

Gladiator
Study Guide



Agenda Item:

Establishing a new order in the Roman Empire after the fall of the Caesar

CO-Under Secretary General: Kuzey KARLIK

CO-Under Secretary General: Mehmet Emre UYANIK

Academic Assistant: Nida DEMİRCİ

1. Welcoming Letters.....	3
a. Letter from the Secretary General.....	3
b. Letter from CO-Under Secretaries General.....	4
c. Letter from the Academic Assistant.....	5
2. Introductions.....	6
a. Introduction to the Committee.....	6
b. Introduction to the Agenda Item.....	7
4. Functioning of the Council.....	11
a. Main Purpose.....	12
b. Authorities.....	12
c. Members.....	13
Imperial Dynasty.....	13
Senators and Political Figures.....	14
Gladiator Affairs.....	16
Military Figures.....	18
5. Ongoing Problems of Roman Empire.....	19
Slave Revolts.....	19
Military Revolts.....	21
Economical Hardships.....	22
Complications on Foreign Affairs.....	23
6. Arena Fights in Our Committee.....	24
7. Questions to Ponder.....	25

1. Welcoming Letters

a. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Participants,

As the Secretary-General of MedTrain'26, I am deeply honored and delighted to invite you to the first edition of this conference.

MedTrain'26 is a conference driven by the motivation of diplomacy, politics, and academic development. Throughout our preparation process, our primary motivation has been to bring innovation to your past experiences within the MUN community, to allow you to fully experience an academic MUN conference in every aspect, and I am honored to present to you the academic rigor of a MUN conference in its entirety.

By combining the expertise of our academic team with the tireless energy of our organizing team, we are committed to delivering an unforgettable experience. Whether you are a first-time delegate or an experienced one, MedTrain'26 has been designed to offer you the opportunity to learn the dynamics of MUN through its committees, engage in constructive debates, and witness the finest examples of the art of diplomacy.

Thank you for joining us on this unique journey. I look forward to the unforgettable memories we will create together.

With warm regards,

Mustafa Aslan
Secretary General of MedTrain'26

b. Letter from CO-Under Secretaries General

Dear Delegates,

We would like to welcome you all to the Gladiator committee! We are Kuzey Karlık&Mehmet Emre Uyanık and it is our utmost pleasure to serve you as the co-under secretaries general of this committee.

First, we would like to thank the executive team for granting us this opportunity in this marvelous conference. And we would like to thank our fellow academic assistant Nida Demirci, for her magnificent efforts and work ethic.

In this study guide we explained how this committee works and included the things that you need to know before the beginning of the conference. So, this study guide contains almost every information you need to know and it is the only source that you can understand the flow of this committee. And that makes it crucial for you to understand this study guide perfectly to be able to actively participate in the committee.

Furthermore, watching the movie Gladiator(only the first movie) will definitely help you understand every aspect of this study guide better so we highly suggest you watch it if you can do so.

We also would like to remind you that this committee is a fictional committee and it is not only limited to the movie. That means there are some parts in this study guide that you can not find neither in the film nor on the internet. So you need to be fully focused when reading this study guide in order to understand the committee and be well prepared for it.

Lastly we want to say that making you understand this committee is what we look up for the most so please do not hesitate to reach us whenever you have a question about anything. We wish you all great success!

CO-Under Secretary General: Kuzey KARLIK +90 533 916 08 90

CO-Under Secretary General: Mehmet Emre UYANIK +90 552 461 58 33

c. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Dear Delegates,

I welcome you all to the Gladiator Committee. My name is Nida Demirci and I will be serving as your Academic Assistant of this committee within this highly prestigious conference.

It is an honour for me to introduce you all to the committee which belongs to my favorite movie of all time and which I have been dreaming about ever since my time as a delegate. And I also want to thank the executive team for giving me this chance to make an unforgettable committee with my brothers Kuzey Karlık and Mehmet Emre Uyanik who have always supported me.

My most important request from you is to read this study guide to be completely prepared for this committee. I also hope you'll watch "GLADIATOR" the movie by turning the volume all the way up and witness the most magnificent, incredible work of art humanity has ever created.

It is essential for you to read this guide because the information in this guide is a blend of the events depicted in the film and our own imagination. In other words, it does not contain information that could be considered general knowledge without reading the guide.

Lastly I wish you all to have two amazing days and have so much fun in the committee. You can contact me via my phone number, which I am going to leave down below, please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have a question and problem about the committee.

Sincerely,

Nida Demirci
Academic Assistant

+90 536 650 34 07

2. Introductions

a. Introduction to the Committee

After Maximus's tragic death many complications and disturbances spread throughout the Roman Empire. The sudden and terrible decisions made by the deceased Emperor Commodus while ruling the empire had caused a shift in the balance of power in Rome. Commodus, overcome by his ambition, entered the arena like a gladiator to fight a man he had designated as a slave and to make matters worse, his defeat led to the Caesars losing their authority over the people.

The absence of an emperor at the head of Rome led to reactions from tyrants and the people, as well as to uprisings. After an interregnum period which lasted 8 years; Empress Lucilla, sister of the former emperor, rolled up her sleeves and started to take action for her father's desire of restoring the republic of Rome. Thereby she decided to convene a council which will have representatives from various interest groups. Normally, the council she is expected to form would consist solely of senators. Although she was a member of a noble family and sought to maintain the power of ruling in her own social community. She was aware of the fact that old fashioned ways would be ineffective in the current situation of Rome. Most of the people no longer hold the aristocracy in high regard. So the most sensible choice was to gather together the senators, the soldiers, and -most interestingly- the gladiators.

Senators were required to make decisions and evaluate current matters of political importance. Generals and high-ranking officers were necessary to maintain the power of the armies and make sound decisions. Who could know better the Roman army and the strategic military decisions that needed to be taken. Following the recent events, the gladiators were the group most beloved by the public and whose activities would be followed most closely out of respect for Maximus's memory.

b. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The unbelievable and nausea-inducing actions of the former emperor had driven Rome into a stalemate in many respects. People of Rome were wandering around recklessly and without restraint. The army had grown weak, and it was on the verge of losing its former strength. Enemies, seeing Rome's current situation as an opportunity, were preparing to launch an attack. News of the formation of a new council and the council's current status spread very quickly and captured the attention of a great many people.

Establishing a new order in Rome was an undeniable necessity. The council's jurisdiction was raised and covered all of Rome. In this regard, their superiors had a great deal of responsibility.

Now the council had to make decisions and take measures to prevent complications that may arise in areas such as politics, the economy, and society.

3. Background of the Committee

Marcus Aurelius was a member of the Nerva–Antonine dynasty, the last of the rulers later known as the Five Good Emperors and the last emperor of the Pax Romana, an age of relative peace, calm, and stability for the Roman Empire. During his reign, Rome was experiencing its Golden Age. He was a wise, gracious emperor who was widely respected throughout the empire. He had two children in his venerable life, his daughter Lucilla and his son Commodus. Lucilla was a hard nut to crack; she was intelligent, charming and possessed all the admirable qualifications to become an emperor. There was only one obstacle standing between her and ruling the empire: the fact she was a woman. On the other hand Commodus never had any of those characteristics which required to become an emperor. Marcus Aurelius always regarded the failures of Commodus as a son, was his own failures as a father.

Marcus Aurelius believed that there was once a dream and it was Rome. It could only be whispered, anything more than a whisper would make it vanished. The emperor was aware that he was not the great emperor who could return the power to the people of Rome and end the corruption that had crippled it, neither was Commodus. Marcus Aurelius desired Rome should be a republic governed by a senate. But he needed a man who would take his place until the senate was ready to rule. For this reason he proposed an unprecedented and extraordinary idea. Designate a general, a war hero as the protector of Rome after his death: Maximus Decimus Meridius.

Maximus Decimus Meridius was the commander of the armies of the North, General of the Felix legions, loyal servant to the true emperor Marcus Aurelius. The emperor made him an offer that he thought Maximus could not refuse. But Maximus was burning with the desire to return home to his wife and son. So the emperor's offer had been turned back. After this instinct Marcus Aurelius shared his thoughts with Commodus stating that he did not wish for Commodus to become an emperor. When Commodus heard the demands of his father he got bent out of shape. He was disappointed, frustrated. In a moment of sudden rage he strangled his father. But everyone was under the impression that he had passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Commodus became the new emperor and demanded an allegiance oath from Maximus. Nevertheless, the loyalty of Maximus was only for Marcus Aurelius. He refused to be a servant for Commodus and he had decided to head back to his home, to his wife and son. But when he arrived home he found his wife and son slaughtered. They were executed by the new emperor. He did not have strength to overcome such immense pain. He surrendered to the hand of unconsciousness.

When he regained his consciousness he found himself in a slave market waiting to be a property. Then he was purchased by a slave trader name called Proximo. Proximo was training slaves to become gladiators and putting them to battle in the arena. He recognized the hidden gem within Maximus and took advantage of his abilities as a gladiator. Maximus was not in a position to dispute it. But he opted to keep his real name hidden. Maximus rapidly became one of the most favored gladiators among the people of Rome. But he took no notice of his reputation. There was only one thing that he cared about: his freedom.

Maximus's fame had reached the emperor Commodus in a short span of time. He sought to bring gladiatorial games back to Rome to divert attention from the current situation of the empire. So the new hero was cut out for his ambitions. Commodus resolved to stage gladiatorial games, sparing no expense as he gathered gladiators from all over the empire.

While all of this was unfolding, Maximus was fighting in the arena on one hand, and on the other he was attempting to follow through on the wishes of deceased emperor Marcus Aurelius. His wife was murdered, his son was killed; the only thing that has left in his hand was his "honour and strength". He could not let them take those virtues from him. No matter the cost, he had to stand against the Commodus; even if he stood alone, with no one he could trust, and even if his comrades gave up on their lives for this cause. Maximus had once been a general, commanding legions. Even now, as a slave, the soldiers remained loyal to him. If he chose to spark a rebellion, there were still countless men ready to stand behind him without a second thought.

Maximus also forged an alliance with Lucilla who is Commodus's sister and his former lover. Lucilla still had feelings for Maximus even though a long time had passed since they had been together. Thereby Lucilla accepted Maximus's collaboration offer because she was filled with a deep hatred for Commodus's excesses, his cruel pleasures, and the state into which he had dragged the empire.

They resolved to join forces and started meeting undercover to devise their plans. They were ambitious, trusting their comrades and most importantly, both Lucilla and Maximus were burning with the desire of regaining their freedom.

The day that Maximus had planned to rise and ignite the revolution had finally arrived. He had legions of troops and soldiers. He had his fellows. But unfortunately despite all these preparations, the war was over almost before it even began. No one understood what had happened that they lost their challenge.

Maximus was captured as a gladiator who defied an emperor. He was thrown by Commodus into a God-forsaken dungeon. At first glance, it may appear that Commodus won this conflict with ease. But Commodus's eyes were blinded by ambition and hatred. He came

down near Maximus and dared him by saying “Yours is a strike story. Now the people want to know how the story ends. Only a famous death will do. And what could be more glorious than to challenge the Emperor himself in the great arena?” Maximus had no other options than responding to the challenge.



The day they were to fight was beautiful, as if in defiance. Rose petals, prepared in advance, were being shaken out and scattered across the arena. Commodus was prepared by his servants, neatly. His sword was shining, his armor was bright. As distinct from him, the only thing Maximus had was the ragged clothes he wore and the courage within him. 45 soldiers formed a circle around their arena. Thousands of people were watching from the upper tiers of the Colosseum. When they first appeared on the arena Commodus immediately started to salute the spectators. But Maximus bent down, scooped up a handful of dirt, and began rubbing it between his palms as he always does.

When the battle began, both of them launched all-out attacks against each other. They were inflicting constant but non-fatal damage on the opposing side. Then Maximus made an excellent move and caused his rival to drop his sword. Commodus ordered his soldiers to give him one of their swords. But any of those soldiers followed Commodus's orders. Every soldier who was supposed to be emperor's servants, sheathed their swords. Eventually the emperor managed to find a sword and continued to fight. The minutes flew by, and Maximus finally managed to land a fatal blow on the emperor. Commodus collapsed to the ground, vomiting blood, and died right there. But the audience remained unresponsive. Because everyone's attention was focused on the heroic gladiator, the freedom fighter, who had crashed to the ground, unable to withstand the many small blows he had taken. Some had risen from their seats and were silently watching this noble man depart, standing in respectful silence.



Maximus's death reawakened feelings the Roman people had long forgotten, and paved the way for a long and chaotic period in which the balance of power in Rome would be shifted.

4. Functioning of the Council

As the delegates in our committee; you are going to take part as decision-makers in this council, which was formed by Lucilia in order to decide on crucial matters which will affect the future of the Roman Empire. The things you are going to talk about, the problems you are going to solve and every other word of yours are going to shape the upcoming future of Rome. As the Council it is expected from you to be the light that leads to a brighter future for the Roman Empire.

You are going to come together and discuss how to solve the ongoing problems of the Roman Empire alongside dealing with sudden arena fights that you may find yourself in at any time.

You need to be able to carry the weight of the importance of your decisions when it comes to shaping the future of the Roman Empire. Furthermore you are ought to be ready and well prepared for a possible arena fight by ensuring that you are supported by either other council

members or by the public.(The way we are going to make arena fights in the committee is explained in this study guide's 6th part)

a. Main Purpose

In the creation of this Council the main idea was to bring important figures of the Roman Empire in order to shape the future of Rome. These important figures are you, delegates, who are going to take part in this Council as senators, gladiators, military generals and as other important people. You are going to gather up and discuss the ongoing problems of the Roman Empire and how to solve these problems efficiently to bring the Roman Empire back to its glorious days.

You carry on your shoulders the weight of having the authority that enables you to take decisions that you think will help reduce the effects of current problems. The future of the Roman Empire is in your hands. Your decisions will directly affect the future of the Roman Empire and the quality of your actions will either bring back the Roman Empire to its great days back or make the current situation even worse.

b. Authorities

You need to keep in mind that this so-called Council is gathered together by Lucillia who is the sister of the last Ceaser and the daughter of Ceaser before than that. Maybe she used to not have that much of a weight in taking decisions when it comes to ruling the empire but right now in the absence of a suitable man for being the caesar Lucilia's words are taken more seriously than ever before.

Lucillia saw the necessity for an up-front decision making organ for the empire and decided to create this Council. So that means this Council has the power to decide on how to deal with crucial matters for the ruling of the empire. It is important to keep in mind that with this great authority comes great responsibility. The Council (you) need to use this extraordinary authority of yours for the sake of Rome and give your best to bring back strength and honour to the Roman Empire by not just suggesting but deciding to take the actions that you think will solve the current problems in the best way possible.

c. Members

The council founded by Lucilla, consisted of more than twenty-five members. However, we have compiled a list of some of the key figures who held the most influence and prestige within the council. Although there were members who were more deeply involved in the events, every member of the council is equal and has the same right to speak.

Imperial Dynasty

- **Annia Aurelia Galeria Lucilla**

Lucilla is the last remaining cornerstone of the reign by being Commodus's sister and Marcus Aurelius's daughter. She is the representative of the authority of the Roman Empire. Despite her social status she is a supporter of values such as the republic and democracy.

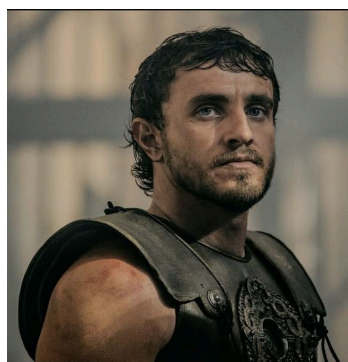
In the council she established, she is held in the highest regard for making such difficult and decisive decisions despite being a woman. Even though she does not have direct control over military forces, she is respected by the people of Rome. And possesses sufficient wealth to implement the decision she desires.

Due to her love for Maximus and the affection she holds for his memory, she is showing a lenient attitude toward the gladiators. But she never put her feelings before her logic. She is capable of making highly strategic decisions when necessary and she is allowed to take actions which would affect the situation of the empire.



- **Lucius Verus**

Lucius is the only son of Lucilla. Even as a small child; he witnessed the



groundbreaking duel between Commodus, who was both his uncle and the emperor, and Maximus. The gladiator's influence on him was so strong that even as a child, he would play gladiator games instead of games like being a legionnaire, which were more suited to princes. Although he is a Republican and a proponent of freedom like his mother, it cannot be said that he would not want to ascend the throne as an emperor.

He was 8 years old when the duel incident happened. When the council was formed and he became a member, he had just turned 16. That is why he is inexperienced and still has the naivety that comes with his age. If the council that is established does not prove to be as effective as expected, he will be the only legitimate candidate to ascend to the throne.

Senators and Political Figures

There were three types of senators in Rome. The first were those who were completely pro-republican and argued that Rome should be governed by a council. The second type lacked any firm principles they could truly stand behind and simply sided with whoever held power. The third type rejected the idea of a republic and believed it was appropriate for the empire to be ruled by an emperor.

- **Senator Gracchus**

Senator Gracchus is the most important figure among the senators. With the experience gained from his advanced age and many years of service to Rome, he has a deeper understanding of politics than anyone else.

While under Commodus's rule, he openly hated him, but since he lacked the power to defy an emperor, there was nothing he could do.

During the time when Commodus had removed everyone from the government and was the sole legitimate authority, the senator had kept himself aloof both from politics and the problems of Rome. But when Lucilla invited him to be a member of the new established council he had the opportunity to return to the work he was accustomed to. He is clearly a republican and denies the idea of monarchy.



Commodus 'warned' Maximus to be wary of Gracchus- that, "he will pour poisoned honey in your ear, and you'll think of nothing but 'Republic! Republic!'".

With those specialties, Gracchus is a good example of first type of senators.

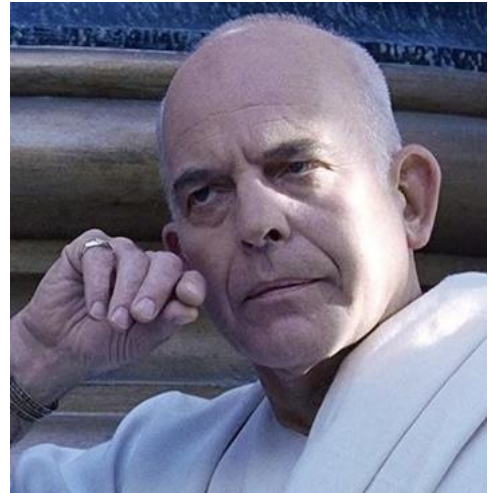
- **Senator Gaius**

Senator Gaius is one of the opportunist senators in politics. His views on governance were not as clear-cut as those of senators like Gracchus. During the reign of an emperor, he was not passive, yet he was also far from being aggressive.

He has no principles to which it is strictly committed, he tends to align himself with whoever holds the power. For this reason, we cannot say that he was a main Republican or a pro-imperialist.

However, given his long history in politics and wealth of experience, it is certain that he will contribute many valuable ideas in an environment where equality is ensured.

The character of Gaius is a classic second-type senator



- **Senator Tiberius**

Senator Tiberius argues that Rome's most powerful era was when it was ruled by an emperor. For this reason, he sits in the Senate as a supporter of the emperor. He argues that senators should have authority under the emperor's supervision, just as they traditionally always had.

He believes that if the republic were to be proclaimed, ideological divisions would become extremely intense and the legislative, judicial, and executive branches would suffer damage.

However, he does not support Lucius ascending to the throne as a member of the imperial dynasty. He argues that, as in the old days, the rightful leader should take the throne under a tyrannical system.

- **Senator Falco**

Falco was a senator loyal to the emperor Commodus. Falco was very close to Commodus. A patrician senator opposed to the more republican-minded Gracchus and Gaius, he helps Commodus to consolidate his power- purely for the sake of his own self-interest.



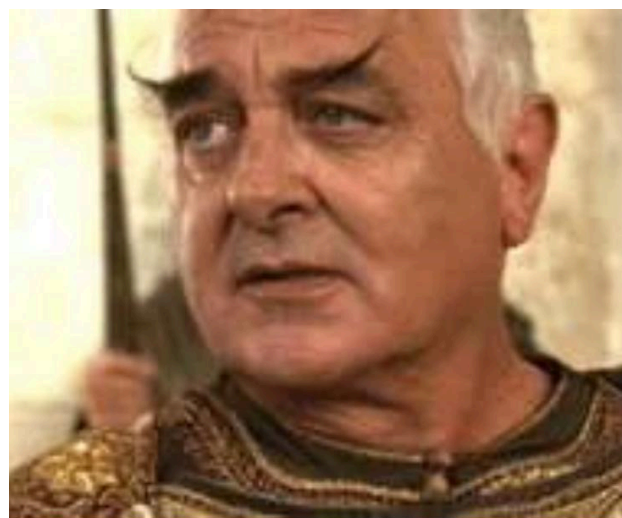
After he learns of the plot against him, Falco gave him a strategy to defeat Maximus- based on an old tale of a sea serpent. It lay still in the sea, pretending to be injured- waiting for its enemies to think it weak, & attack it; the serpent waited- then attacked suddenly, and killed its enemies.

He is an important figure in the council because of his noble roots. Also an example for the type three.

Gladiator Affairs

- **Cassius**

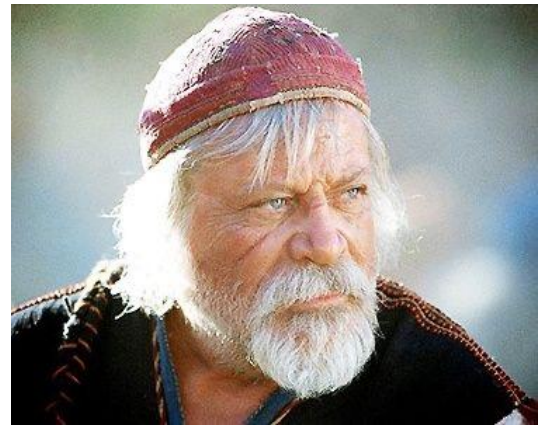
Cassius was the announcer and 'head' of the gladiatorial games in the Colosseum of Rome. He seemed to know Antonius Proximo, the owner of Maximus Meridus, Juba, and Hagen. He announced the reenactment of the Battle of Carthage and the duel between Maximus and Tigris of Gaul.



Due to the prestige and popularity that gladiators have gained in recent times, he has become someone whose opinion is taken seriously by the council. He also holds the view that the Republic must be restored in Rome.

- **Proximo**

Proximo used to be a gladiator. However, once he became highly successful and beloved by the public, he was released from slavery. He had earned his freedom through his own efforts. In the years that followed, he became a gladiator trainer and, with his own small arena, someone who could be considered wealthy.



The most important thing that sets him apart from the senators and the royal family is that he fought in the arena for a very long time, which is why he is not romantic but extremely realistic. His political views can not be exactly explained. But he could be described as a pragmatist.

The reason that he was selected by Lucilla to be a member of the council was he is the one who discovered and trained Maximus to be a gladiator when Maximus was an outlaw.

- **Juba The Gladiator**

Juba is an extremely brave gladiator who fought alongside Maximus and stood up to the emperor. Since he was once bought and sold as a slave and comes from a poor background, he doesn't have much knowledge about politics. But he is aware of the current situation of the Roman empire. And he is one of the few people who can see the realities of the people of Rome and bring them to the council. Juba does not want Rome to be ruled by an emperor again.



Military Figures

- **General Marcus Acacius**

Marcus Acacius is a commander who was promoted to Maximus's former rank and was previously a lieutenant general. He holds the highest military rank in all of Rome.

His authority is quite important in the situation which Rome currently is. Absence of a ruler is forcing the empire to stand in a way that gives the military the upper hand. For this reason, the person at the very top of Rome's military hierarchy must be exceptionally capable, skilled, and competent.

Marcus Acacius is an exceptionally qualified individual who embodies all these attributes. In addition, even though he never interacted with Maximus while he was alive, he harbors a deep admiration for him



- **Commander Quintus**

When Quintus Maximus was a general, he was his most loyal aide, commander, and friend. In fact he was the one who said soldiers must sheath their swords during Maximus's duel with Commodus. He is into the military more than politics as every soldier must be.

However, because he believed it would be in the military's best interest and because he was a great admirer of Maximus, he was more inclined toward the idea of a republic, just as Maximus had wanted.



5. Ongoing Problems of Roman Empire

After the epic and revolutionary duel emperor of Rome had died and there was no one left to rule the empire. For this reason many men who can be described as tyrants, began to fight tooth and nail to take the throne. That's how the period of interregnum had started. This period lasted approximately eight years, and during that time the tyrants were unable to overcome one another. Numerous problems arose, stemming both from the economic, social, and political conditions caused by the tyrants and from the lack of authority. Although Rome's domestic affairs were in disarray, its foreign affairs were heading toward an even worse state.

The following are some of the significant events that occurred during the eight-year period:

Slave Revolts

a. The Revolt of Capuan Chains

This uprising broke out in Capua, a city famous for its gladiator training schools, under the leadership of Titus Varius Celer, a former gladiator. The reason behind this revolt was that, despite a gladiator having defeated a Roman emperor in the arena and proven his strength, gladiators were still not set free but were bought and sold as slaves and forced to fight in the arena.

Titus Varius, along with his men, raided a gladiator school in Capua, seized the weapons, and found a large number of supporters to join him. Approximately three thousand gladiators and slaves contributed to this uprising. They started to plunder and wander near villages to attract the attention of the ones above.

The regional troops were insufficient to suppress the rebellion and the number of rebels were rising day by day. And the government sent legions supported by Praetorian Guard. Only in this way revolt was managed to quell by the military in two years.

In the wake of this incident, there were many calls to suspend the arena battles and abolish the gladiatorial games. However, according to those in authority, the gladiatorial games served as a distraction for the public, preventing them from noticing the true state of

Rome. For this reason, the games were never abolished and continued to exist even during the period when the council was established.

b. The Sicilian Grain Revolt

The Sicilian Grain Revolt arose as a direct result of the harsh conditions imposed on agricultural slaves in Sicily, Rome's primary supplier of grain. Extensive estates also called latifundia relied on mass slave labor, where individuals were subjected to excessive workloads, starvation, and, in many cases, physical punishments. As pressure increased for Rome to maintain uninterrupted deliveries of grain, exploitation also increased.

The revolt was led by Diodorus Afer, a slave of North African origin; Afer used his organizational skills to rally thousands of agricultural workers. The uprising began with coordinated attacks on landowners and the seizure of grain stores. Within a short time, the number of rebels had grown to over 10,000; this effectively interrupted grain exports to Rome and created a threat of famine in the capital.

Realizing the seriousness of the threat, Roman authorities responded by sending legions, supported by naval forces, to blockade the island and isolate the rebels. After a prolonged campaign, the rebellion was brutally suppressed. Diodorus Afer was captured and executed in public, while thousands of participants were killed or re-enslaved. Although the rebellion was quelled, it exposed the structural vulnerability of Rome's dependence on slave labor and its defenselessness against domestic economic upheavals.

c. Revolt of the Iron Fellowship

The Brotherhood of Iron Uprising emerged among the slave laborers working at the port of Ostia, the main hub of Rome's trade and supply distribution. Although these individuals were vital to the empire's logistics network, they were subjected to grueling physical labor, inadequate living conditions, and constant punishment.

The revolt was organized by a slave named Publius Cassianus, who had secretly established a coordinated resistance group known as the Iron Fellowship. The uprising began with acts of sabotage, such as the destruction of warehouses and the burning of merchant ships. As the unrest increased, the flow of goods to Rome was severely disrupted, leading to a deterioration of the economic situation in the capital and widespread anxiety.

Roman authorities intervened rapidly, sending in the Praetorian Guard to secure the port and suppress the uprising. The uprising was suppressed through massive arrests and

public executions; Cassianus was executed, and many participants were nailed to crosses. Although the rebellion was quelled quickly, it exposed the fragility of Rome's supply system and the dangerous potential for organized resistance among slave populations.

Military Revolts

a. Danubian Legions Revolt

The Danube Legion Revolt erupted along the Danube frontier, where Roman legions were facing delayed pay, a prolonged absence from campaigns that yielded no plunder, and harsh living conditions.

The revolt was led by Gaius Avidius Severus, a respected commander who was proclaimed emperor by his soldiers. This movement posed a direct challenge to Roman authority and effectively split the empire among rival power centers. As news of the revolt spread, other legions and provincial governors were forced to choose sides, heightening the risk of a full-scale civil war.

In response, while Roman officials relied on the Praetorian Guard to secure the capital, political factions within the Senate debated whom to support. Although the outcome remained uncertain, the rebellion highlighted the army's decisive role in determining the empire's legitimacy and exposed the fragile balance between central authority and provincial power.

b. The Mutiny at Vindobona

The Vindobona Revolt was a local military uprising that took place at a border garrison on the banks of the Danube River. Roman soldiers stationed in the region were facing delayed pay, harsh winter conditions, and abusive treatment by their commanders. Unlike large-scale uprisings, this revolt was motivated not by political ambitions but by urgent concerns about living conditions and pay.

Under the leadership of Centurion Doritos Laysus, the soldiers refused to obey orders and disrupted the chain of command within the garrison. The uprising remained confined to the region, but it significantly weakened border defenses and sparked fears of broader instability across the legions.

Roman authorities intervened by sending a mid-level general to restore order. Thanks to a combination of discipline and the commander's skill, the rebellion was easily and quickly suppressed. Although several leaders were executed, some of their demands were

partially met; this situation highlighted the ongoing tension between military authority and the welfare of Roman soldiers.

The commander who suppressed the rebellion was Marcus Acacius. This served as a significant stepping stone in his rise to the position he would eventually hold upon being welcomed into the council.

c. The Praetorian Coup of Rome

The Praetorian Revolt in Rome originated within the Praetorian Guard, an elite unit responsible for the emperor's personal security. Despite their privileged status, dissatisfaction grew due to inconsistent rewards and political instability. The Guard, situated at the heart of imperial power, became increasingly aware of their ability to influence the succession to the throne. This was the largest and final rebellion to erupt during the 8-year interregnum.

Under the leadership of Praetorian Prefect Sextum Septimius, a conspiracy was hatched within the ranks of the Guard. Utilizing their direct access to the imperial palace, the Guard carried out a coordinated operation to withdraw the guards, seizing the palace and its contents, most importantly Lucilla and Lucius.

Following the coup, the Praetorian Guard played a decisive role in insisting on the selection of a new emperor and forced the Senate to legitimize their choice. This event severely shook the empire's stability, revealing just how vulnerable imperial authority was to internal military manipulation.

When this uprising was almost about to succeed, Marcus Acacius showed up and by using his troops, composed of loyal soldiers to him, suppressed the one of the biggest uprisings of Rome since the Spartacus incident.

Economical Hardships

Rome was struggling with economic difficulties due to a lack of leadership at the top and the Senate's tendency to be ineffective. During the eight-year Interregnum, it had incurred a heavy economic burden due to the countless uprisings that broke out and the lack of booty that could not be obtained because no military campaigns were waged.

With the absence of authority; the landowners, now completely unchecked, had begun to exploit the peasants. As a result, while one side grew even richer and the other poorer, economic inequality was rapidly increasing.

At the same time, the exploitation of farmers was leading to a decline in agricultural production, the sale of these products at inflated prices, and difficulties in their distribution

In addition, the small countries, towns, and settlements that Rome had annexed were either refusing to pay taxes or having their taxes stolen by tax inspectors. There were, of course, government officials who secretly diverted money from the treasury for their own use.

Complications on Foreign Affairs

Seeing an opportunity in Rome's current situation and its preoccupation with internal affairs, hostile nations began to exert pressure on its borders in an attempt to gain an advantage for themselves.

One of the most persistent threats came from the northern borders; here, Germanic tribes settled along the Danube and Rhine rivers frequently launched invasions into Roman territory. These attacks were not always large-scale invasions, but their constant nature weakened border defenses, disrupted local economies, and forced Rome to maintain a permanent and costly military presence in these regions. Over time, such pressures created the risk of transforming border instability into outright territorial loss.

In the East, Rome faced a more organized and challenging opponent in the form of an empire as powerful as the Parthian Empire. This rivalry extended beyond open warfare to include competition for influence in buffer zones and control over valuable trade routes. The eastern provincial regions, which were generally culturally and economically distinct from Rome, became areas of tension where loyalty could shift, thereby increasing the risk of both external conflict and internal division.

Another major source of concern was the growing instability in key territories. Wealthy and strategically vital regions such as Egypt, Syria, and Hispania were periodically showing signs of discontent with Roman rule due to the effects of heavy taxed and administrative pressures. In such situations, external threats easily combined with internal discontent, creating the conditions for the emergence of separatist movements that would weaken Rome from within and also open the door to foreign intervention.

Maritime security also emerged as a critical issue. Rising piracy in the Mediterranean threatened the commercial networks vital to the empire's functioning. In particular, grain shipments were extremely vulnerable, and any disruption in these supply lines directly risked causing food shortages in Rome. This situation not only made maritime control a military priority but also turned it into a matter of public order and political legitimacy.

Finally, the alliance system Rome had established with its client states began to show signs of fragility. These allied kingdoms, which had long served as a buffer between Rome and external enemies, were not always reliable. Changes in leadership, external pressures, or internal ambitions could lead these states to reevaluate their loyalty, causing them to form alliances with rival powers or pursue independence. Such developments weakened Rome's indirect control and forced the empire to either intervene militarily or risk losing its influence without resorting to open conflict.

Taken as a whole, these external challenges demonstrate that the greatest danger for Rome was not a single overwhelming power, but the cumulative effect of numerous interconnected threats. To cope with these pressures, Rome required not only military strength but also effective diplomacy, economic resilience, and internal stability; any weakness in these areas could be swiftly exploited.

6. Arena Fights in Our Committee

While you are still discussing the problems in the committee including the gladiator fights (in other words arena fights) the fights keep on being made whether in the Colosseum or in the other cities' own arenas. So until you write your final document and decide whether to cut off the fights or not the fights will continue to be made.

Any of you may find yourself in an arena fight if the public highly wants you to see fighting or you can choose to fight each other if it's actually necessary for the flow of the Council.

Of course we are not going to make you fight each other but we are going to decide the winner before the fight by overseeing the role and the abilities of the two fighting. The support from the other council members will also be a criteria. Before the fights we are going to collect every council member's choice as the winner for the result of this voting will also be effective in deciding the one who beats the opposition. After the decision a kind of roleplay will be made in order to create the atmosphere of a real arena fight.

Another thing is that beating the opponent in the fight as the decision doesn't always mean you are going to kill them. At the end of the roleplay you the fighter who won the battle has the right to choose whether to kill the other fighter or not. This decision is up to you and only you. But of course you need to be careful in taking this decision. Because killing may be beneficial for you in terms of weakening the voices of opposing ideas to yours, it doesn't always mean your ideas will be the only ones taken seriously in the committee. You are a Council and all of you are trying to take actions together to bring back the Roman Empire to its great days.

Furthermore, showing mercy to the right opponent may raise your prestige and make you an ideal figure that the public idolises. In that case your ideas and ways of solving problems will be accepted easier by the public. But again be careful about who to show mercy or this too might be against your own benefits.

To avoid misunderstandings we have to note that, at the end of a gladiator fight when the emperor clenches his fist and raises his thumb that means the sword will be used for slashing the loser one's head off. If the emperor moves his thumb downward this means the sword will be sheathed and the loser gladiator will be forgiven. Also it is appropriate for the winning gladiator to spare the loser.

For us to conduct these fights efficiently and as much as we want you must prove that you are able to finish solving the ongoing problems of the empire and write a quality final document in the two days. Otherwise making these fights in the committee may stay as a beautiful dream.

7. Questions to Ponder

- 1) What kinds of deterrent measures can be implemented to prevent economic malpractices?**
- 2) Should the Arena Fights (gladiatorial games) be allowed, if yes what should be the rules restricting their limits?**
- 3) Who shall be the one ascending the throne of Caesar and in what ways will the authorities of the council helping the caesar be restricted?**
- 4) What measures should be taken in order to prevent the internal rebellions in the empire?**
- 5) What can be accomplished to ensure deterrence against countries hostile to Rome and maintain peace in foreign affairs?**

