

- Cicero (106-43 BC)
  - Lawyer and opposition to the successors of Sulla, defendant of those sentenced to proscription
  - He wants the Sullian loyalists to be a memory in policy and action (he's not the only one)
  - Incorporates virtue ethics of the Greeks into the strive for excellence mindset of Rome.
- Populism comes back (Sulla can't stop the people)
- Again, the common folks are not receiving their fair share of anything, getting eliminated from political decision making at almost every turn
- "People who control the republic by means of wealth, noble birth, or influence" -Cicero
- Corruption at every turn, bribes, assaults, assassinations, you name it, it's happening, nothing is off limits
- The oligarchs view themselves as ethically and morally superior despite spitting in the face of morals and ethics at every turn
- Pompey and Crassus restored the power to the tribune, giving back some of the power the people had lost, the ability to veto a policy for starters
- Sulla's reforms are revoked being toted as highly corrupt
- Sixty four members of Sulla's new senate were ejected and replaced by surviving Marian exiles whose charges of proscription were redacted, one amongst these new senators went by the name of Julius Caesar (nephew of Marius, the elder)
- Unsure of how to eradicate or mitigate such heinous corruption, Cicero took a trip to Greece to consult with the most renowned political philosophers of the time
- Cicero adopts stoicism, using it as the model for an ideal ruler to follow, he sways many to this line of thought, combining Greek philosophy with Roman excellence
  - Pompey, Cato the younger, Brutus
- Cicero was a true centrist, wanting what was genuinely best for all members of the republic
- Cicero is in opposition to the Greeks regarding his thoughts on "good men" he was of the belief that anyone could achieve the highest excellence and contribution to the Roman republic by character development and
- Virtue does not give you the right to rule, you achieve the right to rule through virtue