

# Pompey and the Special Command



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Gnaeus POMPEIUS Magnus (106-48 BC)

# The Rise of Pompey



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- Joins Sulla in 83 BC
- Special command against Carbo
  - *Imperium pro praetore*
- Defeats Carbo and anti-Sullan opposition in 82 and 81
- Celebrates first Triumph at Rome, 81
  
- The *adulescentulus carnifex*
  - ‘Youthful butcher’ (Val. Max. 6.2.8)

# Uprising of Lepidus 77 BC

Pompey's second special command:

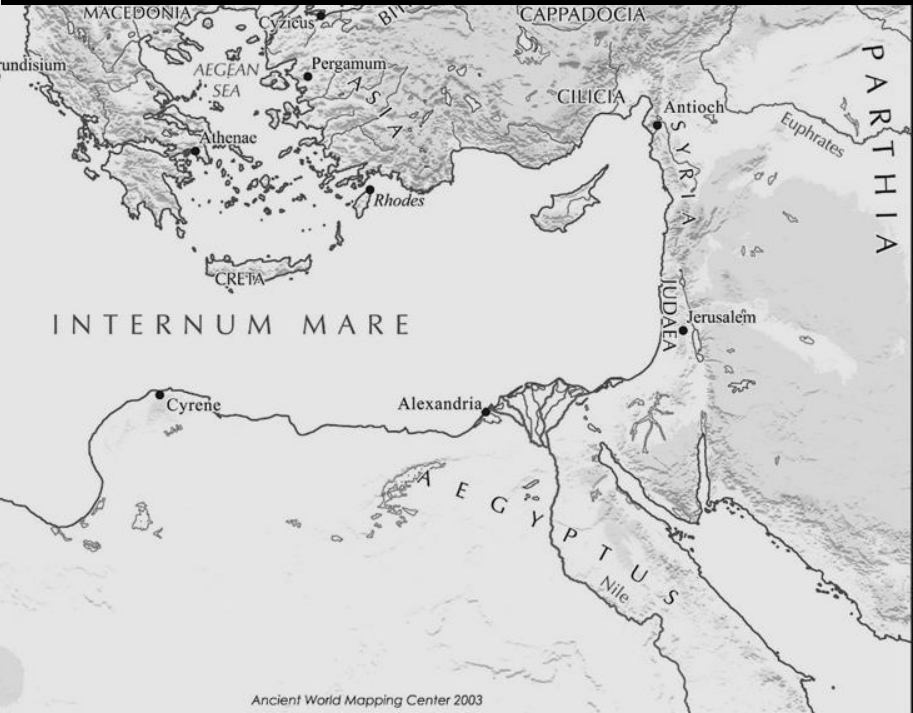
Propraetorian imperium  
- to help Catulus.





# Sertorius in Spain 80-73 BC

Pompey's third special command:  
Proconsular imperium



# Spartacus' Slave Revolt 73-71

Pompey's imperium extended



# Pompey in Rome – 71 BC



- Celebrates second Triumph
- Wins consulship for 70 BC

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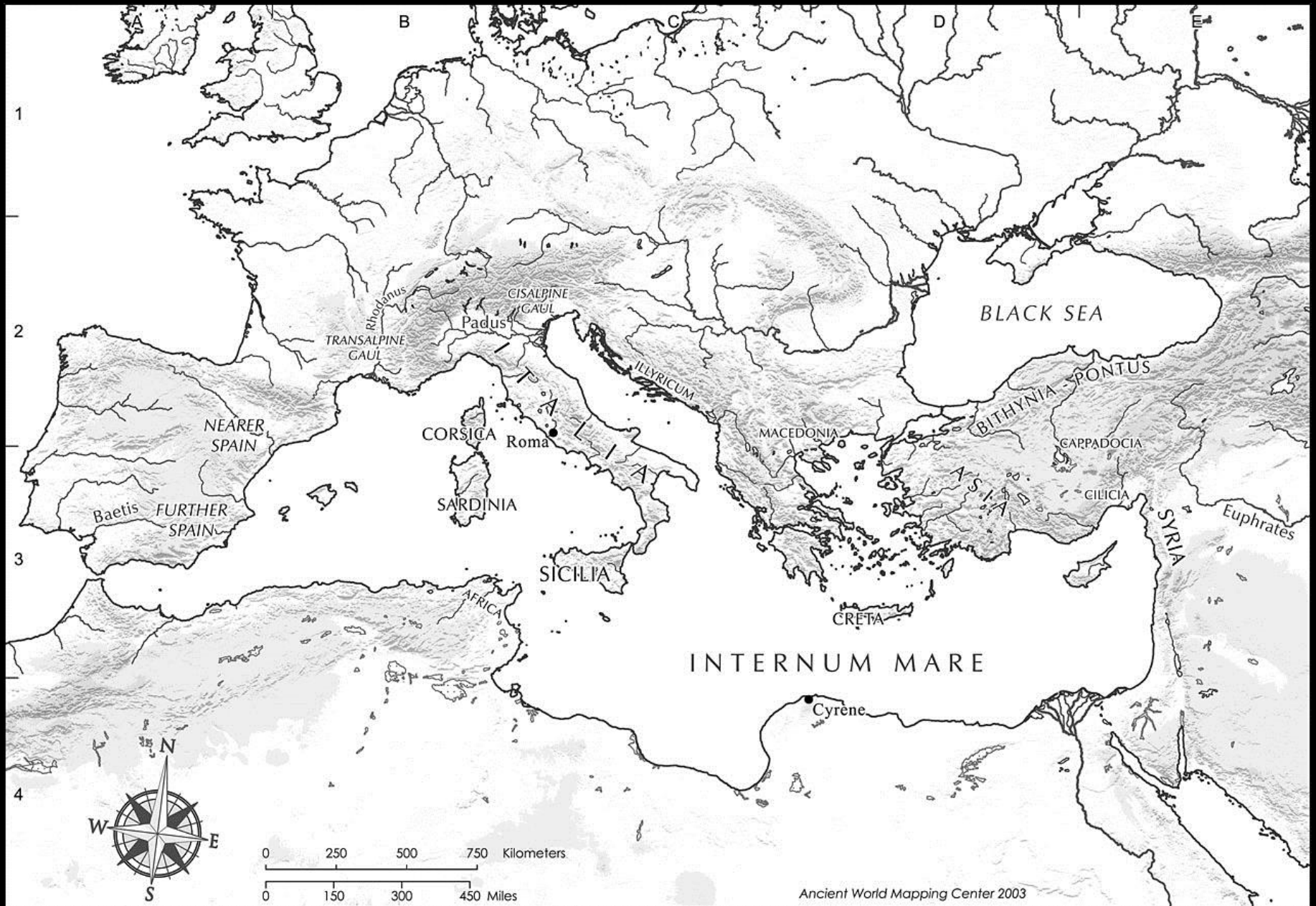
# Reforms of 70 BC

1. Full powers of the tribunes restored
  - By consular law of Pompey and Crassus
  
2. Juries to consist of members from three groups
  - i. Senators
  - ii. Equites
  - iii. *Tribuni aerarii*
  - iv. By praetorian law of L. Aurelius Cotta

# Pompey in the 60s BC

- 67: Special Command against pirates
  - *Lex Gabinia*
  - *Imperium* for three years
  - 144 mill. sest.; 500 ships; 125,000 men; 24 legati
- 66: Special Command in the East
  - *Lex Manilia*
  - Cilicia, Bithynia, Pontus
  - Command against Mithridates
  - Settlement in 63 BC
  - Third Triumph at Rome in 61 BC





‘Q. Lutatius Catulus speaking against the law (to confer the command against the pirates on Cn. Pompeius) said in an informal harangue that Pompeius was certainly an outstanding man, but that he was too eminent for comfort in a free republic and that all power should not be placed in the hands of one man’

## Velleius Paterculus 2.32.1

From *Velleius Paterculus and Res Gestae Divi Augusti*. Translated by Frederick W. Shipley. This material is in the public domain.

‘The price of success abroad was the creation of a special command and the surrender of effective control by the senate.’

Crawford (1992) 154

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21H.132 The Ancient World: Rome  
Spring 2017

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