



The Complete Works of Julius Caesar

Gaius Julius Caesar , *W.A. MacDevitt (Translator)* , *W.S. Bohn (Translator)*

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He is often considered the greatest man in history. He invented strategy and changed the shape of the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar's legacy survives not only in his conquests and buildings, but in his books as well.

"The Complete Works of Julius Caesar" reunites his best known works, "The Gallic Wars" and "The Civil Wars" with the other three that are less known, but attributed to Caesar: "The African Wars", "The Alexandrian Wars" and "The Hispanic Wars". All works in this illustrated edition are translated by W. A. McDevitte and W. S. Bohn.

The Complete Works of Julius Caesar Details

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From Reader Review The Complete Works of Julius Caesar for online ebook

Frank Arca says

I am not rating Iulius Caesar, that would be foolish, rather, I am only commenting on the "translation". This, "The Complete Works of Iulius Caesar", in contrast to the three other translations that I've read, provides a more comprehensive English version of the Dictator's writings.

Jeff Gabriel says

I really enjoyed reading this first hand account and was impressed by the spare, descriptive prose which rarely sought to glorify the author - though certainly written in part for political gain. He was clearly an articulate and thoughtful person. As a student of the author and history in general it is very interesting to hear him describe the people he encountered (Germans have bad diets, but are chaste for instance) and the decisions he made during battle or peace negotiations.

I didn't really like the translation I read in that it was overly semantic - bringing the prose directly into mid 20th century English. It seems there could be a better line drawn between word for word and this so that more of the original character were maintained.

Jacob says

My dudes killed 69200 people... Probably mostly noncombatants including women and children. But it was a long day, the seige was hard, I mean, it happens, right? Besides like 800 managed to make it to the next camp over so it's not like we killed ALL of them. Upshot? Next town over the women stood over the ramparts and flashed us while begging us not to kill them like we had the others. It was like a Roman flavored Mardi Gras. No beads though..." - J Caesizzle, sometime prior to the Battle of Alesia

I once argued with someone smarter than me. This is not new. This is in fact a currency of my existence. It is my happiness, the greatest and most longed for memory of my collegiate career.

But I digress.

Worse than arguing with someone smarter than me, I was arguing against a classicist. That's right, I, the purveyor of simple creative endeavors was arguing with the vein of human being whose greatest passion was not only the foundation of Western thought, but of logic as well.

And I had dissed the Commentaries of Julius Cesear.

You may ask yourself, how did that argument go?

I don't remember. What I do remember is the shame, self doubt, and anxious heat buckling across my seat as the professor walked in and our Norse Literature lecture began.

So after many years I have decided to try again. Things went about as could be expected.

At first it was tedious. Much of it was but as I read further the more a painting slowly came to be recognizable. A landscape scratched through time, stone, and translation and my cynicism shed to something different: fascination.

A started filling in the holes forcing the human interactions that Julius cared nothing for and by empathy I made myself settle into the words on the page.

Sometimes. Just as suddenly as I grew comfortable I would feel suddenly drawn back to gnawing tedium.

There are issues. Dozens to me. Things that irritate me like a rash caught in foreign land but it is a rare journey to not catch something while traveling back in time.

At its heart this book is not for me. I don't care for tactics, I don't care for war. I understand them, but to linger on them, to lose ones self in writing description is to lose me as well. This book rightfully has its place in history, it doesn't have a place in mine. For no other reason than that the reasons I read, the reasons I write, lay in this book like lone raindrops cast over a desert stained with blood.

Mark says

Sorry Caesar, but this book was boring as hell! In your defense, I should have prepared more before plunging into it. Having a passing knowledge of pre-AD European geopolitics would've made it a lot more interesting. Also if I'd been acquainted with the style of Roman battlefront memoirs I'd have had a better time reading this. As it stands I found myself immediately struggling with the 3rd-person narration.

I am interested in Mr. Caesar and was hoping to learn more about him through his writings. I suppose I learned that he wrote with great concision and clarity so this suggests he similarly organized his thoughts. Occasionally I'd get a great insight from him in passing (

Many things persuaded the Gauls to this measure. . .and [also] because in most cases men willingly believe what they wish (location 1407)

or

because in war great events are often brought about by trifling circumstances (location 4882)

)

but mostly what I read was technical accounts of battles or political maneuvering.

It was interesting to read the writings of a great man doing big things 2100 years ago. I thought it was funny when he was warring in Britain and first encountered the concept of a town:

Now the Britons, when they have fortified the intricate woods, in which they are wont to assemble for the purpose of avoiding the incursion of an enemy, with an intrenchment and a rampart, call them a town (location 2228).

The book on the civil wars was definitely my favorite and I found some sections of that pretty engaging. The book on the African campaigns was my least favorite; by that point in the book all the battlefield accounts

and the names of the centurions and praetors and enemy politicians were congealing into a boring word porridge.

If I'd read it with a study group I think I'd have gotten much more out of it. Or if I'd read it in smaller sections with background on each one.

Here is an example of the writing style:

Vatinius, who was then at Brundisium, having intelligence of what passed in Illyricum, by letters from Cornificus, who pressed him to come to the assistance of the province, and informed him, that Octavius had leagued with the barbarians, and in several places attacked our garrisons, partly by sea with his fleet, partly by land with the troops of the barbarians; Vatinius, I say, upon notice of these things, though extremely weakened by sickness, insomuch that his strength of body no way answered his resolution and greatness of mind; yet, by his valor, surmounted all opposition, the force of his distemper, the rigor of the winter and the difficulties of a sudden preparation (location 8890).

Thomas Umstattd Jr. says

I was impressed when Caesar was willing to give credit to others for his victories. I thought this only covered the Gaulic campaign but he covers the civil war with Pompeii as well.

Ryan Yoder says

Technically a collection of several books "attributed to caesar but probably written by..." It makes for interesting historical reading. The authors also hid some wonderful side stories both humorous and horrible. The book was a good clarification of some events romanticized or polished by storytellers.

Neale Aslett says

Leaps off the page, showcasing Caesar's insightful narrative abilities.

Tiago says

Excelente leitura (emprestei do Alex) e conta detalhes das operacoes militares.

Richard Munro says

One of the best modern translations.
