

Delegation: Lucius Quinctius  
Committee: Third Servile Revolt: Romans  
Delegate: Trilok Reddy



Lucius Quinctius was born in 124 B.C.E and became a *homo novus*, or the first person in his family to serve in the senate.<sup>1</sup> In 74 B.C.E he was a Tribune of the plebs. Tribunes of the plebs were elected by the plebeian class and preside over the *Concillium Plebis*, or plebeian assembly. The *Concillium Plebis* also elected the *aediles* who oversaw the maintenance for the public buildings and projects of Rome. The Tribunes were important in the Roman system of checks and balances. They were the highest representatives of the plebeian class, therefore, they were allowed powers such as summoning the Senate and proposing legislation to them and intervening on the behalf of plebeians in disputes. Their most impactful power was their ability to veto elections, actions of the Senate, consuls, other magistrates, and even all government functions.<sup>2</sup> The Tribunes were also declared *Sacrosanct*, meaning that harming a tribune, or ignoring their veto, was punishable by death.<sup>3</sup> Lucius was also a supporter of the *Populares*, a political faction that favored the plebeians, specifically the urban working class plebeians, and as a Tribune he was forced to spend most of his time in Rome.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> McDonnell, M. A. (2006). *Roman manliness: Virtus and the Roman Republic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

<sup>2</sup> Petit, P. (n.d.). Ancient Rome. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/place/ancient-Rome#ref212991>.

<sup>3</sup> IBID.

<sup>4</sup> P. (n.d.). Who was Who in Roman Times :Parallel Lives by Plutarchus. Retrieved from [http://www.romansonline.com/Src\\_Frame.asp?DocID=Plt\\_Lucl\\_05](http://www.romansonline.com/Src_Frame.asp?DocID=Plt_Lucl_05).

We are currently still recovering from effects of the Sulla dictatorship from 82 B.C.E to 81 B.C.E. Sulla favored the *Optimates* over the *Populares* in his changes to the Roman Constitution during his dictatorship.<sup>5</sup> Roman citizenship at this time also encompasses all free men in the Italian peninsula due to the recent Social Wars.<sup>6</sup> The two consuls in 73 B.C are Marcus Terentius Varro Lucullus and Gaius Cassius Longinus Varus. Luckless is known to be an *Optimate*.<sup>7</sup>

The Roman military strength will lead us to victory over the rebels. The military is separated into legions of 5,500 men, and further divided into 10 cohorts, one of 800 men and 5 centuries and 9 of 480 men and six centuries. Centuries were commanded by *centurions* and legions were commanded by *legates*.<sup>8</sup> The legion also included horsemen, typically used as scouts, archers, blacksmiths, and other specialists. The Roman military at this time is still mostly comprised of levied conscripts from mostly agrarian backgrounds. There are still auxiliary soldiers, or those not of Roman citizenship, and barbarian cavalrymen used as mercenaries.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Lucius Cornelius Sulla (138-78 B.C.) - Brief History. (2016, May 24). Retrieved from <http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/sulla/g/092207Sulla.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Wasson, D. L. (2016, January 27). Roman Citizenship. Retrieved from <http://www.ancient.eu/article/859/>.

<sup>7</sup> Knox, E. S. (n.d.). The Roman Revolution. Retrieved from <https://europeanhistory.boisestate.edu/westciv/romanrev/15.shtml>.

<sup>8</sup> Structure of the Legion | Strategy & Tactics | The Roman Military. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://romanmilitary.net/strategy/structure/>.

<sup>9</sup> The Roman Military. (n.d.). Retrieved November 7, 2016, from <http://ancientmilitary.com/roman-military.htm>.

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