

The Acquisition of Empire

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #23

1

Four things today

- The early Republic
- Roman expansionism
- The Punic wars
- Roman wars in the east

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Quiz #9 | The Acquisition of Empire

1. After the Sack of Rome in 390 BCE, the Romans
   a. obsessed with having the strongest armies and ensuring the safety of their frontiers through expansion
   b. were relieved nothing important was destroyed
   c. turned against the gods who allowed it to happen
   d. realized defense of the city was futile and built a wide gate to welcome future invaders

2. The Pyrrhic War (275-270 BCE), in which Italian Greek city-states fought the Romans under the leadership of Pyrrhus, resulted in the Romans
   a. winning the battles and winning the war
   b. losing the battles and winning the war
   c. winning the battles and losing the war
   d. losing the battles and losing the war

3. All of the following are true of the Second Punic War against Carthage (218-201 BCE) EXCEPT:
   a. It started with conflicting claims over Spain
   b. Hannibal gathered an army and invaded Italy by crossing the Alps
   c. At the start of the war Hannibal's army annihilated the Roman legions in three successive devastating defeats
   d. After his wins, Hannibal attacked the city of Rome itself and nearly destroyed it

4. All of the following were disastrous defeats for Rome EXCEPT:
   a. The Battle of Caudine Forks (321 BCE)
   b. The Battle of Lake Trasimene (217 BCE)
   c. The Battle of Cannae (216 BCE)
   d. The Battle of Zama (202 BCE)

5. In 168 BCE, the Roman senator Popillius Laenas drew the famous "line in the sand" around
   a. the Seleucid (Syrian) emperor, Antiochus IV
   b. the Roman pontifex maximus, M. Aemilius Lepidus
   c. a sacred statue of Osiris
   d. the Egyptian pharaoh, Ptolemy VIII Physcon

Extra Credit

EC. Rome was almost defeated in the Second Punic War against Hannibal. What do you think were some of the reasons Rome won?

4

Questions about whatever



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The Early Republic

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The Republic

- Shared rule by the 200 or so propertied clans
- Designed to prevent any individual from gaining preeminence over other Romans
- Characterized by:
  - Collegiality
  - Annual office
  - Separate voting of imperium
  - Ladder of offices

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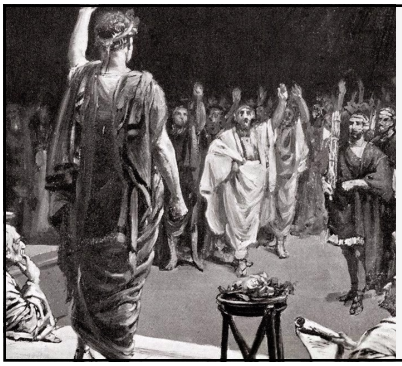

Assemblies

- Roman citizens gather in assemblies to pass laws
- Different assemblies for different purposes

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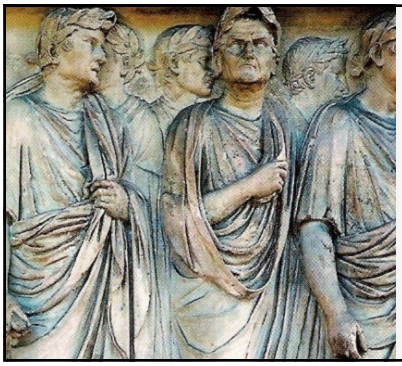

Magistrates

- Elected officials
- Administer Rome, courts, temples, etc.
- Those offices with imperium command armies

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Senate

- Created as a body of experts to advise the king
  - Priests
  - Ex-officials
- Has no official power
  - Can only pass resolutions
- The auctoritas of its members gives it unofficial power

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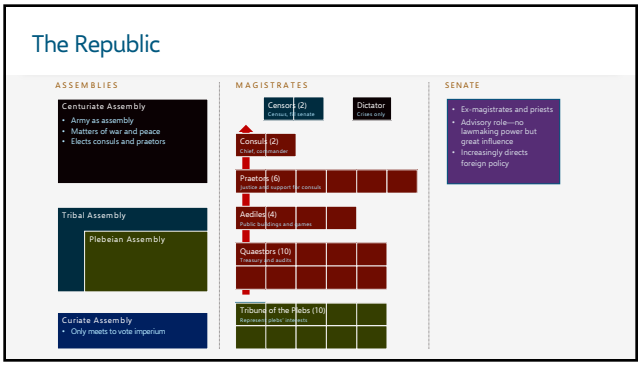
The Republic



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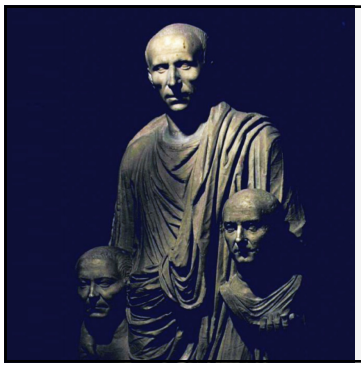

Patricians

- Romans must consult the gods before any act of the state
- Empowers those few families who control the priesthoods
- Patrician families control Rome
  - The state religion
  - All offices with imperium
- Plebeians (non-patrician families) deprived of voice and agency

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"Struggle of the Orders"

- Plebeians vastly outnumber the patricians
- Have nothing common
  - Plebeians are rich and poor, farmer and artisan, urban and rural, etc.
- Force reforms by refusing to levy
- Gain their own officials and council but not imperium

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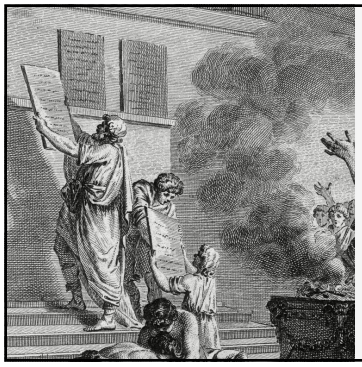

Decemviri and the Twelve Tables

- Six decades in, patrician abuses were worsening
  - Excessive interest on loans
  - Corruption in deciding court cases
- Demands for reform
- 10 lawgivers create a public law code
  - Justice is shared and transparent
  - Reinforcement of shared identity

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Roman Expansionism

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Dynamics of Roman imperialism

- Crisis
- Adaptation
- Romanization

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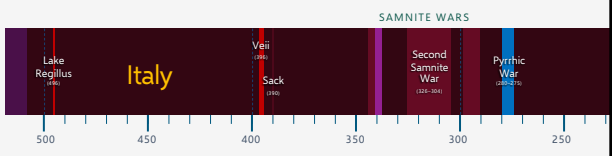
Timeline: Wars in Italy



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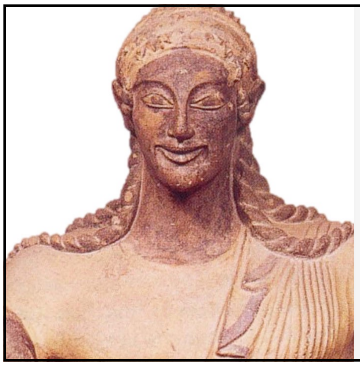

The Capture of Veii, 396

- Rivalry with nearest Etruscan city across the Tiber
- Veii captured by siege and cunning
- Huge legacy for Rome
  - Rome's sense of power
  - Rome's wealth and standard of living
  - Rome as an economic and military power
  - Shift from defense to conquest
  - Dictator as champion and savior

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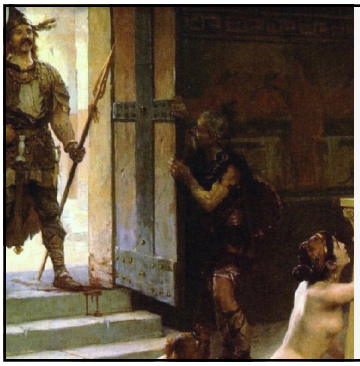

The Sack of Rome, 390

- Italian Gauls drawn to new Roman wealth
- Roman armies unprepared for barbarian army
- Huge legacy for Rome
  - Damage to Roman buildings and records
  - Dread of the Gaul
  - Protection of Rome through control of central Italy

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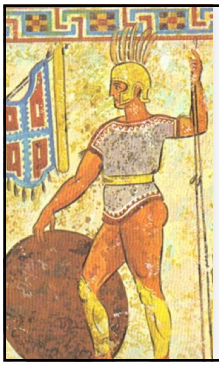

Samnite Wars

- Samnites reject Roman expansion
- Vow to fight to the death to stop Rome
- Initial losses by Rome force new tactics
- Legacies
  - Manipular army means more training and longer service
  - Roman control over Samnium and Campania
  - Greeks of Southern Italy realize that they're next

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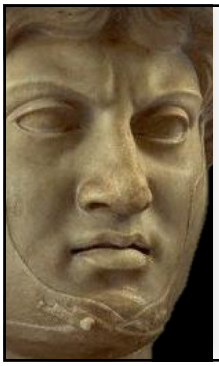

The Pyrrhic War
(280-275)

- Greek cities of Southern Italy fear Rome
  - Recruit Pyrrhus of Epirus
- Battles extremely costly for both sides
  - "Another victory like this and I shall be totally ruined"
  - Lieutenant meets with senate: "Like 300 kings"
  - Pyrrhus forced to abandon war to Rome
- Legacy
  - Demonstration of deep Roman resources even in defeat
  - Assertion of hegemony over Italy
  - Coveting of Sicily

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The Punic Wars

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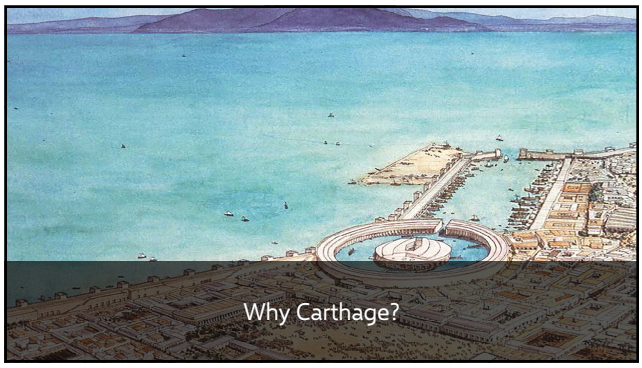
Why Carthage?

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Gauls
Etruscans
Hill peoples
Latins
Phoenician
Magna Graecia
Sicily
• Strategic location for Western Mediterranean trade
• Especially fertile agriculturally
– Both Carthage and Rome expanding in numbers and territories
– Both want Sicily's grain

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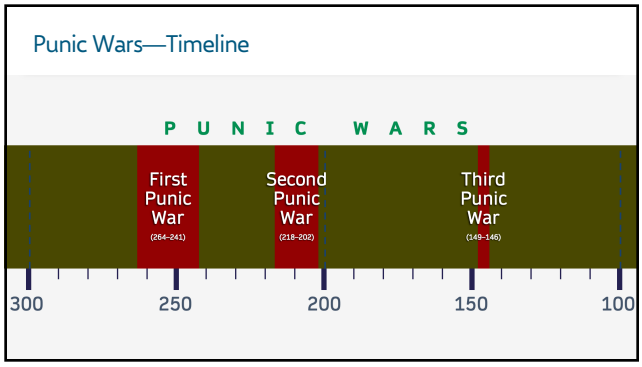
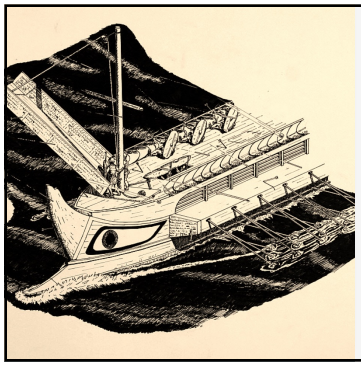

Punic Wars—Timeline
PUNIC WARS
First Punic War (264–241)
Second Punic War (218–202)
Third Punic War (149–146)
300
250
200
150
100

27



First Punic War

- Rome forced to become a sea power
- Legacies
  - Rome survives through adaptation by becoming a sea power
  - Rome now an international power on par with Carthage
  - Rome must now administer foreign conquered territory

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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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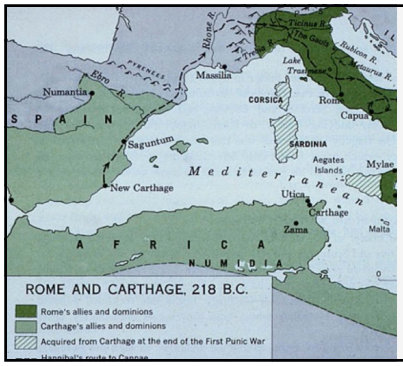

Carthage and Rome in Spain

- 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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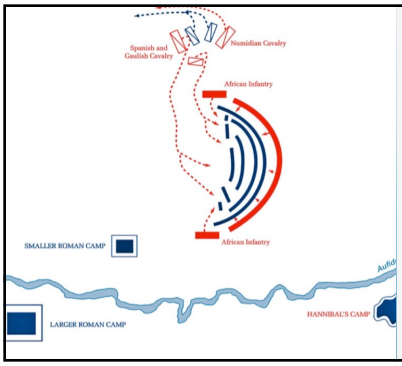

Roman armies annihilated

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

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Sack of Syracuse (212 BCE)

- 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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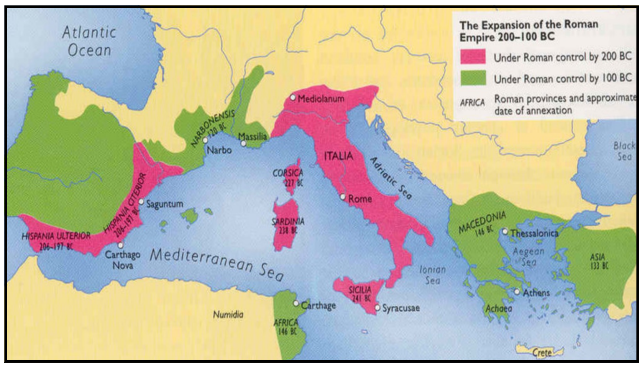
The Expansion of the Roman Empire 200–100 BC
Under Roman control by 200 BC
Under Roman control by 100 BC
AFRICA Roman provinces and approximate date of annexation
Atlantic Ocean
Mediterranean Sea
Black Sea
Adriatic Sea
Ionian Sea
Aegean Sea
Mediolanum
Massilia
Narbo
NARBONENSIS 118 BC
ITALIA
CORSICA 227 BC
Rome
SARDINIA 238 BC
Saguntum
HISPANIA CITERIOR 206–197 BC
HISPANIA ULTERIOR 206–197 BC
Carthago Nova
MACEDONIA 148 BC
Thessalonica
ASIA 133 BC
Athens
Achaea
SICILIA 241 BC
Carthage
Syracusae
Numidia
AFRICA 146 BC
Crete

40



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