

What Were Julius Caesar's Bad Qualities and Characteristics?

[Teodor Dushniku](#) - Amateur Political Scientist

Well, let's begin with something that happened early in his life.

Background Vindictive

When he was younger, Julius was kidnapped by pirates and held for ransom. The whole time he was in captivity he vowed to the pirates that when he was freed he would crucify them all. The pirates just laughed it off, and they let Caesar read poetry to them. Later, when the ransom was paid Julius kept his word and hunted down the pirates crucifying every last one of them. So from this we can see he was vindictive.

Ruthless, Callous

During his battles throughout the Gallic wars Plutarch states that Caesar "killed a million Gauls and sold another million into slavery." During the final battle in Alessia in 52 BC, he was besieging the fortress by building a wall around it keeping the Gauls pegged in. Vercingetorix could no longer feed the citizens of Alessia so he had to expel them. Caesar did not allow those starved people out, so the citizens were trapped in a war zone slowly dying of hunger. So we can say from this that Caesar could be callous and ruthless.

This video covers it quite well. <https://youtu.be/5tqvggJHZSg>

Adulterous

We also find that Caesar slept with other women when he was married. Granted this wasn't considered unusual for a Aristocratic man to sleep around with other women while he was married, but its still immoral and shows a lack of fidelity. He had affairs with Servillia and Cleopatra while he was still married to Calpurnia.

So from this we can say he was adulterous.

Ambitious

After he had marched on Rome and then defeated Pompey and his allies at Pharsalus, Caesar had himself named as dictator for life. This basically granted the unlimited powers of dictator that were to be available for a short time, for his whole life.

Once during a procession when Caesar passed by the tribune Pontius Aquilia refused to stand for him. He then yelled at Aquilia saying, "*Come then Aquilia, take back the republic from me!*" And for some days afterward, Caesar would not make a promise without saying, "*That is, if Pontius Aquilia will allow me.*" From this we can see his ambition and breaking convention.

Arrogant, Egotistic

So here we can see that he was arrogant, entitled and egotistic.

So to compile them all together his worst qualities were is callousness/ruthlessness, arrogance, adultery, ambition and breaking the rules and vindictiveness.

Caesar was a complex man which is something to keep in mind. So, these characteristics don't tell the whole story of who he is. Just the bad side.