

# Soft Power: Hearts and Minds of Augustan Rome



This image is in the public domain.  
Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).



Image courtesy of [GIACOMO BRINGS](#) on flickr. License CC BY NC.

## Mausoleum of Augustus



Image courtesy of [tayfun](#) on flickr. License CC BY NC.

**Temple of Augustus and Rome**  
**Ankara, Turkey**

# The Augustan Principate

## 'CONSTITUTIONAL' POWERS:

- Proconsular *imperium* (from 27)
  - For life and *maius* than that of governors (from 23)
- *Tribunicia potestas* – powers of a tribune for life (from 23)
- Powers of a consul for life (from 19)

## MILITARY POWER:

- 24 Legions spread around the empire
- Praetorian Guard at Rome – 9,000 men

# Augustus of Prima Porta



This image is in the public domain.  
Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).



This image is in the public domain. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).





This image is in the public domain. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).

# Suetonius, *Augustus* 79

His expression, whether in conversation or when he was silent, was so calm and mild that one of the leading men of the Gallic provinces admitted to his countrymen that it had softened his heart, and kept him from carrying out his design of pushing the emperor over a cliff, when he had been allowed to approach him under the pretence of a conference, as he was crossing the Alps.

He had clear, bright eyes, in which he liked to have it thought that there was a kind of divine power, and it greatly pleased him, whenever he looked keenly at anyone, if he let his face fall as if before the radiance of the sun.

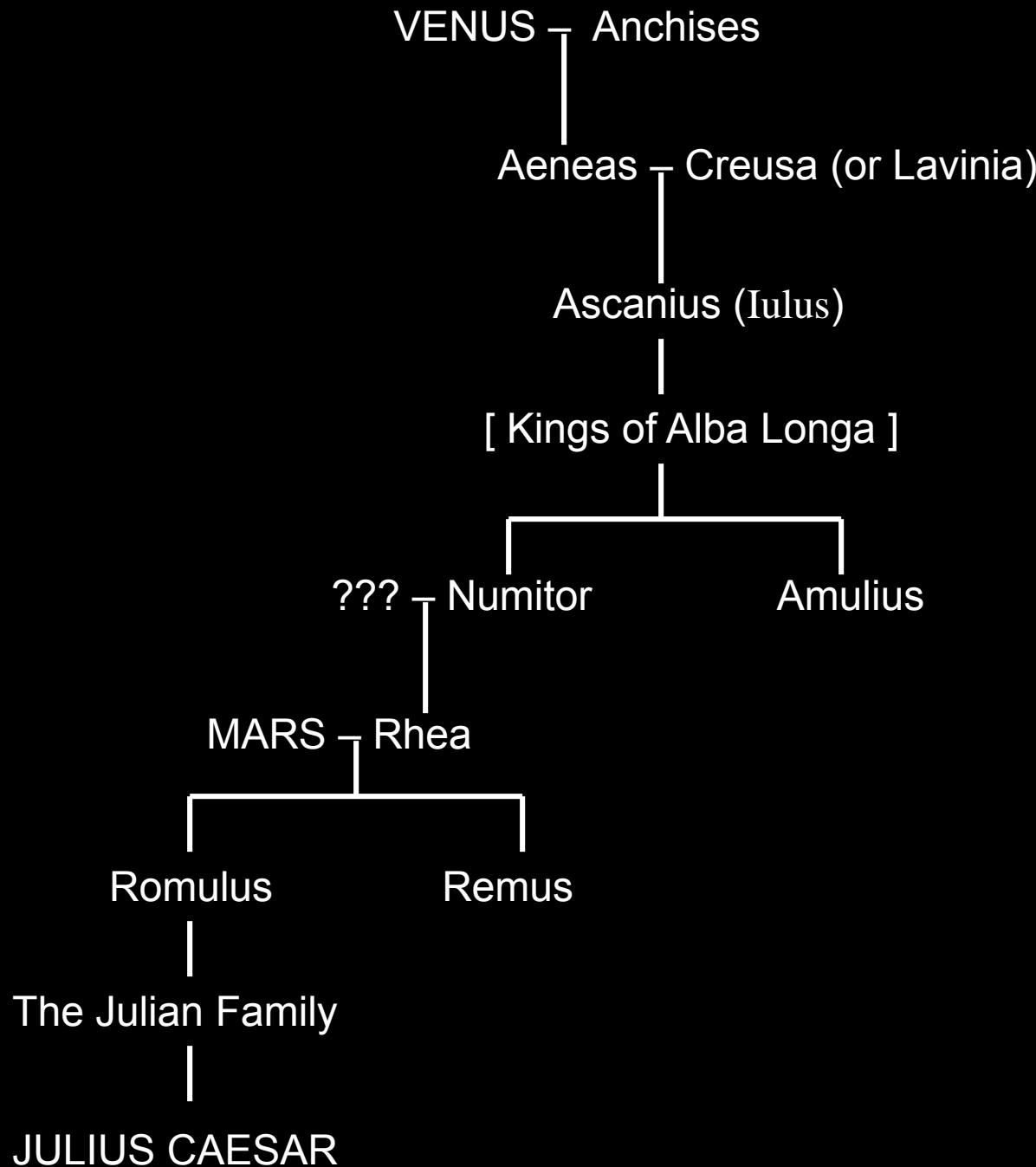
From *Gi YtcbJi g. H\Y@j Yg'cZh\Y'Hk Yj Y'7UYgUfg*. Translated by J.C. Rolfe. This material is in the public domain.

Portrait of Augustus  
From Meroë, Sudan  
British Museum (1911, 0901.1)



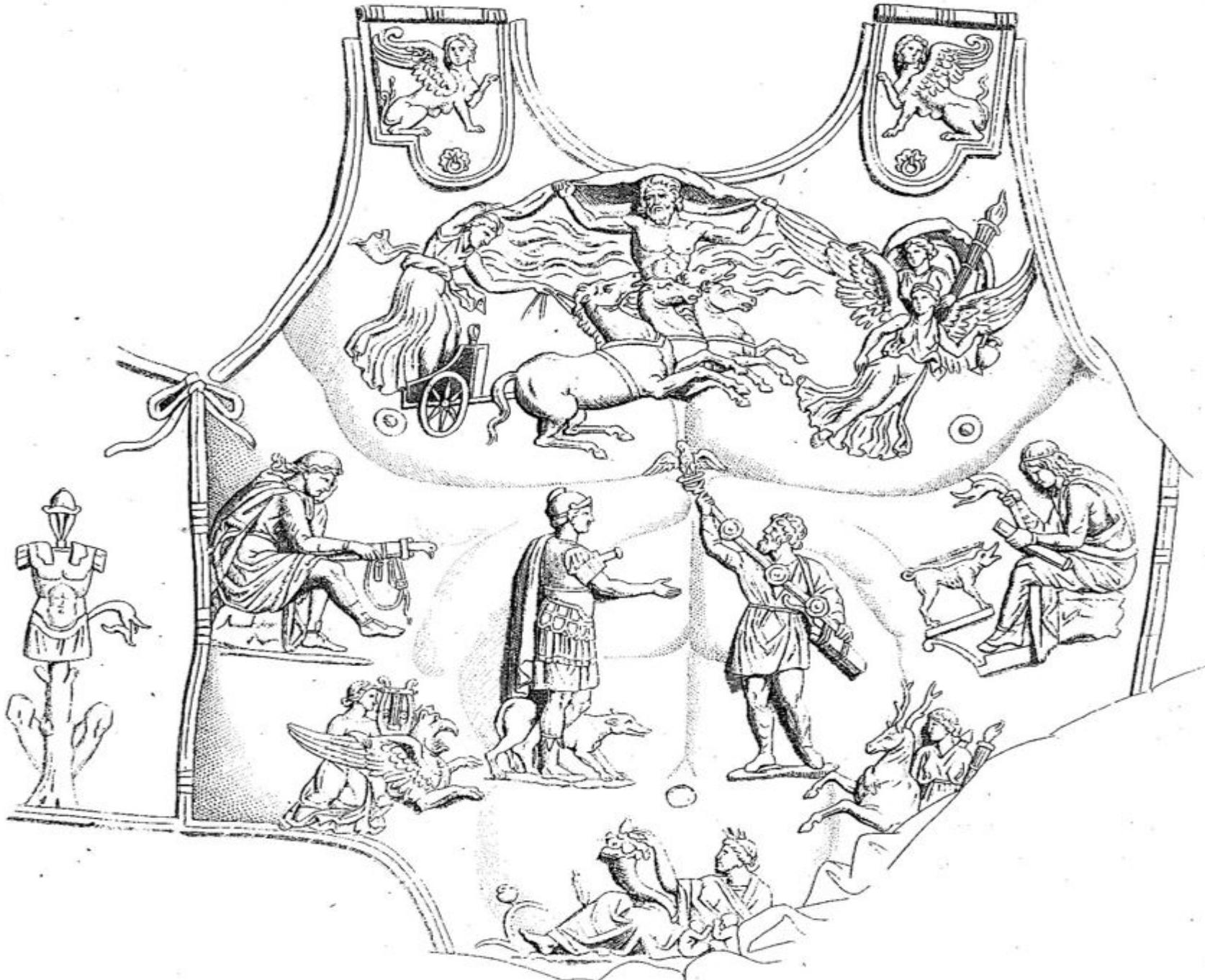
Image courtesy of [B](#) on flickr. License CC BY NC SA.







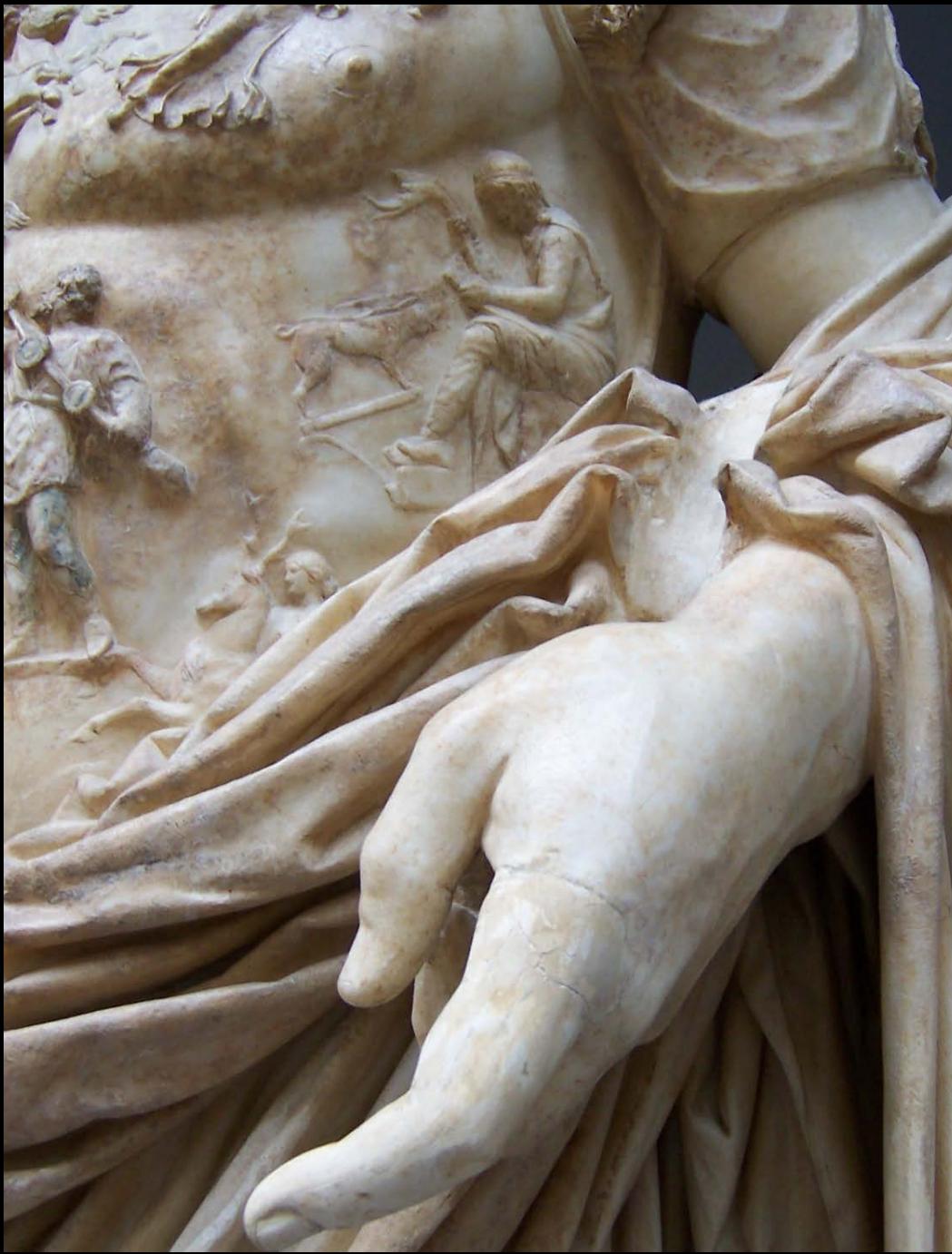
Emlyn-Jones, Chris. *Rome: The Augustan Age*. Open University, 1982. © Open University. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.





© Unknown. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.





© Unknown. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.





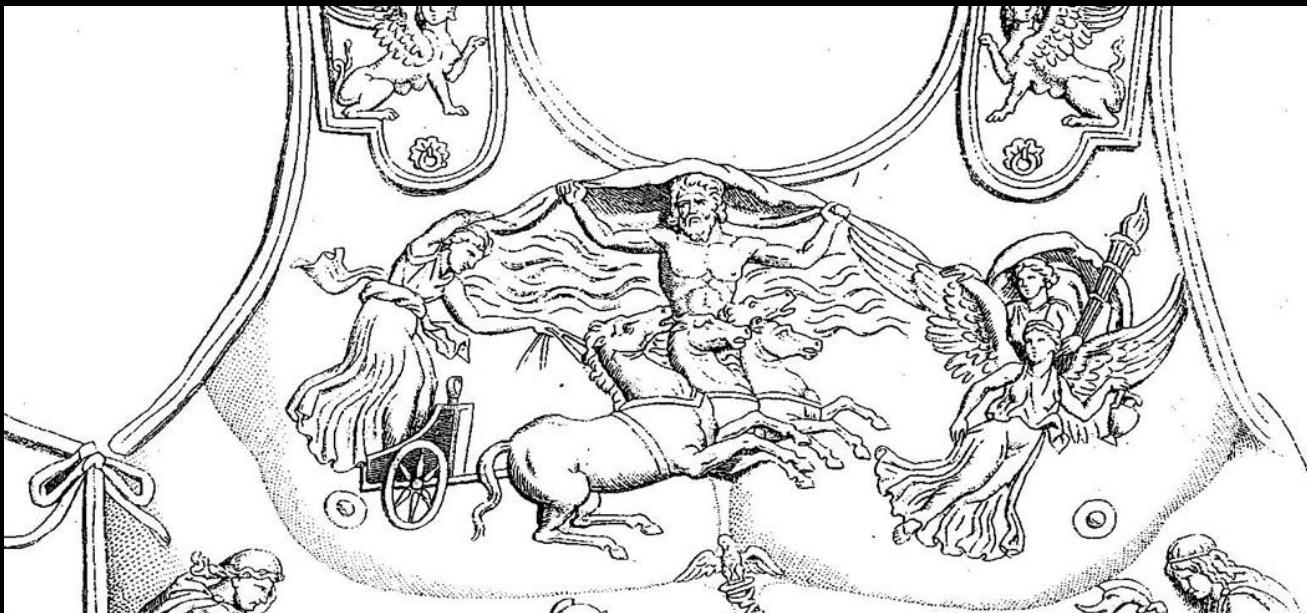
Emlyn-Jones, Chris. *Rome: The Augustan Age*. Open University, 1982. © Open University. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



© Unknown. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



Emlyn-Jones, Chris. *Rome: The Augustan Age*. Open University, 1982. © Open University. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



© Unknown. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



© Unknown. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



© Unknown. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



Emlyn-Jones, Chris. *Rome: The Augustan Age*. Open University, 1982. © Open University. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

# *Res Gestae* 1-2

- 1 At the age of nineteen, on my own initiative and at my own expense, I raised an army by means of which I restored liberty to the republic, which had been oppressed by the tyranny of a faction. For which service the senate, with complimentary resolutions, enrolled me in its order, in the consulship of Gaius Pansa and Aulus Hirtius, giving me at the same time consular precedence in voting; it also gave me the *imperium*. As propraetor it ordered me, along with the consuls, “to see that the republic suffered no harm.” In the same year, moreover, as both consuls had fallen in war, the people elected me consul and a triumvir for setting the constitution.
- 2 Those who slew my father I drove into exile, punishing their deed by due process of law, and afterwards, when they waged war upon the republic, I twice defeated them in battle...

From *JY`YJi g'DUhYfW i g'UbXFYg; YgHUY'8jj]5i [ i gh*. Translated by Frederick W. Shipley. This material is in the public domain.

MIT OpenCourseWare

<https://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.132 The Ancient World: Rome

Spring 2017

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <https://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.