

The Roman Republic  
A Very Short Introduction

By David Gwynn

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- What can we learn from the legends of Rome's earliest times?
- Who were the Etruscans? And why were they important?
- How did Rome conquer Italy?
- What were the major strengths and weaknesses of the Roman Republic as a political system?
- How did desire for *gloria* and *dignitas* influence the lives of the Roman aristocracy?
- What roles did Roman women play within and beyond the home?
- Why were the Romans so concerned with maintaining the *pax deorum*?
- Why did Rome defeat Carthage in the Punic Wars?
- Who was the greater general: Hannibal or Scipio Africanus?
- Did Rome conquer Greece or did Greek culture conquer Rome?
- What internal problems did the Republic face in the second century BC and why?
- Were the Gracchi brothers idealistic reformers or merely ambitious politicians?
- How do the surviving art and literature of the Republic reveal daily life in ancient Rome?
- Did Cicero truly understand the crises that Rome faced during his lifetime? What solutions did he propose?
- Marius, Sulla, Pompeius, and Caesar: Which of these warlords played a greater role in the collapse of the Republic?
- Why was Julius Caesar murdered on the Ides of March?
- Why were Machiavelli and Shakespeare so fascinated by ancient Rome?
- How did the Roman Republic influence the American and French Revolutions of the eighteenth century?
- What lessons can the rise and fall of the Roman Republic teach us today?

Other Books by this Author

*Athanasius of Alexandria: Bishop, Theologian, Ascetic, Father* (OUP 2012)

Further Reading on the Roman Republic

M. Crawford, *The Roman Republic* (2nd edition, London 1992)

H.I. Flower (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic* (Cambridge 2004)

T. Holland, *Rubicon: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Roman Republic* (London 2004)

N. Rosenstein and R. Morstein-Marx (eds.), *A Companion to the Roman Republic* (Oxford 2006)

D. Shotter, *The Fall of the Roman Republic* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, London 2005)