

Rome Gains Control of Italy (340-270 B.C.)

In a series of wars Rome conquered the Italian peninsula. The Romans

1. in central Italy, overwhelmed the other Latins as well as the Samnites and Etruscans,
2. In northern Italy drove back the Gauls, and
3. In southern Italy, captured the Greek colonies.

How did they do it?

- **Powerful Armies.** Roman citizen-soldiers felt deeply responsible to their Republic. They fought not for a despot but for their own freedom, land and government. Well trained and strictly disciplined, the Roman legions were the ancient world's most effective fighting force.

How did they do it?

- **Ability to Move Troops.** The Apennine Mountains, running north and south through Italy, did not obstruct Roman troop movements appreciably.
- **Wise Treatment of Conquered Peoples.** The Romans secured the friendship and allegiance of the conquered peoples by granting them the privileges of either partial or full citizenship. From these allies Rome received troops and support for its foreign policy.