

Caesar

Selections from his COMMENTARII
DE BELLO GALLICO

Hans-Friedrich Mueller
Johannes Fridericus Molinarius



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Hans-Friedrich Mueller

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PREFACE AND INTRODUCTORY NOTES

This book is designed as a reader for those passages from Julius Caesar's *De Bellō Gallicō* that have been adopted by the syllabus of the newly revised Advanced Placement course in Latin literature. As a convenience to teachers and students, we also provide an annotated translation of the required readings in English from Caesar's Gallic War, but we offer, above all, a detailed guide to the required selections in Latin. The selections in Latin prescribed by the AP syllabus include readings from Books One, Four, Five, and Six of Caesar's Gallic War.

Book One (1.1–7) introduces Gaul, its geography as well as its cultural and political features, and it presents the first conflict of Caesar's campaign, which Caesar describes not as the opening battle in a campaign to conquer all Gaul, but instead merely as an intervention, a sort of police action to safeguard the integrity of the Roman province of which he was governor.

Book Four (4.24–36.1) picks up four years later when Caesar appeared to have brought all Gaul under his effective military control. He felt secure enough to lead an expeditionary force to Britain, and Book Four tells the story of that first "invasion."

Book Five (5.24–48) presents a rather different picture. After Caesar secures his men in winter quarters at the end of a summer of campaigning (ancient armies generally did not fight in the winter), the previously conquered Belgic tribes rise in revolt and destroy one of Caesar's legions. Caesar's tense narrative describes what went wrong and how he repaired the situation.

Book Six (6.13–20) describes the Gauls and their customs in greater detail than did the brief introduction Caesar provided in Book One. Caesar paints a vivid picture of Celtic religious, social, and political institutions.

These selections provide good insight into Caesar's genre (*commentarii*), his style as an author, the issues he faced as the governor of a province, his decision making as a general, and the culture of northern Europe before it was forcibly integrated into Greco-Roman cultural traditions. For each chapter of Book One only, we provide an introductory overview in English to help students find their way into the general flow of Caesar's narrative in Latin. The additional readings in English will help students flesh out their understanding of the more general shape of the war to conquer Gaul, but these Latin passages, which convey Caesar's thinking in his own Latin are well chosen to illustrate many of the crucial issues that defined Roman war and politics in Caesar's day, and which are truly comprehensible only if we understand the words and concepts used by the historical actors themselves.

How to Use This Reader

This book has been designed as a Latin reader. With this book in hand, students should be able to read efficiently, and then review intensively and with minimal wasted time, the selections from Caesar's Gallic War that appear on the new AP Latin syllabus. Those who know Clyde Pharr's magisterial edition of the first six books of Vergil's *Aeneid*, a continuing treasure for all students and teachers of Vergil, will recognize the model. Like its model, this reader is designed to guide students through the Latin text with minimal time lost to searching for vocabulary or through Latin grammars (not that such activities are a bad way to spend time—but students' time is limited, so we must use what time we have as effectively as possible). For students in search of additional information, we provide a complete vocabulary at the end of the volume. In addition, we offer this complete vocabulary as well as a grammatical and syntactical appendix online (www.bolchazy.com/extras/caesarappendix.pdf) so that students can have these resources available on their computers while reading the text. The primary aim of this reader, however, is to supply enough information on each page to permit students to spend almost all the time that they devote to Caesar's Latin on those same pages where Caesar's Latin text appears. How do we accomplish this?

Like Gaul, each page has been divided into three parts. Caesar's Latin text appears first. Words that appear in italics are familiar words and those that Caesar uses frequently. Because he uses them so frequently, these words have been printed on an extensible vocabulary sheet, "Familiar Words Frequently Used by Caesar," which students may pull out and

keep open for every page (or until they have memorized these frequently appearing words). In the glossary, a dagger † follows the entry for these words on the pullout vocabulary list.

All vocabulary not italicized is provided immediately below the Latin passage. Below this list of vocabulary, students will find a running commentary on the text. The primary aim of the commentary is to help students understand the Latin text. We supply succinct, but relatively detailed, information about how the syntax of Caesar's sentences works. References to further grammatical and syntactical particulars (which can be found in the Online Appendix) also appear, but these references are made for the convenience of teachers and students. The references to this Online Appendix are not essential for following the text itself. What syntactical guidance is needed is supplied below the passage and on the same page. Finally, background information, notes on Caesarian style, and other relevant issues receive brief treatment, insofar as such commentary will help students understand and properly appreciate the Latin text. And, when students and/or teachers feel that students have adequately prepared the text, students may test their mettle with the unadorned and unannotated Latin text that we also provide on pp. 177–197.

A proper balance between too much and too little information in the confined space of a printed page is a delicate one. We have aimed for an *aurea mediocritas* (golden mean), but students and teachers will be the ultimate judges of whether we have hit or missed that mark. What we can say is that our only goal has been to provide a book that is useful, instructive, and pleasurable for all who care to become better acquainted with a pivotal historical figure and a classic of Roman prose—not to mention prepare effectively for the AP Latin exam.

A Note on the Same-page Vocabulary

In the same-page (or running) vocabulary on each page, the numbers 1, 2, and 4 indicate for regular verbs the conjugation to which the verb belongs, and that their principal parts are formed according to the patterns of the model verbs *laudō*, *moneō*, and *audiō*, respectively; or, if the verb is deponent, according to the patterns of *hortor*, *vereor*, and *partior* (see App. §73).

Words in italics in the entry are explanatory and are not part of the definition. Words in square brackets are the root(s) from which a word is derived or another closely related word.

The symbol • follows the last letter of the base or stem of the word. To this base, subsequent syllables are added, e.g., abic•iō, -ere = abiciō, abicere or āc•er, -ris, -re = ācer, ācris, ācre. (NB: In Caesar's day, nouns that ended in -ius and -ium regularly had a genitive -ī, rather than -iī, e.g., auxili•um, -ī. For details, see App. §16, c.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book stands on the shoulders of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century textbooks.

The Latin text that appears in this edition has been prepared in close consultation with the following editions.

Renatus Du Pontet, ed. C. Iulii Caesaris Commentariorum Pars Prior qua Continentur Libri VII De Bello Gallico cum A. Hirtii Supplemento. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1900.

Friedrich Kraner, ed. C. Iulii Caesaris Commentarii De Bello Gallico. 15th ed. rev. by W. Dittenberger. Berlin: Weidmann, 1890.

Carolus Nipperdeus [Karl Nipperdey], ed. C. Iulii Caesaris Commentarii cum Supplementis A. Hirtii et Aliorum. Leipzig: Breitkopf et Haertel, 1847.

T. Rice Holmes, ed. C. Iulii Caesaris Commentarii Rerum in Gallia Gestarum VII; A. Hirti Commentarius VIII. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1914.

Macrons have been added in close consultation with the following editions.

Francis W. Kelsey, ed. C. Iulii Caesaris Commentarii Rerum Gestarum: Caesar's Commentaries: The Gallic War, Books I-IV, with Selections from Books V-VII and from the Civil War: With an Introduction, Notes, a Companion to Caesar and a Vocabulary. Boston, New York, & Chicago: Allyn and Bacon, 1918.

Arthur Tappan Walker, ed. *Caesar's Gallic War with Introduction, Notes, Vocabulary and Grammatical Appendix*. Chicago & New York: Scott, Foresman, and Company, 1907.

Grammatical irregularities that appear in some, but not all, editions of Caesar have been regularized. This text prints, for example, *eīs* (rather than *iīs*) for the dative plural of *is*, *ea*, *id*, and the accusative plural of *finis* appears as *finēs* (rather than *finīs*).

The vocabulary and grammatical Online Appendix were taken with revisions from the edition of Arthur Tappan Walker cited above.

The Appendix: Figures of Speech containing grammatical and rhetorical figures was taken with revisions from the edition of Francis W. Kelsey cited above.

The English translation of Books One, Six, and Seven of the Gallic War is a revised version of

W. A. McDevitte and W. S. Bohn (translators). *Caesar's Commentaries*. Harper's Classical Library. Harper & Brothers: New York, 1869.

In revising this literal translation, I aimed primarily to replace archaic diction (e.g., "cavalry" for "horse") and to clarify sentence structure (e.g., by breaking up overly long sentences and by repeating explicitly the subjects and objects of many verbs—this may be clear enough in Latin, but frequently becomes opaque in a literal English translation). Our revised translation also uses Caesar's Latin names for the Gallic tribes rather than our own more colloquial English equivalents (e.g., "Helvetii" rather than "Helvetians," although I generally prefer the latter in my own commentary, which, of course, represents a modern voice rather than Caesar's, hence the discrepancy).

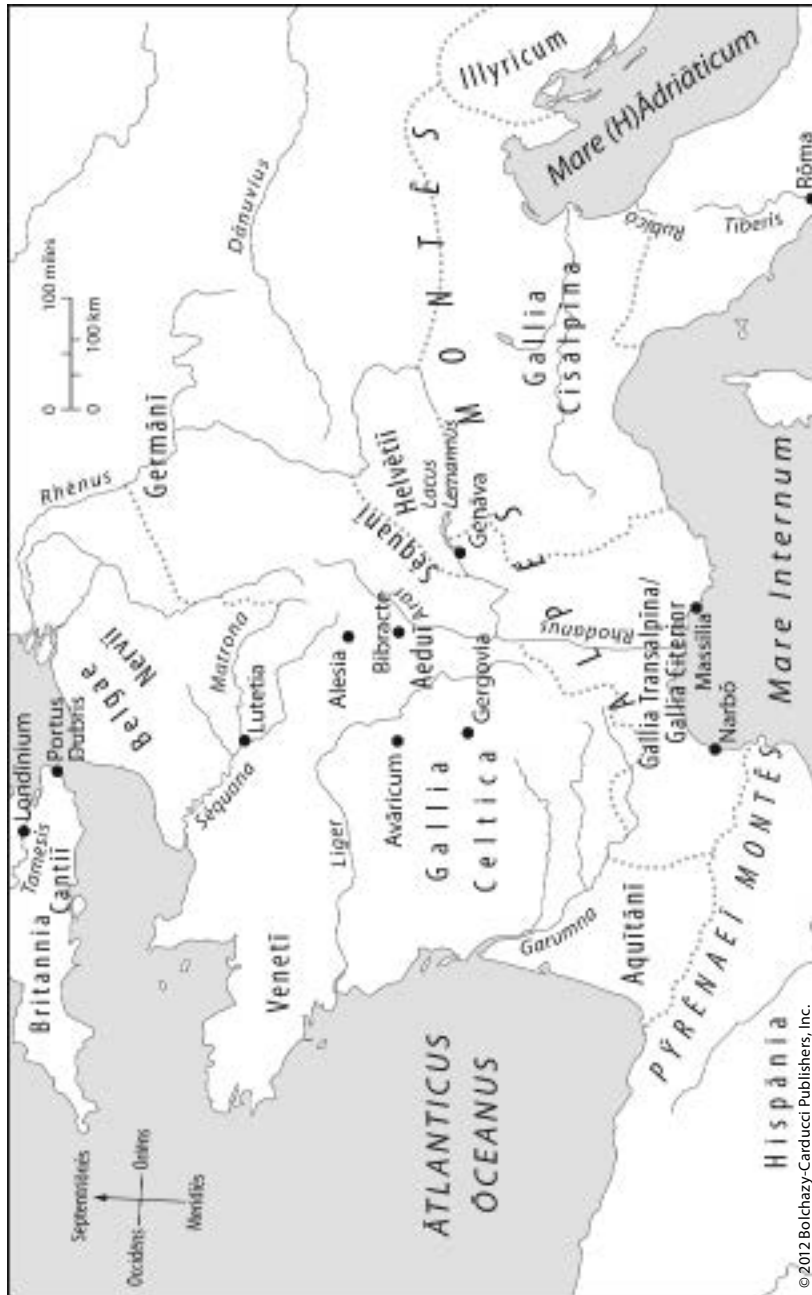
The commentary itself also owes numerous debts of gratitude to these as well as many other still informative and useful school editions of Caesar that survive in print and online.

I offer my public and sincere thanks to Lou and Marie Bolchazy, Don Sprague, Bridget Buchholz, Jody Cull, Adam Velez, and Laurel De Vries of Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers; two anonymous and helpful referees; Christopher D. C. Choquette, my undergraduate research assistant at Union College; and, above all, my wife Terri, who suffered many an extended absence as I worked to complete the manuscript. Any errors that

remain belong by right to me. I hope that readers will find the pages that follow useful, and perhaps even pleasurable and instructive. And, if they do, they will have Caesar, his commentators, and the people I have just mentioned to thank for that useful pleasure and instruction.

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GAUL



Caesar DE BELLŌ GALLICŌ 1.1: A Lesson in Geography and Ethnography

[1.1] Gallia est omnis divisa in partēs trēs, quārum ūnam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitānī, tertiam quī ipsōrum linguā Celtae, nostrā Gallī appellantur. Hī omnēs linguā, institūtis, lēgibus inter sē differunt.

appell-ō, -āre, 1, call, name.

Aquitān-i, -ōrum, m., the Aquitani or Aquitanians (a people located on the Atlantic coast above the Pyrenees, the mountains that separate the Iberian peninsula from Gaul).

Celt-ae, -ārum, m., the Celts or Kelts, the Celtae.

commentāri-us, -ī, m. [commentor, consider], notebook, journal; report; commentary.

differō, differre, distulī, dilātum [ferō, carry. App. §81], scatter, spread; put off, defer; be different, differ.

dī-vidō, -videre, divīsī, divisum, divide, distribute, separate.

Gallīc-us, -a, -um, adj. [Gallia, Gaul], pertaining to Gaul or the Gauls, Gallic. incol-ō, -ere, -uī, — [colō, cultivate], inhabit, dwell in.

institūt-um, -ī, n., established plan or principle; custom, institution, habit.

lēx, lēgis, f., law, statute.

lib-er, -rī, m., book, work, treatise.

lingu-a, -ae, f., language, tongue.

1. Gallia: Gaul or the territories known today as France and northern Italy. From the Roman perspective, the Alps divided Gaul on "this side (cis) of the Alps" from the Gaul that was "across (trans) the Alps": Gallia Cisalpina vs. Gallia Transalpina. Another Gaul was the area beyond the Alps, but along the Mediterranean, which the Romans frequently called Provincia or "the Province." To this day, the French call the area "Provence." Caesar refers in this passage to the part of Gaul not yet under Roman rule.

omnis: "as a whole"; that is, if one looks at the entire territory, one finds three major ethnic groups among which territory has been "distributed."

1-2. partēs . . . incolunt: note the ellipsis (which is to leave out something that can be supplied from context) of the words pars and incolunt in the rest of the sentence: quārum (partium) ūnam (partem) incolunt Belgae, aliam (partem) incolunt Aquitānī, tertiam (partem) incolunt, etc.

2. quī = eī quī.

linguā: abl. of means; see App. §143.

2-4. linguā, institūtis, lēgibus: abl. of respect or specification; see App. §149. Caesar does not use a conj. in this list. This is common in Latin, and is called ASYNDETON. Feel free to supply an "and" in your translation.

3. nostrā: again, ellipsis, this time of linguā.

- 5 Gallōs ab Aquitānīs Garumna flūmen, ā Belgīs Matrona et Sēquana dividit. Hōrum omnium fortissimī sunt Belgae, proptereā quod ā cultū atque hūmānitāte prōvinciae longissimē absunt, minimē que adeōs mercātōrēs saepe commeant atque ea quae ad effēminandōs animōs pertinent important, proximīque sunt Germānīs, quī trāns Rhēnum incolunt, quibuscum continenter bellum gerunt.

absum, abesse, āfuī, — [sum, be. App. §78], be away, be distant, be lacking.
anim-us, -ī, m., mind; character; spirit, soul; courage.
Aquitān-ī, -ōrum, m., the Aquitani or Aquitanians (a people located on the Atlantic coast above the Pyrenees, the mountains that separate the Iberian peninsula from Gaul).
commeō, 1 [meō, go], go back and forth; with ad, resort to, visit.
continenter, adv. [continēns, continuous], continually.
cult-us, -ūs, m. [colō, cultivate], civilization; lifestyle; dress; religious worship.
di-vidō, -videre, divīsī, divīsum, divide, distribute, separate.
effēminō, 1 [ex + fēmina, woman], make effeminate, weaken.
fort-is, -e, adj., strong, brave.
Garumn-a, -ae, m., the Garumna or Garonne, a river that formed the boundary between Aquitania and Celtic Gaul.

hūmāni-tās, -tātis, f. [hūmānus, human], humanity, culture, refinement.
importō, 1 [in + portō, carry], carry or bring in, import.
incol-ō, -ere, -uī, — [colō, cultivate], inhabit, dwell in.
Matron-a, -ae, m., the river Matrona, now called the Marne.
mercāt-or, -ōris, m. [mercor, trade], merchant, trader.
minimē, adv. [minimus, least], least, very little; not at all.
proptereā, adv. [propter, because of], on this account; proptereā quod, because.
saepe, adv., often, frequently.
Sēquan-a, -ae, m., the river Sequana, now called the Seine. It flows across much of northern Gaul, and, more famously today, flows through Paris.
trāns, prep. with acc., across, beyond, over.

5. Garumna flūmen: flūmen agrees with and is in apposition to Garumna; see App. §95, b.

5–6. Gallōs . . . dividit: Caesar achieves his terse style in large measure through the ease with which Latin writers can, thanks to the clarity of Latin inflection, use ellipsis. You will need to supply Gallōs, flūmen, and dividit where appropriate to make sense of the grammar.

6. dividit: sing., because verb agrees with each river separately.

Hōrum: partitive gen.; see App. §101.

7. prōvinciae: Caesar appears to argue that proximity to as sophisticated and refined

lifestyle (cultū atque hūmānitāte) makes men less warlike. The main city in the Province was Massilia (now Marseilles), originally a Greek colony, and the merchants who operated from this base had much to sell (wine, for example) that could shift men's thoughts from war to pleasure. Caesar looks ahead to his narrative about fighting Germans, whom here reckon seven more warlike than the Gauls.

7–8. quod . . . absunt: for the indicative mood, as Caesar gives his own reason, see App. §244.

8. minimē . . . saepe: employing the figure of speech called LITOTES, Caesar negates "often" with "least," hence "very seldom."

- Quādēcausā Helvētiī quoque reliquōs Gallōs virtūte praecēdunt, quod ferē cotidiānis proeliis cum Germānis contendunt, cum aut suis finibus eos prohibent aut ipsi in eorum finibus bellum gerunt.
- 15 Eōrum ūna pars, quam Gallōs obtinēre dictum est, initium capit ā flūmine Rhodanō, continētur Garumnā flūmine, Ōceanō,

con-tendō, -tendere, -tendī, -tentum [tendō, stretch], push forward, hasten; march; fight; maintain.
cotidiān-us, -a, -um, adj. [cotidiē, daily], daily; customary.
Garumn-a, -ae, m., the Garumna or Garonne, a river that formed the boundary between Aquitania and Celtic Gaul.
init-ium, -i, n. [inēō, go into], beginning, commencement, origin; edge of a country, borders.

ob-tineō, -tinēre, -tinuī, -tentum [teneō, hold], hold, retain, possess, maintain; acquire.
Ōcean-us, -ī, m., the ocean.
prae-cēdō, -cēdere, -cessī, -cessum [cēdō, go], go before; surpass, excel.
prohibeō, 2 [habeō, hold], keep from, prevent, prohibit; keep out or away from; guard.
quoque, conj., following the word emphasized, also, too, likewise.

12. Quā dē causā: conjunctio relativa: the rel. is used as a conj., and the phrase is thus equivalent to et dē eā causā; see App. §173. virtūte: abl. of respect or specification.

12–14. Helvētiī . . . suis . . . ipsi: the reflex. suis refer to the subject, i.e., the Helvetii, and ipsi, the intensive pron., serves to remind readers that the Helvetii remain the subject.

13. proeliis: abl. of means, but "in battles," because preps. do not map neatly from language to language. Work to adjust your translation to respect English idioms and rules.

13–14. Germānis . . . eos . . . eōrum: Caesar uses the non-reflex. pron. eos and eōrum to refer to the Germans because they are not the subject.

14. suis finibus: abl. of separation; see App. §134.

15. Eōrum: poss. gen.; see App. §99.

Eōrum ūna pars: partitive gen. (in reference, presumably, to all the parts belonging to all of the various Gauls previously

mentioned). Most readers find the rest of this chapter vague; harsh critics have gone further. A map helps to some extent, but difficulties remain. Some scholars believe that the rest of this chapter was not actually written by Caesar, but inserted by someone who thought we needed more geography, and some texts even omit the section altogether.

quam . . . Gallōs: quam is the direct object and Gallōs is the subject of the inf. obtinēre; see App. §123. The whole phrase in turn is the subject of the impers. verb dictum est; see App. §266. The syntax is difficult to parse, but the meaning is clear: "which it has been said the Gauls possess."

16. ā flūmine: the river forms a boundary "from which" the writer imagines that the territory begins, but experiment with other prep. in English, e.g., "at," "on," "along," "on the side of," etc. Look at the map: using the river as your guide, how would you describe the geography?