***Delegate representing Represented by***

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**Third Servile Revolt**

The year is 681[*Ab urbe condita*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ab_urbe_condita), 681 years since the founding of the glorious city of Rome. The city of Romulus and Remus, descendants of Aeneas of Troy, is now the greatest city ever built by man. The republic drives ever onward, spreading civilization wherever it reaches and is constantly pushing back the barbarians who prowl beyond the borders of the republic. Rome has known great trials in the past; the Punic wars, the Cimbrian War, the Social War and most recently the civil war between Sulla and Marius. Yet Rome has endured all these hardships by the will of the gods and the strength of her people. Now another threat menaces all that Rome stands for. A band of slaves and escaped gladiators have become a serious threat to the Roman heartland and menace many cities and towns within the Italian peninsula. I, Publius Servilius Vatia Isauricus, pledge to defend the eternal city and her ideals from this rabble and will do whatever is within my power to remind them of their place in this world, subservient and loyal to Rome.

Currently, a large group of escaped slaves and gladiators have united under the banner of a Thracian gladiator named Spartacus and other leaders to wage a war against Rome. This rebellion represents a threat to the very principles that make Rome great and must be defeated swiftly, decisively and without mercy. If the slaves continue to defy the authority of the Rome, it will embolden other slaves across the Republic and might inspire further rebellions. This cannot be allowed to happen. The senate must react swiftly and dispatch forces to confront the slaves directly and draw them into battle before their numbers grow too great. As it stands, there are no legions stationed in Italy itself. While this is necessary to guard the frontiers, it may be necessary to raise new legions in Italy should the local militias be unable to deal with the revolt. This is entirely possible since the local troops who are immediately able to fight are not professional soldiers. We should not be too hasty in throwing them into battle against seasoned gladiators. Further training of these local militia may be necessary in order to ensure their effectiveness as a fighting force.

Looking beyond Italy, Rome has many enemies who would like nothing more than to see a band of slaves overrun Roman cities. Currently, Rome is fighting wars against Mithridates in Asia Minor and Sertorius in Hispania. We must ensure that these adversaries are not permitted to align with the slaves and collude together for the downfall of Rome. As it stands today, the only connection between the rebels and these foreign powers is by the Mediterranean Sea. A strong naval presence will be required to ensure that the rebels do not receive external aid as well as to facilitate further military maneuvers and operations against the slaves. By denying them access to coastal areas, they will become isolated and unable to escape the Italian peninsula. Given my personal history in dealing with Cilician pirates in the Mediterranean, I am well suited to carry out such a task.

Looking at Roman society itself, it is clear that changes need to be made in order to discourage more slaves from joining the rebels as well as to avoid another conflict such as this from occurring again. Granting certain rights to slaves is a first step to this end. Making the murder of a household slave illegal and making owners responsible for the deaths of their slaves will do much to appease the slave population. However, Rome’s economy and agriculture are directly dependent on slave labour. The institution of slavery cannot be abolished and must continue if Roman society is to continue. On a similar note, there is an alarming degree of support for the rebels from the poorest echelons of roman society. We cannot allow this to continue. Reforms that reduce rampant inequality and corruption will be necessary if we are to prevent the plebeians from supporting the rebel slaves. Allowing slaves to buy their freedom from their masters and own their own property will also encourage them to remain loyal to Rome.

Rome is facing a great challenge at this time, but as we have done in the past, we will stand strong and not allow our enemies to erase hundreds of years of greatness and all the potential glory to come. We must be decisive in our military strategy, we must ensure the isolation of our enemies and we must take a look at the social conditions that fuel these insurrections. Rome is mother to us all, and we cannot let her down.