

After the disaster caused by Hannibal's invasion, we hear no more of the Taurini for almost two centuries, until they were drawn into Rome's cultural and political orbit. From the middle of the second century B.C.E, the Romans began to conquer and colonize the Ligurian coast and parts of the subalpine region of northwestern Italy, founding cities as they did so. They defeated the important tribe of the Salassi in northern Piedmont, and in about 100 B.C.E they founded a colony at Eporedia – the future Ivrea – as a strongpoint to control their territory. Further extensions of Roman influence into northwestern Italy followed, but the territory of the Taurini remained largely untouched until the middle of the first century. The decisive moment came when Julius Caesar crossed the Mont-Genèvre with five legions to begin the conquest of Gaul in 58 B.C.E. The Gallic war lasted for five years, and each winter Caesar and some of his troops crossed back into Italy; he may well have established his winter quarters on the site that would soon become Roman Turin. The region that is now Piedmont passed under Roman rule. Its population was granted Roman citizenship in 49 B.C.E, and it was formally incorporated as a province of the empire seven years later. Caesar's conquest of Gaul had made control of the lands of the Taurini and the Alpine passes a strategic necessity for Rome. The stage was now set for the Romans to found a town, as they did throughout their empire, to act as a military strongpoint and a center of government, and to control communication along the route over the Alps. They chose a site on the banks of the Po, close to its confluence with its tributaries the Dora Riparia, the Stura di Lanzo and the Sangone, at an easy crossing-place: this was the origin of the city of Turin.

3. *Augusta Taurinorum*.

The exact date of the foundation of Augusta Taurinorum – “the Augustan city of the Taurini”, to give it its full Roman name – is disputed, as are the circumstances in which it occurred: there may in fact have been two separate foundations, the first by Julius Caesar, the second by his successor the Emperor Augustus. This confusion stems in part from the two forms of the Roman colony's name. One form is “*Iulia Augusta Taurinorum*”, suggesting that it was founded either by Julius Caesar, presumably during his Gallic campaigns, or soon after his death by his followers, who named it in his honor. The more common form of the name, “*Augusta Taurinorum*”, has been taken to suggest on the other hand that the foundation did not take place until the reign of Cae-