12 Ancient

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**GAIUS MARIUS**

**ACTIVITY:**

GET OUT A HIGHLIGHTER OR COLOURED PEN: as you read through the information below, highlight or underline any CHANGES that occur with the ONE highlighter/pen colour you have chosen.

Marius arguably brings about more change than any other individual in our course. He is very important in our course for that reason (***Quick review****: what is the main focus of the questions in the EST?).*

**The main changes Marius is responsible for:**

* Reforms to **army** recruitment (among other important changes to the army)
* Changes to the **number of Consulships** anyone could hold, **when** these could be held, and **why**
* The development and increased use of the **Extraordinary Command** (EOC). The EOC was a power given by the senate to any general who the senate believed might be able to command an army in an emergency to defend Rome
* Changes to the way **violence in politics** occurred.

Marius is the first of the men who are often referred to as the ‘**Military Monarchy’**, meaning they had absolute power in some ways, power which was based on their control of an army. Many more generals came after Marius whose use of the army to get what they wanted was much more cunning and ruthless. **However, Marius is the origin of some very important and, ultimately, destructive changes.**

**His Background:**

* Marius is interesting because he is not a Patrician. He came from a wealthy Equestrian family.
* He joined the army early and showed lots of courage, independence and leadership potential from the start.
* His family were clients of the powerful Metelli family who were influential in the Senate, and Marius got his first significant military posting as a result of this connection to the Metelli.
* Marius early political career was reasonably successful. He was Tribune in 119BC, famously threatening to have his patron Metellus arrested if Metellus blocked his proposals.
* His career followed the *cursus* honorum (ladder of offices): Praetor in 115BC, proprietor in 114BC with his first consulship in 107 BC.
* He married very well, making an important connection to a very old well-respected Patrician family through his wife Julia the aunt of Julius Caesar.

**His military commands:**

**Command #1: His first really important military command** wasagainst **Jugurtha** in Numidia (North Africa), 107 BC.

Jugurtha had been resisting Rome since 118 BC. Metellus was one of several generals who had been sent to defeat Jugurtha. Marius went along as Metellus’ senior officer in 109 BC. Jugurtha was clever, strategic and knew how to effectively use guerrilla tactics in the environment.

After 2 years, and several failed attempts to capture Jugurtha, some of Metellus’ troops began to believe that their general could be more effective, and by 108 BC Marius agreed. Despite a serious disagreement with Metellus about Marius’ ability to lead the army, Marius proposed that if he was in command, he would defeat their enemy, but to get command over the army Marius would need political promotion.

Becoming Consul was necessary, this is difficult for someone with Equestrian status, so Marius used his soldiers and equestrian connections in Rome to gain some backing. Friendly Tribunes also raised support for him among the common people. Marius returned to Rome for the election, which he won, and the Tribunes put up a bill that Marius take over against Jugurtha in Numidia. The assembly voted in support of this and Marius got the command.

However, there was a **problem**. Just before this, the senate had extended (*prorogued*) Metellus’ command indicating he would be returning to fight Jugurtha. So, Marius spread rumours that Metellus was trying to prolong the war against Jugurtha for his own gain, and Metellus became very unpopular. The Tribunes proposed a bill to change the command to Marius and the people in the Assembly would not tolerate any frustration to their demand that Marius’ take over from Metellus. The Senate buckled and gave Marius what he wanted. **This was a HUGE change.** The people had interfered in foreign affairs, something the Senate controlled, and the power of the Tribunes to undermine the senate was once again highlighted. *(****Quick Review****: who else used the Tribunes to undermine the senate?).*

**Extraordinary Command #1 (EOC):**

Technically Marius’ first **command against Jugurtha is therefore an EOC** because he got it in an unconstitutional way. This is unusual and a **big change** **in how Commands in the army could be given**. MANY more EOC’s were given after this. All of them slowly **undermined the power of the senate by increasing the power of the military commanders.**

**Marius’ First Military Reform:**

Marius carried out his first and most **important reform** to the army in 107 BC.

He **recruited** **anyone who volunteered rather than just those who owned property**. The consequences of this change were **ENORMOUS**. By recruiting the army personally, he was responsible for the pay and retirement bonus of the men. This was important because it meant **the loyalty of the army was to the general, not the Roman state.** After this, the loyalty of the armies was used to carry out the ambitions of many famous generals, even if it meant civil war.

**Beating Jugurtha:**

Once in Africa with his new professional army, Marius found Jugurtha a tricky opponent. Catching him was a slow process. In the end Jugurtha was cornered and one of his family members handed him over to Marius’ officer, Gnaeus Sulla in 104 BC. Sulla took the credit for the capture, creating a rivalry with Marius that would last for the rest of their lives, but everyone knew that Marius had engineered the final defeat of Jugurtha, and Marius was firmly the man of the moment.

However, another even more deadly foe was threatening Rome at this time, a menace from the north – the Germanic tribes of the **Cimbri and the Teutones.**

The impact this threatened invasion by the Germanic tribes had on Marius’ career was phenomenal, but the impact it had on the political system was even greater because of the way the senate responded.

**MORE Military Reforms:**

Before going off to fight the Cimbri and Teutones (more about them later) Marius carried out a radical reformation of the army.

It is important that you LEARN what ALL of Marius Military reforms are, because these are some of the most important changes that Marius made.

These changes are important because, as a result of them, the Roman army became the super successful world dominating lethal weapon that it was to be for the next 500 years (some of the key ideas behind his reforms are still used by the army today).

**ACTIVITIES:**

**1).** Look at the table on p.270-72 in Bradley.

EITHER:

**Make your own version of the table** on these pages. Your table MUST be written IN your OWN words (i.e. DO NOT COPY). The significance of each of these changes to the army is ESPECIALLY important (the EST may focus on it). DO A GOOD JOB OF explaining the changes in words you can easily learn and remember. OR

**Create flashcards** of the reforms - describe them on one side and explain their significance on the other. You might use *Quizlet* ([www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)) or a similar app/website to do this OR you can use paper/card.

**2).** Watch the You Tube clip from the movie ‘Gladiator’. Which of Marius’ army reforms can you see in the clip? List them as you watch the clip.

(click on the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVLGwTggO8U>)

**3)**. Read the following extract from Plutarch, *Marius* 13., and answer the questions that follow in your workbook:

**EXTRACT:** *“Setting out on the expedition, Marius laboured to perfect his army as it went along, practising the men in all kinds of running and in long marches, and compelling\* them to carry their own baggage and to prepare their own food. Hence, in after times, men who were fond of toil and did whatever was enjoined\* upon them contentedly and without a murmur, were called Marian mules.”*

Glossary:

Compelling: being made to do something

Enjoined: being asked/told to do something

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Is this an ancient or modern source? How do you know this?
2. What is the message of the source?
3. What is the historical context of the source?
4. What change is identified by the source?
5. What other changes are taking place at this time?

**Marius’ Successive Consulships and second military Command.**

**Command #2: The Cimbri and the Teutones** (these Commands are also **EOC’s # 2-5**):

The situation at this time became quite weird. Why the **Senate gave so much power to Marius** is a bit of a mystery. It was definitely a mistake. BUT, in their defence, the senate were afraid that 100,000’s of scary hairy Germanic northerners were about to march into Rome and destroy everything they held dear. The Germanic people had been migrating south since 113BC and were in Roman provinces by 104 BC. They had also defeated every General Rome had sent against them since 113 BC. The senate needed someone they trusted to protect Rome as they closer to Italy. Marius had just defeated Jugurtha, he was available, and was clearly up to the job of repelling the most dangerous external threat Rome had faced for nearly 100 years.

Marius was given a **Consulship** and a new military command for **every year** that he fought the Cimbri and the Teutones from 104-101 BC. *(****Quick review:*** *how many years are there supposed to be between Consulships, as laid out by the Lex Villia Annalis?)*. **This is why his Consulships are EOC’s.** He only had so many in a row because Rome needed the protection of his army in a time of emergency. The senate was happy to break the normal rules about Roman political careers (laid out by the *Cursus Honorum* or ‘ladder of offices’) to give Marius consulships so that he had the authority to command the armies and defeat their enemy. The senate also bent the rules so that Marius did not even have to be in Rome to be elected Consul because they didn’t want him leaving the battlefield. BUT, of course, once the rules had been broken once, it was clear that they could be broken again. Later, people like Pompey (of the First Triumvirate fame) built their whole careers around breaking these rules. The more the senate broke its own rules, the less powerful it became. Marius’ successive consulships (one after another) were the beginning of the end of senatorial power in Rome.

**ACTIVITY:** In your workbooks, EXPLAIN in your own words why the senate broke their own rules at this time.

**The war itself**

The battles against the Germanic tribes were brutal and difficult. Plutarch tells the story of Marius’ victory over the Cimbri and Teutones. In chapter 27 we hear about the awful final consequences of defeat for the Cimbri and the Teutones at the end of this long war.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Read the extract below. i) Highlight or underline any unfamiliar words and look them up.

ii) What is the message of the source (its main idea)? Share your ideas in pairs.

**EXTRACT:** *“The greatest number and the best fighters of the enemy were cut to pieces on the spot; for to prevent their ranks from being broken, those who fought in front were bound fast to one another with long chains which were passed through their belts. The fugitives, however, were driven back to their entrenchments, where the Romans beheld a most tragic spectacle.  The women, in black garments, stood at the wagons and slew the fugitives — their husbands or brothers or fathers, then strangled their little children and cast them beneath the wheels of the wagons or the feet of the cattle, and then cut their own throats. It is said that one woman hung dangling from the tip of a wagon-pole, with her children tied to either ankle;**3 while the men, for lack of trees, fastened themselves by the neck to the horns of the cattle, or to their legs, then plied the goad, and were dragged or trampled to death as the cattle dashed away. Nevertheless, in spite of such self-destruction, more than sixty thousand were taken prisoners; and those who fell were said to have been twice that number”.* Plutarch *Marius* 27

1. Go back through the notes above, and, in your workbook

A) Identify: The major changes Marius has introduced

B) Explain: Why each of these changes is IMPORTANT.

(You may wish to create a table or graphic organiser to display your ideas)

1. Go back through the notes above, and, in your workbook

A) Identify: The major changes that the Senate has made in this time

B) Explain: Why each of these changes is IMPORTANT.

(You may wish to create a table or graphic organiser to display your ideas)

**The Consulship of 100 BC – Marius’ (disastrous) partnership with Saturninus and Glaucia**

**The election and the goal:**

At the end of the war Marius made a triumphant return to Rome.

Next, he needed to get the pension that he had promised his soldiers when they joined his army. They had fought well and been successful. He wanted to reward them. He was also interested in more military Commands for himself overseas.

The easiest way to achieve all of this was for Marius to become Consul again, because as Consul he would be able to push through laws that gave land to his veteran soldiers (land ownership was the Roman military pension for 100’s of years) and could also get another Command.

However, despite all his hard work, sacrifice and success on the battlefield to keep Rome safe from Jugurtha and then the Cimbri and Teutones, **Marius hit problems when he returned to Rome** **for the** **Consular election of 100 BC**. He found that there were some influential people in the senate who **opposed his having yet another unconstitutional Consulship.** This would be his 6th overall and 5th in a row, in just seven years. All of Marius’ consulships after 107 BC are technically illegal under the rules of the *Lex Villia Annalis*. It is easy to see why a number of senators objected to Marius being given another illegal consulship now that the worst of their foreign enemies had been defeated.

Marius was probably the best soldier/Commander that Rome had produced for at least 50 years. But, he was no politician.

He needed help to navigate the opposition to his next consulship that existed in the senate. Rather unfortunately, Marius decided to ally with a couple of rogues who could get him the votes he needed to get elected:

* **Saturninus** was useful to Marius because he was already popular with the plebs.
* **Glaucia** was an outright scoundrel, but, he had the support of the Equites.

Despite their being obviously dodgy, between them, these 2 men could offer strong support to Marius in the election. The idea was that **in return** Marius would support both of them in their own elections – Saturninus wanted to be **Tribune** for the second time and Glaucia wanted a **Praetorship**.

The three agreed that they would use Marius’ veterans to help persuade the people to vote for them. Marius and Glaucia were elected without too much of a problem, but Saturninus found it more difficult until one of his rivals was murdered. The ancient sources think that Marius’ veterans probably carried out this murder.

This new way of using **violence to achieve a political goal** was only possible because the soldiers were loyal to Marius not the senate *(****Quick review****: which of Marius’ army reforms is responsible for this loyalty?).* Sadly, this was just the beginning of the army being used as a political tool.

**Events of 100 BC:**

Once in office Marius passed laws giving land to his veterans in a number of different colonies across the empire. His men were to be settled in Sicily, Greece, Macedonia and some were going to Allied land in Italy. This measure was very unpopular, so apparently the **veteran soldiers turned up in the assembly when it was time to vote, and their mere presence was enough of a menacing threat** to make the vote go the way Marius and his new partners wanted it to.

The senate encountered problems of their own, because **Marius forced them to take an oath** to support his proposals or go into exile. Marius’ used the threat of his soldiers once again to ‘persuade’ the senate. **They all agreed** to do as he said. By agreeing, **the senate proved that military force would always be more powerful than any political office.**

**Rome was therefore threatened by military men and their armies in one way or another for most of the next 75 years.**

Use of soldiers to threaten the senate and people so that a political goal could be achieved caused **great resentment** among the senate *and* the people of Rome. **Violence and lawlessness in the city increased** dramatically as unrest grew. Saturninus and Glaucia were suspected to be behind most of this trouble .

At this point Marius broke his connection with them.

However, both men continued to pursue power and **ran for election again in 99 BC.** Saturninus apparently had men killed in the election, and was elected as Tribune for the third time. Glaucia’s candidacy was illegal because there hadn’t been a 2 year gap between the offices he sought. However, the senate had proven that it was willing to break the rules when it gave Marius 6 consulships in 7 years. Nonetheless, Glaucia’s campaign was also corrupt – he had a rival (Memmius) murdered when Memmius looked sure to beat Glaucia in the election.

This murder outraged the senate. They demanded that the Consul (Marius) bring the city to order, they were sick of the rioting and the violence, so the senate passed an **SCU** *(****Quick review****: define what this is with the person sitting next to/behind you).* **Marius** was instructed to **arrest Saturninus and Glaucia**. They both fled and took refuge on the Capitol hill. However, Marius was an old hand at sieges, so he cut off the water supply to the Capitol and they surrendered quickly. To protect them from the angry mob who were aware of their role in the unrest that had swept through the city, Marius shut Saturninus and Glaucia up in the Senate House. However, the enraged mob climbed onto the roof of the building, pulled off the roof tiles and hurled them down on the men below, battering both Saturninus and Glaucia to death.

**Ironically Marius had been called upon to take control of the violence he had begun through the use of this veterans to threaten the senate and people.** This fact was not lost on the members of the senate or the people of Rome. Marius’ political career was tarnished, and at the end of 100 BC he decided to ‘retire’.

We don’t know exactly what he did for the next 10 years, but Marius disappeared completely from public life. He did not resurface until the late 90’s and early 80’s BC, and when he did, **he was responsible for the creation of a level of turmoil havoc and violence** in Rome that was unmatched, either before or after.

**ACTIVITY:**

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow in your workbook:

**EXTRACT:** *“In throwing open the legions to the plebs on a voluntary basis, Marius converted the army of the Roman republic into a professional force of soldiers, providing a career for a large number of the unemployed… the loyalty of the new recruits was to their commanding officer or general rather than to the senate or the people. The use of Marius’ soldiers in the riots of 100BC showed that the new style army could be used to destroy the established order just as easily as it might be used to maintain it.”*

*Bradley, Ancient Rome Using Evidence. p.277*

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Is this an ancient or modern source? How do you know this?
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**SUMMARY ACTIVITY:**

**Create a graphic organiser for all of the important changes that took place in Marius’ career.**

**INCLUDE a short** **explanation or description** **of each change you identify** AND **a short description or explanation of why this change was important.**

Use **one** of the example formats below OR choose another format in negotiation with your teacher.

Example 1

Diagram

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Example 2

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Example 3

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Example 4

Diagram, schematic

Description automatically generated