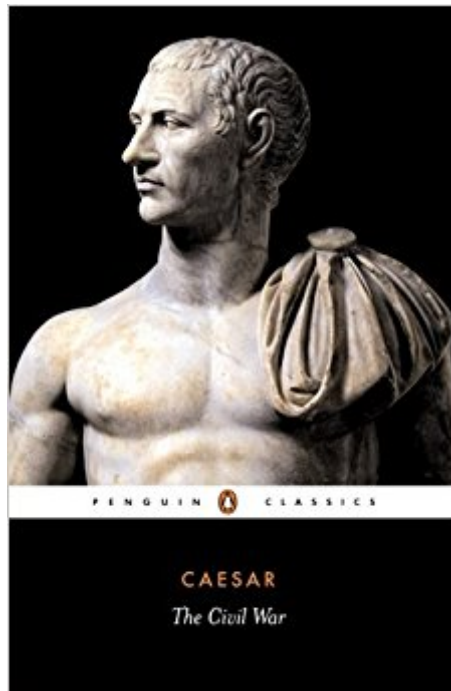




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The Civil War Of Caesar (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

A military leader of legendary genius, Caesar was also a great writer, recording the events of his life with incomparable immediacy and power. The Civil War is a tense and gripping depiction of his struggle with Pompey over the leadership of Republican Rome - a conflict that spanned the entire Roman world, from Gaul and Spain to Asia and Africa. Where Caesar's own account leaves off in 48 BC, his lieutenants take up the history, describing the vital battles of Munda, Spain and Thapsus, and the installation of Cleopatra, later Caesar's mistress, as Queen of Egypt. Together these narratives paint a full picture of the events that brought Caesar supreme power - and paved the way for his assassination only months later. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Latin (translation)

Gaius Julius Caesar was born in 100BC into an ancient patrician family. He was imprisoned for a time with his family, for protesting against the then leadership of Sulla, but advanced slowly through the sixties rising to the rank of praetor and forming the 'first triumvirate' with Pompey and Crassus.

Elected consul in 59BC, he then became Governor for Transalpine Gaul. After the death of Crassus and the defeat of Pompey in 45BC, Caesar returned to Rome as dictator. He was assassinated in March 44BC. Jane Gardner received degrees in Classics from Glasgow and Oxford Universities and was Senior Lecturer in Classics at Reading University. She is the author of, among others, *Women in Roman Law and Society* and *The Roman Household: A Sourcebook*.

Julius Caesar's Dispatches to the Senate (so it is said) naturally included bits of exaggeration where he increased the numbers fighting against him. But any rational account of this remarkable man's military exploits cannot avoid a simple fact: he was never beaten in a battle. Some of his fights are set against odds that would daunt many a lesser general but he was indefatigable in his energy and his burning desire to sweep all of Gaul (and some very small bits of Britannia before him). He starts as a general with experience in Spain but not much else and with some solid backing in the Senate he sets out for the Alps gathering Legions on the way. He seems to be a very charismatic leader for his men and certainly does not leave them poor when he returns to Rome after his extraordinary fight at Alesia.

Caesar's Civil Wars provide a fascinating look at the end of the Roman Republic from the mind of Julius Caesar. Just like Caesar's Gallic Wars, I found it incredibly interesting to read these books on ancient Roman history that were written by the man who lived in that time and accomplished so many incredible feats. This portion of the Civil Wars describes the events which took place from (approximately) when Caesar crossed the Rubicon, to the defeat of Pompey and the Senate's army at Pharsalus in 48 BC. It was incredibly interesting for me to read about the Civil War through the narrative of its greatest general and see things through his point of view. I also personally enjoy the fact that the book contains both an English translation and an original Latin version of the text.

As I expected, this is Caesar's own writing in a very good translation. But it is still a bit tedious and unless one is totally up on what happened during that time, also a bit confusing. However, I do find it worth while plowing through as Caesar was definitely an interesting writer. The final 3 wars are written by others and I haven't decided yet whether I will plow through them. Maybe, some day, when I have nothing else to do.

The book itself was great, loved every page of it, however the cover and half of the pages were ripped upon delivery. Not sure how or why a brand new book has rips already.

Excellent read written by Caesar first hand account...

greatest book ever written

Great

Excellent!

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