

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 (Spain & Portugal), eventually putting a general named Hannibal in charge of it.
3. Hannibal then went on the offensive, leading his army of 40,000 plus battle elephants over the Alps.
4. By the time he reached Italy, he only had 20,000, but he had the “element of surprise”!
5. After Hannibal defeated three Roman armies, the Gauls decided to join him against Rome. His force was still not large enough to lay siege to Rome, so he chose to attack other parts of Italy instead.
6. 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 no attack him. The people grew impatient. They nicknamed Fabius “cunctator” -- the delayer.
7. Hannibal's campaign in Italy lasted 16 years! The one general capable of stopping Hannibal, Publius Cornelius Scipio, had been sent by the Romans to Spain at the beginning of the war.
8. Finally, the Romans leaders sent Scipio to attack Carthage. The Carthaginians panicked and recalled Hannibal from Italy.
9. 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.