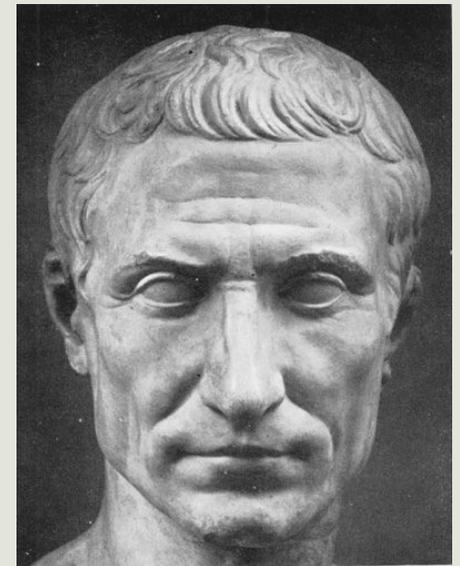
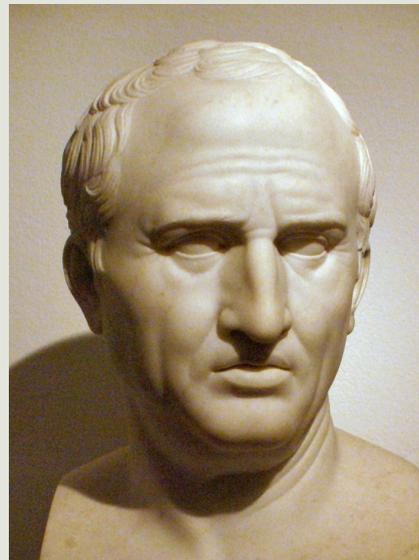
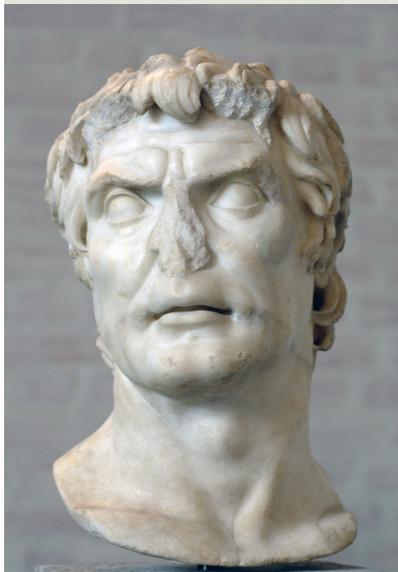


Autobiography and Civil War

Anchoring *Fortuna* in the *Commentarii* of Sulla, Cicero and Caesar

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Outline

- How did the writers of the political memoirs of the Civil Wars anchor their new practice in the past? Role of 'Fortuna.'
- The Roman Civil Wars
- Hypomnemata*, *Commentarii*, and Civil War
- Sulla
- Cicero
- Caesar
- Conclusion

The Roman Civil Wars

- **“The Crisis of the Roman Republic”** - extended period of political instability and social unrest, from about 133 BC to 30 BC.
- War in the 80s BC between Marius and Sulla
- War in the 40s BC between Julius Caesar and Pompey
- Conspiracy of Catiline 65-63 BC Cicero consul
- War between Caesar's successors, Octavius (Augustus) and Mark Anthony in the 30s BC.

Hypomnemata and Commentarii

- Between historiography, war bulletin, political pamphlet and personal document
- 'unfinished material'
- Propaganda, *apologia pro vita sua*: political function

Fortuna/ Tyche



Fortuna (chance) as opposed to
virtus

Fortuna (chance) to underline
animus and *virtus*

Fortuna (divine providence) as
justification of the victor's
cause

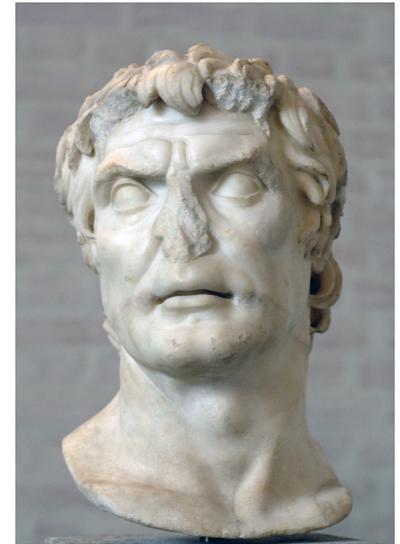
Fortuna / Tyche



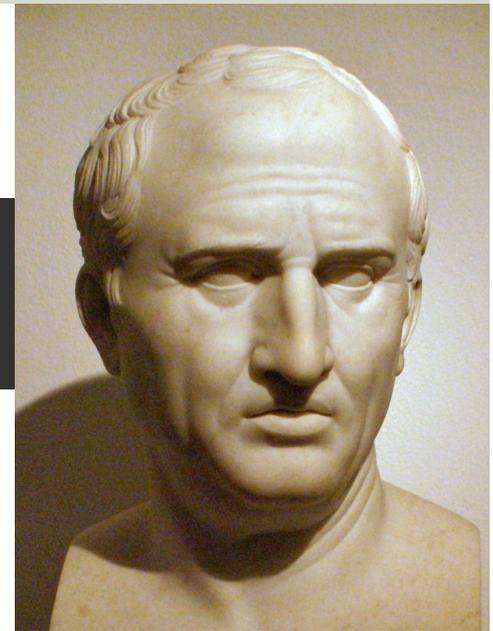
- Polybius (200-118 BC) : teleological explanation of the Roman expansion (*tyche* often equals divine providence)
- Plutarch 45-120 AD : *De fortuna Romanorum* (idem, even more explicitly)
- Sallustius 86-35 BC : *De coniuratione Catilinae*: Fortuna morally ambiguous
- → *Fortuna* in *commentarii* of Civil War?

Lucius Cornelius Sulla 'Felix'

- 138-78 BC, Rome
- War against King Mithridates of Pontus
- 80's BC: War against Gaius Marius
- March on Rome, dictatorship, proscriptions
- Memoirs in 22 books (cited by Plutarch, Appian, Aulus Gellius)
- 'darling of Fortune' (Felix / Epaphroditus)



Marcus Tullius Cicero



- 106-43 BC
- 63: consul: *Orationes Catilinae* (against Catilina; execution of C's henchmen)
- *Letter to Pompey; Hypomnema; Hypomnema* by Atticus (friend), *Consulatus suus* (epic poem) (*also tried to interest Archias, Poseidonius and Lucceius in writing on the same topic...*)
- *Consulatus suus*: divine apparatus in full evidence: Cicero is the god's emissary on earth, saviour of Rome → very bad reception

Consulatus suus : Courtney's reconstruction

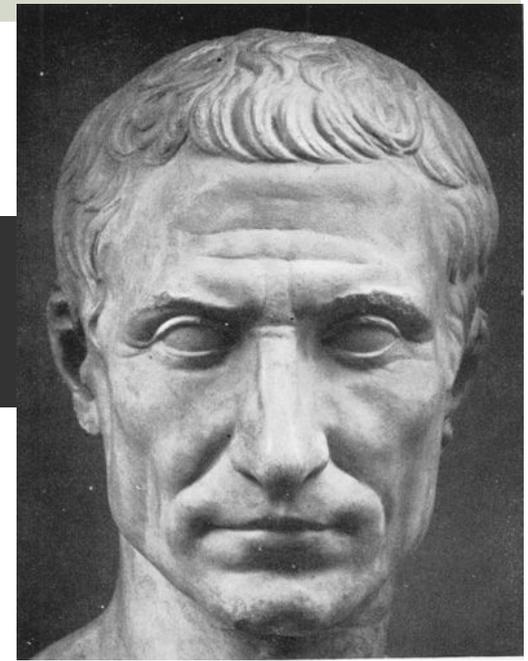
Book 1: An omen of C's consulate; Council of the gods; 2nd Catilinarian oration (9 november 63 BC)

Book 2: The evening of 5 december; Urania's speech

Book 3: Calliope urges Cicero to continued involvement in politics; another speech by Calliope (?)

'O fortunatam natam me consule Romam'

Gaius Julius Caesar



- 100-44 BC
- War against the Gauls (*Bellum Gallicum*)
- War against Pompey (*Bellum Civile*)
- Fortuna: 'Fortune has very great power... especially in war' (BC 3.68.1)
- "Whether it was their own frightened disarray or some error or even *Fortune* that interrupted the victory already present and at hand, they must all strive to repair with their courage the damage done." (BC 3.73.5)

To Conclude

- Is it easier to commit atrocities/controversial acts in the name of Fortuna? (Sulla, Cicero)
- Caesar: *Fortuna* submitted to *Virtus*: focus on moral character (*clementia, fides, pietas...*)



Thank you for your attention! Questions?

