



Cicero Philippic II

Main Events of 44BC up to the Second Philippic

The table below (based on the one in Ramsey's edition) summarises events to which Cicero refers. See further, 'Introduction – Historical Background'.

March	15 (Ides)	Caesar murdered.
	17	Meeting of the senate: Cicero urges reconciliation, Antony urges (and obtains) ratification of Caesar's <i>acta</i> .
	19	Caesar's will is opened; it nominates his great-nephew Gaius Octavius (Octavian) as his heir.
	c. 20	Caesar's funeral, at which Antony foments the anger of the crowd and Caesar's body is cremated in the forum.
	21 – 31	Antony's praiseworthy enactments, such as abolishing the office of <i>dictator</i> .
	>31	The conspirators D. Brutus, L. Cimber and C. Trebonius leave Rome to take up provincial commands.
April	7	Cicero leaves Rome for a tour of his Italian villas.
	c. 12	M. Brutus (<i>praetor urbanus</i>) and C. Cassius (<i>praetor peregrinus</i>) retire from Rome.
	c. 13	C. Marius (pseudo-Marius) attempts to become leader of the plebs and Caesar's avenger. He is executed by Antony.
	18	Octavian arrives in Naples.
	c. 20	Antony posts forged decrees of Caesar affecting King Deiotarus and Sicily.
	c.. 22	Antony writes to Cicero requesting the recall of Sextus Cloelius – Cicero agrees.



	c.. 25	Antony sets off to Campania, where he visits veteran colonies.
	26 – 30	P. Dolabella as consul suppresses worship of Caesar in the forum.
May	c. 8	Octavian enters Rome and presents himself as Caesar's heir.
	c. 18	Antony, attended by an armed band of supporters, returns to Rome.
June	1	Antony calls a meeting of the senate which many senators shun.
	c. 3	Antony and Dolabella, through Antony's management, are awarded five-year proconsular commands by the Assembly – Antony's, in Gaul, offers him the military command closest to Italy itself. Antony takes five of the six legions stationed in Macedonia for his new post.
	5	The senate, at Antony's instigation, assigns an overseas grain commission to M. Brutus and C. Cassius.
	c. 15	The Assembly, following Antony's proposal, passes an agrarian law giving Antony's brother Lucius and his colleagues/cronies sweeping powers for land distribution in Italy.
July	6 – 13	M. Brutus, the city praetor, holds <i>ludi Apollinares</i> while still absent from Rome.
	c. 15	Octavian and Antony clash publicly.
	17	Cicero sails for Greece to visit his son, Marcus, who is studying in Athens. On his way he is delayed by bad weather.
	c. 20 – 30	Octavian gives games in honour of Caesar, at which a day-time comet appears.
	c. 25 – 31	Antony and Octavian are compelled to make a public reconciliation to appease Caesar's veterans.
August	1	The senate meets, but only Caesar's father-in-law and one-time supporter of Cicero's exile in 58 BC, L. Calpurnius Piso, speaks out against Antony.
	c. 3	M. Brutus and C. Cassius issue a farewell edict and leave Italy for the east, to build military support there.



	7	Cicero, while storm-bound at Rhegium, on the Sicilian straits, receives first news from Rome; hearing only of a possible compromise between Antony and the liberators, he turns back.
	17	On his return journey to Rome, Cicero meets M. Brutus at Velia in S. Italy; Brutus tells him of more recent events.
	19	Cicero reaches his villa at Pompeii. He writes to Atticus that, at his time of life, a man should not be too far from his grave.
September	1	Cicero reaches Rome but does not attend the senate meeting, at which Antony proposed to honour Caesar by adding in his name a day to all Thanksgivings. Antony comments scathingly on Cicero's absence.
	2	Cicero delivers his <i>First Philippic</i> before the senate.
	19	Antony's invective, before a senate intimidated by Antony's bodyguard which Cicero deemed it too dangerous to attend, provokes him to write his <i>Second Philippic</i> .