

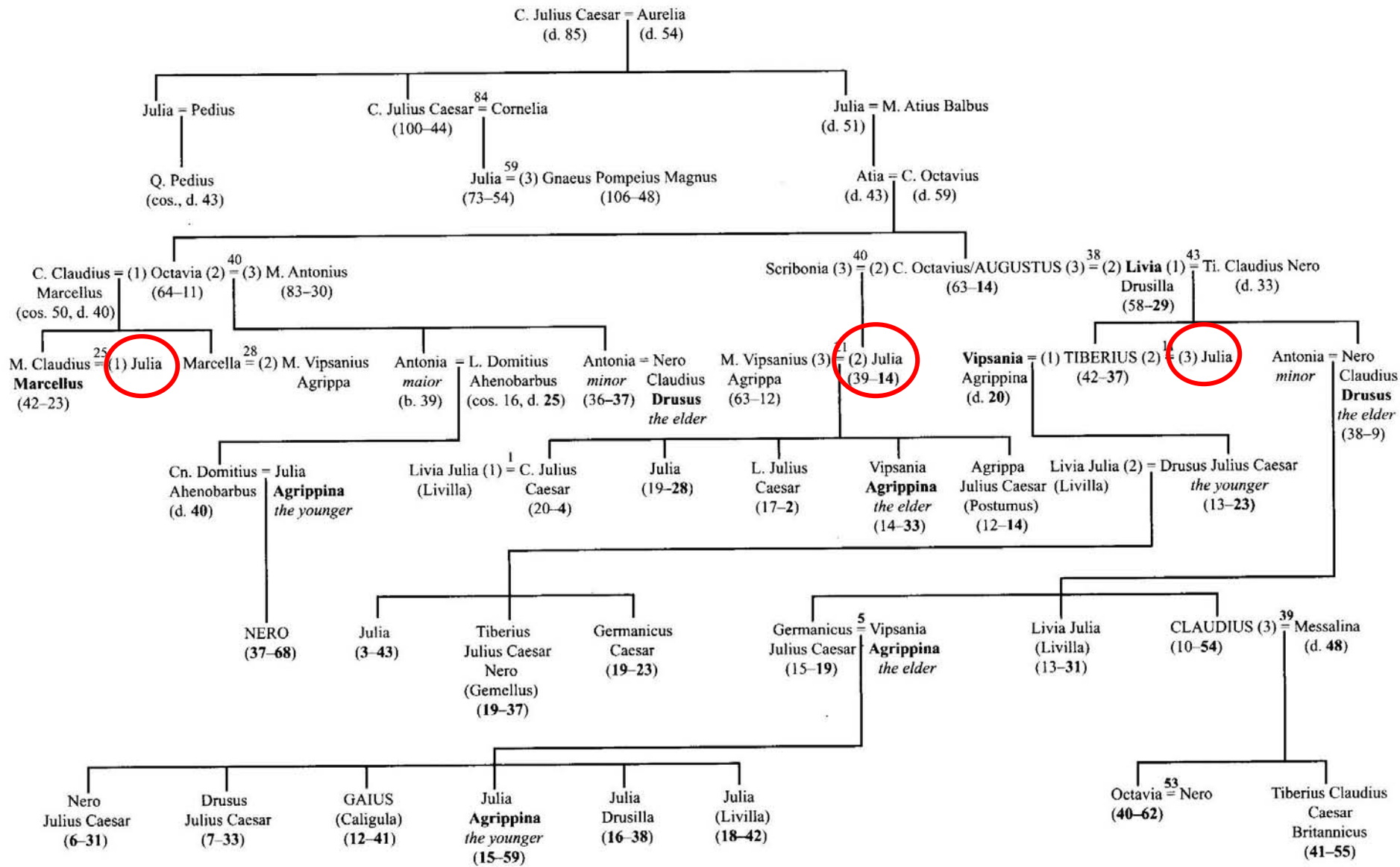
High Politics  
from  
the Julio-Claudians to the Flavians

# Julia



- Married to Marcellus in 25 BC
- ...then to Agrippa in 21 BC...
- ...and then to Tiberius in 11 BC.

Image by Pierre Selim. This image is in the public domain.  
Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).



Boatwright, Mary T., Daniel J. Gargola, Noel Lenski, et al. *The Romans: From Village to Empire: A History of Rome from Earliest Times to the End of the Western Empire*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

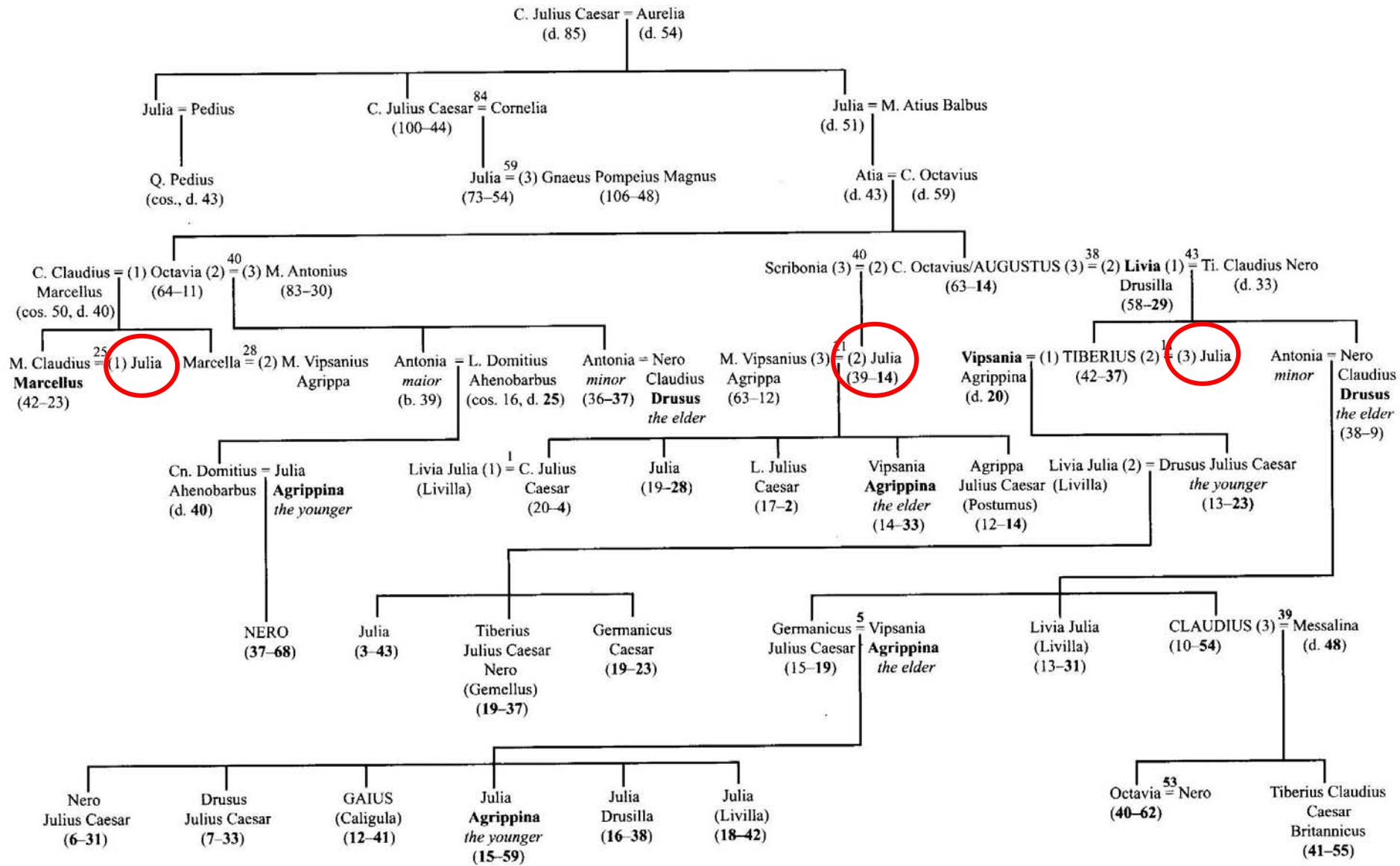
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# Agrippa

- Married to Julia in 21 BC
- Sons:
  - Gaius, Lucius, and Agrippa Postumus
- Died in 12 BC

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# Gaius and Lucius Caesar

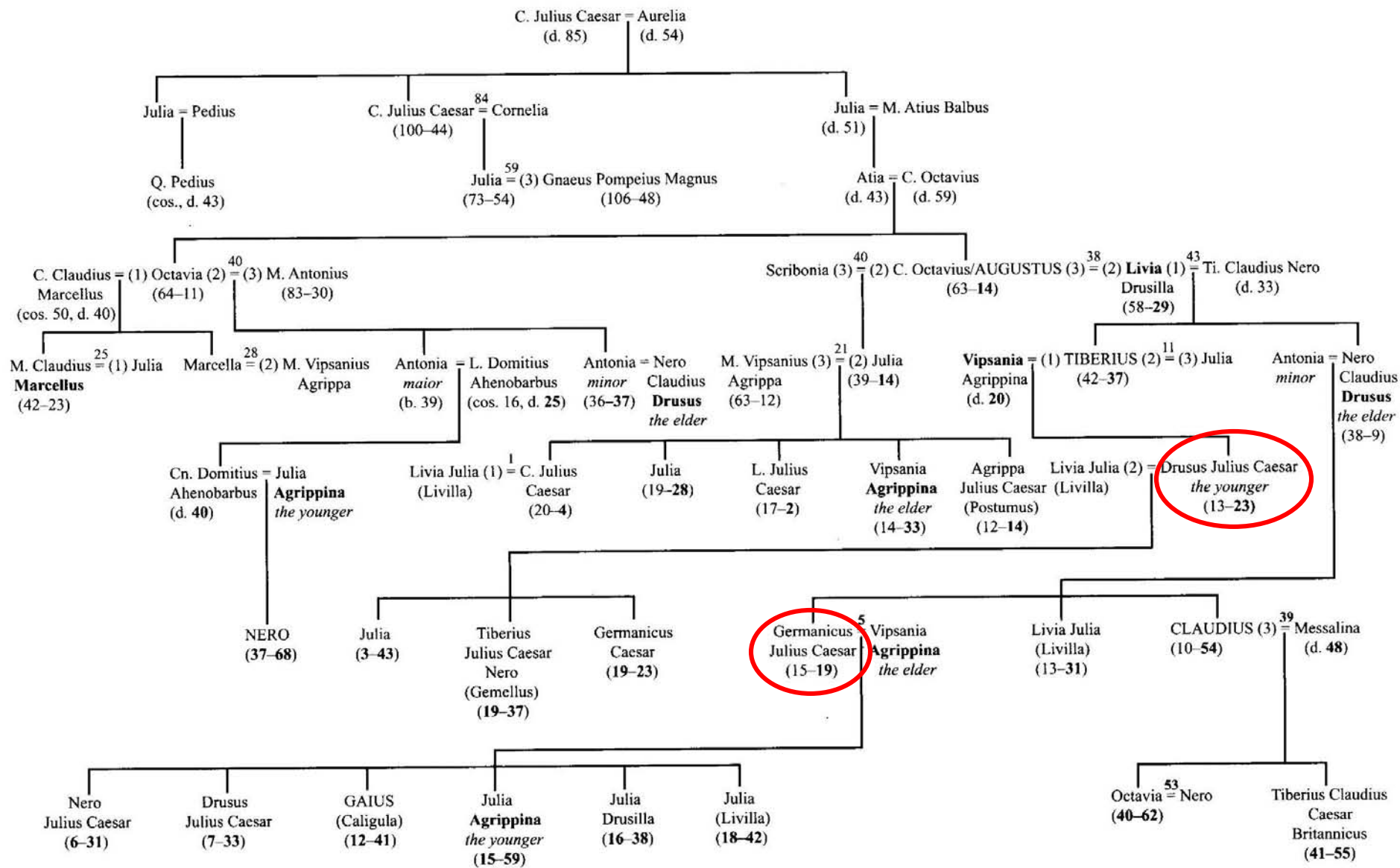
Sons of Augustus, Consuls designate, Leaders of the Youth, Caius and Lucius Caesar

# Tiberius

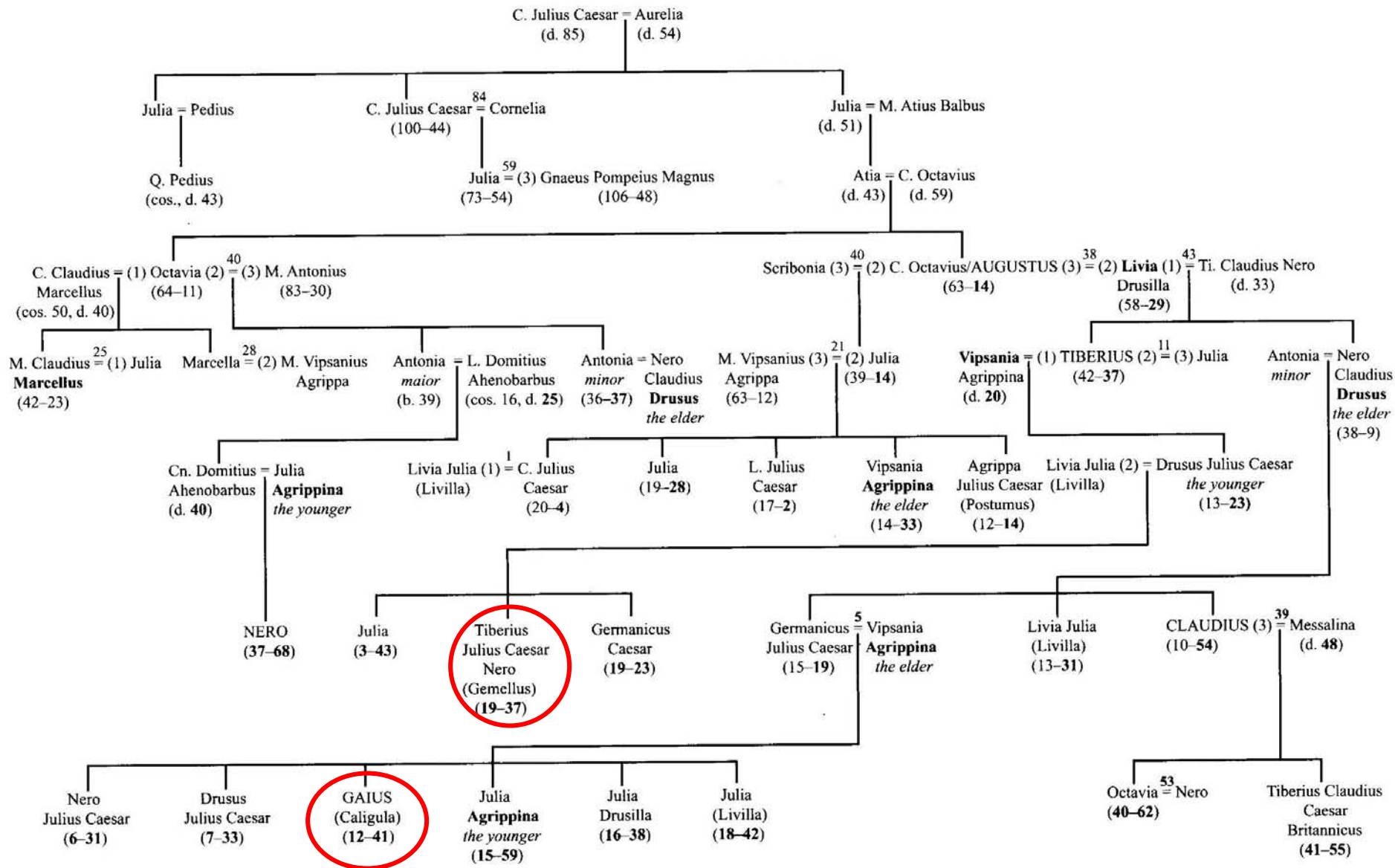


- Married to Julia in 11 BC
- Adopted by Augustus in AD 4
- Tribunician Power
- Proconsular imperium
- Princeps AD 14 - 37

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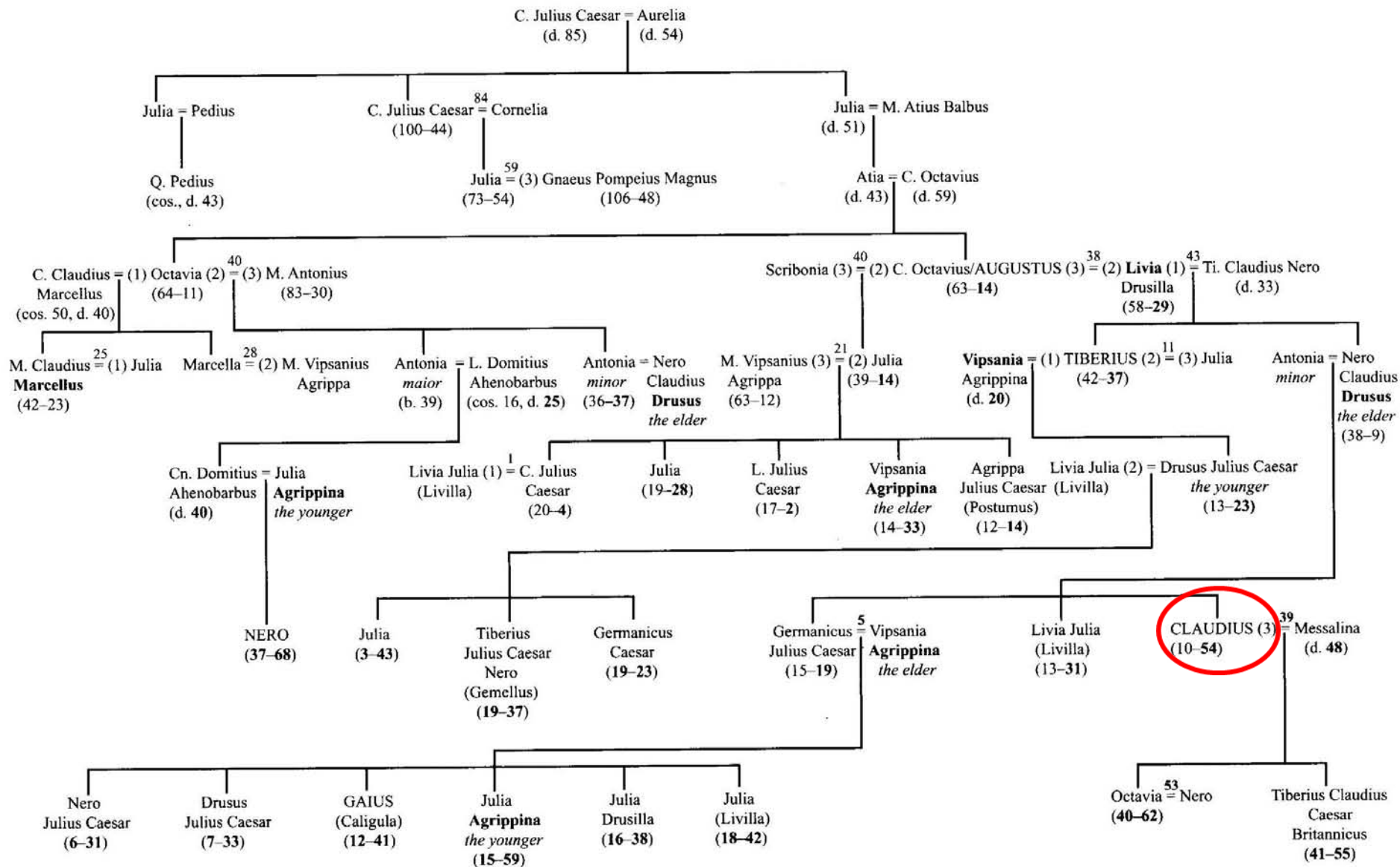
# Gaius Caligula to Claudius



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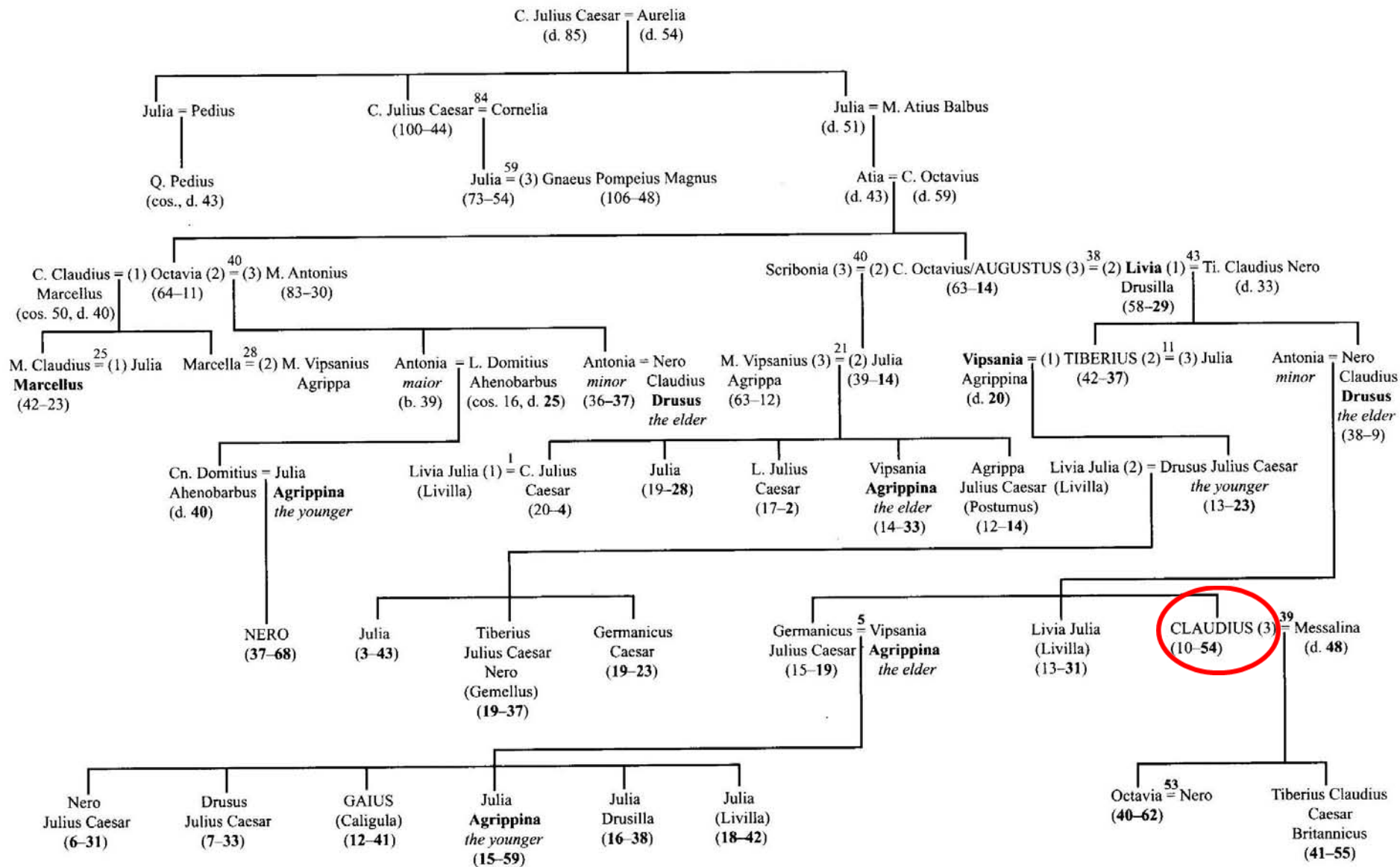
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# The Accession of Claudius

Claudius was disturbed by all this and alarmed for his own safety... There he stood in an alcove to which a few steps led, tucked away in the dark. Gratus, one of the Praetorian Guard, caught sight of him, but was unable to make out his features well enough to recognize him in the dim light... He approached nearer, and when Claudius asked him to withdraw, he pounced upon Claudius and caught him. On recognizing him, he cried to his followers, 'Here is a Germanicus: let us set him up as emperor and move fast.'

Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities* 19.216-7



# The Julio-Claudian Emperors

Augustus                      27 BC – AD 14

Tiberius                      14 – 37

Gaius Caligula              37 – 41

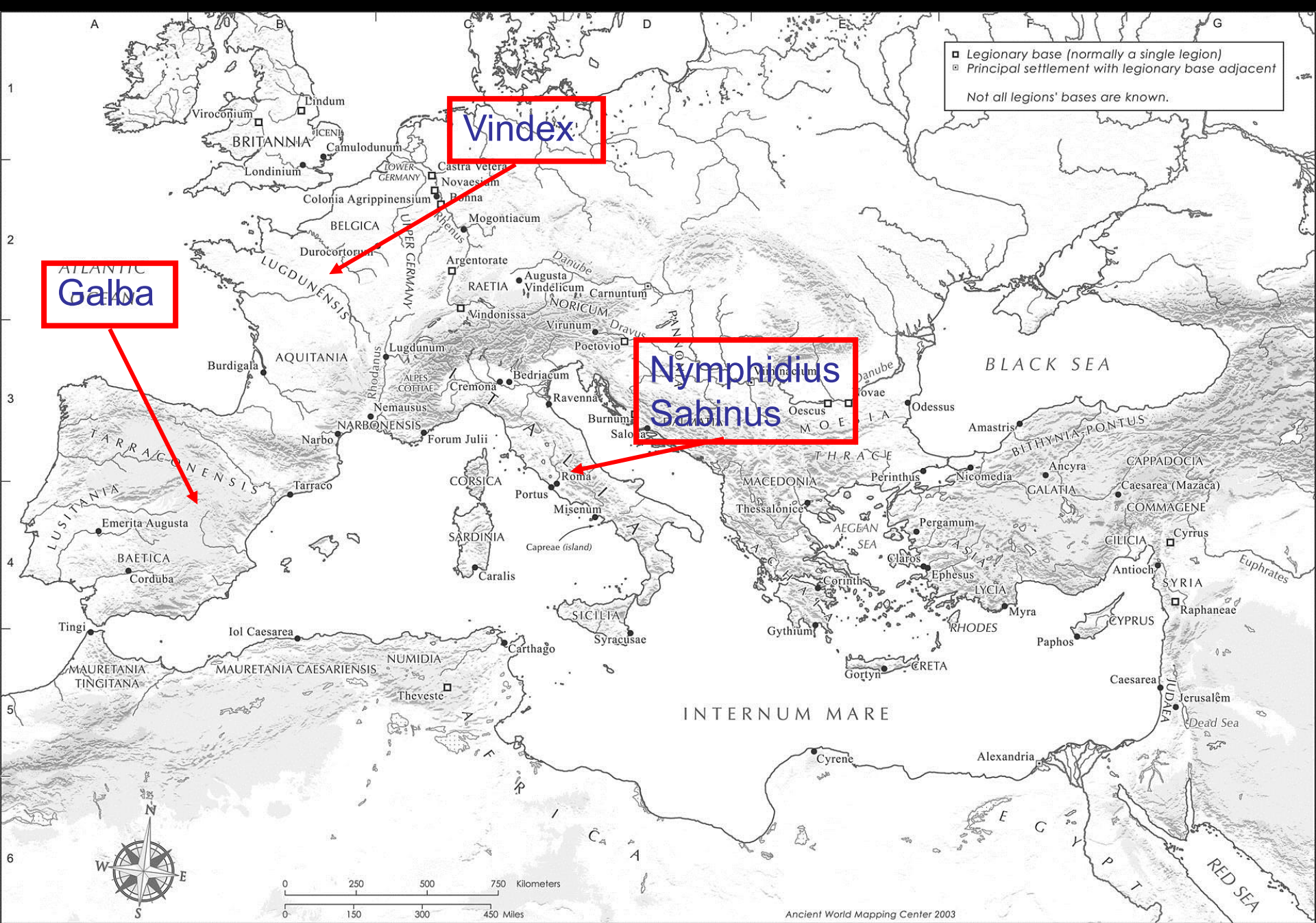
Claudius                      41 – 54

Nero                            54 – 68

# Nero 54-68



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# Year of the Four Emperors, AD 69

- Galba                      Spanish Legions / Praetorians
- Otho                        Praetorians
- Vitellius                  German Legions
- Vespasian                Eastern Legions

# Suetonius, *Galba* 16

‘But loudest of all was the grumbling of the army in Upper Germany, because it was defrauded of the reward for its services against the Gauls and Vindex. Hence they were the first to venture on mutiny, refusing on the Kalends of January to swear allegiance to anyone save the senate, and at once resolving to send a deputation to the praetorians with the following message: that the emperor created in Spain did not suit them and the Guard must choose one who would be acceptable to all the armies.’



# Vitellius



A VITELLIVS GERM IMP AVG TR P  
A. Vitellius Germanicus, Imperator,  
Augustus, with Tribunician Power



LIBERI IMP GERM AVG  
Children of the Emperor  
Germanicus Augustus

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# Cassius Dio on AD 69 (64.9)

‘They (the Senate) hated him (Otho) most of all, however, because he had shown that the imperial office was for sale and had put the City in the power of the boldest spies; also because he held the senate and the people in slight esteem, and had convinced the soldiers of the fact that they could both kill and create a Caesar.’

From *Cassius Dio: Roman History*. Translated by Earnest Cary.  
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# Plutarch on AD 69 (*Galba* 1.6)

‘But the Roman Empire was a prey to convulsions and disasters like those caused by the Titans of mythology, being torn into many fragments, and again in many places collapsing upon itself, not so much through the ambition of those who were proclaimed emperors, as through the greed and licence of the soldiery, which drove out one commander with another as nail drives out nail.’

# The Flavians



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Vespasian 69-79



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Titus 79-81



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Domitian 81-96





# DOMITIAN

‘Dominus et Deus’

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# Tacitus, *Histories* 1.16

If the mighty structure of the empire could stand in even poise without a ruler, it were proper that a republic should begin with me. But as it is, we have long reached such a pass that my old age cannot give more to the Roman people than a good successor, or your youth more than a good emperor. Under Tiberius, Gaius, and Claudius, we Romans were the heritage, so to speak, of one family; the fact that we emperors are now beginning to be chosen will be for all a kind of liberty; and since the houses of the Julii and the Claudii are ended, adoption will select only the best; for to be begotten and born of princes is mere chance, and is not reckoned higher, but the judgment displayed in adoption is unhampered; and if one wishes to make a choice, common consent points out the individual.

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