Julius Caesar’s Catastrophic Death

Caleb Chapman

South Newton Jr/Sr High School

Abstract

Julius Caesar was known as a very knowledgeable and powerful man. He had an ambition of leading the great kingdom of Rome into one of the largest empires of all time. Julius Caesar was viewed as a strong leader, considering all his military achievements. Eventually Caesar became to realize how much authority he had and he began to establish the fact he was unstoppable. Caesar’s overconfidence and arrogance was getting to the point where the Senate of Rome believed that all the power that Caesar held was too much for one man to handle. Caesar continued to rule the Roman Empire and allowed his power to expand. Caesar was deemed to be overpowering and the Senate could not let Caesar’s power over rule. The Senate was known as conspirators and they formed an alliance to discuss and strategize a plan for Caesar’s assassination. Key words in this research were ‘Ceasar’, ‘conspirator’, and ‘Roman leader’.

Julius Caesar’s Catastrophic Death

Historical achievements have been a part of Rome’s rich history. The Roman society reveled to us many great individuals. Many of us have heard of the name Julius Caesar, he is considered to be one of the most important characters in history. We often hear his name and imagine the leadership power of this heroic man. Responsible for bringing Rome to great heights, he is said to be the man who changed the course of history, accomplishing the impossible and helping to further the Roman Empire. His military skill and excellent political knowledge brought him soaring heights and allowed him to have gone the depths of his campaign. Julius Caesar survived many horrific battles through his lifetime but surprisingly his death was not caused by battle, it was his assassination by the Roman Senate. What was the cause of his assassination he one of the most successful men in history, a man who, more than any other, arose to the occasion, but somehow was assassinated by his own people. Beneath Caesar’s rain and excellence his people saw something that no one could see. Through all the strengths of Julius Caesar including his cleverness and extremely powerful leadership skills, he had the tiny flaws that the Senate saw in him. The arrogance and overwhelming power in his empire that resulted in the unavoidable assassination. The era of Julius Caesar came to an end along with his precious empire.

Caesar has many advantages in his life; he had lived in a wonderful city, explored much of the western world, and accumulated massive wealth, as well as having three wives through his life. Most people in the society of Rome rarely left their villages and were constantly were digging deeper into debt, as well as deprivation, but they were very fortunate to have Julius Caesar as a leader. The skills of Caesar were unheard of in the Roman society but he found an effective way to establish his political and military leadership. Julius Caesar was a very perusable man that was known to use propaganda to promote himself. Julius Caesar did not come across the mindset of anyone wanting to harm him. They mindset he had always followed was I cannot be defeated and no one will step in my way. The Senate was the only individuals that saw the tiny flaws and knew his overconfidence would lead to a disastrous future. Caesar had come to conclusion that he was invincible. There came a point in time when he senators had grew increasingly exhausted of Caesar’s haughtiness and physically and mentally determined to put an end to this madness. Senators had the theory that Caesar continually ignored the Senate and shook all the power out of their hands. The Senate of Rome was significantly upset at the fact that Julius Caesar had grown this powerful and they decided it was time to eliminate this constant headache. “The Romans had no love for kings. According to legend, they expelled their last one in 509 B.C.” (Vernon, 2004). The birth of conspiracy came upon the Senate and Caesar’s unavoidable assassination took place on March 15, in the middle of the Senate were everyone could witness Caesar’s death. According to Tranquillus (2015), More than sixty joined the conspiracy against him, led by Gaius Cassius and Decimus and Marcus Junius Brutus.

The unbelievable amount of respect that Caesar received was achieved during military accomplishments. Julius Caesar had propaganda in his favor and it was effectively used throughout his rule. The conquering of Gaul was in honor of Rome’s greater glory. Some believed that Julius Caesar was acting in the name of Rome but many of his conspirators (Senate) thought he was doing it for his own glory. Caesar’s will was to effectively massacre the countryside of the Gallic people, while the tribes of Gaul were pressured as he invaded their land. Caesar was known for being a show off so that he could win over his Roman peers. Julius Caesar often referred to himself in third person, as if he were a god. The people of Rome thought very highly of him and knew he was an effectively successful in his leadership.

Everyone already knew of Caesar’s power but he was only beginning to distinguish himself as the most powerful man in the world. His thought process was that there were no limits and his aggressive strength in character kept anyone form preventing is ambition towards becoming anything less than his best. “In early 44 B.C., in tribute to Caesar’s recent military victories, the Senate proclaimed him Rome’s Dictator in Perpetuity, and there had long been talk that Caesar sought to be King, an unacceptable occurrence for many Romans.” (Getlen, 2004). In 44 B.C. Caesar was awarded with a highly prized military excellence award (also known as a Triumph). Though Caesar was honored with this prestigious award he refused, his ambition was on his mind and prepared to proceed while wasting no time. Caesar was humbled by the opportunity to be crowed but he believed he was not worthy but the Senate was trying to draw more attention to the prize so the assassination could be that much better. Caesar created a humble environment around himself which enabled him to be elected consul two years before he was legal. After being prized with this opportunity Caesar was determined to be in full control of Rome. Caesar used his intelligence and publicity to convince the Romans to successfully support him and his rule. “Caesar understood how to nurture the love of his people.” (Getlen, 2015).

Caesar gained much of his fame, fortune and power through campaigning, Caesar was changing Rome on step at a time. Changes of the Roman society included the architectural and political world in which he dominated and opened up new gates of clever innovations for much of the future. Caesar grew accustomed to the level of power that was pouring into his leadership. Caesar became attached to improving Rome; his personal life was weakening because of the lack of personal pleasures. Though is personal life somewhat on the downfall his empire was raising. The senator numbers arose, allowing those to be a part of the Senate who had helped with the defeat of the Parthians (or in recent wars). He was on the verge to becoming the most powerful empire in the history of mankind. He expanded his empire by allowing non-Romans (Those from Italian cities), he also allowed some individuals to join the senate. According to Graves (2004), Caesar controlled the entire Italian peninsula within a three month period. These actions were a significant step toward Caesar’s goal of turning his Roman city-states into his dream of the largest empire in history. As Caesar grew in strength his Roman support staff decreased. The Romans (mostly senate) were feared by his power, but his people already ruled him dictator due to the early worship of his rain. The Senate began the developing the frustration of permitting Caesar’s dictatorship. Not all the Senate opposed Caesar. It was when the first thought arose in a small group of senators, the idea of believing Caesar’s elimination could be performed for the benefit of Rome and its future. But they could not be seen discussing such a topic in public. "The conspirators never met openly, but they assembled a few at a time in each other’s' homes.” (Graves, 2004). Caesar being in high authority did not come to the conclusion that he was being hated by senators. According to Vernon (2004), Historians are unclear if Caesar was aware of the Senate’s frustration that led to the plot to kill him. Caesar did not realize the fatal mistake he has made by taking control and beginning to overpower the empire. Caesar was a brilliant man and seemed to have his own logic. He nearly eliminated the Senate’s power, at the same time this action provided a sufficient opportunity for confusion and frustration for the Senate. Caesar was not going to let the Senate separate him from his ambition, at the same time it is a risky move on Caesar’s part. Caesar wants to build Rome to unlimited altitudes but it appears as if he is ruling this empire for his own sake. The Senate cannot read Caesar’s mind which leads them to believe he has too much power and we need to do something about it. The Senate sees Caesar as an arrogant leader, and they comprehend that Caesar is demanding to grow more powerful each day, leading to ultimate power. “Caesar was becoming more of a divine figure than a ruler which was in stark contrast to many traditional Roman beliefs” (Wasson, 2015). As soon as Caesar took over Rome he ignored the Senate and took over forcibly, wanting to lead Rome to a bright future. Unfortunately the Senate was not fond of Caesar’s power and lethal consequences.

Caesar’s death was tragically unavoidable due to his unbelievable abilities and intelligence. Without Caesar’s master mind Rome and the rest of the world would not be what it is today. The Roman Empire was significantly changed by Julius Caesar and he successfully proved the wisdom he brought upon the Roman Empire. With Caesar’s absence, Rome’s development and expansion would not have been existent along with the characteristics of society. Caesar was gifted on the battlefield, showing the ability of prediction by the enemies that were involved in the circumstance. Caesar’s motivation and willpower was what made Caesar stick out in the political world, although his massive power could not see the threats of the Senate until it was too late.

There is no doubt that Caesar was a challenging individual who was focused by ruthless desire, he was determined to accomplish every goal he made, and he did. Caesar’s mysterious actions and unseen skills are what made him unique throughout his lifetime as dictator. In the political field Caesar’s use of propaganda was inspiring while his military talent led to a very successful empire. As Caesar created mounts of goals, his definitive goal was to be able to achieve far-reaching supremacy. Though Caesar grew arrogant towards the end of his life, he failed to see the flaw inside him, as well as the threats of the Senate, which made his assassination catastrophic. Many people to this day think Julius Caesar is the megalomania of history. Others imagine military might, an unstoppable politician, and or an overall intimidating creature. The remembrance of Gaius Julius Caesar will always have an impact on people across the globe. His incredible feats and developmental leadership in Rome will live on; along with his unmistakably exaggerated ego.