



Commentaries on the Gallic War

Gaius Julius Caesar (100 BC - 44 BC)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	7 hours 13 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1243
Language:	English	UPC:	0701236969634
Style:	Collaborative	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Classics, History, Memoir		

Commentaries on the Gallic War is the first hand account by Julius Caesar of his experiences during the nine years he spent in the Gallic Wars. Written as a third-person narrative in eight sections, Books 1-8, he describes the battles and political intrigues he encounters in his campaigns against the Germanic and Celtic peoples who opposed Roman conquest. The work is familiar to students of the Latin language, where it is used as an example of simple, direct Latin prose and stylistic clarity. It famously begins with the line “Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres” (“Gaul is a whole divided in three parts”), which is somewhat undermined by the fact that the borders of Gaul itself were ambiguous and shifting during the time of the campaigns. Generally

the term refers to those parts of the region not conquered by the Romans, now most of modern France, Belgium, western Germany and parts of Switzerland. The word “Gaul” came to stand for uncouth or uncivilized areas and peoples. Written between 58-49 BC, when Caesar’s political fortunes were ascendant, to the alarm and hostility of the governing aristocrats, the commentaries aimed to increase his support among the plebeians by propagandizing his efforts to increase the influence and glory of Rome.

Gaius Julius Caesar (July 12, 100 BC – March 15, 44BC) was a Roman general and politician who was instrumental in the demise of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire in its wake. He was born into a patrician family near Rome that claimed descent from the legendary Aeneas. His father, governor of the province of Asia, died when Caesar was 16; his aunt Julia was married to the prominent Gaius Marius who waged civil war on Lucius Cornelius Sulla at that time. Caesar was made high priest of Jupiter and then stripped of his position as well as his inheritance when ultimately Sulla prevailed. He joined the army and served with distinction. His political career began with his appointment as military tribune in 69 BC. In 60 BC he formed an alliance with Crassus and Pompey that dominated Roman politics. He embarked upon the Gallic wars, which extended the Roman territory into Britain and Germany but were not sanctioned. After Crassus’ death in 53 BC Pompey aligned with the Senate, which, fearing Caesar’s popularity and power, ordered him to resign his commission and return to Rome. Faced with likely criminal charges, Caesar instead crossed the Rubicon, entered Italy under arms, and emerged victorious in the resulting civil war. Once in power he instituted numerous reforms, including the Julian calendar, expanded citizenship, land reform and a centralized bureaucracy. After proclaiming himself “dictator for life” he was famously assassinated by a group of rebellious senators on the Ides of March, 44 BC. He is considered by many to be one of the greatest military commanders in history.