



OAFLMUN'25

OAFLMUN'25

HCC | Spartacus Uprising

STUDY GUIDE



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OAFLMUN'25

1. Letter from Secretary General

Dear Participants of OAFLMUN'25,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Özket Akbilek Science High School Model United Nations Conference.

Our academic team has prepared these study guides with the aim of providing you, our esteemed delegates, with a comprehensive introduction to the various committees. These guides have been meticulously crafted to enhance your understanding of current global issues and historical events that have had a significant impact on the world.

We believe that by following the guidance outlined in the study guides, which are designed to offer a clear framework, you will find the conference experience both enriching and rewarding, not only during individual committee sessions but throughout the entire event.

During the conference, members of the OAFLMUN'25 academic and organization teams will be closely monitoring your progress and active participation in the committees.

As the Secretary General of this conference, I am committed to the professional development of Turkish youth, as well as all participants, whether this is your first MUN or you are an experienced delegate. I sincerely hope that this conference will be both educational and beneficial for everyone involved, helping you enhance your diplomatic skills and global awareness.

Best regards,
Secretary General
Ecem Buse KOÇAK



OAFLMUN'25

2. Letter from Deputy Secretary General

Most esteemed participants of OAFLMUN'25,

As the Deputy Secretary General of OAFLMUN'25, I am delighted to welcome you all to the 2nd Özkent Akbilek Science High School Model United Nations Conference. It is with great pleasure that I present to you the outcome of our months of preparation and planning. We are committed to ensuring that this event will be the best one yet, from our organisation to our academics. Our aim is to facilitate competent and high-level diplomatic deliberations, and to promote valuable and constructive solutions throughout the three days of OAFLMUN'25. We hope that you will enjoy the event and that it will prove to be a valuable learning experience for all participants. As a delegate, the journey toward success begins here with the Study Guide prepared by the dedicated members of our academic team. We encourage you to read the Study Guide thoroughly and to broaden your research to include different perspectives, focusing on your assigned role. It is essential to acknowledge the value of each role and perspective to ensure full preparation for engagement with the Agenda. I wish you success and enlightening discussions during these three days of OAFLMUN'25. I very much look forward to the valuable contributions you will make to our conference.

Best regards,
Deputy Secretary General
Yiğit KÖMÜRCÜ



OAFLMUN'25

3. Letter from Under Secretary General

Esteemed Delegates,

I'm Alp Arslan Şahin, an 11th grade student in Ankara Erman İlçak Science Highschool and I will be serving as your Under Secretary General in the committee. From last year, I started to participate in MUN conferences and it became a great passion and a way to demonstrate my ideas and feelings. While we were planning this committee, we aimed to make you immerse yourself in this passion as we do and much as possible.

So, It's a great honour to welcome you all to the Historical Crisis Committee (HCC) of OAFLMUN'25, which is going to be a great journey to the chaotic ambiance of the Roman Republic.

The study guide will provide you the information about the past, political, economical, and military situation in the Roman Republic, starting with the Punic Wars. As you read this guide, you will be immersed in the unique and exciting history of Rome. Might wonder, there's no longer clear information about the ages we are mentioning about, so within the committee your imaginations matter. You will have the power of directing history in your hands. Possibilities are limitless, everything is up to you, only your will can create wonders in a Crisis Committee.

There will also be some people to give my special thanks. Starting with my esteemed Academic Assistant, Beren Esen, who gave the idea upon the agenda item. Melis Eda Yılmaz for being such an excellent duo of mine and Mustafa Gürmeriç for participating in this conference with me and not leaving me alone. Also Ecem Buse Koçak, the Secretary General of OAFLMUN'25 for giving me the opportunity.

I hope this committee will be enjoyable and a great way to improve yourselves. You can reach for any kind of information via email:

alpsahin0619@gmail.com

Alp Arslan Şahin
Under Secretary-General of HCC



OAFLMUN'25

4. Letter From Academic Assistant

Esteemed delegates,

I am Beren Esen, a 10th grade high school student in ANKÜ, and I will be acting as your academic assistant for this committee. When I first started attending MUNs last year at around the date I am currently writing this, I didn't even know what an academic assistant was. Since then, I've started to really enjoy these conferences, and I have participated as delegate, chair, and CTM in many of them. However, up until this point I had never been an academic assistant and I am very much looking forward to it. It is certainly a great honor to be one in OAFLMUN 25.

The committee we have prepared for you is extremely flexible. You could do almost anything if you organize well enough, and work hard for it. I am sure that we will all have tons of funny and absurd moments, as well as many opportunities to learn about the history of the period and the event.

Finally, I would like to thank a number of people for being great friends and helping me on this MUN journey. Firstly, I would like to thank Alp for inviting me to be an academic assistant in this conference. I literally would not be writing this if not for him. I would also like to thank my good friend Eliz. Last but not least I would like to thank the SG Ecem Buse Koçak and DSG Yiğit Kömürcü for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

Delegates, remember

You have nothing to lose but your chains, and a world to win!



5. Introduction to the Committee

a. Introduction to the Historical Crisis Committee

The Historical Crisis Committee is one of the Crisis Committees in Model United Nations and it deals with the historical events. Except the General Assembly committees the Crisis committees allow you to revitalise the events in history by being the important figures. The committee will focus on the Third Servile War and the committee will start on 6 March BC 73, after the revolt of slaves and defeat of a small Roman reinforcement intended to hunt them down.

b. Summary of the Agenda

The Third Servile War, also known as the War of Spartacus, was a slave revolt initially led by 70 escaped slaves from a gladiator school in Capua, Roman Italia. The revolt quickly grew in scale as the escaped slaves engaged in moved through Italia, pillaging settlements and recruiting slaves in the process. It is believed that upwards of 120.000 such freed slaves joined the war on the side of the rebels in total. What sets the conflict apart from earlier uprisings such as the First and Second Servile wars is its scale, the apparent inability of the Roman military to suppress the rebellion at first, and the fact that it threatened the Roman heartland of Italy, rather than its provinces. [1]

6. Historical Background

a. Slavery in Roman Republic

“Those whose work consists in using their bodies and from whom nothing better can be expected are slaves of nature.” - Aristotle

The existence of slavery in Roman society is indicated in the very first written records that have survived to the modern day, and it is known that it was one of its fundamental institutions [2]. Most slaves throughout the history of Ancient Rome worked as manual laborers and household assistants but there were also educated or skilled slaves that worked in households or businesses [3]. Although considered human beings, slaves did not have a legal personality and were owned by their *pater familias*¹, a status similar to that of children in Roman society [4][5]. Although slaves did have some rights, as some were allowed to manage property as if it were their own (though it was always legally their master's) [6], and sometimes were allowed to cohabit with other slaves (though legally this was not marriage) [7], these were very limited and usually only available for educated slaves [8]. Sometimes slaves would even be able to buy their own freedom, however this was quite a rare occurrence that only educated slaves could usually achieve [9]. The uneducated slaves usually had no hopes of being freed, while educated slaves had some very limited opportunities for purchasing themselves and manumission [10]. All of these factors together naturally resulted in a very low quality of life for slaves, and indeed slave uprisings had not been uncommon in Rome before the Third Servile War, although most were easily suppressed [11][12][13].

¹The *pater familias* was the male head of household according to Roman law.



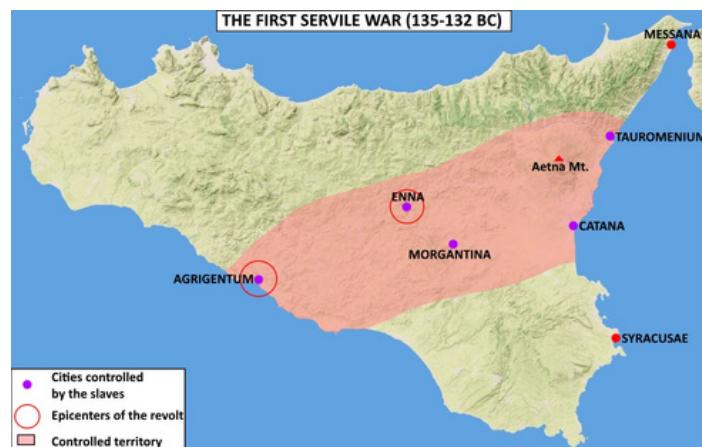
b. The First Servile War

i. Reasons for the First Servile War

After the Second Punic War of BC 218-201, with the Carthaginian Iberia's conquest of Rome, the people of Carthage were exiled to Sicily as slaves. This event increased the slave population in Sicily and devalued them. The Italian speculators who rushed onto the island after the conquest, occupied or purchased a great amount of land with very low prices. The newly arrived Roman Sicilians exploited their slaves more brutally than their predecessors.[14] According to the Diodorus Siculus the *equites*¹ were not providing the slaves enough food or clothes. Those reasons caused the slaves to get angered and seek freedom.[15]

ii. Events of the First Servile War

The First Servile War of 135-132 BC was the first slave rebellion of the Roman Republic which took place in Sicily. A slave named Eunus who claimed to be a prophet started the rebellion in 135, then captured the city of Enna with 400 slaves. After this a Cilician slave named Cleon stormed the city of Agrigentum, slaughtered the population, burned down the city and joined the army of Eunus as a commander. [16] Eunus was a conjurer and a self-proclaimed prophet of Syrian origin and he foretold that he shall be the king. It did not take too much for him to claim himself as the king of the Seleucid Empire after the capturing of Enna. [17] After the capturing of the city he named himself "Antiochus" which is the name of a former emperor in the Seleucid Empire. Then Lucius Hypsaeus, who was a *praetor*², marched a body of Sicilian militia to quash the revolt but the slaves routed his army. [18]



Map of First Servile War BC 133

¹ The *equites*, also known as the cavalries of the Roman Republic, was the second property/social-based class.

² The *praetor* is a title granted by the government of ancient Rome to a man acting in one of two official capacities.



After that, they defeated three more praetors and occupied the whole island in one year. In BC 134, the Roman Senate sent Fulvius Flaccus to end the rebellions but the campaign ended with a conclusive result. A year later, finally the campaigns of the Roman Republic gave results and they captured Messana and killed 8.000 surrendered slaves before the siege of Tauromenium but they were unable to take the city. In 132 BC Publius Rupilius, snuffed out the revolt successfully, captured Tauromenium, defeated the army of Cleon, tortured the prisoners and marched to Enna which was the tactical center of the revolt. Enna fell not long after, helped by traitors inside the walls. The remnants of the slave army on the rest of the island were quickly stamped out, with around 20,000 prisoners being crucified by Rupilius in retribution.[19] It was the first of three large-scale slave revolts against the Roman Republic.

c. The Second Servile War

*"For the slaves, their life was worse than death,
and for their masters, their rebellion was worse than war."*
-Plutarch

After the defeat of Eunus and Cleon, the First Servile War became an inspiration among the slaves, for seeking their freedom and overthrow their masters. 30 years after the First Servile War, the Roman Republic was struggling with several wars, the Jugurthine War of 112-106 BC and ongoing Cimbrian War which started in 103 BC. They had lost approximately 60.000 soldiers already, and the Republic was getting weaker. The army commander of the Jugurthine War, Gaius Marius, while seeking to find new forces he came across with Nicomedes III of Bithynia and asked for help. Nicomedes refused because most of the Bithynian men were slaves because they didn't pay their taxes. After this meeting between Nicomedes III and Gaius Marius, the Senate decided that no citizen of the allied state could be held as a slave in the Roman province and issued a decree. The Senate thought that decision would provide the enough manpower to Marius but it didn't work as it planned.

The praetor of Sicily Publius Licinius Nerva, wanted to apply the decree as soon as possible and freed 800 slaves of the allied state. After that, the slaves of non-allied states and the masters of slaves got angered and complained. So the praetor announced that no longer they would free the other slaves, and sent the 800 slaves back to their masters. Almost 120 of the slaves revolted after their repatriation but this didn't end any longer and they perished by the Nerva's forces. While this happens, a larger rebellion was taking its place in Herakleia, at the mountains of Caprianus. Almost 700 slaves came together and defeated Marcus Titinius, who was a garrison commander of Nerva. After this war, their population increased to almost 6.000 slaves and they decided to choose Salvius as their king, who was also a self-proclaimed prophet like Eunus. After gaining enough power, they found the opportunity to siege Morgantina but a quick response from Nerva arrived. Nerva's army thought they trapped the besieging slave army. But Salvius made a clever move and first encountered Nerva's army in front of the city. During the war, Salvius had a great advantage upon Nerva and then



announced to them to leave their weapons for their lives to be spared. Most of the Nerva's army dropped their weapons and the others escaped with Nerva.

Meanwhile, another slave army was being formed in Western Sicily by a man named Athenion. He succeeded in gathering around 10.000 men in his army, sieged the city of Lilybaeum but the Lilybaeum was a well-fortified city and they resisted to the slaves and pushed them back from the city. So the Athenion moved back and then Salvius summoned him to join the rebellions with him. Athenion pledged his royalty to Salvius, acting as the military commander. They besieged the city of Triocala and made it their capital. Meanwhile Lucius Licinius Lucullus, the father of Nerva took back the praetor term, and marched to the Triocala. Athenion offered to meet them in the battlefield and Salvius wanted to bring them to the city. So the Athenion's offer accepted and they came across in the open. The two armies showed them up on the battlefield. Athenion was having much more success on his side and was winning. Then something unexpected happened, Athenion was injured and dragged from his horse, making his army believe that their commander had gotten killed. So the slaves got disorganized and fled from the battlefield. Salvius was unable to stop the rout, and realised the battle was lost, he and his forces retreated while Athenion played dead and fled from the battlefield.

7. Ancient Roman Society and Political System

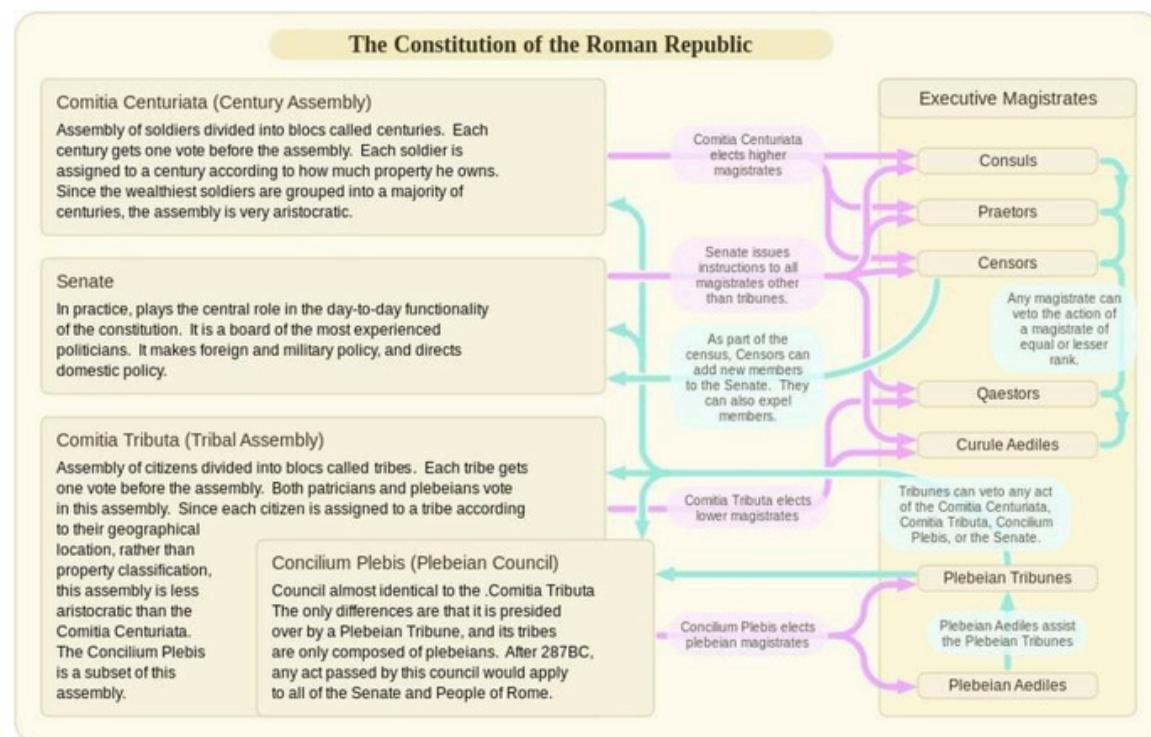


Diagram of the Political system of the Roman Republic

Ancient Roman history can roughly be divided into three periods, the Kingdom Era, the Republican Era, and the Imperial Era. Here we will focus only on the Republican period since it is the only one relevant to our agenda.



a. The Class System in Ancient Rome

The social status of someone living in Ancient Rome depended on many things, making it difficult to classify it based on just one factor, like wealth. However, for residents of the Republic and later Empire, it can be said that there were primarily six social classes, listed here from most privileged to least: Senator, Patrician, Plebeian, Freedmen, Peregrini, Slave. Of these classes, with the exceptions of peregrini and slaves, all were considered Roman citizens, granting them the right to participate in the Roman political system, and offering other rights and privileges not enjoyed by other residents. [20] [21] [23]

- i. Senators: Members of the most elite section of Roman society, they made up the Senate of the Roman Republic. Since 319 BC they were chosen by the *censor*¹, but all magistrates were also all automatically appointed. They could be chosen from both Patricians and Plebeians.
- ii. Patricians: They were the aristocracy of the Roman Republic, in the very beginning of the Republican period they had far more political rights and influence, but their richer members gradually became equal with the plebeians until our time period. They were also usually far wealthier than the plebeians, during the early Republican period but this distinction also gradually disappeared.
- iii. Plebeians: The most common class among citizens, they were the ones who elected the Tribune of the Plebs and made up the Plebeian Assembly. In the Early Republic, they were less wealthy than the Patricians, and thus were less politically influential, but they became more equal in both respects until our time period.
- iv. Freedmen: They had similar rights to Plebeians, but were looked down upon by them due to their former slave status.
- v. Peregrini: They were freemen that did not have Roman citizenship, usually they were the original inhabitants of the regions conquered by the Romans. They lived by the same laws they had lived by before they had been conquered, with the exception of criminal matters, in which they were subjected to trial by their region's governor.
- vi. Slaves: As previously explained in the section on Slavery in the Roman Republic, they were the least privileged class, not being considered legally human. They had virtually no rights in the Republican period.

¹The censor was traditionally considered the highest office a Roman could attain, and they were elected among former consuls by the Centuriate Assembly. They were tasked with appointing Senators (after 316 BC), keeping and organizing the census, regulating public morality and managing the finances of the State. Their decisions could not be overrode by any other magistrate.



b. Political system of the Roman Republic

Although the Roman government, *SPQR*¹, was technically a democratic one, similar to many city-states in Ancient Greece, with all offices that had legal powers and privileges being elected, in practice it was more akin to oligarchy than democracy, and unlike Ancient Greece adopted a system of representative “democracy” rather than direct democracy². Below the Roman government will be explained in further detail, categorized into the modern branches of government.

i. Executive

In the Roman system, executive power was shared between two consuls (similar to modern day presidents)(one patrician one plebeian after 366 BC) were elected each year by the *Centuriate Assembly*³, who would each hold power for one month, one after the other (if they were both in Rome) for a total term of one year. All consuls possessed *Imperium* over Rome and its territories, which was a kind of military/political power that allowed them to raise and command armies and generally enforce the law. Decisions they made using their *imperium* could only be overridden by their co-consul or a *tribune of the plebs*⁴. There were other magistrates with executive functions, like the *praetor* but they were all ultimately subject to the consuls. [24] [25]

¹*Senatus Populusque Romanus*, the Senate and people of Rome, the traditional name of the Ancient Roman government.

²Representative democracy is the system used in the vast majority of modern day democracies, with politicians being elected by the people to represent them and make laws, whereas direct democracy is a system in which the people directly vote for the laws they want (elements of direct democracy are also found in modern democracies, such as the referendum and popular initiative.)

³The Centuriate Assembly was the only political body in the Roman Republic that could elect consuls and declare war. It was a sort of parliament composed of *centuries*, into which soldiers were divided based on their wealth and where they would physically assemble and directly vote for decisions to be made in the Centuriate Assembly. However because the centuries containing the lower classes contained more people, and each century had one vote no matter its size, it was heavily rigged in favour of the wealthy. Also the magistrate presiding over each century was the one actually casting the century's vote, and he could vote against the opinion of his century members (although he could be overridden by a *tribune of the plebs* or a higher magistrate if he did this).

⁴The tribunes of the plebs were 10 people (after 457 BC) that were responsible for protecting the rights of the Plebeians. They had the authority to override the decision of any magistrate and political body, with the exception of the censor. They also presided over the sessions of the plebeian council. and lobbied for the passing of *plebiscites*, laws passed by the Plebeian council that became binding for all citizens after 287 BC. It is unclear if they continued to exist after this date, as it would have been quite unusual for patricians to be excluded from a lawmaking process the result of which they would have to obey. Thus it is quite possible that they were superseded by the Tribal Assembly.



ii. Legislative

In Ancient Rome legislative power was shared between 3-4 political bodies (depending on whether or not the Plebeian council continued to exist after 287 BC). The Centuriate Assembly indirectly exercised legislative power by choosing the censor, who would in turn select Senators. The Senate did not technically have any legal power, but its decisions were largely obeyed by consuls and other magistrates because of the prestige and power of the men who made up the Senate. All senators had the right to speak as much as they wanted during debate time, giving rise to the practice of filibustering, which allowed each Senator to individually stop the passage of any law that they deemed undesirable by talking about it for very long periods of time until the law proposal was withdrawn. The Plebeian Council had the ability to propose laws through the Tribunes of the Plebs, which, if approved by the majority of the council would become law for all Roman citizens (after 287 BC, before this date the laws had to be approved by magistrates) (The law also needed approval from the Senate after 219 BC). Finally, there was the Tribal Assembly, which likely superseded the Plebeian assembly after 287 BC, and which also had the power to make laws by popular vote of all Roman citizens (with approval from the Senate). The tribal assembly was organized into tribes, originally assigned based on physical place of residence within the city of Rome and its periphery, but later lost its geographical dimension and many new tribes were created for new citizens. Each tribe had one vote.

iii. Judicial

The Roman legal system used a mixture of common law¹ and statutory law, with the previously stated legislative bodies creating statutory laws, and jurists, magistrates and the Senate creating common law through their decisions (legally the Senate had no legislative power, as such its decisions were not considered statutory). Roman law can be divided into two spheres that still continue to exist today in most legal systems, private law (civil law) and public law (criminal law). Whereas private law was applied in cases where one citizen was accused of having wronged another, public law was used in cases where a citizen was accused of having committed a crime against the state and the public at large. As such, the procedure for litigating the two types of cases were different. In public law, citizens had a right to appeal to a popular assembly if they were given a capital sentence, like death or exile (one of the legislative bodies discussed earlier with the exception of the Senate).

¹Common law is the name given to law that was created through the decision of judges, jurists, and tradition. They are usually not written, unless later compiled into legal codes, and are simply legal opinions made by jurists that are later accepted by everyone else.



8. Key Events and Milestones:

a. Revolt in Capua

Gladiatorial games were a way of entertainment in the Roman Republic. There were a lot of *ludi*'s to train gladiators in order to supply gladiators for contests. But the *ludi*'s were using slaves, who were considered as prisoners of war or criminals. In 73 BC, Gnaeus Cornelius Lentulus Vatia was one of the owners of *ludi*'s. In his gladiator school, Spartacus gathered 200 gladiators to start a revolt and plotted to escape. Spartacus was an *auxiliary*¹, he knew how to lead and set up tactics. Also he was highly intelligent and cultured. As a rumor, when he was in the Roman army, his superiors ordered to slaughter their own people but Spartacus refused. After that he was considered as a slave and got arrested.

After they started to implement the plan, some of the gladiators betrayed them. 70 of the gladiators were armed with common kitchen tools like choppers, fought their way to the freedom, and seized several wagons of gladiator weapons and armors. After the escape succeeded, they wanted to choose their leaders and selected Crixus and Oenomaus who were Gallic slaves and also Spartacus who was a Thracian. The escaped slaves were able to defeat a small force in Capua and captured some of their military equipment. Most of the sources also say they plundered the region surrounding Capua.

b. Battle of Mount Vesuvius

After the revolt in Capua and the escape, the slave forces settled to the Vesuvius which is a volcano located in Campania². The Roman authorities viewed the revolt as a wave of crime more than an armed revolt. However, after Spartacus enlarged their forces and gained some authority, the other authorities identified them as a threat. So the Rome decided to put down the rebellion. A Roman praetor, Gaius Claudius Glaber, gathered an army of 3.000 men. But those men were not well-trained for the war because they were not legions but *militia*'s³. Glaber's forces besieged the slaves on Mount Vesuvius, blocking the only known way down the mountain. With the slaves thus contained, Glaber was content to wait until starvation forced the slaves to surrender.

Against 3.000 men in the forces of Glaber, there were only 200 slaves at the mountains. But while the army of Glaber lacked training, those 200 slaves were well educated and experienced in war and with a tactic developed by Spartacus they made ropes from vines and trees and used them to rappel down the cliffs of the mountain.

¹*Auxiliary* was introduced as the non-citizen troops attached to the legions in the Roman Republic. They were mostly taking roles as light cavalry or archers.

²*Campania* is an administrative region of Italy located in Southern Italy.

³*Militia* is an irregular military force consisting mainly of civilians.

So the plan of Glaber fell through and they were caught off-guard. Slaves besieged their camps with an unexpected attack and annihilated most of the Roman militia forces. After this event, another campaign of another praetor Publius Varinius, sent to Spartacus to put an end to rebellion. For some reason unknown, Publius Varinius decided to divide their forces into two divisions of 2.000 men. While one of the divisions was ruled by Furius, the other one was ruled by Cossinius. There is not much information about the operation of war but these forces were also defeated by the army of escaped slaves: Cossinius was killed, Varinius was nearly captured, and the equipment of the armies was seized by the slaves. These successes allowed the slaves to enlarge their forces and more other slaves gained the courage to join the side of Spartacus.



c. Battle of Picenum

After the Battle of Mount Vesuvius, Spartacus' army started to grow faster, the herdsmen and shepherds also joined as volunteers for the rebellion. The rebel slaves increased their number to 70.000 until winter and they spent their winter by training, arming and equipping their new recruits, and expanded their territory to include the towns of Nola, Nuceria etc. and raided to other towns. Also to feed the army of 70.000, Spartacus marched northward from his base to plunder the rich harvests of the region. Spartacus was gathering more slaves, gladiators, and disaffected peasants from nearby towns, increasing the size of the army to 120.000 slaves.

With the opinion of Plutarch, for some reason Spartacus wanted to march to Roma, the capital of Rome, and to do that he wanted to maneuver around the Apennines to get to



Rome. But then the two consuls, Lucius Gellius and Gnaeus Cornelius Lentulus sent their armies to maneuver against the Spartacus' army. They totally gathered 20.000 well-trained legion forces and made them into two divisions, one of them ruled by Gellius and the other by Lentulus. The two sides finally met in Picenum. Once again, with the numbers on his side, Spartacus spectacularly defeated and inflicted heavy losses on the combined consular army. The battle at Picenum was the most spectacular victory of Spartacus' slave army during the conflict, and proved to be the gravest Roman defeat of the war.

d. Battle of Silarius River

The battle of Silarius River can be considered as the lasting war of the Third Servile War. It occurred near the Sele River, southern Italy. Marcus Licinius Crassus¹, gathered 6 legions and 4 consular legions to his army; approximately 40.000 men of trained soldiers. He ordered the building of a system of ditches and walls in Bruttium. Spartacus was trapped by the ditches and walls that were 60 kilometer-long. Spartacus ordered his troops to bring his horse, then pulled his sword and slew the horse. He proclaimed to his troops that if he should win the day, he would have many horses to choose from, but if he should lose the upcoming battle and the Romans should win the day, he would not need one. With Appian's opinion, Spartacus sent some of his troops to decrease the defence line on Crassus' troops.

About a 50.000 of the rebel army slipped past the defence of Crassus. Finally they met in front of the Sele River. In the midst of the battle, Spartacus tried desperately to reach Crassus, killing two centurions in the process. Appian wrote that during the battle, Spartacus was severely wounded in the leg by a javelin and was forced to get down on his knees. Despite his injury, the rebel leader refused to give up and continued fighting before he was finally overpowered and killed. But in Plutarch's opinion, a support force of Pompey's² army arrived during the battle and Spartacus tried to negotiate with them, but they refused and the battle finally ended with an overwhelming superiority of Crassus and Pompey's forces.

While most of the rebel slaves were killed on the battlefield, some 6,000 survivors were captured by the legions of Crassus, all of which were crucified along the Appian Way³ from Rome to Capua.

¹*Marcus Licinius Crassus* was a Roman general and statesman who played a key role in the transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. He is often called "the richest man in Rome".

²*Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus*, known as Pompey or Pompey the Great, was a general and statesman of the Roman Republic. He played a significant role in the transformation of Rome from republic to empire. Early in his career, he was a partisan and protégé of the Roman general and dictator Sulla; later, he became the political ally, and finally the enemy, of Julius Caesar.

³*The Appian Way* (Latin and Italian: *Via Appia*) is one of the earliest and strategically most important Roman roads of the ancient republic. It connected Rome to Brindisi, in southeast Italy.



9. Aims of the Participants

In the Historical Crisis Committee of OAFLMUN'25, the participants are going to have aims and they shall direct it with their choices. In the historical period of the Third Servile War, the historians thought about mostly two different possibilities that may have been the slaves' aim.

a. Views of the historians

i. Appian's Version

Appian, also known as the Appian of Alexandria was a Greek historian who lived between c. 93 to 165 AD. He wrote a comprehensive book of the history of Rome from its foundation to the reign of Emperor Trajan¹. Appian's history was detailed and sometimes it was treated with sympathy to the wars of Rome.

According to the Appian, the aim of the slaves while the Third Servile War was mainly gaining their freedom. However, Appian also mentioned that as the slaves got more organised and the rebellion progressed, the slaves' goals became more ambitious. While their army grew, some of the slaves might have sought to march on Rome itself. Appian says that the slaves army's motivations included the hopes for overthrowing the Roman Republic or at least disrupting its control.

ii. Plutarch's Version

Plutarch was a Greek philosopher and historian who lived from 46 to 119 AD. He was possibly named Lucius Mestrius Plutarchus. Plutarch's best-known work is the *Parallel Lives*, a series of biographies of illustrious Greeks and Romans. The biographies included some of the most important figures like Pompey but also Spartacus. Plutarch describes Spartacus as "a Thracian of Nomadic stock."

According to the Plutarch, the aim of the slaves during the Third Servile War was also mainly gaining their independence but also escaping from the Roman Republic itself. So in Plutarch's opinion they wanted to escape from the lands of the Roman Republic and establish a new state in the Northern lands of Rome.

¹Emperor Trajan was a Roman emperor from AD 98 to 117, remembered as the second of the Five Good Emperors of the Nerva–Antonine dynasty.



10. Important Figures

a. Spartacus

Spartacus was born in Thrace, likely as a slave or raised as one. In his youth, he joined a resistance movement against Rome and later received military training. He was forced to work as a gladiator in the training schools of Rome, where he was trained to fight in the arena. However, Spartacus, filled with anger toward the Roman Empire's brutal rule, led a mass escape from a gladiator school in Capua in 73 BCE, starting a rebellion.

Under Spartacus' leadership, the revolt quickly grew into a full-fledged uprising, threatening the southern Roman territories. Thousands of slaves joined the fight for freedom, and Spartacus earned a reputation for his military strategy and leadership. He won several battles against the Roman legions, but ultimately, the Roman Empire's powerful generals and legions defeated him. In 71 BCE, he was killed after the final battle of the revolt.

Spartacus is remembered as a symbol of resistance and freedom, particularly for slaves and oppressed people. He became a legendary figure in history for his fight against slavery and his leadership in the struggle for liberty.

b. Crixus

Crixus was a gladiator and one of the key leaders in the famous slave revolt known as the Third Servile War, which is often associated with Spartacus. Originally from Gaul, Crixus was captured by the Romans and forced into slavery. He was trained as a gladiator and became known for his strength and combat skills.

In 73 BCE, Crixus joined Spartacus in leading a large-scale slave rebellion after escaping from a gladiatorial school in Capua. While Spartacus is often seen as the primary leader, Crixus was an important military leader in his own right, commanding a separate group of rebels. Initially, Crixus and his forces were highly successful, defeating several Roman legions, but they soon faced challenges due to their limited resources and internal disagreements.

Crixus is often noted for his fierceness in battle, but his tragic fate came when he was defeated by a Roman army led by the general Lucius Licinius Lucullus. In the battle of Mount Vesuvius, Crixus' forces were overwhelmed, and he was killed in 72 BCE. His death was a significant blow to the rebellion, and his followers were eventually defeated by the Romans. Despite his death, Crixus remains a symbol of resistance and a hero to those who fight for freedom against oppression.



c. Gannicus

Gannicus was a famous gladiator and a key figure during the Third Servile War, which was led by Spartacus. Like many gladiators, Gannicus was originally captured by the Romans and forced into slavery. He was trained as a gladiator, and due to his skills in combat, he became one of the most celebrated fighters in the arena. He was known for his agility, speed, and dexterity, which made him a favorite in the gladiatorial games.

Gannicus joined Spartacus and the other rebel gladiators in their escape from the gladiator school in Capua in 73 BCE. After the escape, he became one of the prominent leaders of the slave army, fighting alongside Spartacus and Crixus. Gannicus was known for his tactical abilities and played a crucial role in several key victories over Roman forces. His leadership in battle made him an admired figure among the rebels, and he became one of the most trusted lieutenants in the uprising.

However, Gannicus' fate was ultimately tragic. During the course of the rebellion, he was captured and later killed in 71 BCE, around the same time as other leaders like Crixus. His death was a blow to the slave forces, but he remains a symbol of courage and resistance in the fight for freedom. Despite the eventual defeat of the rebellion, Gannicus' bravery and contributions to the cause have cemented his place in history as one of the heroic figures in the fight against Roman oppression.

d. Oenomaus

Oenomaus was a gladiator and a key figure in the Third Servile War (73-71 BCE), which was led by Spartacus. He was originally from Thrace, and like many gladiators, he was captured by the Romans and forced into slavery. Oenomaus was trained in one of the gladiatorial schools, where he became known for his exceptional skill and strength in combat. He was a veteran of many gladiatorial contests and was highly respected among the other gladiators for his abilities and experience. Oenomaus is notable for his role in the early stages of the slave rebellion led by Spartacus. He was one of the key figures who helped organize the escape from the gladiator school in Capua in 73 BCE. After the breakout, he became one of the trusted leaders of the rebel slave army and was known for his strategic thinking and fierce fighting. Oenomaus fought alongside Spartacus, Crixus, Gannicus, and others in several key battles against Roman forces.

However, Oenomaus' fate was tragic. During the course of the rebellion, he was captured by Roman forces and executed, though the exact circumstances of his death are unclear. Some accounts suggest that he was killed in battle, while others suggest he was executed as part of a Roman attempt to break the rebellion's leadership.

Oenomaus is remembered as a brave and capable leader, whose loyalty to the cause of freedom and resistance to Roman oppression made him a respected figure in the slave revolt.



e. **Castus**

Castus was a gladiator and one of the key leaders during the Third Servile War (73-71 BCE), which was led by Spartacus. Like many of the other prominent figures in the rebellion, Castus was originally captured by the Romans and forced into slavery, likely after being taken as a prisoner of war. He was trained as a gladiator and became a skilled fighter, earning a reputation for his combat abilities.

Castus joined the revolt against Roman oppression after escaping from the gladiatorial school in Capua in 73 BCE, alongside Spartacus, Crixus, Gannicus, and Oenomaus. As one of the leaders of the slave army, Castus participated in numerous successful battles against Roman legions. He was one of the commanders who helped direct the actions of the growing slave force, and he was highly respected by the other rebels for his leadership and military strategy.

However, Castus' role in the rebellion was cut short during the final stages of the conflict. After a series of victories, the slave forces were eventually defeated by Roman legions. Castus, along with many of his fellow leaders, was killed during the conflict. His death marked a significant blow to the rebellion and the hopes of freedom for the slaves fighting against Rome.

Castus may not be as well-known as Spartacus, but he played an important role in the slave revolt, contributing to the leadership and military successes that threatened the Roman Empire. His bravery and determination in the face of Roman oppression have secured his place in history as one of the leaders of the revolt.

f. **Concolitanus (Fictional)**

Concolitanus was born into a poor farming family on the borders of the Roman Empire. At a young age, due to his family's poverty, he was forced into slavery. He was sold to wealthy Roman merchants and nobles to work in domestic chores and on farms.

However, Concolitanus stood out for his physical strength and intelligence, catching the attention of those around him. Over time, he became a leader among other slaves and earned respect in front of his masters. Driven by a desire for freedom, he continuously made plans to escape but always had to satisfy the demands of his masters to survive.

g. **Mithridates (Fictional)**

Mithridates was born in a small village in the Parthian Empire to a poor farming family. At a young age, his family was wiped out during a war, and Mithridates was sold to a slave trader. Known for his strong will and intelligence, Mithridates could not escape his fate as a slave, but he found solace in studying ancient texts on medicine and healing. Over time,



he helped other slaves with medical knowledge, becoming a healer within the slave community. Though he was never able to gain his freedom, he became a figure of leadership and education for the slaves, dedicating himself to their welfare and rights.

h. Rhesus (Fictional)

Rhesus was born in a coastal village of Ancient Greece, with a family of sailors. However, at a young age, he lost his family during a war and was sold as a slave. He initially worked in harsh conditions on farms and other menial tasks, but his deep knowledge of sailing and trade allowed him to earn some privileges. He was later sent to work on ships in major port cities, where he developed extensive knowledge of shipbuilding and navigation. Throughout his life, Rhesus sought to gain his freedom, and he also tried to help other slaves escape from their bondage by sharing knowledge of potential routes to freedom.

i. Psamtik (Fictional)

Psamtik was born in a rural village along the Nile River in Egypt. His family, struggling to survive, sold him into slavery at a young age. Throughout his life, he was forced to work on farms and in the construction of pyramids. Despite the grueling conditions, Psamtik developed a fascination with Egypt's ancient history and culture. He began to secretly study and preserve ancient religious practices and texts. Though he remained a slave, his knowledge of Egypt's cultural heritage made him a respected figure among the other slaves, and he became a source of wisdom and hope for many who sought to understand their past.

j. Xerxes (Fictional)

Xerxes was born in the interior regions of the Persian Empire to a poor family. After his father died during a military campaign, Xerxes was sold into slavery to a wealthy merchant. Despite his status as a slave, Xerxes was trained in accounting and finance, gaining significant knowledge of financial systems and trade practices. As he worked for his masters, he used his skills to earn privileges and make himself indispensable. His financial acumen earned him some degree of respect, and he became known among other slaves for his ability to manage resources. Though he eventually managed to briefly escape to freedom, he was caught and returned to slavery. However, he continued to help other slaves where he could.



k. John Hyrcanus (Fictional)

John Hyrcanus was born into a poor family in the Jewish territories of the Roman Empire. At a young age, his family was unable to pay off debts and was sold into slavery. Living in a region controlled by Rome, John's life was filled with hardships and struggle. Despite his situation, John became interested in Jewish culture and religious traditions. While he never managed to gain his freedom, he became a leader among the slaves, teaching them about their heritage and providing them with moral support. Over time, his knowledge of the Jewish faith and culture made him a significant figure among the slave community, and he led efforts to uplift and educate others.

l. Cyaxares (Fictional)

Cyaxares was born in a rural village in the Median Empire, and his family was taken by slave traders when he was still young. Though initially forced to work in various agricultural jobs, Cyaxares soon gained a reputation among his fellow slaves for his intelligence and leadership skills. He used his abilities to organize and inspire resistance against their masters. Though he was never able to escape his fate, Cyaxares became a symbol of resistance and unity among the slaves. His sharp tactical mind helped him lead several slave uprisings, though each time, he was caught and brought back into slavery. Still, he continued to support his fellow slaves, offering guidance and hope for their liberation.

m. Darius (Fictional)

Darius was a Persian born in Thrace, a region known for its fierce warriors, and was captured by Roman soldiers at a young age. He was forced into slavery and trained as a gladiator in the city of Capua. It was there that he met Spartacus, a fellow gladiator and the man who would lead a rebellion that would shake the Roman Empire to its core. When Spartacus led a daring escape in 73 BCE, Darius joined him, along with other slaves and gladiators, forming an army determined to break free from Rome's grasp.

n. Aneroëstes (Fictional)

Aneroëstes was a Gaulish warrior captured by Roman forces and sold into slavery. Trained as a gladiator in Capua, he became known for his fierce fighting skills and unyielding spirit. When Spartacus led his rebellion in 73 BCE, Aneroëstes joined the fight for freedom, bringing his experience in battle to the slave army. He fought bravely in key victories, rising to prominence as a trusted leader within the ranks. Sadly, Aneroëstes' life ended in the final clash against the Roman legions in 71 BCE, his body lost in the chaos of the battle. Though his story was silenced, his courage lived on, a symbol of resistance against Rome's tyranny.



o. Aristodemus (Fictional)

Aristodemus was a Greek slave, originally from a coastal village in Sicily, who was captured and sold into the gladiatorial schools of Capua. Like many others, he was forced to fight for his life, but he quickly became known for his exceptional strength and strategic mind. When Spartacus led the revolt in 73 BCE, Aristodemus, eager to escape his life of servitude, joined the rebellion. He fought valiantly in several battles, earning the respect of both his fellow rebels and Spartacus himself. Known for his unwavering loyalty, Aristodemus became one of the trusted lieutenants in the rebellion. His life was cut short during the final confrontation with Roman forces in 71 BCE, but his legacy as a fierce warrior and symbol of resistance endured long after the fall of the revolt.

p. Aristodemus (Fictional)

Fraortis was a fierce Median warrior, born in the ancient lands east of the Persian Empire. Captured during a Roman raid, he was sold into slavery and forced to fight as a gladiator in the harsh arenas of Capua. Despite his captivity, Fraortis never lost his spirit or the skills of his people, who had long been known for their warriors. When Spartacus led the revolt in 73 BCE, Fraortis saw it as his chance for freedom and joined the rebellion.

His strength and experience in battle quickly made him a key fighter in the growing army of slaves. Known for his unyielding bravery, Fraortis fought alongside Spartacus in several key battles, earning the respect of his fellow rebels. However, the rebellion was doomed, and Fraortis met his end in 71 BCE during the final confrontation with Roman forces. Though his life was cut short, his role in the fight for freedom became a symbol of resistance, a testament to the enduring spirit of those who fought against Rome's oppression.



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12. Further Research

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvaX BKUDG-Y> (Recommended to watch),
2. The Life of Spartacus: The Gladiator Who Challenged Rome
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxZptsmdldk> (Recommended to watch)