

WEEK TWELVE:
The Formidable Opponent Returns – Jugurtha

Tuesday: Jugurtha I: Sallust's *Bellum Jugurthinum*

For Tuesday, we will begin reading Sallust's *Bellum Jugurthinum*. Gaius Sallustius Crispus (aka Sallust) was a politician, military commander, and, in his later days, historian of the first century BCE. His military and political career was tumultuous, marked by success and disaster, but he eventually came to be a staunch Caesarian in the Civil Wars of the 40s BCE. Sallust rendered a good deal of service to Caesar's side, which ultimately resulted in a governorship of Africa Nova. After Caesar's assassination, however, Sallust seems to have retired entirely from political life and devoted his time to writing history. The two surviving works of Sallust are his *Bellum Jugurthinum* (or *BJ*) and *Bellum Catalinae* (or *BC*), monographs covering a single war each. Sallust also wrote *Historiae*, probably covering about a decade worth of history from the mid-first century but are now lost, apart from a few fragments. Sallust's monographs are decidedly indebted to Thucydides, whose monograph of the Peloponnesian War is recalled verbally, thematically, and intertextually throughout both the *BJ* and *BC*.

Sallust's *Bellum Jugurthinum* covers Rome's involvement with a dynastic conflict in the North African kingdom of Numidia, an ally of Rome since the end of the Second Punic War. The Jugurthine War (111-105 BCE) came about after the previous king, Micipsa, divided his kingdom between his two legitimate sons, Adherbal and Hiempsal, and his adopted son, Jugurtha. After Jugurtha kills Hiempsal, he invades the portion of the kingdom ruled by Adherbal, who then flees to Rome to ask for help. After Roman envoys broker a peace in 116 BCE, Jugurtha again attacks Adherbal and traps him in Cirta, where he is eventually put to death by Jugurtha. After repeated attempts to solve the issue diplomatically, Rome ultimately declares war and invades Numidia. The consuls Bestia and Albinus conduct the first two seasons of campaigning, but Metellus (cos. 109) is the major player who first finds some success. As Metellus wages a slow war of attrition, one of his legates, Gaius Marius, was unhappy with the campaign and was pressing for the right to run for consulship. Metellus dismissed Marius, which ultimately allowed him to return to Rome and campaign for the consulship. After a successful election, Marius pushes for command of the war against Jugurtha, which he secures after a rousing speech to the assembly. After Marius takes command of the campaign, he finds considerable success but is unable to force Jugurtha to surrender. One of Marius' lieutenants, L. Cornelius Sulla, persuades Jugurtha's father in law and ally, Bocchus to trap Jugurtha, a ploy that finally ends the war.

Assignment:

- **Sallust, *Bellum Jugurthinum*, chs. 1-62** (= Batstone trans., pp. 52-93)
- **OPTIONAL:** the Introductions on Sallust and the *Bellum Jugurthinum* in our Batstone translation (pp. vii-xxxvii and 49-51)

Reading Questions:

- How does Sallust characterize the period of history which he is describing? Why does Sallust focus on this event and what is it supposed to demonstrate to his audience?
- How does Sallust describe Jugurtha's character, physical demeanor, and behavior? To what (or to whom) does Sallust attribute Jugurtha's successes?

- How does Adherbal describe the actions of his adopted brother (and now enemy) to the Roman Senate? How do the Romans behave in the series of exchanges between them and Adherbal and Jugurtha? Whose actions ultimately prove most harmful to the efforts for peace?
- What does Sallust's description of Africa add to his account? How does it relate to other geographical and ethnographic digressions we have encountered?
- How does Sallust's digression on factionalism in Rome fit into his overall narrative?
- To what does Sallust attribute the social, political, and military changes that occurred in Rome in the late second and early first centuries?

Thursday: Jugurtha II

For Thursday, we will finish our reading of Sallust's *Bellum Jugurthinum*. The second half of the work has many parallels to the first, with some of the major characters now exchanging roles. Pay close attention to how Rome responds to the changing tides of the conflict in Africa and how Sallust explains the causes and effects of Rome's successes and failures.

Assignment:

- **Sallust, *Bellum Jugurthinum*, chs. 63-end** (= Batstone trans., pp. 93-127)

Reading Questions:

- What leads to the rift that forms between Metellus and Marius? How does this compare to the behavior of the African nobles involved in this conflict?
- How does Jugurtha respond to failure or the suspicious behavior of his friends and allies?
- What does Sallust say about Marius' election to the consulship? How does Marius' speech to the assembly fit into Sallust's overall narrative and his larger points about the function of Rome? What does Marius suggest is the reason for the failures against Jugurtha up to that point?
- In Marius' final series of engagements, how does Sallust describe the behaviors of Marius, Jugurtha, Sallust, and Bocchus? How are the Romans able to find success? What leads to the Africans' defeat?
- How does Sallust end the *BJ*? What might this suggest for his outlook on Rome and how does it fit into his larger points about the development of the Roman state?

People, Terms, Events and Concepts, to know from Week Twelve:

Gaius Sallustius Crispus (Sallust)	Cirta	Bomilcar
<i>Bellum Jugurthinum</i>	Adherbal's letter to Rome	Bomilcar's conspiracy
Numidia	L. Calpurnius Besta	Bocchus
Jugurtha	Gaius Memmius	the Philaeni
Adherbal	Sp. Postumius Albinus	Marius' Election to Consulship
Adherbal's speech to the Senate	Factionalism in Rome	Marius' Assembly Speech
Micipsa	Q. Caecilius Metellus	Capsa
Scipio Aemilianus	River Muthul	Lucius Cornelius Sulla
Digression on Africa	Zama	Sulla's speech to Bocchus
	Gaius Marius	
	Vaga	