



The Republican Crisis

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #24

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, December 8
Images Essay Due
- Tuesday, December 16
Images Essay Due
- Sunday, November 30
Responses for Week 14 Due

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Four things today

- The Punic Wars
- Rome in the East
- Consequences of Empire
- Optimates and Populares

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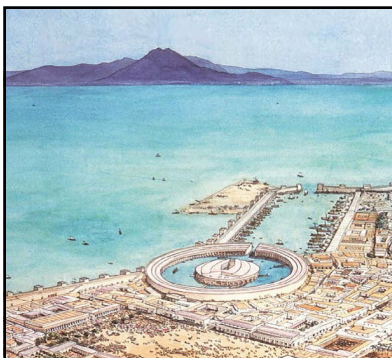
Questions about whatever



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The Punic Wars

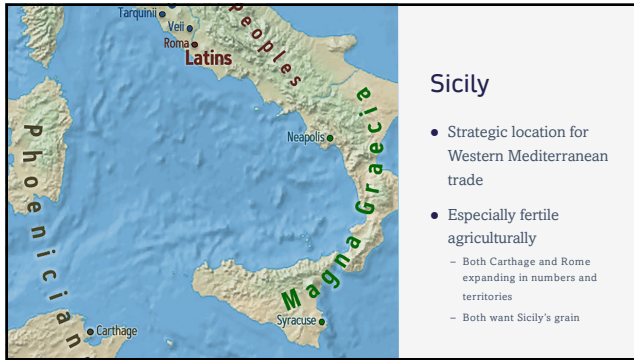
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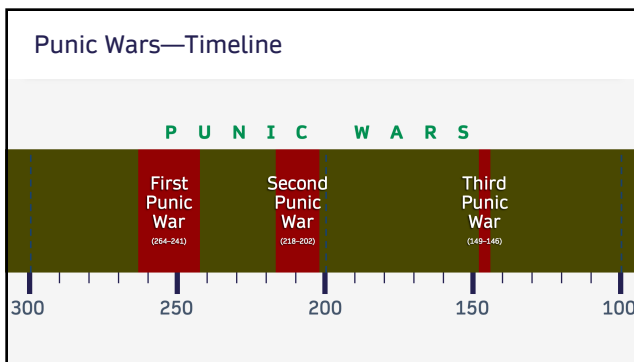
Carthage

- Phoenician colony founded in 8th century BCE
- Huge advantages of location
 - Natural harbors for wharfs and shipbuilding
 - Commands the strait between Africa and Sicily

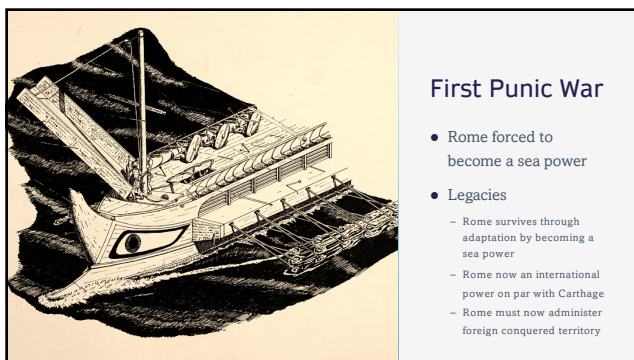
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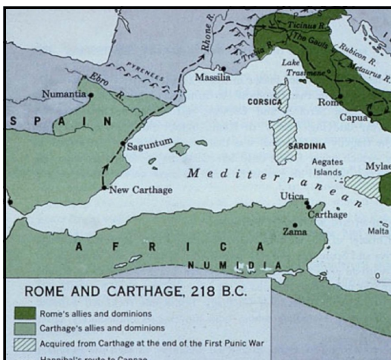
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Second Punic War

- Punitive terms of the peace open the way for the Second Punic war
- Younger generation in Carthage raised focused on revenge

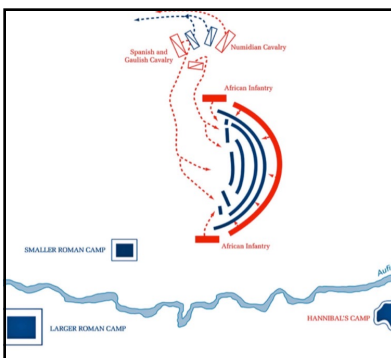
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Carthage and Rome in Spain

- Carthage and Rome both expanding into Spain
- Treaty of the Ebro defines Roman and Carthaginian territories
- Rome intervenes in Saguntum
- Carthage declares war
 - Hannibal gathers armies to invade Italy

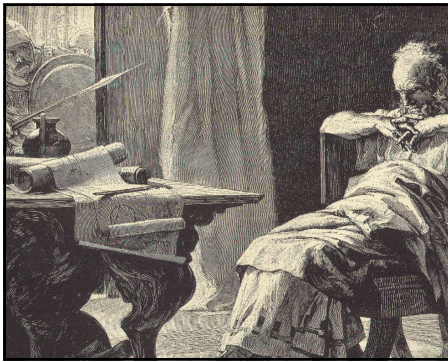
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Roman armies annihilated

- Battle of Trebia, 218
- Battle of Lake Trasimene, 217
- Battle of Cannae, 216

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Sack of Syracuse, 212

- Syracuse in Sicily allies with Carthage
- Romans blockade and besiege
- Fended off by Archimedes
- Romans sack the city
 - Archimedes killed
 - Wealth of Syracuse displayed in triumph

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Scipio and the Battle of Zama

- Roman strategy of defending Rome not enough
- Scipio argues they must attack Carthage
- Carthage utterly defeated at Zama

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Third Punic War

- Existence of Carthage still feels like a threat
- "Carthago delenda est" (Carthage must be destroyed)
- After 50 years, Romans invade Carthage
 - Carthage destroyed
 - Becomes Roman province of Africa

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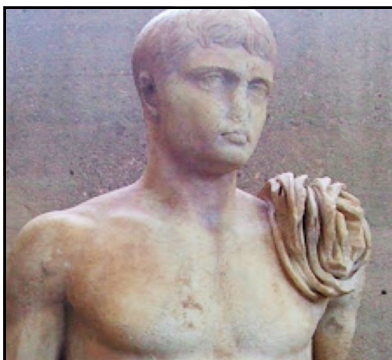
Roman Wars in the East

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The Hellenistic east



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Rome in the east

- Control of the west a head-to-head struggle with Carthage
- In the east, Rome gains influence slowly as a friend and ally
- Greek cities chafing under Hellenistic empires empowered by having an external ally

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In Greece: Liberator and destroyer

- With some, Rome is a friendly supporter and an external power
- For others, Rome is a fearsome enemy
- Corinth destroyed as an example

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Defeating the Hellenistic empires

- Battle of Magnesia (190)
 - Defeat of the Seleucid Empire
- Line in the sand (168)
 - Antiochus stopped from taking Egypt
- Battle of Pydna (168)
 - Defeat of Macedon
- Destruction of Corinth (146)

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The Consequences of Empire

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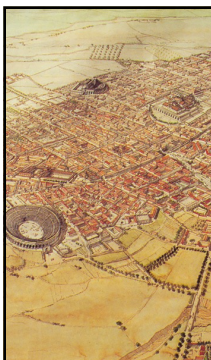
Hellenization

- Romans now ruling over a culturally more advanced society
- Consciously adopts Greek language and art
- By Caesar's time, to be an educated Roman is to speak Greek and quote Homer

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The problem of the provinces

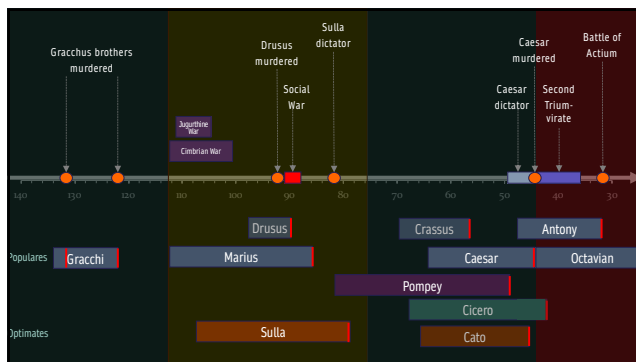
- Must be governed, but the Republic has no such officials
 - Consuls and praetors have their imperium extended
 - Sent out as governors (called *proconsuls* and *propraetors*)
- Promagistrates inherently undermine Republican principles
 - No colleague
 - Left in place for years
 - In command of a legion
 - No staff, so must rely on local nobles
- Provinces must be taxed, but no one to do that either
 - Tax collection outsourced to profit-seeking corporations, the *publicani*
 - Publicani gouge provinces for as much as they can
 - Hand over the amount senate asked for and keeps the rest
- The Republic is the government of the city-state of Rome
 - Not designed to handle the administration of anything outside Rome

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Divisions within the nobility

POPULARES	OPTIMATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders who seek popularity among the people of Rome Demonize the senate as oppressing the masses and protecting privilege at Rome's expense, especially in war Urge Romans to place their faith and trust in great men, not institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders who seek to protect the old ways Champion the senate as guardians of tradition and the collective, anonymous rule that made Rome strong Urge Romans to place their faith and trust in institutions, not great men
Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gracchus brothers Gaius Marius Julius Caesar Octavian/Augustus 	Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sulla Metellus Numidicus Cato (the younger)

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The brothers Gracchus

- Firebrand tribunes of the plebs
- Land bill infuriates elite
 - Need more soldiers who meet the minimum property requirement
 - Public land held illegally in vast estates owned by the wealthy elite
 - Bill to distribute land to poor Roman citizens hugely popular
 - Gracchus brothers snub the senate
- Both brutally murdered with their followers
 - Tiberius Gracchus killed by a mob of angry conservative senators
 - Gaius Gracchus declared an insurrectionist, hunted down and killed

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Gaius Marius

- Outstanding general and passionately populist
- Constantly argues that an elite empowered by privilege endangers Rome

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Client kingdoms

- Pro-Roman kings left in place
 - Provide tribute and troops
 - Existing admin
- Problem: anti-Roman usurpers

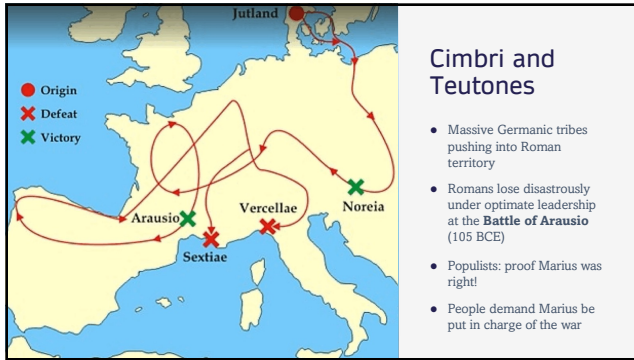
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Jugurthine War

- Jugurtha takes throne, massacres Romans in Numidia
- Rome struggles to fight Jugurtha under optimum commanders
- Marius elected consul as populist, takes command, and instantly ends the war

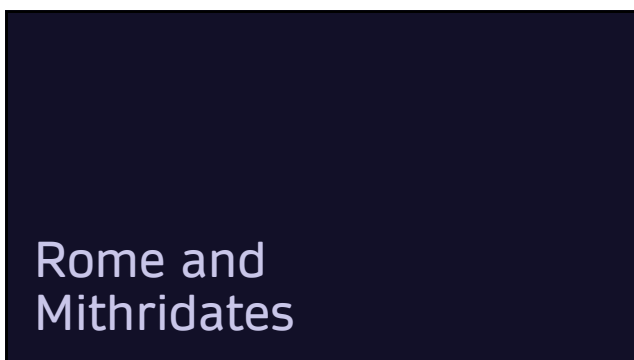
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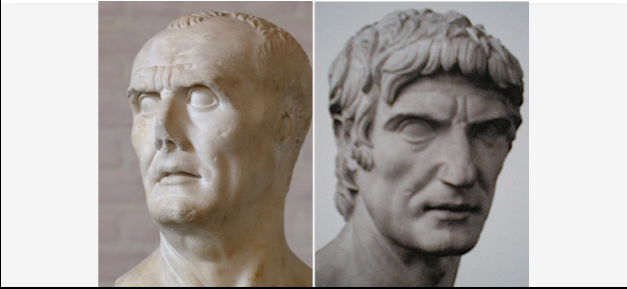


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Marius and Sulla



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Sulla marches on Rome

- Sulla is consul, receives the command against Mithridates
- Populists demand Marius be put in charge
- Riots in Rome
- Sulla marches on Rome to restore order
 - First time a Roman general leads his army against Rome itself
 - Sulla's troops cross the sacred boundary and enter Rome at arms
- Sulla then leaves to fight Mithridates

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Marius and Cinna take over Rome

- One-party rule
 - Only populists allowed to hold office
- Proscriptions
 - Marius and Cinna make a list of Roman optimates to be killed
 - Must bring head
 - Murderers given share of killed man's estate
 - Heads mounted on spears in the Roman Forum

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Sulla returns

- Cuts short war with Mithridates
- Civil War
 - Sulla marches on Rome in wrath
 - Fierce battle of Romans v. Romans at city gates
- Sulla victorious, has himself declared dictator
- New proscriptions
 - Populist leaders hunted down
- Reestablishes the Republic
 - Reforms designed to strengthen senate and institutions
 - Tribunes of the plebs, other populist elements weakened

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