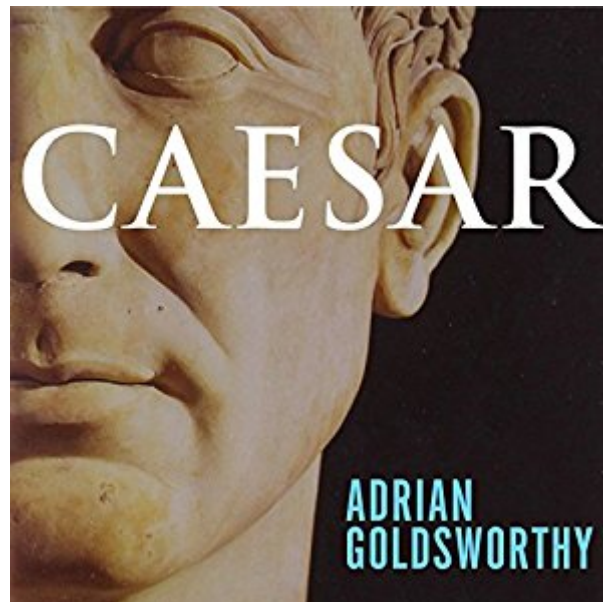


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# Caesar: Life Of A Colossus



## Synopsis

Tracing the extraordinary trajectory of Julius Caesar's life, Adrian Goldsworthy covers not only the great Roman emperor's accomplishments as charismatic orator, conquering general, and powerful dictator but also lesser-known chapters. Ultimately, Goldsworthy realizes the full complexity of Caesar's character and shows why his political and military leadership continues to resonate some 2,000 years later. In this landmark biography, Goldsworthy examines Caesar as a military leader, as well as his other roles, and places his subject firmly within the context of Roman society in the first century B.C.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Adrian Goldsworthy's *Caesar: Life of a Colossus* joins two other recent biographies from the same period to provide a rich sense of Rome in the first century BC and shortly thereafter. The other two are Everitt's volumes on Cicero and Augustus. Among them, one gets a sense of the increasing dysfunction of the Roman Republic and the various efforts to address the increasingly unfortunate state of affairs. Goldsworthy's book provides a detailed view of Caesar's life. Where details are sparse, he uses good sense in trying to fill in the blanks, appropriately noting where the gaps in the record lie. The volume begins by describing the status of the Republic before Caesar's story begins. This includes the institutions of government and the increasing internal problems, with murder and assassination as more typical of "regime change" than is good for a stable polity. The role of the Senate is well described. After setting the stage, Caesar's story is put into context. One key issue was his association with the popularis and the hostility of some of the elite of Rome toward Caesar

as a result. On page 105, the author notes that "Caesar had from early in his career inclined toward a popularis path. . . ."He held his first public office in 72 or 71 B. C. Shortly thereafter, he began to ally with Pompey the Great and, later, with Crassus in the First Triumvirate. He also began a habit of spending a great deal of money to generate support from Romans. This led to a situation where he was often risking great and even crushing debt in order to build support. Normally, the risk was rewarded with success over the course of his career. The book goes on to discuss in nice detail Caesar's assignment in Gaul.

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