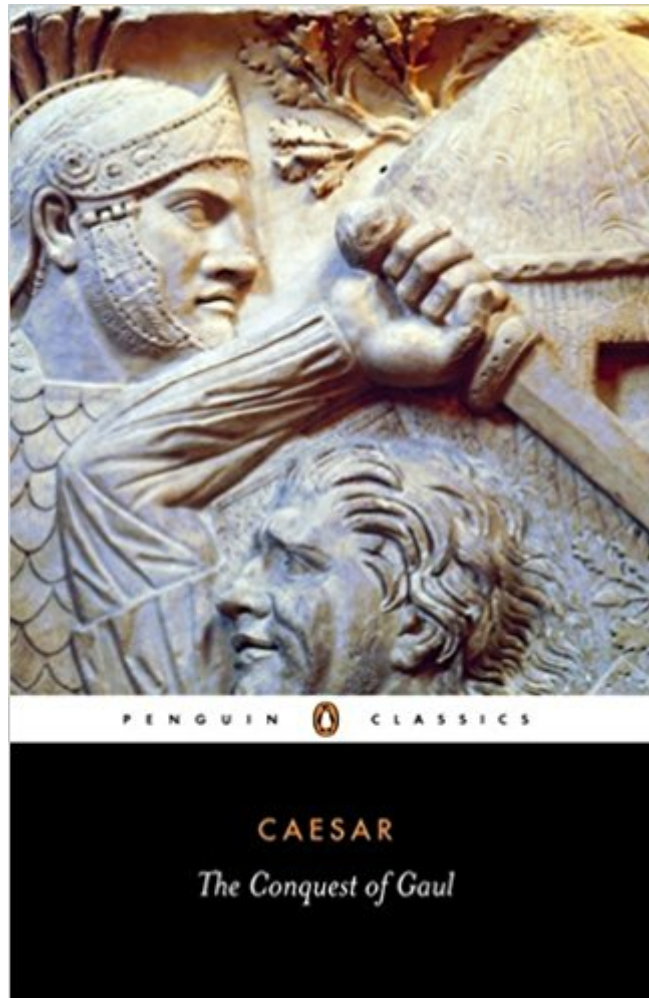




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# The Conquest Of Gaul (Penguin Classics)





## Synopsis

Between 58 and 50 BC Caesar conquered most of the area now covered by France, Belgium and Switzerland, and twice invaded Britain. This is the record of his campaigns. Caesar's narrative offers insights into his military strategy & paints a fascinating picture of his encounters with the inhabitants of Gaul and Britain, as well as offering lively portraits of a number of key characters such as the rebel leaders and Gallic chieftains. This can also be read as a piece of political propaganda, as Caesar sets down his version of events for the Roman public, knowing that he faces civil war on his return to Rome. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres... It is, perhaps, the most famous opening line of any memoir in Western civilization. What Caesar and the Romans called "Gaul," although we usually think of it as France, also comprised Belgium, the German lands west of the Rhine, southern Holland, and much of Switzerland. This is the only military campaign of the ancient world for which we have a chronicle written by the general who conducted it, and Julius Caesar is an insightful historian, with a keen eye



for detail, as in this scene from the repulsion of the forces of the German king Ariovistus: Caesar placed each of his five generals ahead of a legion and detailed his quaestor to command the remaining legion, so that every soldier might know that there was a high officer in a position to observe the courage with which he conducted himself, and then led the right wing first into action, because he had noticed that the enemy's line was weakest on that side.

Text: English, Latin (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Julius Caesar was one of the greatest military and political minds who ever lived. Reading Caesar's Gallic war memoirs a second time after the passage of nearly 50 years was a great reading experience for me. I first read it in my high school Latin class in the early 1960s, but most of what I had remembered was the Latin words and grammar, rather than the narrative itself. Caesar knew how to tell a rip-roaring adventure story. More than two millennia later his story is still exciting, with vivid descriptions of battles and the character of his adversaries, as well as enlightening explanations of why he used the particular strategies that he did. Of course he had a political motivation for writing his story the way he did, which makes the book even more complex and interesting. I'd strongly recommend reading this book in tandem with Machiavelli's *THE PRINCE* just to show how mutually supportive both books are. I basically liked the translation, despite the amusing Britishisms. (Example: "There were only five hundred of them, but the mere fact that German aid had come was enough to make these natives cock-a-hoop.") But I know how deadly some Latin translations can be when the translator sticks too closely to the Latin grammar. This translation is very readable with excellent notes by translator S.A. Handford and editor Jane Gardner. My only real complaint is that the maps at the back of the book are not nearly detailed enough to really be useful. This generally is considered one of the most important books ever written for many reasons. I'd recommend this translation, but I'd also suggest getting Chris Scarre's *THE PENGUIN HISTORICAL ATLAS OF ANCIENT ROME*, to enhance and further clarify the experience. Five stars.

The Conquest of Gaul, by Julius Caesar describes his actions in what is now France. He carefully describes tribes that still exist in some form in Europe today, the Belgica, the Helvetii, etc. are still recognizable nations. What is overall surprising is that the Gauls are so technologically advanced. In one case they undermine a Roman garrison as they are "familiar with underground works." On the whole though, the book appears as a self serving political tool. Caesar writes about killing a



whopping number of Gauls in between harvesting grain, marching around, and building camps. Unlike The Wars of the Jews-where siege engines are the main weapon, in Gaul the Roman Infantry and their swords win the day in open plain maneuver. A great glimpse into the political, economic, and military aspects of ancient North-West Europe.

Excellent item, I have no buyers regret. It has met or exceeded my expectations. I rocommend this product. Thank you

Top of the list for leadership history, ahead of Grant's memoirs and all others. Reads as smooth and simply as a Hemingway novel.

Great read, the similarities to modern politics are stunning!!!

Great classic read...

I was surprised to find it so readable, even if Caesar's account of things must be taken with skepticism. Smooth, flowing translation

An excellent insight into battlefield strategy and the human spirit

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