

Timeline

The Lives of Marcus Tullius Cicero and Marcus Caelius Rufus

(all dates are BCE)

Year	Cicero	Caelius	Political Events in Rome	Events around the Empire
106	Cicero is born in the Italian town of Arpinum.			Sulla captures Jugurtha in Africa.
90	Cicero does military service under Cn. Pompeius Strabo during the Social War with the Italian peoples.			
				Sulla sent against king Mithridates of Pontus, 88-85 after he incites the brutal slaying of 80,000 Roman and Italian businessmen.
87			Marius 'elected' consul for seventh time after mini reign of terror against his political opponents.	
86			Death of Marius within weeks assuming his seventh consulship.	
83			Sulla returns to Italy with his large army. He marches on Rome joined by Pompey and Crassus.	
82			Sulla victorious and ruthless proscriptions follow.	
81	Cicero delivers <i>pro</i> <i>Quinctio</i> .			



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80	Cicero delivers <i>pro</i> <i>Roscio</i> , one of his finest speeches.			Ptolemy XII Auletes succeeds Alexander II in Egypt
79-77	Cicero goes to Athens and Rhodes for further training.		78 Death of Sulla.77 Pompey sent to Spain to deal with anti- Sullan rebel Sertorius.	
75	Cicero serves as <i>quaestor</i> in Sicily.			Mithridates returns.
72		Caelius entrusted to Cicero for training.	73-71 Crassus and Pompey fight and eventually defeat Spartacus.	
70	Cicero successfully prosecutes Verres, corrupt governor of Sicily.		First consulship of Pompey and Crassus. They restore the powers of the tribunes, which Sulla had removed.	
69	Cicero is aedile.			
67			Pompey is granted the command against the pirates terrorising the grain routes.	Catiline is <i>proconsul</i> in Africa and is prosecuted for extortion on his return.
66	Cicero speaks in favour of Pompey being sent against Mithridates, de <i>imperio Cn. Pompei</i> .			Pompey receives an additional and unprecedented command against Mithridates.
64	Cicero elected consul.	Caelius supports mentor Cicero's successful bid for the consulship.		
63	Cicero's consulship. Cicero executes alleged conspirators without trial.	Caelius supports Catiline's bid for the consulship.	Catiline conspiracy.	
62	Cicero makes an enemy. He testifies against Clodius in the <i>Bona Dea t</i> rial.	Caelius serves in Africa with Pomepius Rufus	Catiline defeated and killed at Pistoria.	Pompey returns from the east and disbands his army.
60			Pompey, Caesar, and Crassus form their alliance. Cicero refuses to join.	
59	Cicero in a precarious position following his execution of the alleged conspirators.	Caelius succeeds in prosecuting Antonius for extortion while governor of Macedonia.	Caesar is consul. Clodius adopted into plebeian family and elected tribune.	Ptolemy XII Auletes is recognised by Rome as the rightful king of Egypt. Huge bribes given.



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58-57	Cicero goes into exile in northern Greece.		Clodius tribune.	Caesar's conquest of Gaul begins.
57	Cicero returns.	Caelius supports Bestia's failed bid for the praetorship.	Assassination of Dio later in the year after Ptolemy's flight.	Ptolemy flees to Rome following the riots at Alexandria.
56	<i>Pro Caelio</i> : Cicero successfully defends Caelius with a highly skilful and witty piece of oratory. Luca conference forces Cicero to keep a low profile politically.	Caelius prosecutes Bestia in February. Successfully defended by Cicero. Begins fresh case. Then he is prosecuted.	Conference at Luca reaffirms alliance between Pompey, Caesar, and Crassus.	
55			Pompey and Crassus' second consulships. Obtained by violence.	
54			Rioting and violent clashes between Milo's and Clodius' gangs.	
52	Cicero defends Milo, but is intimidated by heckling gangs and fails to deliver a proper defence.	Caelius is tribune and supports Milo's cause.	Clodius murdered by Milo.	
51	Cicero proconsul of Cilicia.			
50	Cicero returns to Rome.	Caelius curule aedile.	Questions and anxieties over Caesar's return.	Caesar's conquest of Gaul complete.
49	Cicero reluctantly follows Pompey.	Caelius follows Caesar	The Civil War erupts.	Pompey flees to Greece following Caesar's return.
48	Cicero returns to Italy.	Caelius causes a stir as praetor. Stripped of office, he flees Rome and is killed fighting at Thurii.		Battle of Pharsalus: Caesar defeats Pompey.
47	Caesar pardons Cicero, who withdraws from politics.			Final campaigns of the Civil War in Africa.
44	Cicero rallies the senate after Caesar's assassination, rails against Antony.		Civil war is brewing again. Octavian returns to Italy.	Conspirators flee. Brutus and Cassius to Greece.
43	Cicero finds himself on the proscription list and is executed late 43 BC.		Republican forces are victorious at Mutina. Antony defeated. But alliance is struck between him and Octavian. Brutal proscriptions ensue.	