Roman Republic: Wars of the Republic

The Punic Wars

Carthage
- Phoenician City-State in Northern Africa
  o Grew by trade and conquest
  o Controlled most of western Mediterranean Sea

First Punic War (264-241 B.C.E.)
- Began as a small dispute in Sicilian city of Messina
- Rome won quick victories so Carthage sent more soldiers, and more, and more, and more
  o Lasted for about 20 years
- Outclasses by Carthage Navy and Government
- Results
  o Rome learned how to fight wars!
  o Senate learned how to finance a war
  o Rome built and adapted its navy
  o Rome gained a taste for war and empire
    ▪ UH-OH FOR MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

Second Punic War (218 - 202 B.C.E.)
- Origins
  o Carthaginian Ruler Hamilcar Barca builds empire into Spain
  o Hatred of Rome and humiliating defeat drove him to build army
    ▪ Died before being able to invade Rome itself
  o Had son named Hannibal
- Hannibal invaded Italian Peninsula
  o Hoping to gain quick victories and break up empire
  o Invaded through Italian Alps
    ▪ Hannibal escaped from Roman army in Spain
    ▪ 40,000 troops and 37 elephants
    ▪ Marched his army through the impenetrable Alps
    ▪ Lost many soldiers in Alps but hoped to replenish ranks in Italy
- Hannibal broke into Italy
  o Many battles won early on, made it all the way to southern Italy
    ▪ Battle of Cannae
      ▪ Roman Senate creates army of 80,000 to deal with Hannibal’s 40,000
      ▪ Hannibal tricks Romans to attack, but Hannibal gets around them
      ▪ Only about 10,000 Romans survived
- Problems with Hannibal’s Invasion
  o Italian States not breaking away from Rome
    ▪ Loyalty, promises of victory, hope for military victory
  o Scorched Earth
    ▪ Romans Start burning everything in Hannibal’s path
  o Roman Army suddenly gets a little less ambitious???
- Scipio Africanus
  o Roman Consul
    ▪ Elected on promise of defeating Hannibal
  o Invades Africa
    ▪ Forces Hannibal to return home to defend
- Battle of Zama
  - Hannibal sent mass Elephant Charge
  - Romans figured out how to defend against it
  - Scipio used same tactic that Hannibal did at Cannae
- Results of Second Punic War
  - Carthage forced to give up its empire
    - Lost all but 30 square miles
  - Army and navy broken up
    - Only enough to defend against desert tribes
  - Hannibal forced into exile
    - Still tried to build army till mysterious death

**Third Punic War (150 B.C.E.-146 B.C.E.)**
- “Carthago delenda est!” Senator Cato the Elder called for the destruction of Carthage
  - Carthage growing economically
  - Getting picked on by neighbors
- Senate still scared of a powerful Carthage
- Final Destruction of Carthage
  - Ancestor of Scipio led attack
    - Broke into city and fought fierce street battle
    - EVERYTHING WAS DESTROYED
      - Walls town down
      - City burned
      - Citizens sold into slavery
  - Senate passed a decree no one could ever live there again

**The Third Servile War**
- Started by renegade Gladiators and slaves from city of Capua
  - Led by Gladiators Spartacus and Crixus
- Waged Guerilla War against Romans
  - Won many many many Victories
- Eventually betrayed and killed
  - 6,000 captured survivors crucified on Appian Way
- Slaves treated nicer because of it

**Expansion of Rome under Julius Caesar**

**Gaius Julius Caesar**
- House of Julio-Claudian
- Political Offices held
  - Quesstor (69 B.C.E.) – “The person who asks questions” supervises financial affairs
  - Aedile (65 B.C.E.) – Responsible for maintenance of public buildings and festivals
  - Governor of Spain
    - 61-60 B.C.E.
    - Caesar sent to act as Governor of Spain
    - Used it as a chance to gain political power
- Finally subdued many Spanish tribes
- Added the whole of Spain to Rome’s Empire
  - Consul (59 B.C.E.)
    - Elected Consul
    - Made a pact with Crassus and Pompey to secure support needed
      - The First Triumvirate

**Caesar’s Wars**
- Gaul
  - Caesar used Gaul to further Rome’s ambitions and his own
    - People wanted the glory of Rome to spread
    - People loved leaders who won battles
- Britannia
  - Caesar wanted to be first Roman into Britain
  - Not at all a victory
    - enough to say he went
- The Civil War
  - Senate declares Caesar an Enemy of Rome
    - Caesar responds by marching on Rome
      - Famously crosses Rubicon River
  - Starting Civil War
    - Caesar and Marc Antony vs. Pompey, and Senate
    - Caesar chases Pompey who eventually runs to Egypt
- Egypt
  - Caesar chases Pompey to Egypt
    - Finds that King Ptolemy had him killed
  - He uses visit as chance to settle civil war in Egypt
  - Falls in “love” with Cleopatra
    - Possibly has child named Caesarian

**Caesar’s Political Life**
- Made himself Consul and Dictator
  - Now had power to make much needed reforms
    - Relieved debt
    - Revised Calendar
    - Enlarged Senate
    - Built Forum Iulium
- 44 B.C.E. – Caesar names himself dictator for life
  - Senate fears he is too powerful
    - Necessary though since senate was unable to control empire (100 years of civil war)
- The Ides of March
  - The Assassination of Caesar
    - March 15th, 44 B.C.E.
    - Killed by group of 60 senators unhappy with his apparent grab for power
    - Stabbed 23 times
    - “Et tu Brute?”