# Roman Republic: Wars of the Republic

# The Punic Wars

# Carthage

- Phoenician City-State in Northern Africa
  - 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
  - Lasted for about 20 years
- Outclasses by Carthage Navy and Government
- Results
  - Rome learned for to fight wars!
  - Senate learned how to finance a war
  - Rome built and adapted its navy
  - Rome gained a taste for war and empire
    - UH-OH FOR MEDITERANNEAN WORLD

### Second Punic War (218 - 202 B.C.E.)

- Origins

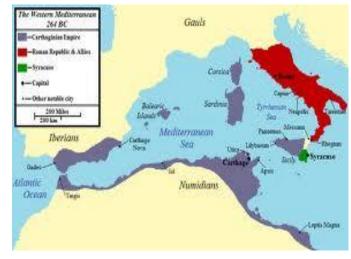
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- Carthaginian Ruler Hamilcar Barca builds empire into Spain
  - Hatred of Rome and humiliating defeat drove him to build army
    - Died before being able to invade Rome itself
- o Had son named Hannibal
- Hannibal invaded Italian Peninsula
  - Hoping to gain quick victories and break up empire
  - 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
  - Italian States not breaking away from Rome
    - Loyalty, promises of victory, hope for military victory
  - Scorched Earth
    - Romans Start burning everything in Hannibal's path
    - Roman Army suddenly gets a little less ambitious???
- Scipio Africanus

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- 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
  - o 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
  - o Army and navy broken up
    - Only enough to defend against desert tribes
  - o 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
  - o 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
  - Quaestor (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
- o 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

- $\circ$   $\,$  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
  - o 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
  - o Starting Civil War
    - Caesar and Marc Antony vs. Pompey, and Senate
    - Caesar chases Pompey who eventually runs to Egypt
- Egypt
  - o Caesar chases Pompey to Egypt
    - Finds that King Ptolemy had him killed
  - He uses visit as chance to settle civil war in Egypt
  - o Falls in "love" with Cleopatra
    - Possibly has child named Caesarian

### Caesar's Political Life

- Made himself Consul and Dictator
  - o 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 44 B.C.E.
    - Killed by group of 60 senators unhappy with his apparent grab for power
    - Stabbed 23 times
    - "Et tu Brute?"

