

## Change in the Roman Constitution

Using a narrative of the fall of the Roman Republic, I explain how constitutions change. First, I develop a definition of a constitution as the amalgamation of traditions, customs, social mores and culture as they relate to the act of governing. In a modern context, this would be nearly equivalent to what is meant by the British constitution - a set of unwritten rules that emerge and change over time with the necessities of the governing structure and the traditions etc. of the people. Second, I introduce and discuss theories of so-called personal and stately glory, Heroic “Great Men,” and legendary stories both from a society’s past and stories that are being played out and participated in by the people of an era, to explain the forces of constitutional change in the Roman Republican context. To demonstrate this, I present a historical narrative example from the career of Caesar and the Caesarean Civil War, roughly 63 through 44 CE to demonstrate the importance of each theory (glory, Heroic figures, legendary stories) in the actions of the principal “Great Men” of that era: Pompey and Caesar. Finally, I will demonstrate the importance of this framework for understanding modern politics by analyzing modern political phenomena.

The poster will contain sections on definitions and explanations of the theories, a narrative demonstrating how elite actors gather support among the people to change the constitution, and a description of how this research can be applied to the modern day.