



TIME LINE

Apologia: This is not intended as a complete time line of Roman civilization, but a bare outline to put the events of the novel, *GETORIX: The Eagle and The Bull*, into its historical context.

The early Roman calendar was imprecise – so imprecise that Gaius Julius Caesar undertook a major reform of it in the first century BCE. Even that calendar, though it was used in the western world for over fifteen hundred years, proved not entirely accurate. The dates given are based on the Gregorian calendar we use today, and are generally accepted – at least according to my survey of available literature.

753 BCE Founding of Rome. (traditional) Romulus was the first king

625 BCE Founding of Rome. (historical)

510 BCE Founding of the Republic.

Overthrow of King Lucius Tarquinius Superbus (Tarquin the Proud) by a group of nobles led by Lucius Junius Brutus.

510 - Roman Republic.

23 BCE

Rome was ruled by elected leaders. Two consuls were elected each year, and they served as both civil leaders and military commanders. The Senate, had the power to approve or overrule the Consuls' civil decisions. Senate members were admitted by a combination of heredity nobility, wealth, and election to certain civil offices. During this time, the power of Rome grew until it influenced much of the world its people knew. But it was still ruled as a city, rather than the capital of a county.

387 BCE Brennus' invasion of Rome:

At least two versions of the story exist. One says that Brennus, chieftan of the Celtic Senone tribe, laid siege to the Roman Citadel and was only persuaded to leave after collecting 1,000 pounds of gold. Another version adds the Roman general Camillus, recalled from exile to save the city, who arrived in time to defeat and kill Brennus. In the novel, *GETORIX: The Eagle and The Bull*, Lucius and Getorix argue over the details of the story.

120? - Celtic migrations through Europe.

101 BCE

One theory is that this migration of Celtic tribes from northern Europe and Scandinavia was triggered by climate change and flooding in the lands bordering the North Sea. Whatever the cause, thousands of men, women, children, wagons and cattle wandering through lands claimed by other Celtic peoples was a threat to those whose homelands were being "invaded" and to the influence of Rome. Roman legions faced the people they called the "Cimbri" or "Germans" several times in Europe, and the Celts either won the encounters or did great damage to the legions they faced.

107 BCE First consulship of Gaius Marius:

Marius was a "new man", born in the farming town of Arpinum rather than Rome. He distinguished himself as an aide to consul and general Quintus Caecilius Metellus during military service in north Africa.

105 BCE Battle of Aurasio.

The "Cimbri" met two separate Roman armies (functioning separately because one commander felt the other was a "social inferior" and refused to work with him), crushed both, killing nearly 80,000 legionaries.

105 BCE Second consulship of Gaius Marius,

The Roman "constitution" (which was a collection of accepted laws and practices rather than a formal document like ours) required ten years between a man's terms as consul. (Though he might serve as "proconsul" – one with consular powers – as a military commander or provincial governor, with senate approval.) The threat of invasion by the Cimbri persuaded the Senate to make an exception – and they continued to make exceptions for Marius.