

E. The Second Punic War (218-201 BC)

1. Neither the Romans nor the Carthaginians were satisfied with the outcome of the first war between them. They both immediately began preparations in anticipation of another conflict.
2. Rome conquered Sardinia, Corsica, Spain and northern Italy, turning them into provinces, The Carthaginians took over Iberia (the area occupied by Spain and Portugal today) sending their most accomplished general, Hamilcar Barca, to take over that region.
3. Hamilcar raised his children to hate Rome. He took his son Hannibal to a religious altar when Hannibal was nine, and made him swear an oath of eternal hostility to Rome.
4. Hamilcar also trained his son to become a great general, and after Hamilcar's death, once he was old enough, Hannibal took over the Carthaginian army in Spain.
5. Hannibal went on the offensive, taking an army through Spain and Gaul (France) into Italy. To avoid waiting Roman armies and achieve the element of surprise, Hannibal did not enter Italy along the Mediterranean coast. He drove his army over the Alps.
6. His army numbered some 40,000 and before the crossing, and included battle elephants. By the time he reached Italy, it had dwindled to 20,000.
7. Upon arriving in Italy, Hannibal faced three separate Roman armies in three major battles. Each time he was outnumbered, and each time he won. The Romans panicked. They destroyed the bridges into the city of Rome, and prepared for a siege. To make matters worse, the Gauls decided to join Hannibal, since they hated Roman rule. Hannibal's force was not large enough to lay siege to Rome, so he chose to attack other parts of Italy instead.
8. The Romans decided to replace the two consuls with a single "dictator" for six months. However, the dictator they chose, Fabius Maximums, believed that they could not defeat Hannibal, so he did nothing. The people grew impatient. They nicknamed Fabius "cunctator" -- the delayer / the procrastinator.
9. After Fabius' term as dictator was over, the next two consuls raised an army of 80,000, and led it against Hannibal. Once again, however, the Romans were defeated.
10. Hannibal's campaign in Italy lasted 16 years! Indeed, Hannibal might have been victorious, had he been able to increase the size of his army, and this nearly happened. His brother Hasdrubal brought an army into Italy and tried to join Hannibal, but Hasdrubal was stopped by the Romans.
11. The one general capable of stopping Hannibal, Publius Cornelius Scipio, had been sent by the Romans to Spain at the beginning of the war. While Hannibal was devastating Italy, Scipio was taking Spain away from Carthage. Employing a new strategy, the Romans decided to send Scipio to attack Carthage. The Carthaginians panicked and recalled Hannibal from Italy.
12. The two greatest generals from the two sides squared off in the Battle of Zama near Carthage in 202. It was Hannibal's first and only defeat.

F. The Subjugation of Carthage and the Conquest of Greece

1. After having suffered sixteen years of occupation by Hannibal's army, the Romans imposed a harsh peace on Carthage. They burned the Carthaginian navy in the harbor. All their battle elephants were also taken away. Carthage was forced to become a tributary ally of Rome and it was prohibited (as part of the "Pax Romana") from waging wars without Rome's permission.
2. Meanwhile, Philip V of Macedonia had made the mistake of allying with Carthage against Rome, so the Romans decided to punish Macedonia. The Greeks also decided to help Macedonia against Rome, which further angered the Romans.
3. After Macedonia was defeated, Greece was easy to take. Corinth, the leading city of Greece by this time, was destroyed in 146 BC, and Greece was turned into a Roman province.

G. Third Punic War (149 – 146 BC)

1. Rome's ally Numidia (modern Algeria) took advantage of the terms of the peace to attack Carthage. The Carthaginians chose to defend themselves without Roman permission.
2. Meanwhile, some people in Rome had become convinced that a rich Carthage, benefiting exceptionally from the Pax Romana, was a threat to Rome. They continued to hate Carthage because of the previous wars.
3. One Roman politician, Marcus Porcius Cato, finished every speech to the Roman Senate with a reminder, "Carthago delenda est." ("Carthage must be destroyed.")
4. When it was learned that Carthage had defended itself against Numidia despite the rules, the Romans demanded that the Carthaginians give up all their weapons.
5. Carthage was burned to the ground, and the fields were salted to destroy the crops. Carthage was no more.

H. Slavery and the Decline of the Republic

1. By the end of the Third Punic War (146 BC), the Romans had conquered Greece, Spain, and much of northern Africa and Turkey.
2. They had also enslaved many of the people of these regions.
3. Because there were so many slaves available to the Romans, slaves were not valued as highly as before. The price of slaves dropped, and Romans bought more of them.
4. The Romans also treated slaves very badly, because they could easily be replaced.
5. In Sicily, the first Roman province, the Romans held many slaves, and because they treated them so badly, there was a rebellion.
6. The Roman army was deployed to put down the rebellion, resulting in the *First Servile War (134-132 BC)*.
7. The Romans did not decide to give up slavery, even though in a republic, people are not supposed to rule each other. Slavery was practiced by all cultures in the world. They viewed it as a natural part of life, and could not see a way to abandon it.