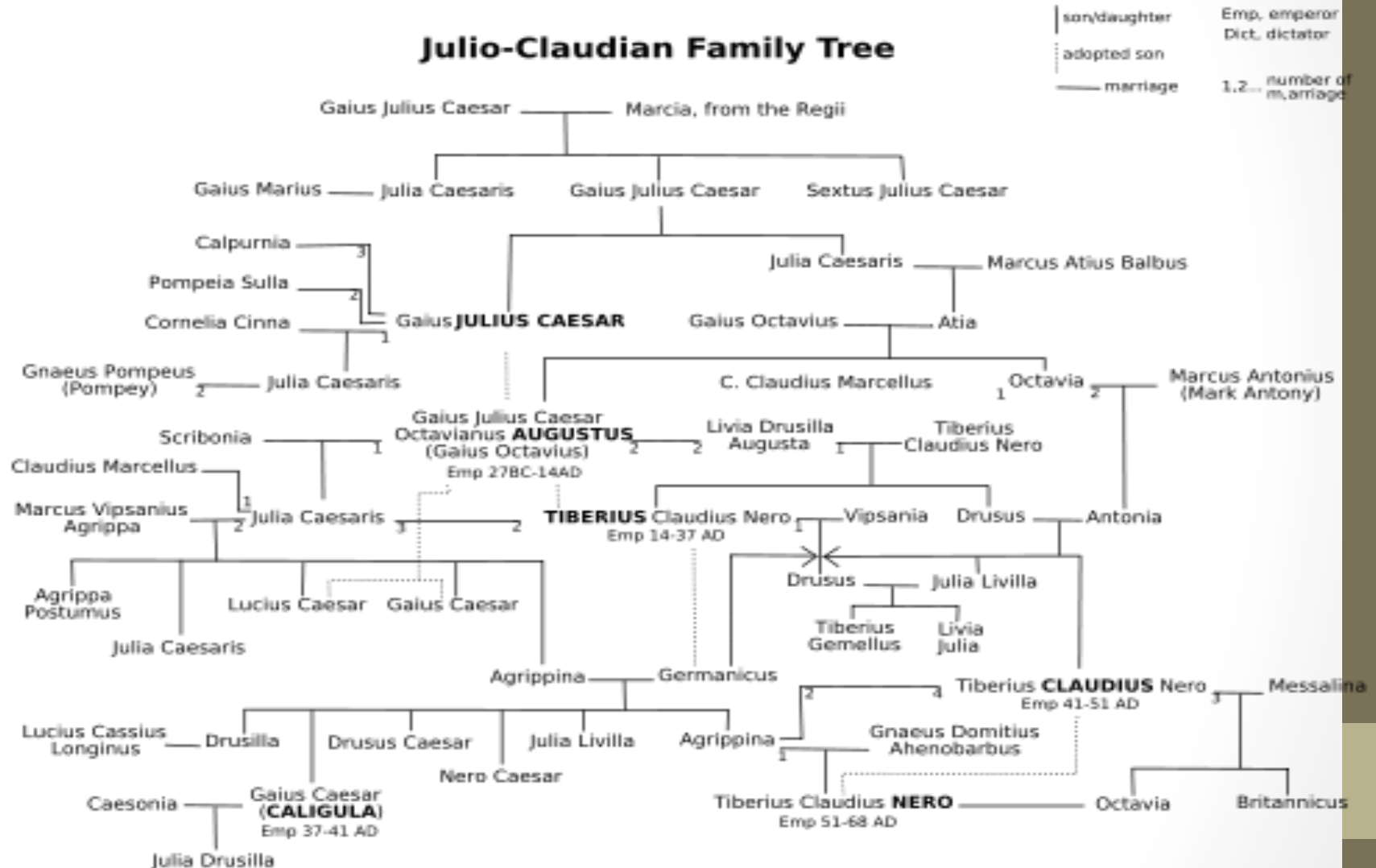


Nero and Caligula

The Julio-Claudians

Julio-Claudian Family Tree



The end of the era of Augustus

- Augustus unable to produce a male heir, because his sons preceded him in death
- Died in 14 CE, leaving his stepson, Tiberius Claudius Nero in charge of the Empire



Tiberius Claudius Nero



- Augustus' adopted son, born to his wife Livia
- Later married Augustus' daughter, making him his son-in-law
- Reigned from 14 to 37 CE
- Expanded the empire into modern day Germany

Bad Behavior in Public

- At first he improved the status of the city
 - Boosted the civil service within the city of Rome
 - Restored the financial
- Later, he got lazy
 - Rarely left Rome
 - Managed provinces poorly , especially Spain
 - Heavy Drinker- "Biberius Cadius Mero"
 - Neglected Public Works, Templum Augusti , Theatrum Pompeii
- Then he started to lose popularity by doing things that the Senate and the people of Rome hated:
 - Nearly every crime became punishable by death
 - Thus daily executions and treason trials
 - Hated the games
 - Cut back funding
 - Established Praetorian Guard, treated them better than border soldiers

More Succession Problems

- Tiberius became withdrawn in later years
 - Left “dirty work” to brutal Sejanus, which lead to allegations of tyranny
- Exiled himself to Capri, never returning to Rome
 - Had power-hungry Sejanus executed
 - No natural heir since his immediate family dead
 - Named two possible heirs, Gaius Caesar and Tiberius Gemellus
- Died March 16, 37 CE



Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (Caligula)



- Son of Germanicus, a great Roman general
 - Used to hang out as a boy with the military, often wearing a mini-soldiers outfit
 - Earned a nickname, which stuck: Caligula “little boots”
- Family gradually killed by Tiberius
- Had will of Tiberius nullified to take reign as sole emperor
- Reigned from 37 to 41 CE

No Problems at First

- Caligula is popular to Roman people, especially the soldiers
 - Recalled exiles
 - Overturned results of the treason trials of Tiberius
 - Held banquets, games and gave many gifts
 - Revived Public Works
 - Abolished the sales tax
- However, later in the same year he was appointed, suffered a “brain fever” and nearly died
 - Scholars believe that part of his brain was permanently damaged

...and then there was madness

- Likely as a result of this brain damage, he went crazy
 - Began to exile and execute his relatives
 - Dressed in a wig and plebian garb to engage in “nightly activites”
 - Declared himself a living god
 - Replaced heads of statues of gods with his own
 - Cancelled some holidays honoring Augustus
 - Possibly had incestuous relationships with his sisters, Drusilla, Agrippina and Livilla



More Exploits

- Hated and tried to humiliate the Senate
 - Tried to make his horse, Incitatus, a senator
 - Failed to accomplish this but did successfully make him a priest
- Sent troops on nonsensical missions
 - “Gather seashells!”
 - Brought home bogus “conquered ones”
- Offended the Jews by having a massive statue of himself placed in the Temple of Jerusalem
- Poor financial leadership
 - Unfair taxes
 - Emptied the treasury
 - Spent money to build a “palace on the water”
- Altered the games unexpectedly
 - Once ordered an entire section of crowd into the ring to be eaten by animals because he was bored
- Had people tortured while he was eating for entertainment
- Turned the royal palace into a brothel

Caligula Assassinated...

- In 41 CE, Caligula was violently stabbed to death by members of the Praetorian Guard
 - They also killed the members of his family, including his wife and daughter
- The issue of succession comes up again...
 - Not thinking ahead, Caligula obviously hadn't named an heir
- Only one 'capable' left alive was said to be another Tiberius Claudius Nero, the last Tiberius' nephew



Tiberius Claudius

- Reigned from 41 to 54 CE
- Praetorian Guard named Claudius emperor after the death of Caligula
- Generally agreed that he had some forms of physical disabilities
 - Definitely had a limp and a speech impediment



Better than the Last Two..

- Resumed attempts to conquer Britain
- Created client kingdoms to help manage the growing Empire
- Improved the judicial system, passed laws to protect slaves, increased womens' rights, and generally respected his citizens



- However, he too had erratic public behavior
 - Paranoid
 - Gluttonous
 - Many “relationships”
 - Shameless bribes
 - Killed 35 senators and 300 equites
 - Was easily swayed by others

Death Again



- Unfortunately, Claudius too had no heir
 - His wife, Agrippina, encouraged him to name his adoptive son Nero as heir
- Claudius died mysteriously in 54 CE, likely at the hand of poison by his wife
- Thus, Nero being heir, became the new Emperor at his death

Nero



- Ruled from 54 to 68 CE
- The adopted son of Claudius, Nero became emperor at age sixteen
 - highly influenced by his mother, Agrippina and his philosopher teacher Seneca early in reign.
- Promised to rule as Augustus had

Everything starts off okay...

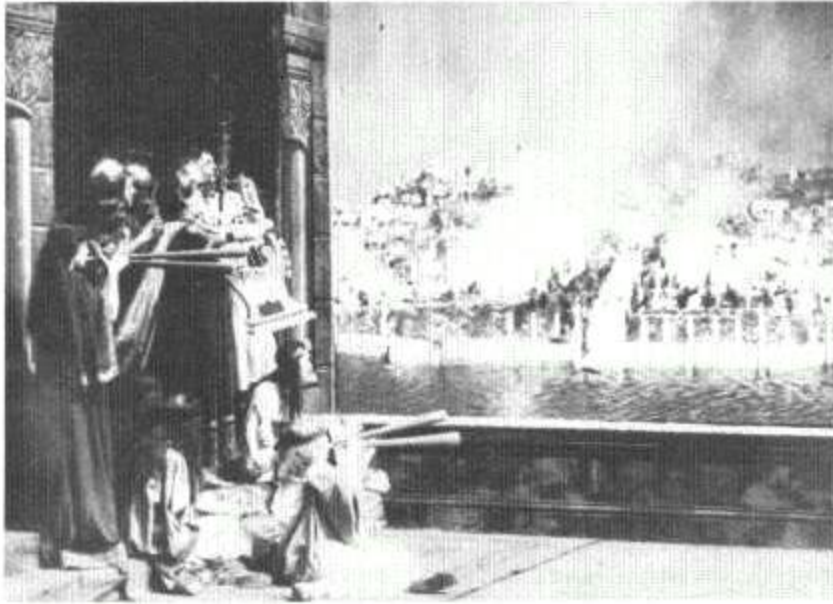
- He seemed benevolent at the beginning of his reign, even giving more independence to the senate, banning capital punishment, reducing taxes, giving aid to damaged cities, and allowing slaves to sue abusive owners.
- In 65 AD, there was an attempted murder of Nero. He naturally got upset, forcing masses to be executed or be forced to kill themselves. Even Seneca was murdered.
- He also killed his mother

Nero's Offenses

- Shows he put on were dangerous at times
 - Forced senators to do battle in the gladiatorial games
- Persecuted Christians
 - First emperor to do so
 - Threw late-night parties with burning corpses as the light source
- Would don a disguise and attack men at night
- Raped numerous people, even a Vestal Virgin
- Attacked private parts of men and had women bound to stakes
- Emptied treasury
- Seized assets of those 'disloyal to him
- Killed nobility to save himself



Great Fire of Rome



- In 64 CE, a great fire broke out in Rome
 - It is strongly suspected that Nero caused fire
 - Stories say that he “fiddled while Rome burned”
 - He blamed the Christians
 - Lasted six days, seven nights
- After this mess, he cleaned up his act and tried to do good for the Empire by rebuilding the damage

Murder and Conspiracy

- In 65 AD, there was an attempted murder of Nero. He naturally got upset, forcing masses to be executed or be forced to kill themselves.
 - Seneca was murdered.
 - He also killed his mother
- On account of this, Gaius Calpurnius Piso led a conspiracy against the emperor and he was later named a public enemy by the senate

End of Julio-Claudians

- Because it was open for pretty much anyone in the Empire to kill him, Nero committed suicide in 68 CE
 - He had no living male relatives, leaving no heir to his throne
- This gave Rome the start of Flavian dynasty under Vespasian

