This time, Caesar was promised an extra five-year command in Gaul to keep him safe from being charged for his activities in 59 BCE.

***Summarise in 10 words:***

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Pompey and Crassus wanted military commands over different provinces. Pompey got Spain and Crassus got the east, which put him in a position to win military glory against the Parthians.

Once the new deal had been finalised, the three men went their separate ways: Caesar back to Gaul, Pompey to Rome and Crassus to the east.

***Summarise in 10 words:***

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In May of 53 BCE, Crassus was defeated at the Battle of Carrhae while leading Roman forces against the Parthians. It was said that the Parthian king had Crassus killed by pouring molten-hot gold into his mouth as a way of punishing him for his immense greed. This left Pompey and Caesar as the only members of the First Triumvirate still alive.

***Summarise in 10 words:***

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Pompey began switching his political allegiance to the optimates faction and began openly opposing Caesar's actions in Gaul. When Caesar's final command began to expire at the end of 50 BCE, the Senate warned him that he was going to be dragged before the court. Caesar reached out to Pompey for further help but was rejected.

***Summarise in 10 words:***

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Realising that he was running out of options, Caesar knew that the either accepted his fate at the hands of the Roman legal system and the optimates that controlled it or choose a more drastic action. Feeling like he had no other option, in January of 49 BCE, Caesar marched his armies across the Rubicon River from Gaul and into Italy with the declared aim of capturing Rome and expelling the optimates.

***Summarise in 10 words:***

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This was an act of war against Rome itself, and it meant that Caesar would have to fight Pompey and his allies to seize control. The Civil War between Caesar and Pompey lasted for just two years and Caesar emerged victorious. He would go on to become dictator of Rome and change Roman politics forever.

***Summarise in 10 words:***

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Outline what occurred on the following dates:

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| 56 BCE |  |
| 54 BCE |  |
| 53 BCE |  |
| 50 BCE |  |
| 49 BCE |  |