

Third Servile Revolt: Rebels

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Dear Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the Rebel Side of the Third Servile Revolt! It is an honor to invite you to the 24th Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium and to this exhilarating Joint Crisis Committee.

My name is Madeleine Kausel (better known as Spartacus) and I am honored to serve as your chair for SSUNS 2016. I am currently a second year student at McGill University, working to complete an Honors degree in Political Science and a minor in Sociology. When I am not leading an army of slaves to face the Roman Empire, I enjoy participating in Greek Life, organizing events for the Pre-Law Society, and competing with the Moot Court Team. From the sunny state of Florida to the snowy city of Montreal, Model United Nations has continued to be a significant part of my life. I was first introduced to the debate form in high school and I continue to compete with McGill's Delegation Team on the collegiate circuit. From delegate, to chair, to a member of the McMUN 2017 Secretariat, I can proudly say that MUN is the best alternate form of education for our world's future leaders.

Joining us this weekend, is the lovely Francesca Wallace. This hardworking, intelligent, and highly fashionable Vice-Chair hails from Burlington, Ontario and is a second year Political Science student at McGill. She is an editor for the McGill International Review and has also competed with McGill's Delegation Team. In her free time, Francesca enjoys writing, painting, and hiking up Mount Royal. She is extremely excited to help us in the fight against the Romans and is determined to win this war to restore justice on the Italian Peninsula.

This committee has one goal and one goal only: to win the war against the Roman military. We have endured servitude for too long. We have suffered under the hand of the wealthy and the powerful for generations. Now we must revolt to establish greater equality in our society. However, do not forget we have many disadvantages so I urge each and every one of you to find creative solutions for battling not only the soldiers that will come our way, but the tough economic and health issues we are bound to face during the Third Servile War. For the purpose of this committee, please note that history is not set in stone. Through debate and collective action, you all have the power to rewrite this tale's ending.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Kausel
Chair



The War

The year was 73 B.C.E, tensions were high, and Spartacus was preparing his fellow gladiators and slaves for battle. This time however, the fight would be outside of the arena. Previous servile revolts have been unsuccessful; this made rebellions' leaders all the more determined to establish justice within Roman society. It all started with a band of around 80 men who began to fight against the local authority in southern Italy. They proceeded to travel around the peninsula, using guerrilla warfare-style attacks on the Roman militia. The revolt evolved into a full-scale war against the professionally trained Roman army. While the slaves lacked military training and funding, Spartacus' forces displayed ingenuity in their use of available local materials, and in their use of clever, strategies in the face of disciplined Roman armies. In response to one Roman army attack for example, Spartacus' men made ropes and ladders from vines and trees and used them to rappel down the cliffs on the side of the mountain opposite the troops. As a result, they moved around the base of the volcano, and outmaneuvered the Roman troops. The Rebels also gathered weapons by raiding military camps and by pillaging their master's supplies before joining the servile revolt.

As more attacks proved successful against local groups and patrols, members of the Senate became increasingly worried that the rebellion would be successful. They dispatched their legions to suppress the rebellion, which resulted in numerous battles around Italy. Escaped slaves came from nearby territories to fight and in the end 120,000 men, women, and children were fighting for their freedom. It is estimated that over 40,000



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slaves and 30,000-40,000 Roman soldiers died throughout the war. However, it is up to all of you delegates to determine the beginning, middle, and end of this struggle for equality. While keeping in mind the historical timeline, we invite you to craft intricate strategies to overcome the great obstacles ahead of us. We will be bombarded by crises throughout this war so we challenge you to work together to achieve victory.

The Roman Republic – Governance and Military Structure

The basic outline of Republic political structure starts with the multiple assemblies that comprise Roman lawmakers. The Comitia Centuriata had several important roles as a popular assembly; they elected the consuls each year, had the power to declare war, and formally enacted the senate's drawn up proposals. The Concilium Plebis was another assembly for the purpose of bridging the two classes. Any law passed by them was binding for both the patricians and plebeians. They also elected the tribunes who represented concerns of plebeians¹. Also prominent in Roman government were the *cursus honorum*. These were administrative offices in varied importance. There were only two consuls a year who had the power of Imperium. They attended to matters of the senate and war and proposing laws. After a consul finished a term they could be a governor of a province and rule over republic territories². Praetors also had absolute power and dealt with legal issues.

¹ "Comitia." *Greek & Roman Mythology*. University of Pennsylvania, n.d. Web. 19 Sept. 2016.

² McManus, Barbara F. "Roman Government." *Roman Government*. The College of New Rochelle, July 2003. Web. 19 Sept. 2016.



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A quaestor was tasked with financial affairs while an aedile presided over infrastructure and maintenance³.

When a consul is leading an army he usually took two legions that roughly equated to 10,000 men. A legion has ten cohorts of 480 men with each cohort holding six centuries, which contain 80 men, the first cohort traditionally will have a greater number of troops. Legions also had traditional starting battle line that included their small amounts of skirmishers and cavalry⁴. The typical legionary carries a scutum, pilum, and gladius, as well as a helmet and body armor⁵.

Slave Trade

It is estimated that 10% of the Roman Republic's population were slaves, equivalent to just under five million people. Half of them worked in the countryside so they were quite knowledgeable of the terrain. The rest of slave population supported the economy through serving in urban areas for businesses and households. With agricultural production generating more and more strong crop yields on the Italian Peninsula, Roman landowners needed more labor to work the land. Many ports on the Mediterranean Sea were hubs for slave trade, especially Delos in the east. Slaves were also sold at public auction or in shops where sales were overseen by Roman fiscal officials called quaestors⁶.

³ "Quaestor." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d. Web. 19 Sept. 2016.

⁴ McManus, Barbara F. "Roman Army Part I." *Roman Army Part I*. The College of New Rochelle, June 1999. Web. 19 Sept. 2016.

⁵ Cavazzi, F. "The Roman Army." *The Roman Empire*. N.p., 8 Apr. 2012. Web. 19 Sept. 2016.

⁶ Alchin, Linda. "Roman Slaves." *Roman Slaves*. Tribunes and Triumphs, n.d. Web. 17 Sept. 2016.

Although enslaved people were the cornerstone of the economy, they were often physically and mentally abused, from large plantations to the houses of the wealthy. Slaves with a technical skill, such as medicine, singing, or carpentry, commanded higher prices.



Beauty and health were also factors when determining value. *Figure 1: Depiction of Slave Duties in the Roman Empire (Source: "Women and Slaves". Ancient Rome.)*

Slaves were considered property but they could eventually obtain freedom and citizenship by purchasing their freedom. In special cases, they were freed by their masters in return for their loyalty and service⁷. There were also slaves who could not be sold, set free, or buy their freedom, who were condemned to lives working in mines. Sending slaves to the mines was a form of punishment as the conditions were very harsh and barely livable. Another form of punishment was sending slaves to gladiatorial school. Most of the men who fought as gladiators were slaves but some of them were free volunteers. Those who were slaves were sometimes granted freedom if they proved successful. Trained in the use of numerous weapons for the purpose of killing, the gladiators were the most dangerous types of slaves who had the most potential to threaten the slave trade as a whole. The slave

⁷ Alchin, Linda. "Roman Slaves." *Roman Slaves. Tribunes and Triumphs*, n.d. Web. 17 Sept. 2016.



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trade did not end after the Third Servile War but rather slaves were slowly replaced by cheap labor and serfs who were bound to the land in the countryside. Slavery as a norm endured for centuries but they were gradually treated in a more humane manner.

The Gladiatorial Games

The Third Servile War is also known as the Gladiator War because the revolt was led by Spartacus and his cadre of gladiators. So who were these mighty warriors who dared to challenge the Roman military? A gladiator, Latin for swordsman, was usually a young man who was trained in armed combat and risked his life during the performance in the arena. Notwithstanding a few volunteers, most of them were slaves, criminals, or prisoners of war, forced to fight to the death in the gladiatorial games, or *muneras*. If they performed well or died with honor, the gladiators were regarded as celebrities. Overtime, the game's popularity increased and they became more opulent with expensive equipment and new arenas. Arenas held thousands of people in seats that wrapped around the oblong structure. They were typically built of wood with sand in the center, but some of the arenas were constructed from a more durable material such as stone.



Figure 2: Depiction of a gladiator arena

Circa 105 B.C.E, the first gladiator school was established in Capua in southern Italy. Other training centers followed suit around the peninsula until the practice ended in 5th century B.C. after the adoption of Christianity. The Third Servile Revolt was ignited among the gladiators in the school owned by Lentils Batiatus. Led by Spartacus, the gladiators used the skills

learned for the arena in the battlefield against the Roman military. Young men who were extremely well-equipped for combat and oppressed within society were very likely to rebel. All gladiators had to take an oath “I will endure to be burned, to be bound, to be beaten, and to be killed by the sword”. The ironic mix of honor, fame, and servitude proved to fuel the rebellion which left patrons torn as many civilians adored the gladiators yet supported the class system that was ineradicable in Roman society.

Religion

Religion played a significant role in the lives of Ancient Romans. During the period of the Third Servile War, the Roman Empire was still dominated by a polytheistic belief in



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12 gods and goddesses, collectively called the Pantheon⁸. Jupiter was considered the King of the Gods, much like the Greek god Zeus. He controlled the weather, natural disasters, and ruled over the rest of the Pantheon. His wife, Juno, was the supreme goddess of light and the moon, which evolved into the goddess of fertility. Venus was the goddess of love and beauty, while Ceres was the goddess of the harvest. Minerva was known as the goddess of doctors, musicians, and artisans and Mars was the god of war⁹. It was tradition for warriors to make sacrifices and perform rituals for Mars before and after battles for honor, respect and good fortune in war. Diana was the goddess of hunting, Vesta was the goddess of the hearth of Rome, and Neptune was the powerful god of the sea. The Romans believed that Neptune greatly affected their voyages and battles at sea, so he was highly honored with grand temples and sacrificial rituals¹⁰. Vulcan ruled the underworld and expressed his rage through volcanic eruptions. Mercury was regarded as the messenger of the gods and the protector of travelers. With wings on his helmet and sandals he could travel and relay correspondence between gods quickly. The twelfth member of the Pantheon was Bacchus, the god of wine and he was elaborately celebrated quite often¹¹.

⁸ Donald, Wasson L. "Roman Religion." *Ancient History Encyclopedia*. Ancient History Encyclopedia, 13 Nov. 2013. Web. 17 Sept. 2016.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ando, Clifford. *Roman Religion*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2003. Print.

¹¹ Ibid.



Figure 3: Neptune, God of the Sea

However, worship was not limited to just the 12 Gods. Greek gods were gradually incorporated due to the presence of Greek colonies in the south and individual communities' families often worshipped their own gods, especially plebeians, who were often excluded from religious positions and rites¹². Priesthood, for example, was a public office, yet it was solely reserved for patricians. The Vestal Virgins were also only

chosen from the patrician class at the age of six and were forbidden to marry. They were forced into a life of servitude for the goddess Vesta¹³. The exclusion of the plebeian class permeated every aspect of society, even within the religious structure that united the Roman Empire.

Natural Threats

Disease in Ancient Rome plagued thousands of its citizens, especially its slaves, leading to shorter life spans. Rome, a highly populated city center, was a hotspot for disease. Trade brought foreigners from all over the continent and with them, viruses followed and thrived in the close quarters. Mosquitoes bred in the stagnant water of the

¹² Ando, Clifford. *Roman Religion*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2003. Print.

¹³ Ibid.



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Tiber river, adjacent to Rome, causing malaria to spread throughout the population¹⁴. Leprosy, smallpox, typhoid and tuberculosis were also leading causes of death on the Italian peninsula. Public bathrooms and baths were accessible to everyone and were an important part of their daily ritual, with men bathing in the morning and women in the evening. Unfortunately, the unsanitary water and sewage were hubs for water-borne diseases, which targeted wealthy Romans and slaves alike as they often bathed together¹⁵. However, the wealthy often moved to the country during outbreaks, usually from July to October, to avoid contamination but sometimes this brought the disease to the countryside. It is estimated that about 30,000 residents died each year on average in Ancient Rome. Due to disease, harsh work conditions, closed living quarters, and malnourishment, slaves on average did not live much longer than 20 years¹⁶.

Natural disasters, such as wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes, have wreaked havoc throughout the period of Ancient Rome, testing their ability to deal with emergencies and recover during the aftermath. The Romans believed that natural disasters were a form of punishment from the Gods for inter-human hostility and leading lives of sin. Volcanic explosions, also referred to as hell-fire, were widely understood as expressions of Vulcan's anger. Only through prayer and an increase in devotion could the Romans avoid these natural disasters. One of the most dangerous aftereffects of these

¹⁴ Thompson, Andrew. "Malaria and the Fall of Rome." *Bbc.com*. The British Broadcasting Corporation, 17 Feb. 2011. Web. 19 Sept. 2016.

¹⁵ Gigante, Linda. "Death and Disease in Ancient Rome." *Innominate's Society*. University of Louisville, n.d. Web. 19 Sept. 2016.

¹⁶ Hope, Valerie M. *Death in Ancient Rome: A Sourcebook*. London: Routledge, 2007. Print.



events were massive fires that would sweep the city due to the wooden edifices. Spread by winds from the Mediterranean Sea, fires easily destroyed small and large cities alike¹⁷. Throughout Ancient Rome, fires occurred quite frequently, winding through the narrow streets and closely situated houses built from highly flammable materials¹⁸. They were often brought on by civil strife and protests, as well as natural occurrences, such as lightning strikes¹⁹. Wildfires had great economic, societal, and demographic impacts but they potentially also be used as a tactic in war to distract and incinerate enemy camps.

Character Portfolios

Cirixius

Cirixius is one of the co-leader of the slave revolt along with Spartacus. Cirixius is Thracian by descent and has a great influence over the slaves in the South. He is a very loyal aid to Spartacus, advising him on battle strategy and raid tactics.

Oenamus

Oenamus is one of the main military leaders of the rebellion, and is part of a triumvirate with Spartacus and Crixius. He escaped the gladiatorial school ran by Cnaeus Cornelius

¹⁷ H. V. Canter, By. "H. V. Canter • Conflagrations in Ancient Rome - Classical Journal 27:270-288 (1932)." *H. V. Canter • Conflagrations in Ancient Rome - Classical Journal* 27:270-288 (1932). University of Chicago, 12 Feb. 2016. Web. 17 Sept. 2016.

¹⁸ Kozák, Jan, and Cermák, Vladimír. *The Illustrated History of Natural Disasters*. Springer Netherlands, n.d. Web. 17 Sept. 2016.

¹⁹"The Burning of Rome, 64 AD," EyeWitness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (1999)



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Lentulus Vatia, and seeks to lead the slaves in Northern Italy. As a Gaul, he has a large network of slaves across the European continent and can speak the Gaulish language, which facilitates communication among the bands of rebels.

Varinia

Spartacus' wife, of Thracian decent, is the chief seer of the rebels. She garners great respect among the troops and is looked to for godly advice, direction, and approval. Gods and goddesses are known to possess her during ecstatic frenzies, allowing her to predict the future and give life to the gladiator's premonitions.

Seneca

Seneca is a Roman writer-philosopher that publicly despised the famous Roman pastime of Gladiator fighting, saying he couldn't watch a game where "man killed for sport". Although he is a philosophical advisor to the Roman Senate, he is sympathetic to the rebel cause. Seneca works to disillusion the abusive methods of the slaves from the Romans, acting as a voice for the rebels in Roman government.

Titus Minucius Vetticus

A rich, young Roman in love with a slave girl. Revolted against his father's estate outside Capua with an army of slaves. The Roman senate takes his threats seriously and he often acts as the channel between the Rebels and the Roman Senate for communication. He is highly connected to the Roman elite and has plentiful access to their resources.

Cnaeus Cornelius Lentulus Vatia

From Capua, Rome. He was an entrepreneur who bought slaves and trained them into gladiators within a vast, high walled establishment in Capua, where disobedience was met with death. He is a very tough trainer, known to have killed slaves for failing to be disciplined but nonetheless works with the rebels. Cnaeus is the head craftsmen of the slaves, with the ability and resources to make mass amounts of weaponry.



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Dositheus

An old a powerful horseback warrior in his youth who now teaches these skills to the younger slaves, Dositheus is known to have scared the Romans by beheading one in a single blow. He is a great advisor, but no longer a strong fighter. Dositheus was the leader of the families of slaves. Chief military strategist of the slaves.

Varro

A Roman writer especially interested in exposing the needs and rights of the slaves. Stated Spartacus, like the other slaves, were innocent and risked his life saying so. Since he was one of the few literate persons at the time, he helped spread the message of the revolt to the patricians and those in the academic community to garner support. Varro is a healer for the rebels.

Caecillia

Caecillia is one of the few fully trained female Gladiators. She has been working to train young slave women and the Bacchantes, young priestesses, how to fight. She also has persuasive skills when trying to get women and their children to join the revolt. As a woman, Caecillia is illiterate. However, her work with the slave families has allowed her to become fluent in many languages and dialects.

Ganicus

Warrior, military leader — known to divide. Ganicus previously worked for the Romans as a naval advisor for their vast array of ships; including training the slaves that rowed them. He is now the naval strategist for the rebels. Having previously lived in a sea-port town, Ganicus has accumulated a few small ships, as well as the trust and control of their captains.



Samus

A gladiator who was humble and fought both on horseback and as a *Murmillio*, or gladiator. Extremely loyal to the cause and very trustworthy. Thanks to his long term loyalty to the rebels, and his experience and knowledge of their strife, he is seen as a spiritual figurehead. Many slaves look to him for guidance. He commonly preaches to the slaves, and many of them take his word as law. Samus has a temple in Thracia, where slaves commonly go to offer goods and receive support and advice.

Asicius

A champion of the gladiators, Asicius, however, is rivals with Celadeus who calls him weak. Their disagreements cause shifts within the rebels as both have won loyalty of followers. Asicius cares less about training the new gladiators and more about accumulating their wealth. All new gladiators must go through inspections by Asicius before they fight, where he commonly takes all of their goods and pawns them off for weapons and supplies. Thus, Asicius is the treasurer of the rebels.

Phillupus

The “fearsome” champion gladiator, owned by Vatia. Phillupus trains incoming slaves as gladiators. Phillupus specifically works with, and has a close relationship with, the young gladiators. As the first person they meet when they are forced into becoming gladiators, Phillupus has a lot of influence over them, and has the final say in their gladiator training. A Hoplomachi fighter and leader.

Celadeus

The champion gladiator, who was incredibly strong and charming, good for communications with other sections of rebels or slaves. Known by all, Celadeus can effectively reach out to the various sections of the slaves when they need to be advised of a strategy. Celadeus is especially good at this thanks to his geographical knowledge of the



areas; he knows all of the secret passageways in Rome and slave camps, as well as which terrains are favourable to cross. Thanks to this, Celadeus is a very useful navigator.

Lanista

Leader of the salt mining slaves in Capua. He gained loyalty through educating the slaves there and establishing an underground school/training assembly. Lanista knows that military training is not the only important skill rebels need to have; they also need to know how to communicate, especially if they want to survive as a free civilization post-revolt. For this reason, Lanista has championed himself as the teacher of the slaves; working on literacy and language.

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