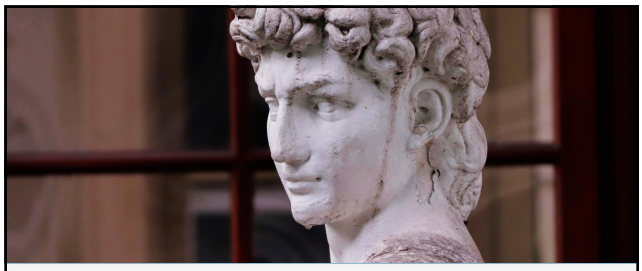
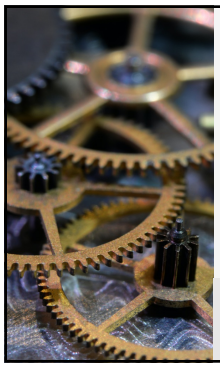


The Acquisition of Empire

History of Ancient Rome | Meeting #6

1



Upcoming Dates

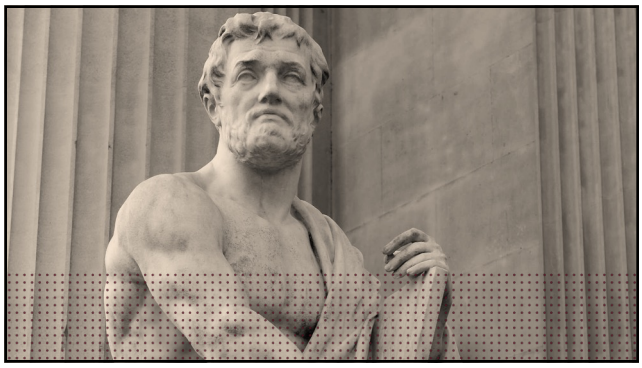
- Monday, March 9
  Images Essay Due
- Monday, March 23
  Proposal Due
- Sunday, March 15
  Responses for Week 6 Due

2

Five things today

- The Punic Wars
- The acquisition of empire
- Cultural and economic changes
- The province
- Rome in the east

3



4

Quiz #4 | Acquisition of Empire

1. The expression "drawing a line in the sand" comes from the incident in which a Roman envoy named C. Popillius Laenas successfully
   a. drew a circle around Antiochus IV and demanded he not invade Egypt
   b. drew a rectangle around Hannibal and demanded he behead himself
   c. drew a pentagon around Philip V and summoned the shade of Hercules
   d. drew a sudoku around Eumenes II and solved it in only three minutes

2. Ways the acquisition of empire transformed Roman life included all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. Larger, slave-worked farms feeding the growing population of Rome and other cities
   b. Low tax collection and benevolent governors ensuring vibrant provincial economies
   c. The influence of foreign art and ideas clashing with conservative Roman culture
   d. Italian allies resenting fighting harder in Rome's armies for less reward

3. Individuals or firms known as *publicani* were so called because they
   a. tended bar in pubs
   b. handled public contracts
   c. tried to "influence" the public
   d. were a form of lycan or werewolf

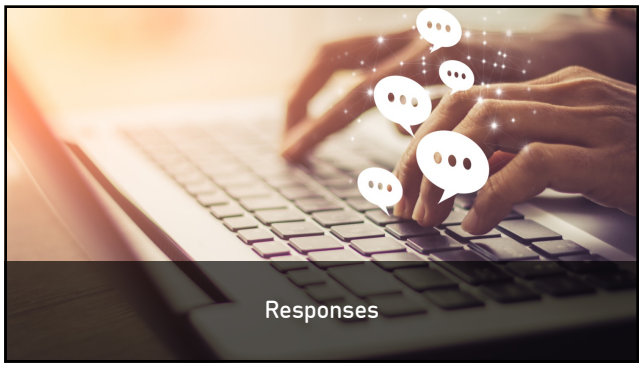
4. Romans who adapted Greek forms to create art that strengthened the Roman identity included all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. Ennius, a master of tragic, comic, and epic poetry
   b. Plautus and Terence, who adapted Greek comedy to reflect a Roman audience
   c. Metellus Numidicus, who composed a tragic play called Carthage: Judgment Day
   d. Cato the Elder, the first Roman to write an important history in Latin

5. The alarming ambition of men like Scipio Africanus and Flamininus in the years after the war with Hannibal led to
   a. ambitious Romans getting themselves installed as kings in nations Rome ruled over
   b. laws imposing minimum ages and secret ballots
   c. good nobles fleeing the cesspool of Rome for the provinces, where virtue prevailed
   d. calls for women to be allowed to run for office, since they would do a better job

Extra Credit

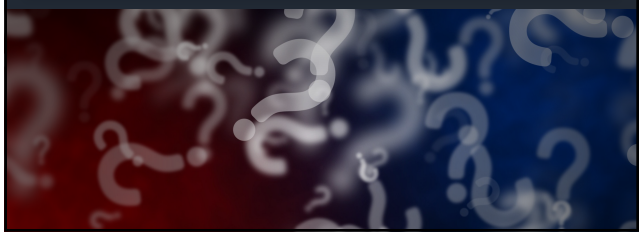
EC. In your opinion, why did Rome decide that, defeated and weakened as it was, Carthage must be destroyed?

5



6

Questions about whatever

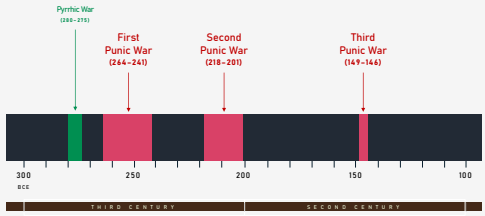


7

Carthage

8

Punic Wars—Timeline



9

10

Why Carthage?

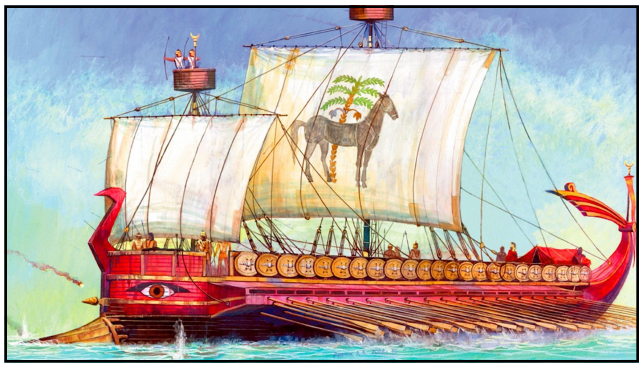
- Inheritor of Phoenician trading skill and maritime technology
- Two outstanding natural harbors
- Ideally situated to command passage of trade in Western Mediterranean
- Old, strong, and established as a naval and economic power

11

Rome vs. Carthage

- Trade power in the Western Med
- Expanding spheres of influence

12



13

First Punic War

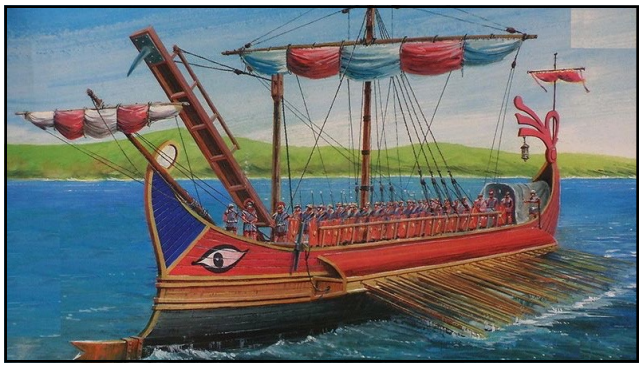
14

15

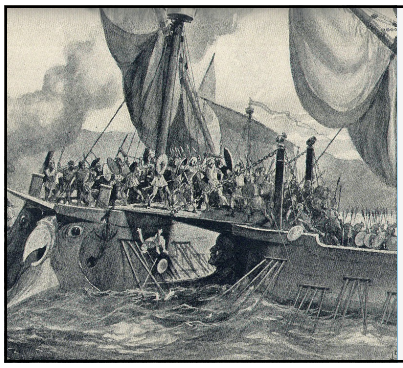
Carthaginian trireme

- Fast and nimble
- Able to ram enemy ships

16



17

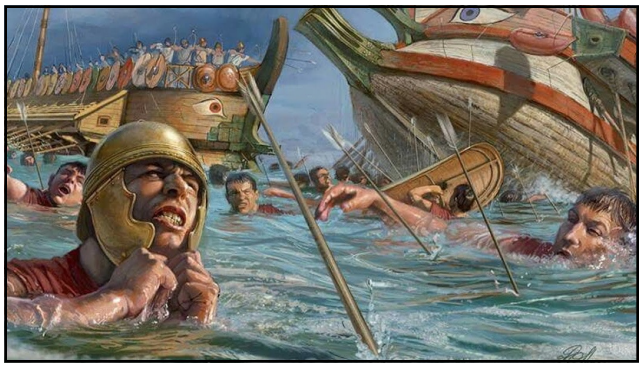


Roman trireme

- Reverse engineered from Carthaginian ship
- Roman element: the "corvus"
  - Spiked gangplank to board enemy ship
  - Roman soldiers can fight with swords and spears
  - Enemy ship undamaged

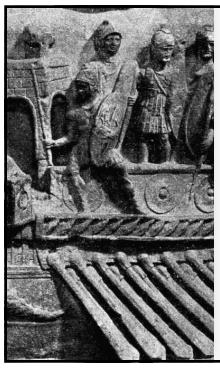
18

19



20

21



Legacies of the First Punic War

- Rome survives through adaptation by becoming a sea power
- Rome now an international power on par with Carthage
- Punitive terms of the peace open the way for the Second Punic war
- Rome must now administer foreign conquered territory

22

The province

23

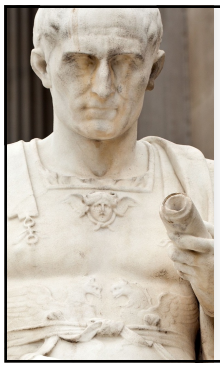
24

Promagistrates

A promagistrate is

- an ex-praetor or ex-consul…
- whose imperium has been extended (prorogued) beyond his term of office…
- and is then given a portfolio of responsibilities (province)

25



The dangers of the proconsul

- Possesses imperium but is not constrained by the traditional limitations of the office
- No colleague
- Sometimes left in place for years
- Far from Rome
- No support staff
- An army at his command

26

The Second Punic War

27

Gaul
Pyrennes
Ebro River
Hispania
Massilia
Etruria
ROME
Capua
Tyrrhenian Sea
Adriatic Sea
Mediterranean Sea
Carthago Nova
CARTHAGE
Messana
Sicily
Syracuse
Numidia

28

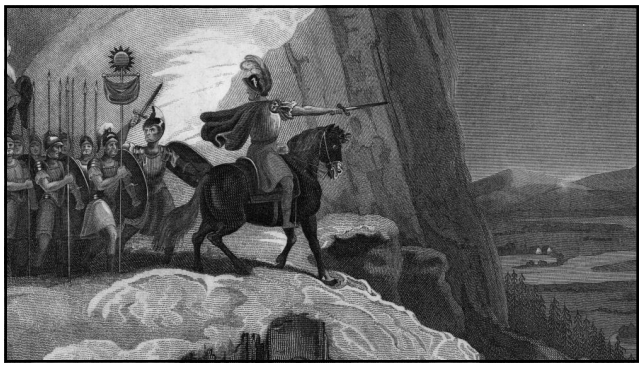
Hannibal Barca

29

Primary Source Reading
Cornelius Nepos
Hannibal

30

31

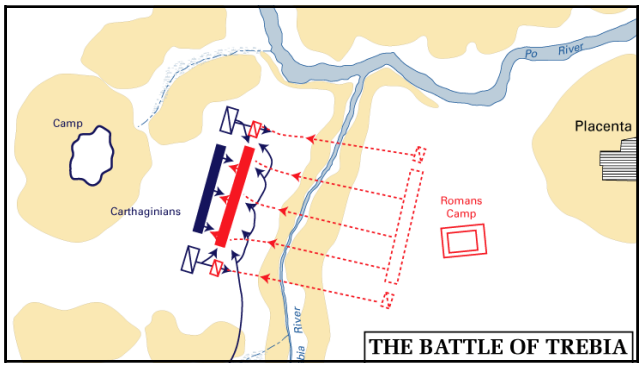


32

First Disaster: Trebia

- Roman forces wiped out
  - 20,000 killed (half the Roman-Italian forces)
  - Many captured
- Gauls swell Hannibal's forces

33

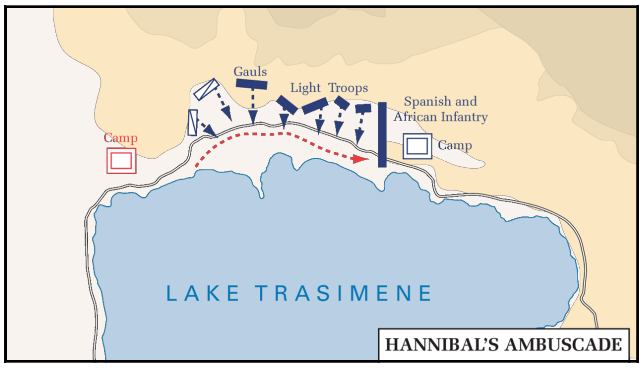


34

Second Disaster: Lake Trasimene

- Even worse Roman loss
  - 15,000 killed (two thirds of the Roman-Italian forces)
  - 6,000–10,000 captured
- Consul C. Flaminius killed
- Italians turn against Rome

35



36

Fabius the Delayer

- Romans terrified
- Dictator appointed against Hannibal
- Fabius avoids engaging Hannibal
- Romans regroup

37

Third Disaster: Cannæ

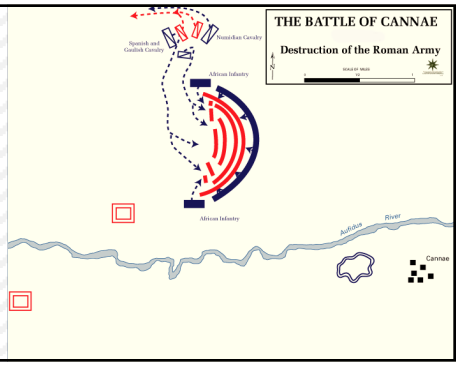
- Most famous Roman defeat
  - 48,200 killed
  - 19,300 captured
- Romans certain the city will be destroyed

38

Primary Source Reading

Polybius

The Battle of Cannae



39

40

Why didn't he march on Rome?

- Taking Rome more difficult than defeating her armies
- Hannibal's siege of Rome would have been vulnerable to Rome's other armies
- Carthage's goal was to force Rome into a deal over Spain and weaken its position in Italy, reducing it to a lesser power

41

Hannibal's exposure

- Latins and many Italian tribes remained loyal to Rome
- Hannibal's massacres only drove Rome to bitter resolve never to negotiate with him
- Hannibal loses the support of the Carthaginian senate and nobility

42

Roman response

- Replenish army
- Rebuild alliances
- Undermine Carthaginian navy
- Rituals to appease the gods and strengthen divine support
- Take the offensive

43

Primary Source Reading

Livy, Prudentius

The Magna Mater

44

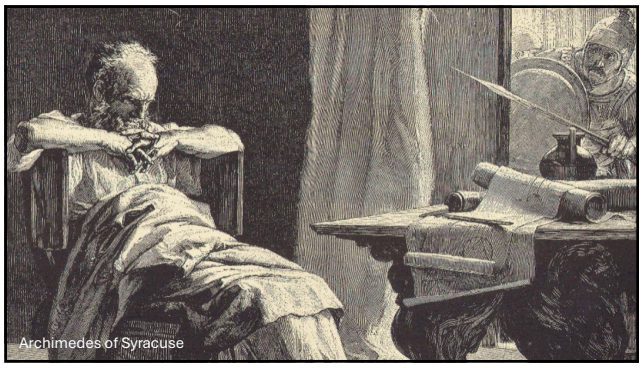
Syracuse, Sicily

- Allies with Carthage
- Rome besieges by land and sea

45

Primary Source Reading
Polybius
The Siege of Syracuse

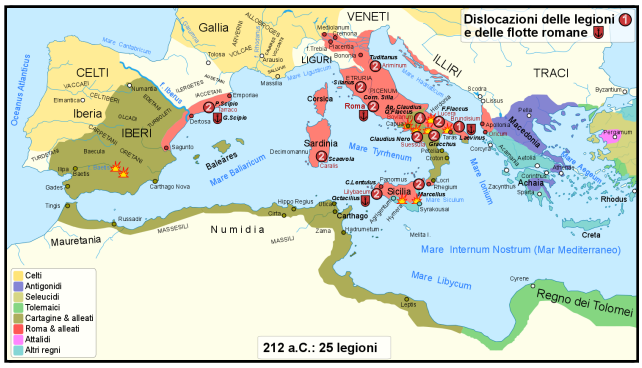
46


Archimedes of Syracuse

47

Marcellus's Triumph after the sack of Syracuse

48


Dislocazioni delle legioni
e delle flotte romane
Gallia
VENETI
CELTI
LIGURI
ILLIRI
TRACI
Iberia
IBERI
Corsica
Sardinia
Sicilia
Roma
Baleares
Mare Tyrrhenum
Mare Balearicum
Mare Ionium
Mare Internum Nostrum (Mar Mediterraneo)
Mare Libycum
Numidia
Mauretania
Carthago
Achaia
Macedonia
Rhodus
Creta
Regno dei Tolomei
Celti
Antigonidi
Seleucidi
Tolemaici
Cartagine & alleati
Roma & alleati
Attalidi
Altri regni
212 a.C.: 25 legioni

49

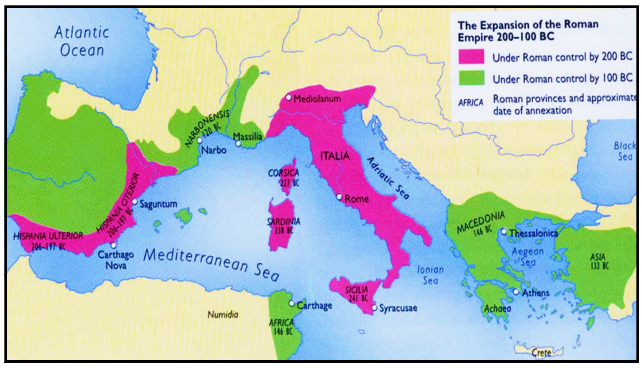
Taking the offensive
Scipio urges strike on Carthage
Senators fearful
Priority has always been protecting Rome
Eventually persuaded
P. Cornelius Scipio (later Africanus)

50

Mar Tirreno
Crotona
(204)
Sicilia
Rhegium
Útica
Siracusa
Cartago
Zama
(202)
Battle of Zama, 202 BCE

51

52



53

Third Punic War

- Carthage crushed… but still exists
- Cato the Elder: "Carthago delenda est"
- In 149 BCE, Romans find a pretext for attack
- Carthage destroyed
- Territory becomes the province of Africa

54

The acquisition of empire

55

The wealth of empire

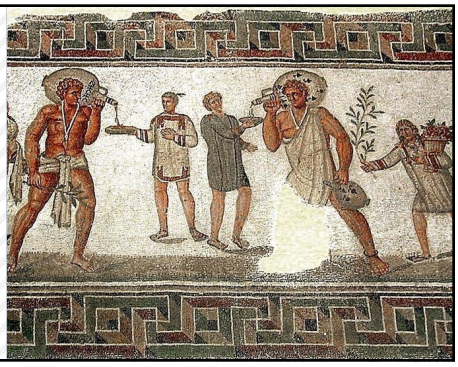
- Expanding trade
- Massive resources
- Accessible social mobility

56

Primary Source Reading

Various

Slavery in the Roman Republic



57

Italian land

- Estates increasingly combined and expanded
- Poorer families forced off the land
- Fewer soldiers meeting the property requirement

58

The legion

- Increasing separate identity
- Reliance on Italian allies fighting alongside Romans

59

Hellenization

60

61

Primary Source Reading

Plautus

From *The Menaechmi*

62

Roman identity

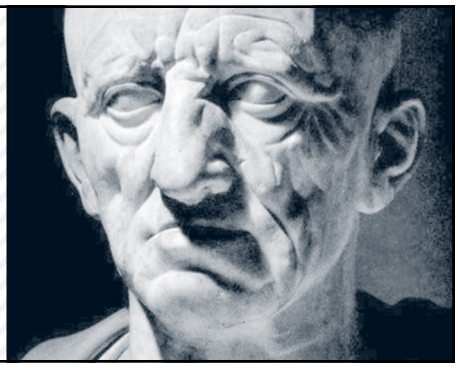
- Use of Greek tools to reinforce Roman ideas
- Drive to defend traditional Roman values

63

Primary Source Reading

Livy

Cato Opposes Extravagance



64

The province

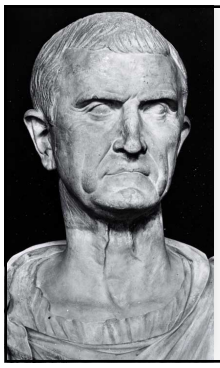
65

66

Promagistrates

- An ex-praetor or ex-consul
- Imperium has been extended (prorogued) beyond his term of office
- Given a portfolio of responsibilities (province)

67



The dangers of the proconsul

- Possesses imperium but is not constrained by the traditional limitations of the consulship or the praetorship
- No colleague
- Sometimes left in place for years
- Far from Rome
- No support staff
- An army at his command

68

Primary Source Reading

Various

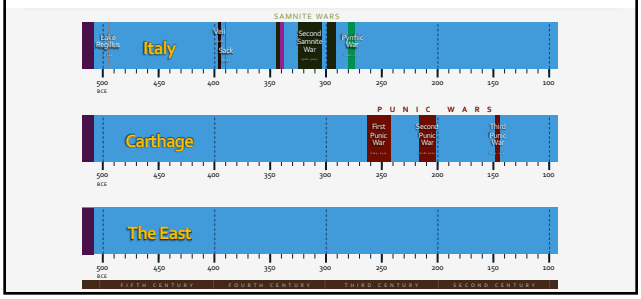
Accounts of the Roman State Religion

69

Rome and the East

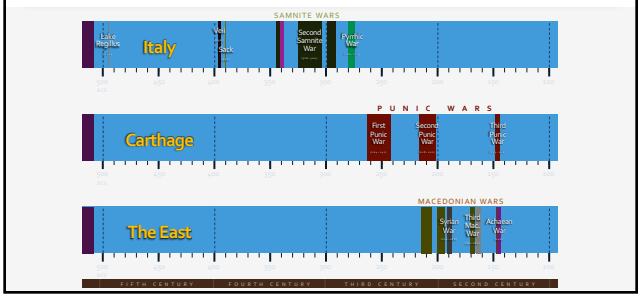
70

Roman Wars of Expansion—Timeline



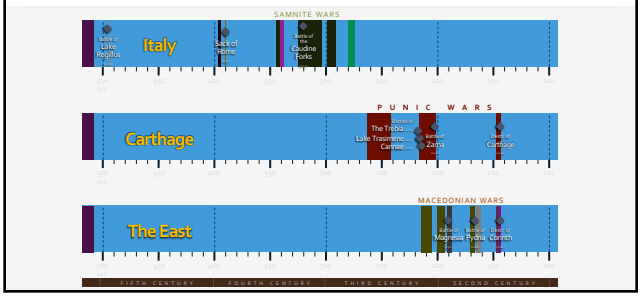
71

Roman Wars of Expansion—Timeline

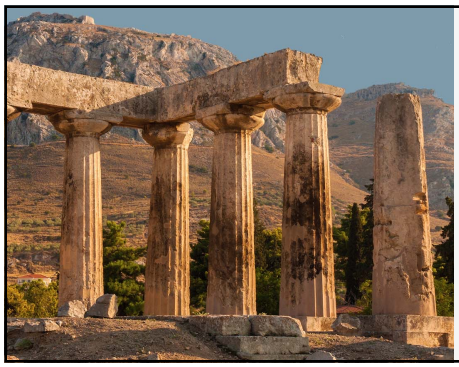


72

Roman Wars of Expansion—Timeline



73



In Greece: Liberator and Destroyer

- Friends and allies
- Despotism of the great empires

74

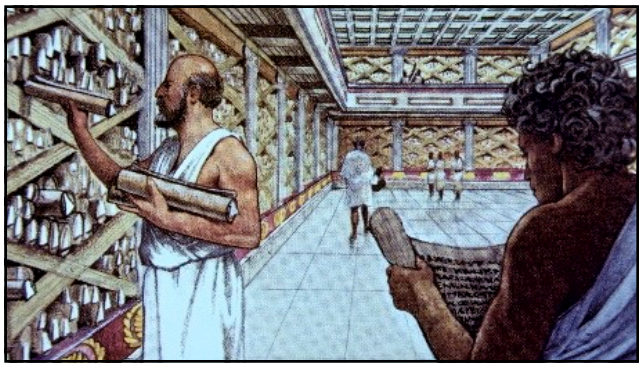
Primary Source Reading

Polybius

The Destruction of Corinth

75

76



77

Roman influence

- The Roman legion
- The majesty of Rome
- The value of the Roman economy
- Case study: The line in the sand

78

79