

Committee: Third Servile Revolt- Romans

Topic: Third Servile Revolt

Person: Marcus Aurelius

Today, the Roman Republic stands as the powerhouse of the world and the home of the most advanced military of the world. Despite this, we are currently being challenged by our own people- our lower classes of slaves, servants, and gladiators, who are lead by two men known as Spartacus and Crixus.¹ This group of insurgents gains a following by portraying themselves as freedom fighters revolting against the corrupt Roman society, yet their only true goal is to benefit themselves; they have no plan for the future of Rome, and it is believed part of the divided group simply wishes to flee past the Alps where they hope to reach freedom for only themselves.

This rebel uprising is not the first time the power of Rome has been threatened, as 191 years ago, in the year of 264 BCE, we engaged in the first of the Punic Wars, which would last until 146 BCE. During the Punic Wars, Rome fought against Carthage, a city-state residing in Northern Africa.² Even with Carthage's wealth and naval power, with the use of our resilient soldiers and war tactics modeled off those previously used by the Greeks, Rome was successful against Carthage.³ In fact, the wars only made our republic stronger, as like always, we offered citizenship to the civilians of the conquered lands, besides for the 50,000 we sold into slavery, and built roads connecting ourselves to the region. With our military win, we were able to expand our already vast empire and make us an even stronger force within the world.

In addition to the Punic Wars, the Roman Republic has also dealt with two previous servile revolts. From 135-132 BCE, slaves unsuccessfully attempted to rebel against the republic in Sicily using guerrilla warfare, but were ultimately defeated by our military forces.⁴ Following this revolt, in 104 BCE a similar one occurred again on the island of Sicily, which was filled with plantations, and, therefore, a large number of slaves, but once again our Roman powers were able to vanquish the servile forces.

Now, in the year of 73 BCE, the Roman Republic still contains the strongest army in the world. Because of this, I, Marcus Aurelius, believe that we should crush these rebel forces with militaristic advancements, while also focusing on improving and maintaining our economic and social structures. Although our military forces are strong, and should be sent out to fight the rebels, I also believe it is essential that we send them to battle with improved technology systems. The first way we can improve the Roman army is not with man power, but pigeon power. As can be seen in the eastern land where pigeons are already utilized, pigeons have great honing capabilities, and when properly trained can be used to send messages by tying notes to their feet. During a training period, the pigeons would be taught where their home cage is, which would be our governmental meeting house. Soon, the pigeons would be sent farther and farther away from their home cage, but always return to their designated home cage. Then, as troops go out to battle, they would bring pigeons along with them and when the troops needs to relay a message to Rome pertaining to the war, they could simply tie a message to the pigeon's feet and release the bird. By doing this, we can ensure that our military forces our always coordinated and one step ahead of the rebels.

Moreover, it is essential that we cut off all of the insurgencies supplies. Currently, the majority of the food used by the insurgency is stolen from our own republic, I believe that we should poison food storage facilities with hemlock before they are seized by rebels, easily killing large numbers of their troops. Along with this, all crop fields near rebel dominated territories should be burned, leaving them starved and greatly weakened for battle, and allowing for our strong military to easily defeat them. However, because it is possible that our own Roman civilians could be negatively affected by the loss of crops, we should make up for their losses by transporting crops and goods from other parts of our expansive empire. Due to our vast size, we should still be able to grow enough crops to feed the entirety of our population if food is properly transported, and to make transportation easier, we should emphasize spending governmental funds on the improvement of infrastructure. Not only would this improvement of infrastructure aid with the movement of food supplies, but it would also benefit our troops, as they could more easily travel along our nation to fight the insurgents.

Lastly, I propose that we take advantage of the disorganization of Spartacus's troops and get spies to join the rebel's army. Disguised as lowly slaves, these spies will join the insurgency and retrieve information. Then, they could relay all information, through the previously mentioned pigeons or by person and horse, back to the leaders of Rome. Along with spies, I also believe it would be beneficial to get into contact with one of Spartacus's close subordinates who might feel jealous of the attention and power he receives, or may disagree with his plans. Once in contact with this rebel, we can offer him large amounts gold if he is willing to poison Spartacus's meal with hemlock.

All in all, our plan for the future of the republic is clear if we ask ourselves the following questions: Are we to coward down to our own lower classes? Our slaves, our servants, and our gladiators- people who would be nothing without us and our great republic? Or will we fight and do everything in our power to defend the honor of the Roman Republic? To me, the answer is simple. We must implement my proposition in order to crush the radical forces threatening our marvelous empire, and the civilians within it. We must fight for Rome.

¹ <http://www.unrv.com/roman-republic/third-servile-war.php>

² <http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/punic-wars>

³ <http://spartacus-educational.com/ROMmilitary.htm>

⁴ http://www.heritage-history.com/index.php?c=academy&s=war-dir&f=wars_servile