

entered into, Caesar, after holding the consulship, was to go to Gaul as proconsul or governor of the Roman province of Transalpine and Cisalpine Gaul and Illyricum for five years. To cement the union, Pompey married Julia, Caesar's daughter. As consul, Caesar accomplished many reforms in the interest of the people. He then went to Gaul and soon afterwards his term of office was extended to ten years. As proconsul he held military command and acted as magistrate of the assizes.

Campaigns in Gaul

For eight or nine years (58 B.C. to 49 B.C.) he campaigned in Gaul. Legally he exercised authority over only the southeastern portion of Gaul, but he soon found pretexts for asserting his power as far as the Atlantic and the Rhine. He compelled the Helvetians (or Swiss) to return home when about to seize the lands of their neighbours; drove the German prince Ariovistus out of Gaul, thus gaining the friendship of the Aeduians (*Bellum Gallicum*, Book I); conquered the Belgae, the north-western third of the Gallic nation (Book II); subdued the Veneti and thus brought the Atlantic coast under Roman sway (Book III); crossed to Britain twice and overawed its inhabitants; built a bridge across the Rhine and taught the Germans that they must stay at home (Books IV and V); quelled several revolts, and finally, after the desperate siege of Alesia, crushed a great insurrection under Vercingetorix (Books VI and VII).

During the winters between these campaigns it was his custom to return to Cisalpine Gaul and Illyricum and hold the assizes. He was thus able to be near Rome and keep alive his political influence in the city.