



Cicero Philippic II

Cicero's Life

Lives of Cicero of all lengths and depths abound; what follows is intended to highlight the main landmarks in Cicero's career. A separate table chronicles the events of 44 BC in more detail.

Date (BC)	Cicero and his circle	Rome
107		Marius elected consul for the first time
106	Birth of Marcus Tullius Cicero and Gnaeus Pompeius (Pompey), later called 'Magnus'; both equestrians.	
104 – 100		Marius consul for five successive years.
104/2	Birth of Cicero's brother, Quintus.	
90s	Cicero is educated at Rome in house of L. Licinius Crassus and later continues his studies with the augur Q. Mucius Scaevola.	
91 – 88	Cicero and Pompey both serve under Sulla, Pompey as a successful general.	The Social War, in which Rome's Italian allies fight against Rome's predominance and win citizenship.
88 – 84		Occupation of Rome first by Sulla (88) and then by Marius and Cinna (87 – 6). Marius dies in 86, Cinna continues to control affairs until his death in 84.
?86	Cicero writes a rhetorical treatise, <i>de Inventione</i> .	
82		Sulla marches on Rome and is made dictator. Proscriptions follow (in 81). He retires from office in 79 and dies in 78.



Date (BC)	Cicero and his circle	Rome
81	Cicero's first civil case, <i>pro Quinctio</i> (which he probably loses).	Sulla's reforms curtailing powers of tribunate, increasing size of senate and constituting seven senatorial courts.
80	Cicero's first criminal case, <i>pro Roscio Amerino</i> (which he wins).	
79 – 77	Cicero marries Terentia and travels abroad, including to Athens for six months to study rhetoric under Apollonius Molo. (? 78) His daughter Tullia is born.	
75	Cicero is quaestor in Western Sicily.	
73 – 71		Verres is governor of Sicily.
70	Pompey, who has held no previous civil office, consul with Crassus. Cicero prosecutes Verres.	Restoration of powers of tribunate; juries split between senators, equestrians and treasurers.
69	Cicero plebeian aedile . He defends his first senatorial client (<i>pro Fonteio</i>) and probably wins.	
66	Cicero delivers the <i>de imperio Cn. Pompeii</i> . Under the <i>lex Manilia</i> , Pompey is given charge of the Mithridatic campaign.	Pompey wipes out the last of Mithridates' army near Nicopolis. Mithridates escapes.
63	Cicero and C. Antonius Hybrida consuls . Cicero crushes the Catilinarian conspiracy. Also active in the courts (<i>pro Rabirio Perduellionis Reo</i> , <i>pro Murena</i>).	Mithridates commits suicide in the Crimea. Pompey besieges and captures Jerusalem. Over the next year he orchestrates a long-lasting settlement of the eastern provinces, returning in 62.
62	Catiline's army defeated and Catiline killed. Cicero defends other alleged conspirators (<i>pro Sulla</i>). Start of the collection of letters <i>ad Familiares</i> .	P. Clodius intrudes into the <i>bona dea</i> festivities disguised as a woman.



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61	Cicero testifies against P. Clodius in the <i>bona dea</i> trial; Clodius acquitted.	Quintus (till 58) governor of Syria.
59		Pompey, Crassus and Caesar become allies; Clodius is adopted into a plebeian family.
58 – 7	Clodius, as tribune of the people, secures Cicero's exile; Cicero spends the following year in Thessalonica. On his return he addresses the senate and the citizens.	
56	Cicero is active in the courts – <i>pro Sestio, in Vatinius, pro Caelio</i> .	
55	Cicero begins works on philosophy and oratory – <i>de Oratore, de Re Publica, de Legibus</i> .	
54	Quintus Cicero becomes Caesar's legate in Gaul (till 52).	Julia, Caesar's daughter and Pompey's wife, dies.
53		Crassus killed and his troops annihilated at Carrhae in Armenia by a Parthian army.
52	Milo kills Clodius in a brawl. Cicero defends Milo (<i>pro Milone</i>) unsuccessfully, and is involved in other trials of gang members.	
51	Cicero takes up proconsulship of Cilicia , where he is accompanied by his brother, nephew and son.	
50	Cicero's daughter Tullia marries Publius Cornelius Dolabella. The marriage is not a success.	
49	Caesar visits Cicero (March); Cicero crosses to Greece to support Pompey but falls ill.	Civil war between Caesar and Pompey. Many senators leave Rome. Pompey crosses to Greece.
48	Cicero, after Pompey's defeat, returns to Italy but is held at Brundisium.	Pompey is defeated at Pharsalus and is assassinated in Egypt.



Date (BC)	Cicero and his circle	Rome
47	Cicero, pardoned by Caesar, returns to Rome.	
46	Cicero divorces Terentia; Dolabella divorces Tullia. Cicero speaks for the recall of Pompeians (<i>pro Marcello, pro Ligario</i>). Cicero resumes philosophical (<i>Cato, Paradoxa Stoicorum</i>) and rhetorical works (<i>Brutus, Orator, de Optimo Genere Oratorum, ? de Partitione Oratoria</i>)	Pompeians defeated at Thapsus; Cato's suicide. Caesar responds to Cicero's <i>Cato</i> with an <i>Anti-Cato</i> .
45	Tullia dies giving birth to a son who also dies. Cicero continues his philosophical work, including <i>Consolatio</i> .	Pompeians finally defeated at Munda.
44	Cicero leaves Rome but continues writing philosophy. Antony attacks Cicero in the senate (1 st September) and Cicero, returning to Rome, begins his series of speeches against Antony (<i>Philippics</i>). He delivers the <i>Third</i> and <i>Fourth Philippics</i> on 20 th December.	Caesar is assassinated; Octavian (later Augustus) is named his heir.
43	Cicero delivers Fifth to Fourteenth Philippics. Antony is declared a public enemy. Antony, now in alliance with Octavian and Lepidus, proscribes both Cicero and Verres. Cicero, attempting to flee, is murdered (7 th December).	Consulship of Hirtius and Pansa; civil war breaks out; temporary reversal for Antony at Mutina; commanders in Spain and Gaul rally to him. Octavian occupies Rome and assumes the consulship. Antony and Octavian with Lepidus form 'Second Triumvirate'.
42		Antony defeats Brutus, Cassius and remaining republican forces (except for Sextus Pompeius, who takes to the seas) at the battle of Philippi.



Date (BC)	Cicero and his circle	Rome
39	Marcus Tullius Cicero (younger) is pardoned by the triumvirs.	
31		Octavian defeats Antony and Cleopatra at battle of Actium.
30	Marcus Tullius Cicero (younger) consul.	Antony and Cleopatra die in Egypt. On the senate's orders, statues of Antony are torn down and honours to him annulled.