

Caput III. *cisalpine Gaul and transalpine Gaul*

The Introduction. Hannibal's march across the Alps to the Po valley, introduces a Celtic noun and Gallic concepts to the narrative: **poenus**, -i. 2n, noun. A **peak** of a mountain, from Celtic vocabulary: **Pennine** 'of the Alps'. And further, **poenus** and **Punicus** may be cited interchangeably adds depth and detail. Talk of **cisalpine Gaul** is curiosity satisfying...

cisalpine Gaul. The Romans conceived their dominion of the Italian Peninsula extended only as far as the Apennine foothills. Beyond the foothills there was alpine terrain, the Alps. The Alps had proven to be a 'false friend', for Hannibal had successfully breached the mountains and threatened Rome's existence. Did Rome have a policy beyond annihilating Hannibal?

By the 6th century BCE, Celtic peoples from northern regions – a broadly defined arch extending from the Belgium's English Channel coast, across the Netherlands, Denmark, and northern Germany – had traversed the Alps and had settled in areas the **near** or **cis**-side of the alps (relative to Rome). Archaeological evidence attests to the presence of a warrior culture. By the 5th and 4th centuries BCE, the Celtic presence had grown. Livy, the Roman writer, comments about Gallic settlements in the **Po valley**. The **Insubres** tribe had settled in the area of **Mediolanum**, an area in-and-about **Milan**. Other tribes, such as the **Cenomani**, **Libui**, **Salui**, **Boli**, and the **Lingones** followed. The last of the Celtic peoples were the **Senones**. The **Senones** settled in a strip of land adjacent to the **Adriatic**. The tribal occupation had been gradual infiltration versus violent invasion. The occupied area was now known as **ager Gallicus**. Though a peaceful occupation the Celtic peoples had displaced Etruscan settlements. And, being Gallic, their Celtic culture ensured there was always a small-bit of raiding. Rome was attacked in 225 BCE. In response, Rome mounted a three-year campaign and captured **Mediolanum** in 222 BCE. To control the **ager Gallicus**, Rome established colonies. It was during the establishment of these colonies that Hannibal's invasion occurred. On the conclusion of the Punic Wars, the colonies were re-built and re-settled

After the conclusion of the **Social War**, 91-85 BCE; **cisalpine Gaul** was made a Roman province. The southern boundary of the new province was the **Rubicon River**

All **cisalpine Gaul** colonial settlers, not already citizens, were enfranchised. The **Transpadani**, persons not counted as settlers, such as the region's Celtic tribesmen, were denied citizenship. The non-enfranchisement policy of Celtic peoples became a bitter point. Pleas to correct the lack of citizenship were un-answered. Caesar in 49 BCE enfranchised the **Transpadani**. It is believed that Caesar had further plans for **cisalpine Gaul**, but his assassination intervened

In 42 BCE, Augustus re-organized the Italian peninsula into eleven administrative districts. **cisalpine Gaul** was districts VIII to XI inclusive

cisalpine Gaul was now an integral part of the Roman Empire: from **Britannia** to **Syria**, from **Germanica** to **Africa**

transalpine Gaul. From Rome's perspective **Gaul** comprised the area from the Pyrenees, the Mediterranean coast of modern France to the English Channel, the Atlantic to the Rhine and the western Alps. **transalpine Gaul** emerged as a geographical entity from the 1st century BCE to the 5th century CE

Rome, to safeguard a land route from Italy to Spain, created a special **Provincia**, with its capital at **Narbo** on **Lake Geneva**

Caesar during the period 58-50 BCE seized remaining Gallic territory on the grounds that Celtic tribes had attacked Rome

The following areas were extraterritorial of Gaul: **Britannia**, (first invaded by Caesar in 55-54 BCE and later by Claudius commencing in 43 CE), Celts of the **Danube** region, recent German immigrants in the north-east of Italy. The following were excluded, but covered under other agreements; the **Liguri** and **Iberi** Celtic tribes and, the **Graeci**

transalpine Gaul, unlike **cisalpine Gaul**, was *not* a national unit; it was legal Roman artefact

Overall, Rome's administration of transalpine Gaul was inconsistent, sometimes negligent. Caesar had founded **nation-states**, **civitates** with **urban centres**, **oppida**. The oppida's purpose was socio-economic. Also created and dispersed throughout were military colonies

Under the emperors **Provincia** acquired numerous city-states in their own rights

Romanization succeeded with Latin being the dominant language. Due to aggressive Roman public works construction **transalpine Gaul** acquired a road and river-canal networks which encouraged social integration and commerce. At the height of Empire, the estimated population numbered 10 million persons. Thought there were revolts, the revolts were localized, such as the revolt of 21 CE by the **Reveri**, **Aedui**, **Andecavi** and the **Turoni** tribes or the revolt of 69-70 CE by the **Batavi**, **Treveri**, and the **Lingones**. A further sign of Romanization was the demise of the pre-conquest aristocracy. For all these achievements, the Celtic peoples were often referred to as **Gallia comata**, **long-haired Gaul**

There is no single factor attributed to collapse. There is the weight of Empire, its division into two separate spheres. Internal civil strife, a shift in social focus with the rise of Christianity, the frontier and barbarian pressure, such as the **Franks** in 418 CE and the **Visigoths** in the 460s-70s CE. No grand stride, just cumulative small-steps...

The summary. If you discuss **cisalpine Gaul**, then you are obliged to cite **transalpine Gaul**, for no other reason than comparison and contrast. Roman attitudes are best summarized: **gens Gallorum** and **Gallia comata**