

List of Wars, Important Battles, Revolts, and Events of Roman History

Rape of the Sabine Women – The Romans, wanting children, invited the local Sabines to the festival of Neptune Equester and then kidnapped women so that they could beget their children.

- The nearby Sabine village of Caenina responded first by invading Roman territory, but were defeated and routed.
- More Sabines from Antemnae and Crustumerium attacked but were again defeated.
- The war ended when the Sabine women intervened.

War with the Albans – Alba Longa, the founder of the Latin League, had been in long conflict with the Romans. Finally, under the reign of Tullus Hostilius, full war broke out.

- The Alban king Gaius Cluilius died early in the war and was succeeded by Mettius Fufetius who continued the war.
- For the longest time the war could not be decided, so the two cities agreed that the pair of triplets, the Roman Horatii and the Alban Curiatii, would fight in single conflict and whoever survived would be declared the victor, winning the war for their nation.
- In the battle between the triplets, the three Curiatii were wounded, and two of the Horatii were killed. The last of the Horatii, Publius, fled and was chased by the injured Curiatii who got split up. Publius Horatius then killed each one by one. After the battle Publius' sister came out weeping because she had realized that her husband, one of the Curiatii, had been killed. At this, Publius killed his sister claiming that she deserved death if she mourned the enemy. For the murder he was condemned to death, but Publius was saved when he appealed to the people.
- Because Rome had won the war, Tullus Hostilius destroyed Alba Longa and had its last king, Mettius Fufetius, ripped apart by two chariots for his treachery. The inhabitants of the destroyed Alba Longa were transferred to Rome, which also annexed the territory of the Caelian Hill.

Etruscan Sieges of Rome (c. 509 BC) – Tarquinius Superbus, who had been expelled from Rome, went to the Etruscan king, Lars Porsenna, for aid. The Etruscan army attacked Rome shortly after that.

- Horatius Cocles and Titus Larcius successfully defended the *Pons Sublicius* from attack by the Etruscans.
- Gaius Mucius, a loyal Roman, snuck into the camp of Lars Porsenna one night and planned to assassinate the king. He, not knowing what Lars Porsenna looked like, killed another man and was captured. Lars Porsenna ordered him to be thrown into the flames. Mucius, to show his bravery, thrust his right hand into the flames and did not show any pain. Lars Porsenna freed him for his bravery. Afterwards Gaius Mucius was called “Scaevola” for the use of his left hand.
- Cloelia, a young Roman maiden, was given as a hostage to Lars Porsenna. One night she swam across the Tiber, leading other captives, to escape her captors. Lars Porsenna, admiring her courage, promised her safety if she returned. When she did she asked that other hostages be released. Later the Romans created an equestrian statue in her honor.

Battle of Lake Regillus (496 BC) – Fought between the Romans and the Latin League.

- The Romans, led by the dictator Aulus Postumius and the *magister equitum* Titus Aebutius Helva, were able to defeat the Latin League, possibly with the help of the gods Castor and Pollux. After the battle the Romans built a temple to the two gods.

Battle of the Cremera River (477 BC) – Fought between the Roman Republic and Veii.

- During the battle the entire Fabian *gens* was wiped out except for Quintus Fabius Vibulanus because he was too young to be sent to war.

Battle of Mount Algidus (458 BC) – Fought between the Romans and the Aequi.

- The Romans hastily formed two armies under the command of the consuls Gaius Nautius Rutilus and Lucius Minucius Esquilinus Augurinus. The forces were separated, and Minucius' forces were to attack the Aequi at Mount Algidus, but they were overpowered.
- The Romans, in a dire situation, elected the consul from the previous year, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, as the dictator. He hastily formed an army of volunteers and rushed to Mount Algidus where he defeated the Aequi. Upon his return to Rome, Cincinnatus relinquished his powerful position as dictator, only serving for a term of 16 days.

First Samnite War (343 - 341 BC) – The Romans came to the aid of the Campanians (Sabellians) from the Samnites.

- Battle of Mount Gaurus (342 BC) – The Romans, under Marcus Valerius Corvus, defeat the Samnites at Mons Gaurus near Cumae. Afterwards, Carthage, then an ally of Rome, sent a golden crown for the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus.
- Rome annexed Campania, offering citizenship without the vote (*civitas sine suffragio*).

Latin War (340 - 338 BC)

- Battle of Vesuvius (339 BC) – The Romans under the consuls Publius Decius Mus and Titus Manlius Imperiosus defeated the Latins.
- Battle of Trifanum (338 BC) – The Romans under Manlius Imperiosus again defeat the Latins.

Second Samnite War (326 - 304 BC)

- Battle of the Caudine Forks (321 BC) – The Samnite commander Gaius Pontius sent soldiers dressed as shepherds to lie and say that Luceria was under siege. The Romans went through the Caudine Forks where they were ambushed. Pontius asked his father Herennius what to do with the Romans and was told to either let them free or kill them all. Pontius instead made them pass under the yoke.
- Battle of Lautulae (315 BC) – The Romans under dictator Quintus Fabius Maximus Rulianus were defeated by the Samnites.
- The Etruscans joined with the Samnites in 311 BC.
- Battle of Lake Vadimo (310 BC) – The Romans, under dictator Lucius Papirius Cursor, defeated the Etruscans.
- The Hernici revolted against Rome in 306 BC.
- Battle of Bovianum (305 BC) – The Romans, led by consuls Curvus Paetinus and Postumius Megellus, crushed the Samnites.

Third Samnite War (298 - 290 BC) – The Samnites allied with the Etruscans, Umbrians, and Gauls, alarming the Romans who started the offensive on the plains near Neapolis (modern Naples).

- Battle of Camerinum (298 BC) – The Samnites were able to defeat the Romans, who were led by Lucius Cornelius Scipio Barbatus.

- Battle of Sentinum (295 BC) – The Romans under consuls Decius Mus and Quintus Fabius Maximus Rullianus defeated a coalition of Samnites, Etruscans, Umbrians, and Gallic allies. Decius Mus committed *devotio* (allowing himself to be killed so that his forces could then win long the battle), which allowed the Romans to claim victory.
- Battle of Aquilonia (293 BC) – The Romans under consuls Lucius Papirius Cursor and Spurius Carvilius Maximus defeated the Samnites.

Pyrrhic War (280 - 275 BC) – The Romans reneged upon a treaty with Tarentum, and Tarentum then gained aid from Pyrrhus of Epirus in the war.

- Battle of Heraclea (280 BC) – Pyrrhus’ forces defeated the Romans, led by consul Publius Valerius Laevinus.
- Battle of Asculum (279 BC) – Pyrrhus defeated the Romans under the consul Publius Decius Mus, but suffers heavy damages (a Pyrrhic victory).
- Battle of Maleventum (Beneventum) (275 BC) – The Romans under consul Manius Curius Dentatus defeat Pyrrhic forces near Maleventum. Afterwards the Romans renamed the area Beneventum.

First Punic War (264 - 241 BC) – The Mamertines seek assistance from Rome rather than Carthage for protection from Hiero II of Syracuse.

- Battle of Agrigentum (261 BC) – After a siege by the Romans, commanded by Lucius Postumius Megellus and Quintus Mamilius Vitulus, a battle with the Carthaginians under Hanno ensued. The Romans won the battle.
- Battle of the Lipari Islands (260 BC) – The first naval encounter between Carthage and Rome, and the Carthaginians were victorious.
- Battle of Mylae (260 BC) – The Romans, under Gaius Duilius, won their first naval victory with the help of the *corvus* (boarding plank).
- Battle of Cape Ecnomus (256 BC) – The Romans, commanded by the consuls Marcus Atilius Regulus and Lucius Manlius Vulso Longus, defeat Hamilcar and Hanno in the largest naval battle of the ancient world.
- Battle of Adys (255 BC) – Marcus Atilius Regulus and the Romans win their first battle on African soil.
- Battle of Tunis (255 BC) – The Carthaginians employed the Spartan mercenary Xanthippus who subsequently defeated the Romans at Tunis.
- Battle of Drepana (249 BC) – Publius Claudius Pulcher, the Roman general, threw the sacred chickens overboard because they wouldn’t eat (a bad omen). The Carthaginians under Ad Herbal subsequently defeated the Roman fleet.
- Battle of Aegates Island (March 10, 241 BC) – The Romans under Gaius Lutatius Catulus defeated the Carthaginians under Hanno the Great. After the battle Catulus built a temple to Juturna in the Campus Martius.
- Rome received Sicily from the treaty of the First Punic War in 241 BC.

First Illyrian War (229 - 228 BC) – When the Illyrian queen Teuta ordered a Roman envoy to be killed and trading vessels to be attacked, the Romans waged war.

- The Roman senate sent an army under the command of the consuls Lucius Postumius Albinus and Gnaeus Fulvius Centumulus to protect Roman interests in Illyria.
- The Roman army expelled Illyrian garrisons from the cities Epidamnus, Apollonia, Corcyra, and Pharos.

- Rome also set up Demetrius of Pharos as a power in Illyria to counter-balance the power of Teuta.

Second Illyrian War (220 - 219 BC) – Demetrius built up a fleet and violated the treaty he had with Rome by attacking Greek cities.

- Demetrius first attacked Pylos then sailed to the Cyclades.
- Rome sent the consul Lucius Aemilius Paulus to quell Demetrius' efforts. Paulus' army routed the Illyrians and Demetrius fled to the court of Philip V of Macedon.

Second Punic War (218 - 202 BC) – Rome waged war after Hannibal attacked Saguntum in Hispania and crossed the Ebro River (thereby violating the Ebro River Treaty) in 219 BC.

- Battle of the Ticinus River (November, 218 BC) – The Carthaginians under Hannibal defeat the Romans, commanded by Publius Cornelius Scipio the Elder.
- Battle of the Trebia River (December, 218 BC) – The Roman commander Tiberius Sempronius Longus, not heeding Scipio's warnings to not attack, foolishly attacked the Carthaginians and was defeated by Hannibal.
- Battle of Cissa (218 BC) – The Romans under Gnaeus Cornelius Scipio Calvus defeated Hanno and gained control of Iberia north of the Ebro River.
- Battle of Lake Trasimene (June 24, 217 BC) – Hannibal ambushes the Roman army under the command of the consuls Gnaeus Servilius Geminus and Gaius Flaminius, who was killed in the battle.
- Battle of Cannae (August 2, 216 BC) – The Roman army, commanded by the consuls Gaius Terrentius Varro and Lucius Aemilius Paullus, are dealt their worst defeat of all time at the hands of Hannibal. Lucius Aemilius Paullus was killed during the battle and afterwards Hannibal collects the rings of all the magistrates killed and sent them to Rome.
- Siege of Syracuse (214-212 BC) – Marcus Claudius Marcellus, called the "Sword of Rome", led the siege, and after two years the Roman army captured the city. During the siege Roman soldiers killed the famous mathematician Archimedes.
- Battle of Baecula (208 BC) – The Romans commanded by Publius Cornelius Scipio the Younger (later called Africanus) defeated Hasdrubal's army.
- Battle of the Metaurus River (207 BC) – The Romans under Marcus Livius Salinator and Gaius Claudius Nero combined forces to defeat Hasdrubal. In the battle Hasdrubal was killed and his head was later thrown into Hannibal's camp.
- Battle of Ilipa (206 BC) – The Romans under Publius Cornelius Scipio the Younger defeated the remaining Carthaginian forces in Hispania.
- Battle of Bagradas (203 BC) – Publius Cornelius Scipio the Younger and the Romans defeated the Carthaginian army of Hasdrubal, son of Gisco, and Syphax, the Carthaginian ally. After this battle Hannibal was recalled to Africa.
- Battle of Zama (October 19, 202 BC) – The Roman army commanded by Publius Cornelius Scipio the Younger and the Roman ally Massinissa, king of Numidia, defeated Hannibal in Africa, ending the war. After this Scipio the Younger was called Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus.

First Macedonian War (214 - 205 BC) – The Romans waged war with Philip V of Macedon because he abetted the Rome's Illyrian enemy Demetrius of Pharos.

- Few battles were fought against Macedon during this war, but notable ones include the First and Second Battles of Lamia in 209 BC with Macedon being victorious in both.

- The war ended in a stalemate, and the Peace of Phoenice was signed in 205 BC.

Second Macedonian War (200 - 196 BC) – Rome gave Philip V of Macedon an ultimatum to stop attacking possessions of the Greek city states allied with Rome. When he refused to accept Roman rule of Macedon, war broke out. Rome allied with Eumenes II, king of Pergamon.

- Battle of Cynoscephalae (197 BC) – The Roman army, led by Titus Quinctius Flaminius, decisively defeated the Macedonians and Philip V. After the battle, Flaminius declared at the Isthmian Games that Greece was now free, when in fact it would be loosely controlled by Rome.
- The defeat of Macedon represented the end of the Antigonid dynasty.

Lacanian War (195 BC) – The war was in opposition to Nabis, ruler of Sparta, who occupied Argos.

- The Roman armies and Pergamon allies were commanded by Titus Quinctius Flaminius and Eumenes II, respectively.
- The Romans defeated the Spartans and Nabis was forced to give up Argos and the port of Gytheum. After this Flaminius attended the Nemean Games and declared Argos free.

War against Antiochus III (191- 188 BC) – Rome waged war against Antiochus III, ruler of the Seleucid Empire, and the Aetolian League, an ally of Antiochus.

- Battle of Thermopylae (191 BC) – A Roman force, led by the consul Manius Acilius Glabrio, defeated the forces of Antiochus III.
- Battle of the Eurymedon River (190 BC) – Rome's ally Rhodes sends her fleet to the battle site. The Rhodian fleet defeated the Seleucid fleet under the command of Hannibal.
- Battle of Magnesia (190 BC) – The Romans, led by the consul Lucius Cornelius Scipio and his brother Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus, along with their ally Eumenes II, defeated the Seleucid army of Antiochus III.
- The Treaty of Apamea (188 BC), in which Antiochus was forced to pay 15,000 talents and to give up significant territory, ended the war.

First Celtiberian War (181 - 179 BC) – The war was fought between Rome and the Celtiberian tribes in Hispania.

- Fought mainly in Hispania Citerior and later Hispania Ulterior.

Third Macedonian War (171- 168 BC) – The war was fought between Rome and the king at the time, Perseus. The Roman ally Eumenes II accused Perseus of breaking conditions of a previous Roman treaty and Rome stepped in.

- Battle of Callicinus (171 BC) – The Macedonian army defeated the Roman force that was led by the consul Publius Licinius Crassus.
- First Battle of Pydna (168 BC) – The Roman army, led by Lucius Aemilius Paulus, decisively defeated the army of Perseus, ending the Third Macedonian War. Before the battle Paulus sent a small force under the command of Publius Cornelius Scipio Nasica around behind the Macedonian forces so that they could attack their flank. After the battle Paulus was given the cognomen “Macedonicus.”

Lusitanian War (155 - 139 BC) – Begun originally because of a revolt, which was quickly put down.

- In 146 BC, Viriathus took up the leadership of the Lusitani.
- In 145 BC, Quintus Fabius Maximus Aemilianus campaigned successfully against the Lusitani, but he was unable to arrest Viriathus.

- Finally in 143 BC, Viriathus decided to make a pact with Rome and sent three envoys, Audax, Ditalcus, and Minurus, to Rome to negotiate peace. While there, the senate bribed the trio who went back and killed Viriathus in his sleep in 139 BC.

First Numantine War / Second Celtiberian War (154 - 151 BC) – Begun originally as a revolt, which was quickly put down.

- Fought in Hispania Ulterior at the same time as the Lusitanian War.

Fourth Macedonian War (150 - 148 BC) – Andriscus, claiming to be the son of Perseus, usurped the Macedonian throne, inciting the war.

- Second Battle of Pydna (148 BC) – The Romans under Quintus Caecilius Metellus decisively defeated Andriscus' forces.

Third Punic War (149 - 146 BC)

- Siege of Carthage (146 BC) – The Roman army, led by the consul Publius Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus (the senate passed a special law to lift the age restriction for him to be elected consul), captured the city after a long siege. After the siege, Aemilianus went into the citadel Byrsa to negotiate with the remaining survivors. Hasdrubal, the general who had defended the city, came out to negotiate, but the rest of the deserters killed themselves.

Second Numantine War / Third Celtiberian War (143 - 133 BC) – The Numantine War was reinvigorated again in 143 BC.

- In 134 BC, the consul Publius Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus, with the help of the Numidian king Jugurtha, was able to end the war with a Roman victory.
- Publius Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus destroyed the city of Numantia.

First Sicilian Slave Revolt (135 - 132 BC) – Two slaves, Eunus and Cleon, led a slave uprising in the Sicilian city of Enna. It was quickly put down.

- Cleon was killed in battle, and Eunus was captured but died before his punishment.

Cimbrian War (113 - 101 BC) – The Cimbri and Teutones had migrated from northern Europe (near the Jutland) down into Noricum where they attacked the Taurisci, Roman allies, who called to Rome for aid. The initial Roman loss turned into a Roman victory after Marius took command.

- The consul Gnaeus Papirius Carbo led legions into Noricum to defend the Roman allied Taurisci.
- Battle of Noreia (112 BC) – The Cimbri originally were going to comply peacefully, until they discovered that Carbo had prepared an ambush, and so they decided to attack. The Cimbri with the Teutones defeated the Romans.
- Battle of Arausio (October 6, 105 BC) – The Cimbri and Teutones, led by their kings Boiorix and Teutobod respectively, decisively defeated the Roman army commanded by the proconsul Quintus Servilius Caepio and consul Gnaeus Mallius Maximus. It is the second worst Roman defeat ever, second only to Cannae in 216 BC.
- Battle of Aquae Sextiae (102 BC) – The Roman army, under the command of Gaius Marius, decisively defeated the Teutones. During the battle the king of the Teutones, Teutobod, was captured.
- Battle of Vercellae (101 BC) – The Romans, led by Gaius Marius and Quintus Lutatius Catulus Caesar, defeated the Cimbri, killing their king Boiorix during the battle.

Jugurthine War (112 - 105 BC) – Micipsa, the king of Numidia, died in 118 BC and was survived by his natural sons, Adherbal and Hiempsal, and his adopted son, Jugurtha. The kingdom of Numidia was to be divided equally among the sons, but Jugurtha ordered Hiempsal

to be assassinated, and Adherbal fled to Rome for assistance. A Roman commission was made to make peace, but Jugurtha bribed the Roman officials and was given the best regions of Numidia. Later in 113 BC, Jugurtha attacked Cirta, Adherbal's capital, and killed Adherbal along with many Italians that were there at the time. Rome declared war in 111 BC.

- The consul Lucius Calpurnius Bestia led an army against Jugurtha, who surrendered. The terms of surrender were very good for Jugurtha, probably because Jugurtha bribed Bestia, causing an investigation in Rome. Jugurtha came to Rome where he tried to have his cousin and rival Massiva killed and was subsequently expelled from Rome.
- The consul Quintus Caecilius Metellus was sent to Numidia to defeat Jugurtha, giving Metellus the cognomen "Numidicus." Metellus' legate, Gaius Marius, returned to Rome and was elected consul in 107 BC. Then the populares passed a law that gave Marius command against Jugurtha later that year.
- When Marius arrived in Numidia, Jugurtha had joined forces with his father-in-law, Bocchus, king of Mauretania.
- Bocchus negotiated a peace with Rome that stipulated that if he would turn over Jugurtha, he would be given a portion of Numidia. Bocchus turned Jugurtha over to Marius' quaestor, Lucius Cornelius Sulla. Jugurtha was taken back to Rome and imprisoned in the Mamertine Prison, where he was later strangled after being displayed in a triumphal procession.

Second Sicilian Slave Revolt (104 - 103 BC) – Marius had previously decreed that all freedmen loyal to Rome should be released from slavery, but the governor of Sicily called back roughly 800 slaves in Sicily.

- The revolt was led by the slaves Salvius, who later changed his name to Tryphon, and Athenion.
- The revolt was quelled by the consul Manius Aquilius.

Social War / Italian War / Marsic War (91- 88 BC) – Fought mainly between the Roman Republic and the tribes native to Italy.

- The war was caused by the assassination of Marcus Livius Drusus (the Younger), who had tried to introduce reforms that would have granted citizenship to the Italian allies. The allies then revolted, creating their own nation, Italia, with a capital at Corfinium, which they renamed Italica. The allies also created their own coinage, which depicted the Italian bull goring the Roman wolf.
- The Romans sent the consul Publius Rutilius Lupus to northern Italy. He was advised by Marius and Pompeius Strabo. In the south there was the consul Lucius Julius Caesar, who was advised by Lucius Cornelius Sulla and Titus Didius.
- Lex Julia (90 BC) – Proposed by Lucius Julius Caesar. It gave Roman citizenship to all Italian allies that had not revolted.
- Lex Plautia Papiria (89 BC) – Proposed by the tribunes Marcus Plautius Silvanus and Gaius Papirius Carbo. It allowed the Italian allies who had revolted to gain citizenship.

First Mithridatic War (90 - 85 BC) – The war originated from a dispute between Mithridates VI, king of Pontus, and Nicomedes IV, the king of Bithynia.

- In 90 BC, the Roman commander Manius Aquilius arrived. Aquilius allied with Nicomedes and fought Mithridates, whose commander was Archelaus.
- Battle of the Amnias River (88 BC) – Archelaus defeated the Bithynian army.
- Battle of Mount Scorobas (88 BC) – Archelaus defeated the Roman forces under Manius Aquilius.

- Mithridates then ordered that all Romans in Asia be massacred. This action later became known as the Asiatic Vespers.
- Archelaus traveled to Greece and set up Aristion as tyrant in Athens. In 87 BC, the consul Lucius Cornelius Sulla marched on Athens, capturing it on March 1, 86 BC.
- Battle of Chaeronea (86 BC) – Sulla and the Roman forces defeated Archelaus.
- Battle of Tenedos (86 BC) – Sulla’s legate, Licinius Lucullus, defeated the Pontic fleet off the island of Tenedos.
- Rome then sent another Roman force to Pontus under Valerius Flaccus. However, Flaccus was killed in a mutiny led by Flavius Fimbria, who later defeated Mithridates’ army on the Rhyndacus River.
- Treaty of Dardanos (85 BC) – Signed between Sulla and Mithridates. It left Mithridates in control of Pontus.

First Sullan Civil War (88 - 87 BC) – Animosity began possibly when Marius convinced Sulpicius Rufus to “explode” the Senate when it did not have a quorum, so that Sulla’s command over Mithridates might be revoked. A riot broke out in the Forum, causing Sulla to flee for refuge in Marius’ own house.

- Sulla, now so angry, decided to take his legions and march on Rome. This was so unethical (crossing the *pomerium*) that most of Sulla’s commanders (with the exception of Lucullus) refused to accompany him. Marius raised an army of gladiators to fight him but failed.
- After Sulla consolidated power, he left to fight Mithridates. The Sullan *optimates* supporters led by Gnaeus Octavius fought with the *populares* under Lucius Cornelius Cinna.
- Marius returned from Africa, where he had fled, and again gained power, when he and Cinna were elected consuls in 86 BC. He immediately exiled Sulla. However, Marius died shortly after and Cinna was left in sole control of Rome.

Second Mithridatic War (83 - 82 BC) – The consul Lucius Licinius Murena invaded Mithridates’ territory, but he was quickly defeated. Sulla immediately called him back, ending the war.

Sertorian Revolt (83 - 81 BC) – Sertorius, a supporter of Marius, fled to Hispania (where he served as *proconsul*) when Sulla returned to power. Not long after, he incited a major revolt in the province.

- A great speaker, Sertorius, incited the peoples of Hispania, whom had been mistreated by Sulla’s forces. They even called him the “New Hannibal.”
- Sertorius was also a magnificent general, defeating many forces sent against him including Quintus Caecilius Metellus Pius. He, in fact, allied with the Cilician pirates, who were a significant force in the Mediterranean.
- Sertorius educated the tribes of Hispania, giving them a Roman education and adopted Roman dress for the youths.
- The people loved him so much that they offered him a white fawn, which was said to be able to communicate the advice of Diana to him.
- He was later joined by Marcus Perperna Vento, who later betrayed him and killed him.

Third Mithridatic War (75 - 65 BC) – Lucullus was sent to finally defeat Mithridates and his Armenian ally Tigranes. Pompey, who had been in Spain, was later sent to fight Mithridates under the *Lex Manilia*.

- Siege of Cyzicus (74 BC) – Mithridates VI had besieged the Roman-controlled city, but Lucullus was able to lift the siege.
- Battle of Tigranocerta (69 BC) – Lucullus was able to defeat Tigranes and took the Armenian capital.
- Battle of Zela (67 BC) – Mithridates was able to defeat the Roman forces. This is the reason that the later battle between Pharnaces and Caesar was fought at Zela.
- Battle of the Lycus River (66 BC) – Pompey was able to decisively defeat Pontic forces.
- Not long after this last battle Mithridates VI killed himself by taking poison.

Third Sicilian Slave Revolt (73 -71 BC) – A group of over two hundred slaves in the Capuan gladiatorial school of Lentulus Batiatus plotted an escape.

- After the Capuan slaves escaped they selected two Gallic slaves, Crixus and Oenomaus, and Spartacus, a Thracian auxiliary from the Roman army.
- This contingent of escaped slaves fought and defeated two praetorian armies under the command of the *praetors* Gaius Claudius Glaber and Publius Varinius.
- The Gallic leaders, Crixus and Oenomaus, were killed presumably in battle, leaving Spartacus in sole command. Spartacus used Mount Vesuvius as a base for his makeshift servile army.
- A larger consular army was dispatched under the command of the consuls Lucius Gellius Publicola and Gnaeus Cornelius Clodianus. They were initially successful but eventually lost strength.
- At this point Marcus Licinius Crassus was put in command of the Roman army and was able to force Spartacus into a retreat. Pompey, whose army was returning from Hispania where it put down the Sertorian revolt, was then able to defeat the army of slaves.
- All of the captured slaves were then crucified along the Via Appia as punishment.

First Catilinarian Conspiracy (65 BC) – Catiline’s first attempt to become consul.

- The *consules designati* were Publius Autronius Paetus and Publius Cornelius Sulla, but they were prevented from assuming office because of rumors of electoral corruption. A second election was held and Lucius Manlius Torquatus and Lucius Aurelius Cotta were elected.
- So incensed that he was not allowed to run for the consulship in the second election, Catiline conspired with Gnaeus Calpurnius Piso to kill the consuls on their first day of office.
- Suetonius claimed later that it was Marcus Licinius Crassus and Julius Caesar that had conspired to take over.

Second Catilinarian Conspiracy (63 - 62 BC) – Catiline’s second attempt to become consul.

- In 64 BC Catiline was allowed to run in the election for the consulship of 63 BC. He ran alongside Gaius Antonius Hybrida. However, Cicero and Hybrida were elected to the consulship. Catiline was brought to trial for his involvement in the Sullan proscriptions but was acquitted.
- Later in 63 BC he ran again for the consulship, this time of 62 BC. Again he was defeated, this time by Decimus Iunius Silanus and Lucius Licinus Murena.
- Catiline rallied many to his cause, including such notable men as Publius Cornelius Lentulus Sura, Lucius Cassius Longinus, Publius Autronius Paetus, and Gaius Cethegus.

Gallic Wars (58 - 51 BC) – The war was begun after the instigation by Orgetorix to the Helvetii, who entered the Roman-controlled territory of the Allobrages.

- Battle of the Arar River (58 BC) - Julius Caesar crossed into Gaul and crossed the Arar River (the modern Saone River), where he surprised the Tigurines, a Helvetian clan, easily defeating them.
- Dumnorix, chieftain of the Aedui, created more trouble for Caesar when he made an alliance with the Helvetii, led by Orgetorix, and the Sequani, under Casticus.
- Battle of Bibracte (58 BC) – Here Caesar led six legions as they defeated the Helvetii, led by Orgetorix.
- Battle of Vosges (58 BC) – Julius Caesar defeated the Suebi, led by Ariovistus.
- Caesar mounted an expedition against the Veneti (native to Brittany) in 56 BC and later entered into Britannia to fight the Britons, but failed. He was more successful in Britannia against the Catuvellauni in 55 BC.
- Caesar put down a rebellion of northeastern Gaul by the Eburones, led by Ambiorix.
- Caesar also often battled the Aedui, under the leadership of their chief Dumnorix.
- Caesar and his second-in-command Titus Labienus faced a much bigger challenge in Vercingetorix, the leader of the Averni.
- Battle of Gergovia (52 BC) – The Averni under Vercingetorix were able to defeat Caesar’s forces. This represents one of only two losses for Julius Caesar (along with Dyrrhachium).
- Battle of Alesia (52 BC) – Julius Caesar commanded the Roman forces, which included cavalry units commanded by Mark Antony, Titus Labienus, and Gaius Trebonius. The Romans decisively defeated the Averni and captured their chief Vercingetorix. Vercingetorix was taken to Rome and paraded in Julius Caesar’s triumphal parade, and then he was taken to the Mamertine Prison and strangled.

Battle of Carrhae (53 BC) – Crassus, as a *triumvir* and a former consul with Pompey in 55 BC, drew up the *imperium* of the Roman Republic.

- Seeking glory, Crassus decided to pursue conquest of the Parthian Empire. Crassus, with aid from Artavasdes, the king of Armenia, marched directly into Parthia. Orodes II, the king of Parthia, sent an army to fight Crassus; they met at Carrhae.
- The Parthian army was under the leadership of Surena. The Roman legions were caught off guard by the cataphracts (horsemen) and archers. The Romans were defeated by the famous “Parthian shot” tactic.
- After the battle, Crassus was captured and tortured by having molten gold poured down his throat and later being decapitated. The head was allegedly then used as a stage prop in Orodes’ court.
- Crassus’ legate Gaius Cassius Longinus later returned to Syria where he governed.

Civil War between Caesar and Pompey (49 - 45 BC) – The war was begun when Julius Caesar, as an act of war, crossed the Rubicon River and proclaimed “*Alea iacta est*” (“The die is cast”). The Senate, who did not know that Caesar only had one legion (*Legio XIII Gemina*) with him, offered Pompey military backing. Pompey proclaimed “Rome cannot be defended” and fled to Capua with members of the Senate.

- Siege and Battle of Massilia (49 BC) – Caesar was marching from Italy to Hispania in order to gain control of the Spanish legions there. On the way he passed Massilia, which had engaged in hostile actions toward him. Caesar’s legate, Gaius Trebonius, immediately began a successful siege of the city, which was under the command of Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus. Caesar also set up a fleet under the command of Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus.

- Battle of Ilerda (June, 49 BC) – Julius Caesar had come to Spain to gain control of the five legions there, but Pompey had already sent two legates to fight off Caesar. Caesar, however, defeated those legates, Lucius Afranius and Marcus Petreius, and the legions surrendered to him.
- Once he had gained control of the Spanish legions, Caesar quickly returned to Rome where he became dictator for 11 days, after which he was elected consul and set out for Greece in pursuit of Pompey.
- Battle of Bagradas River (August 24, 49 BC) – Caesar’s general Gaius Scribonius Curio fought a force of *Optimates* under Publius Attius Varus and King Juba of Numidia. Curio lost the battle and killed himself to avoid capture.
- Battle of Utica (48 BC) – Caesar’s general Gaius Scribonius Curio was able to defeat a Numidian cavalry and infantry force sent by Juba of Numidia to aid Publius Attius Varus.
- Battle of Dyrrhachium (July 10, 48 BC) – Caesar surrounded Pompey and his forces at Dyrrhachium, nearly clinching victory. However, Pompey collapsed a portion of the lines, causing mass veteran losses. Caesar was forced to pull back and leave. This represents one of only two defeats for Julius Caesar (along with Gergovia).
- Battle of Pharsalus (August 9, 48 BC) – Julius Caesar’s legions defeated Pompey’s forces, causing Pompey to immediately flee to Egypt where he was assassinated (September 28, 48 BC).
- After Pompey was assassinated, as per the orders of King Ptolemy XIII, Caesar was made dictator, with Mark Antony as his *magister equitum*, but he resigned his position after eleven days and was elected consul with Publius Servilius Vatia Isauricus. Afterward he went to Egypt, where he was shown the head of Pompey by Ptolemy’s chamberlain Pothinus, causing Caesar to support Cleopatra VII in a civil war. He set up Cleopatra as pharaoh and fathered Ptolemy XV (Caesarion) by her.
- Battle of Zela (47 BC) – Caesar left from Egypt to Pontus where Pharnaces II, son of Mithridates VI, was king. Pharnaces had attacked the Roman ally Deiotarus, and Caesar had come to defend Deiotarus. Caesar was victorious in the battle and afterward is claimed to have said, “*Veni, vidi, vici*” (“I came, I saw, I conquered”).
- Battle of Ruspina (January 4, 46 BC) – Caesar’s *Populares* forces were defeated by the *Optimates* forces under Titus Labienus because of sheer number.
- Battle of Thapsus (February 6, 46 BC) – Caesar led his newly invigorated legions to North Africa where he met the *Optimates* forces, led by Quintus Caecilius Metellus Scipio and Marcus Porcius Cato Uticensis (the Younger). The *Optimates* forces were aided by Juba, king of Numidia. Caesar, however, was victorious. During the battle Metellus Scipio drowned, and after the battle Juba and Cato both killed themselves.
- After Caesar returned to Rome he was elected as consul in 46 BC along with Marcus Aemilius Lepidus.
- Battle of Munda (March 17, 45 BC) – Caesar’s forces met the *Optimates* forces led by the sons of Pompey (Sextus and Gnaeus Pompeius), Titus Labienus, and Publius Attius Varus. The *Populares* forces won a decisive victory. Titus Labienus died during the battle, and the sons of Pompey escaped afterward. After the battle, Caesar left his legate Quintus Fabius Maximus to besiege Munda. Gnaeus Pompeius was later found by Gaius Didius, a naval commander loyal to Caesar, and Gnaeus was later executed. This battle ended the civil war.

- After Caesar returned to Rome he was elected as consul in 45 BC alone, and he was later made dictator for life.

Assassination of Julius Caesar (March 15, 44 BC) – The conspirators, who called themselves the *Liberatores*, were led by Marcus Junius Brutus Albinus and Gaius Cassius Longinus.

- The conspirators gave as an excuse for the assassination that Caesar had insulted them when their senatorial delegation came to Caesar in the Temple of Venus Genetrix to bestow honors upon him. When they entered, Caesar did not rise to meet them, which was interpreted as an insult.
- The conspirators stabbed Caesar to death on the Ides of March at the statue of Venus in the Theater of Pompey.

Post-Caesarian Civil War (43 - 42 BC) – Fought in revenge for the assassination of Julius Caesar.

- Battle of Forum Gallorum (April 14, 43 BC) - Mark Antony fought the consuls of 43 BC, Gaius Vibius Pansa Caetronianus and Aulus Hirtius, who were providing aid for Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus. Antony first crushed Pansa's army who retreated, but then had to battle Hirtius forces, which he was then defeated by. However, Pansa was mortally wounded during the battle and died shortly after.
- Battle of Mutina (April 21, 43 BC) – Mark Antony, after losing narrowly at Forum Gallorum, again was defeated by Hirtius' forces. However, Hirtius was killed during the battle, leaving no remaining consuls in 43 BC.
- After Forum Gallorum and Mutina there was a vacancy in the consulships, which were filled by Mark Antony and Octavian. Also the second triumvirate was formed between Mark Antony, Octavian, and Lepidus.
- After this, Mark Antony and Octavian focused their attention on the former conspirators themselves, Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus.
- First Battle of Philippi (October 3, 43 BC) – Antony's forces marched against Cassius and his forces, while Brutus's forces attacked Octavian's. Brutus' forces, led by Marcus Valerius Messalla Corvinus, put Octavian into a retreat. However, when he could not tell the outcome of the battle, Cassius ordered his freedman Pindarus to kill him.
- Second Battle of Philippi (October 23, 43 BC) – Antony's forces were able to flank Brutus' force. Seeing that defeat was inevitable, Brutus retreated and committed suicide.

Sicilian Revolt (44 - 36 BC) – After Caesar's assassination, the Second Triumvirate created a proscription list, which included Sextus Pompeius. Pompey sought revenge, hoping to continue his father's legacy, so he left for Sicily.

- Sextus began a revolt in Sicily, which gained support from slaves and friends alike. Many slaves left the villas of many patricians; this hurt Rome's structure so greatly that the Vestal Virgins were forced to pray for a solution.
- Sextus used his sway and power in Sicily to create a massive blockade, which practically crippled the Roman trade infrastructure.
- Pact of Misenum – A treaty between Sextus Pompey and the Second Triumvirate, which ended the naval blockade of Rome and recognized Sextus as the ruler of Corsica, Sardinia, and Sicily.
- Octavian and Agrippa attacked Sicily, causing Sextus to flee to Miletus, where, in 35 BC, he was captured and executed by Marcus Titius, a minion of Mark Antony.

Fulvia's Civil War (41 - 40 BC) – Fulvia, Mark Antony's wife, and Lucius Antonius, Antony's younger brother, started a rebellion in the hopes that Mark Antony become the sole ruler of Rome.

- Fulvia and Lucius Antonius raised an army of eight legions in Italy, which occupied Rome for a time. However, in the winter of 41-40 BC, the army was forced south to Perugia, where it was forced to surrender when put under siege.
- Octavian decided to spare Fulvia and Lucius Antonius. Fulvia, however, was exiled to Sicyon, where she died later in 40 BC. Mark Antony was sent to govern a province in Hispania.

Octavian-Antonian Civil War (32 - 30 BC) – The war was begun when the Senate waged war against Cleopatra VII of Egypt, after hearing that Antony had ceded Roman territory to her.

- Battle of Actium (September 2, 31 BC) – Octavian's admiral, Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa, led his quinquereme fleet to Actium in Greece to meet Antony's forces. Titus Statilius Taurus commanded Octavian's land forces. One of Antony's generals delivered his battle plans to Octavian, which may account for the decisive victory.
- In the following year, Antony committed suicide by falling on his own sword. Cleopatra tried to negotiate with Octavian to have her son Caesarion's life spared. While they spoke, Octavian had the child killed. Cleopatra killed herself shortly after that, rather than being paraded in Octavian's triumphal procession.

Battle of Teutoburg Forest (AD 9) – This battle is considered one of the worst Roman losses in history because of the loss of such a massive number of Romans (three legions).

- The Roman general Publius Quinctilius Varus lost three legions (*Legiones XVII, XVIII, XIX*) in one of the greatest Roman defeats, at the hands of the Cherusci chief Arminius, often called "Herman the German."

Conquest of Britain (40 - 96) – Conquest was begun by Caligula, but his methods were extremely bizarre and questionable. The true conquest took place mainly in 43 under Claudius.

- Caligula's Conquest:
 - In 40, Caligula ordered troops to line up in battle formation on the shore of the English Channel and lash the waves with whips. Then the troops were to gather all the seashells as plunder from the conquered ocean, which Caligula later claimed was a token of his conquering of Neptune.
- Claudius' Conquest:
 - In 43, however, Claudius undertook a serious conquest of Britain, mainly meaning to reinstate Verica, the exiled king of the Atrebates, an ancestor of an ally of Commius whom had been displaced by the Catuvellauni.
 - Aulus Plautius, a distinguished senator, was placed in overall command of four legions (*Legiones II, IX, XIV, XX*). Notable other commanders included Vespasian (*Legio II Augusta*), Gnaeus Hosidius Geta (*Legio IX Hispana*), Titus Flavius Sabinus, Gnaeus Sentius Saturninus.
 - The main resistance to Claudius' conquest was found in the sons of Cunobelinus (the late king of the Catuvellauni), Togodumnus and Caratacus. Togodumnus died at a battle on the Thames River in 43; Caratacus survived and continued to fight the Romans further west. Vespasian, commanding the ninth legion, moved west conquering towns as he went.
 - Later in 47, the governor of Britannia, Ostorius Scapula, began a conquest of the Silures who were accompanied by Caracatus. Caracatus, however, was defeated

and fled to the Brigantes, whose queen, Cartimandua, agreed to protect him. When Ostorius Scapula died he was replaced by Aulus Gallus who brought order to the surrounding imperial lands.

- Nero's Conquest:
 - Nero's first order of business in Britain was to appoint Quintus Veranius as the new governor. Gaius Suetonius Paulinus assumed the governorship after Veranius and was governor during the rebellion of Boudica.
 - Boudica was the wife of Prasutagus, the late Iceni king, who was a Roman ally. When he died, he left his kingdom jointly to his wife and daughters and the Roman Empire. However, the empire did not recognize female heirs, so Boudica led the Iceni and Trinovantes in a rebellion.
 - The Iceni and Trinovantes destroyed Camulodunum (modern Colchester) and routed Quintus Petillius Cerialis and the *Legio IX*.
 - Battle of Paulerspury (Battle of Watling Street) (c. 60) – The Romans under Gaius Suetonius Paulinus defeated the Iceni and Trinovantes. Boudica was killed during the battle.
 - Another rebellion sprung up that was led by Venutius, king of the Brigantes and husband of Cartimandua. This rebellion was short-lived, however.
 - In 77, Gnaeus Julius Agricola became governor of Britain. Agricola continued conquest of Britain by defeating the Ordovices and later the Caledonian Confederacy, led by Calgacus.
 - Battle of Mons Graupius (c. 83) – Agricola, then the governor of Britannia, sent an army to fight the Caledonians, led by Calgacus. The Romans won the battle, practically completing the conquest of Britain.

Pisonian Conspiracy (65) – A conspiracy led by Gaius Calpurnius Piso for the Praetorian Guard to kill the emperor Nero, then allow Piso to proclaim himself emperor.

- Gaius Calpurnius Piso masterminded the scheme with Faenius Rufus, Subrius Flavius, and Sulpicius Asper.
- A woman named Epicharis, who had deep knowledge of the plot, divulged general information to Volusius Proculus who told this information to the emperor's court. Epicharis was tortured for names and further information, but she did not implicate anyone.
- The freedman Milichus later discovered the conspiracy and immediately told Nero's secretary, Epaphroditus.
- Nero ordered that Piso and the conspiracy's leaders to commit suicide. Notable men that committed suicide upon Nero's orders were the authors Seneca the Younger, Lucan, and Petronius.

Year of the Four Emperors (69) – After Nero was killed, the Senate proclaimed Galba emperor, but three other men wanted the position, so a civil war broke out.

- Servius Sulpicius Galba, who had been the governor of Hispania Tarraconensis, was proclaimed emperor immediately following the murder of Nero. Shortly after ascending to the throne, the legions of Germania proclaimed Aulus Vitellius, the governor of Germania Inferior, as their emperor.
- Meanwhile, there was an insurrection in Gallia Lugdunensis led by Gaius Julius Vindex. Marcus Hordeonius Flaccus, the commander of the Rhine legions, had fought against

Vindex. But since Vindex had appealed to Galba, Flaccus was discouraged from fighting Vindex. Nevertheless, Vindex was killed by Lucius Verginius Rufus, the commander of the army in Germania Superior, at the Battle of Vesontio.

- Upon hearing that the German legions wanted change, Galba panicked and named Lucius Calpurnius Piso Licinianus as his successor. This, however, made Marcus Salvius Otho angry. Otho bribed the Praetorian Guard to kill him and they did just that in the Forum.
- Otho immediately ascended to the throne, but Vitellius still had the support of the German legions. Vitellius' generals, now angry, took the initiative and marched south into Italy.
- First Battle of Bedriacum (First Battle of Cremona) (69) – Vitellius' German legions, commanded by Aulus Caecina Alienus and Fabius Valens, were able to defeat the forces of Otho. After the battle Otho committed suicide himself.
- After Vitellius became emperor he acceded to the office of *Pontifex Maximus* on the anniversary of the Battle of the Allia River, a terrible omen. Meanwhile, the legions in the East proclaimed Titus Flavius Vespasianus emperor.
- Vespasian gained support from Gaius Licinius Mucianus, the governor of Syria, a powerful ally. Vespasian then left Judea, leaving his son Titus in command, to go to Alexandria where he was welcomed as emperor. Not long afterward the legions near the Danube, under the command of Marcus Antonius Primus, also proclaimed Vespasian emperor.
- Second Battle of Bedriacum (Second Battle of Cremona) (October 24, 69) – Both Gaius Licinius Mucianus and Marcus Antonius Primus began marches on Rome in support of Vespasian, but Primus, since he was closer, reached the capital first. Vitellius dispatched Aulus Caecina Alienus to stop Primus, but instead he plotted with Lucilius Bassus to switch to support of Vespasian, but he was foiled. Vitellius dispatched Valens, but he didn't arrive in time. Vitellius' forces were defeated.
- Vitellius before fleeing from Rome decided to visit the palace once more, but he was captured and killed by the troops that had entered the city. During the capture of the capital Vitellian forces burned the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus. Titus Flavius Sabinus, Vespasian's brother, was killed, but Vespasian's son Domitian was able to escape the city dressed as a priestess. After this, Vespasian ascended to the throne and was not challenged afterward.
- Meanwhile all this conflict for the imperial throne was occurring, the Batavian rebellion occurred in Germania Inferior. The rebel Batavians, led by Gaius Julius Civilis, managed to destroy four legions in the province. Quintus Petillius Cerialis was dispatched by Vespasian to put down the rebellion. It was not long before Cerialis had defeated Civilis and put down the Batavian rebellion once and for all.
- The emperors ruled in the order of Galba, Otho, Vitellius, and Vespasian.

Jewish Wars (66 - 73) – This war occurred completely in the province of Judaea, where the Roman forces were led by the father-son pair Vespasian and Titus.

- When the Jews originally rebelled Cestius Gallus, the legate of Syria, was sent by Nero to put down the insurrection. However, under Gallus, the Roman legions were defeated and *Legio XII Fulminata* lost its *aquila* standard.
- After this Nero appointed Vespasian general. Vespasian immediately crushed all resistance in the North, fighting off such leaders as John of Giscala and Simon ben Giora.

However, Vespasian returned to Rome to become emperor, leaving his son Titus in command in Judaea.

- Siege of Jerusalem (70) – The Roman forces were led by Titus, with Tiberius Julius Alexander as his second-in-command. The Jewish resistance was led by Eleazar ben Simon and Simon ben Giora. Once the Roman forces had entered the city, they began a nearly complete sack of the city, destroying the temple, taking the menorah among other spoils.
- Lucilius Bassus was appointed as a military governor in Judaea to destroy the last remnants of the Jewish resistance. He was able to capture Herodium and Machaerus, but died after that. He was replaced by Lucius Flavius Silva.
- Siege of Masada (72-73) – Lucius Flavius Silva commanded the Tenth Legion to march on the fortress of Masada. Jewish rebels, led by Elazar ben Ya'ir, had occupied the fortress as a base. The Tenth Legion built a huge ramp up to the high-cliff fortress in order to use siege weapons. When the rebels were unable to stop the Romans, they agreed to commit mass-suicide, killing each other.

First Dacian War (87, 101 - 102) – During the reign of Domitian (81-96), the Dacians had threatened Roman supremacy, defeating several Roman armies. Later the emperor Trajan waged a full fledged war against the Dacians.

- First Battle of Tapae (87) – Because the then Dacian king Duras had previously attacked the Roman province Moesia in 86, Domitian came to Moesia to fight off the Dacians. By the time of the battle the Dacians had a new king, Diurpaneus, who led them to a victory over general Cornelius Fuscus and the Romans. Because of his bravery, Diurpaneus was given the new name Decebalus.
- After the First Battle of Tapae, the Romans pulled out of Dacia until the time of Trajan (ruling 98-117). Trajan, with the support of the Senate, waged war on Decebalus and the Dacians.
- Second Battle of Tapae (101-102) – Trajan and the Roman forces defeated the Dacians. However, the Dacians had repelled the Roman offensive, but when a storm broke out, the Dacians interpreted this as a bad omen and retreated.
- Battle of Adamclisi (101-102) – The Dacian army, with the Roxolani and the Bastarnae, crossed the frozen Danube, but the ice gave way and many died in the frozen river. The Romans defeated the Dacians easily.
- After the Second Battle of Tapae and the Battle of Adamclisi, Trajan negotiated a peace with Decebalus.

Second Dacian War (105 - 106) – Decebalus broke his peace terms with the Romans and another war broke out.

- Trajan built a bridge over the Danube and moved into Dacia immediately. This somewhat caught the Dacians by surprise.
- Battle of Sarmizegetusa (106) – Trajan marched on the capital of Dacia. The Romans decisively defeated the Dacians, who surrendered after their defeat.

Kitos War (115 - 117) – While the Romans focused on a conquest of the Parthian Empire, a rebellion occurred among the Jews of Cyrenaica, Aegyptus, and Cyprus.

- Lukuas, or Andreas, proclaimed himself king and led a rebellion in Cyrenaica in which many temples, such as those to Hecate, Jupiter, Apollo, Diana, and Isis, and civil structures were destroyed.

- Lukuas then moved into Alexandria, which had previously been abandoned by the governor of Egypt Marcus Rutulius Lupus. Quintus Marcius Turbo was sent to put down the rebellion in Egypt and Cyrene, which he did. The rebellion in Cyprus, which had been led by Artemion, was also put down.
- Another rebellion rose up in Mesopotamia while Trajan was leading troops against the Parthians. Trajan was able to also put this rebellion to rest, but thereafter he appointed Lusius Quietus as governor of Judaea so that he could keep the rest of the Jews in check.
- The heart of the rebellion was transferred then to Judaea, where Lukuas had fled. Marcius Turbo pursued him there, but after he had ordered the execution of the brothers Julian and Pappus, he was himself executed. After the siege of Lydda, the rebellion and the Kitos War was finally ended by Lusius Quietus.

Bar Kokhba Revolt (132 - 135) – Hadrian visited the ruins of Jerusalem and felt pity towards the Jews, promising to rebuild the city. However, he rebuilt it as a pagan city, placing a temple of Jupiter on the ruins of the old Jewish temple. Hadrian renamed Jerusalem as *Aelia Capitolina*.

- Bar Kokhba led the revolt, being claimed as a savior as per a verse from the Torah. Support for the revolt spread quickly from Modi'in across the country. With this support, Bar Kokhba took the title of ruler of Israel.
- Hadrian immediately recalled his general Sextus Julius Severus from Britannia to put down the revolt. He was accompanied by legions from the Danube. When they fought the resistance, Roman losses were so heavy that *Legio XXII Deiotariana* was wiped out. However, after three long years, the revolt was finally put down.
- Seeing that defeat was imminent, Bar Kokhba withdrew to the fortress Betar, which subsequently came under siege. After another battle the resistance was killed.
- After this revolt, Hadrian forbade any further use of Torah law, the Jewish calendar, and executed Judaic scholars. The sacred scroll was ceremoniously burned on the Temple Mount.

Marcomannic Wars (166 - 180) – The Marcomanni, who had been enemies of Rome during the reign of Augustus, entered into a confederation with the Quadi, Vandals, and Sarmatians, against the Roman Empire.

- The then emperor Marcus Aurelius was forced to fight these offensive tribes. He set up a fortress at Carnuntum in Pannonia as a base to fight the Marcomanni for three years.
- The Empire was victorious, but many valuable commanders were lost, including two Praetorian Guard commanders. The war finally ended when Marcus Aurelius died in 180.

Dispute for Marcus Aurelius' Throne (175) – Gaius Avidius Cassius was a friend of Marcus Aurelius who had become the governor of Syria in 166.

- In 175, Avidius Cassius was proclaimed emperor after premature news of Marcus Aurelius' death. Some sources say that this came at the encouragement of Aurelius' wife Faustina, who believed that her husband was on the verge of death.
- This was not what angered the true emperor; it was the fact that after the correct report came to Avidius Cassius, he continued his behavior. Avidius Cassius never gained wide support, however, and he was killed by a centurion, who delivered his head to the emperor.

Year of the Five Emperors (193 - 196) – After Pertinax was murdered the imperial throne was auctioned off to Didius Julianus. However, the eastern legions proclaimed Pescennius Niger the emperor, and Decimus Clodius Albinus was later proclaimed emperor in 196. All the while Septimus Severus used his forces to claim the throne.

- Pescennius Niger, who directly controlled Aegyptus, had much support in the East, and was proclaimed emperor by his troops shortly after Didius Julianus bought the throne. Septimus Severus challenged him for the throne after he had Didius Julianus assassinated.
- Battle of Nicaea (193) – After Septimus had Didius Julianus murdered, he immediately traveled east where he was able to defeat Niger at Cyzicus and Nicaea.
- Battle of Issus (194) – Septimus Severus’ forces defeated the forces of Pescennius Niger. After the battle Niger fled to Antioch where he was killed.
- Clodius Albinus, the governor of Britannia, was originally allied with Septimus Severus. In 196, he was proclaimed emperor and sailed from Britannia into Gaul where he defeated Septimus’ legate, Virius Lupus.
- Battle of Lugdunum (Battle of Lyon) (February 19, 197) – Septimus’ forces were again victorious, this time over Clodius Albinus. After the battle Albinus killed himself, leaving Septimus Severus as the sole emperor.
- The emperors ruled in the order of Pertinax, Didius Julianus, Pescennius Niger, Clodius Albinus, and Septimus Severus.

First Roman-Sassanid War (243 - 259) – After the Parthian Empire ended, it was replaced by the Sassanid Empire. Fighting between Rome and the Persian nation continued at the insistence of the Sassanid ruler Shapur I.

- Battle of Resaena (243) – Shapur I launched an offensive against the Empire. Roman forces, led by the Praetorian Prefect Timesitheus, were sent to fight the Sassanids by the Roman emperor Gordian III. The Romans were victorious and pushed the Sassanids back.
- Battle of Misiche (244) – Gordian III, encouraged by the Roman victory at Resaena, marched toward the Sassanid capital at Ctesiphon. However, Shapur I sent an army that met the Romans and defeated them at Misiche. Gordian III either died during the battle or was assassinated shortly after it.
- Gordian III’s successor, Philip the Arab, made peace with Shapur I, agreeing to pay a large ransom.
- Battle of Barbalissos (253) – Shapur I resumed hostilities and engaged the Romans, defeating them. After their victory, the Sassanids were able to plunder Antioch.
- Battle of Edessa (259) – Valerian I formed up a Roman army and immediately marched into Sassanid territory. Shapur’s army met the Romans and defeated them. During the battle, Valerian was captured through betrayal by his own troops. Shapur is said to have used Valerian as a stepping stool for his horse. Valerian was later skinned and stuffed and displayed in the court of Shapur I.

Gallic Empire (260 - 274) – After Valerian was killed after the Battle of Edessa, his son Gallienus was left in charge of a troubled empire. Governors in Pannonia started some unsuccessful revolts but caused Gallienus to travel to the Danube region, where he left Marcus Cassianus Latinius Postumus as governor of Germania Superior and Inferior. Postumus later used his new power to create a new empire in the North, separate from the Roman Empire.

- Gallienus placed his heir, Saloninus, in Colonia Agrippina (modern Cologne) under the protection of the Praetorian Prefect Silvanus. Postumus moved south into Colonia Agrippina and murdered Saloninus and his guardian.
- After he murdered the imperial presence in Colonia Agrippina, Postumus set up the city as the capital of the new Gallic Empire, consisting mainly of Gallia, Britannia, and

Baetica. This empire mirrored the Roman Empire in that it also had its own senate and consuls elected annually.

- The last Gallic emperor, Tetricus, ruling from Augusta Treverorum (modern Trier), set out to regain the lost territory of Aquitania. This angered the then Roman emperor Aurelian who set out to re-conquer the West, after having defeated Zenobia in the East.
- Battle of Chalons (February to March, 274) – The Roman forces defeated the Gallic imperial forces. After the battle Tetricus was taken back to Rome and paraded in Aurelian's triumphal procession. Afterward, Tetricus' life was spared, and he was made a governor in southern Italy.
- Postumus ruled as the first Gallic emperor from 260-268, Marius ruled as the second Gallic emperor in 268, Victorinus ruled as the third Gallic emperor from 268-270, and Tetricus ruled as the fourth and last Gallic emperor from 270-273.

Palmyrene War (267 - 273) – After Odaenathus (Septimius Odaenathus), king of Palmyra, was assassinated by his nephew Maeonius along with his stepson, his wife, Zenobia, became queen of Palmyra, since their son Vaballathus (Lucius Iulius Aurelius Septimius Vaballathus Athenodorus) was too young. She gave herself and her son the titles of *Augusta* and *Augustus*. Her next few actions incited a war with Rome.

- In her efforts to expand the Palmyrene Empire, Zenobia conquered Egypt, then a Roman province. She and her general, Zabdas, along with their ally, Timagenes, conquered and killed the governor of Egypt, Tetradius Probus. After this she proclaimed herself “Queen of Egypt,” an act of war.
- Aurelian chased Zenobia throughout Asia Minor, eventually fighting her at Antioch and Emesa, where he was able to defeat her. He executed many of her soldiers and advisers, including the Greek sophist Cassius Dionysius Longinus.
- Both Zenobia and Vaballathus were taken back to Rome, but Vaballathus died on the way there. In 274, Aurelian paraded Zenobia in golden chains in his triumphal parade. Then Aurelian, impressed by her beauty and dignity, freed Zenobia and gave her an elegant villa in Tibur (modern Tivoli).

Carausian Revolt (286 - 296) – Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius had risen through the ranks in the Roman military and was appointed as naval commander in Bononia (modern Boulogne). However, he was accused of working with the enemy in order to gain riches. He revolted when the *Augustus* of the West, Maximian, ordered his execution.

- Carausius responded to his proscription by declaring himself emperor of Britain and a small area of Gaul.
- In 293, the then *Caesar* of the West, Constantius Chlorus, marched in Gaul and was able to recapture all the lands there that were loyal to Carausius.
- Carausius was then betrayed by his subordinate Allectus who killed Carausius and assumed the imperial throne in Britain. He then continued British resistance against the Roman Empire.
- Maximian then ordered the recapture of Britain. His fleet commander, Asclepiodotus, sailed around Allectus' fleet and burned his remaining ships, severely hindering the British resistance's military power. In a battle that soon followed, Allectus was killed, and the empire in Britain came to an end.

First Gothic War (376 - 382) – Various tribes of Goths had been displaced by the attacking Huns. Fritigern, leader of the Thervingi, appealed to the emperor Valens, who allowed the tribes

to enter Roman territory. However, the Goths went hungry, and Valens could do nothing, so the Goths under Fritigern's leadership waged a war against Rome.

- Battle of Adrianople (August 9, 378) – Under Fritigern's leadership, the Thervingi and other Gothic tribes, were able to decisively defeat the Roman forces that were led by Valens. Valens himself was killed during the battle.
- After this initial battle, the Gothic forces divided into separate contingents of Visigoths, the Thervingi and Greuthungi. The Greuthungi moved into Pannonia and were defeated by the western emperor Gratian. Fritigern and the Thervingi moved south into Macedonia, but were eventually pushed back into Thrace by 381.
- On October 3, 382, a peace was made between the Goths and the Romans, ending the war.

Second Gothic War (402 - 410) – Alaric, the king of the Visigoths, had always meant to settle his people in Roman territory, but when lands were not given to the Visigoths, he planned to take them by force.

- Alaric, thinking that he had been told to attack Italy by some supernatural force, moved into Italy, marching toward Rome. Alaric first attacked Mediolanum (modern Milan), which was the capital of the emperor Honorius. However, he was forced to abandon this siege when Flavius Stilicho attacked Alaric, forcing him into retreat.
- Battle of Pollentia (April 6, 402) – Stilicho chased the Visigoths to Pollentia (modern Pollenzo) on April, because he knew that since the Visigoths were Arian, they would be distracted celebrating the holiday. This caught Alaric off guard and he was defeated.
- Battle of Verona (June 402) – Stilicho chased Alaric to Verona and defeated him there. After the battle Alaric was forced to withdraw from Italy.
- Alaric and Stilicho became close friendly associates over time and allied with each other for a short time. However, not long after their alliance, Stilicho was executed on the orders of Honorius. Stilicho's men then flocked to Alaric's forces.
- Alaric marched south to Rome in 408. He, however, did not use force; instead, he relied upon starvation. After a period of time, the Romans succumbed to their hunger and agreed to pay a heavy ransom to the Visigoths.
- Alaric marched on Rome again in 409, when he negotiated with the Senate and set up Priscus Attalus as the prefect of the city.
- Siege of Rome (August 24, 410) – Alaric and the Visigoths entered the city through the Porta Salaria on the northeast side of Rome. Alaric was very merciful, refusing to harm much of the city's buildings or citizens. Nevertheless, the Basilica Aemilia in the *Forum Romanum* did burn down.
- After his siege of Rome, Alaric moved south into Calabria, intending to sail south into Africa. Not long after this, Alaric died of a fever in 410. Alaric was replaced by Ataulf, but the war was concluded with no further major actions occurring.

Wars against the Visigoths and Huns (436 - 451) – The Visigoths, now under the leadership of King Theodoric I, reclaimed territory in Aquitania and then moved south into Hispania. This caused some animosity with the Roman Empire, which didn't wish to lose such massive amounts of territory.

- The general Flavius Aëtius (called the "Last of the Romans"), who had previously defeated Bodifacius, was the greatest general in the empire at the time. He was selected to fight the Visigoths, hopefully stopping their territorial expansion.

- Battle of Narbonne (436) – Flavius Aëtius and the Romans forces were able to defeat Theodoric’s forces.
- Meanwhile, in the Eastern Empire, Attila and the Huns were ransacking Roman territories, causing great losses of Roman property and life.
- Battle of the Utus River (447) – Attila and the Huns were narrowly defeated by the Eastern Roman forces.
- As Attila moved westward, his intentions became clear that he wished to attack the Visigoth capital of Toulouse. Attila immediately began attempts to ally with the Western Roman emperor Valentinian III. Honoria, Valentinian’s III sister then sent a plea to Attila for help; he agreed and the two became engaged. However, Attila asked for half of the western empire as dowry. This angered Valentinian III who then exiled Honoria as per the request of their mother Galla Placida. Attila, upon hearing this news sent word that he would come to the Western Roman Empire’s capital at Ravenna to claim his fiancé.
- Battle of Chalons (Battle of the Catalunian Fields or the Battle of Campus Mauriacus) (451) – The Visigoths, under Theodoric I, entered into an alliance with Flavius Aëtius and his forces and jointly fought the Huns. Losses were great on both sides, but it is often considered a Roman-Gothic victory. In the battle, however, Theodoric I was killed.
- Attila, in 452, renewed his efforts to attain his fiancé and began a march directly toward Rome. On the way the Huns ransacked Italy, causing some of the natives to flee to the Venetian Lagoon and found Venice. Pope Leo I, on the wishes of Valentinian III, accompanied by the consul Avienus and the prefect Trigetius, met Attila at Mincio near Mantua and convinced him to stop his march to Rome.
- Attila pulled out of Italy and traveled back to his palace across the Danube. He planned to sack Constantinople in 453, but he would die before he could accomplish this. Shortly after his wedding to the young Ildico, Attila suffered a severe nosebleed and probably died from a hemorrhage or from choking to death.

Vandal Sack of Rome (May, 455) – Gaiseric, the king of the Vandals, after capturing a large fleet at Carthage attacked Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, and the Balearic Islands.

- Valentinian III, then the emperor in the West, negotiated a peace with Gaiseric. However, when Petronius Maximus murdered Valentinian III, Gaiseric interpreted this as an action that voided his peace terms.
- Gaiseric landed with his fleet in Italy on May 31, 455. Pope Leo I implored him not to destroy the ancient city or murder its citizens. When Gaiseric agreed, he was allowed to enter Rome. Rather than fight the Vandals, Petronius Maximus fled the city and was murdered by a mob outside of Rome.

Fall of the Western Roman Empire (August 24, 476) – Odoacer (Odoavacer), a son of Edeko, chief of the Sciri, had led the *foederati* tribes in Italy to help Orestes place Romulus Augustulus on the throne of the Western Roman Empire. However, Odoacer would soon change his alliances and attack the Empire.

- Orestes, father of Romulus Augustulus, had promised the *foederati* tribes payment of lands if they aided his son to ascend to the throne. However, when Orestes reneged on his pledge, Odoacer led the *foederati* tribes in a revolt against Orestes and killed him.
- The Western Roman Empire fell on August 24, 476. By September 4, 476, Odoacer occupied Ravenna, and Romulus Augustulus was compelled to abdicate the throne. Rather than taking the title of emperor, Odoacer sent the imperial insignia to the eastern emperor Zeno and declared himself “Patrician of the Western Half” (which was simply

the Italian peninsula). Zeno later confirmed Odoacer as *Rex Italiae*, and he became the first barbarian king of Italy.

- Julius Nepos, the emperor deposed by Romulus Augustulus continued to rule with nominal power while in exile in Dalmatia until his assassination in 480.
- Odoacer was later deposed and killed personally by Theodoric the Great, the leader of the Ostrogoths.