

Rome Conquers the Western Mediterranean (264-146 B.C.)

The Punic Wars

After subjugating the Greek colonies in southern Italy, Rome sought to control **western Mediterranean trade**.

Its chief rival, located across the Mediterranean in northern Africa, was the city-state of **Carthage**. Originally a Phoenician colony, Carthage had become a powerful commercial empire.

Rome defeated Carthage in **three Punic (Phoenician) Wars** and gained mastery of the western Mediterranean.



CELTIC TRIBES

SLAVIC TRIBES

GERMANIC TRIBES

GALLIC TRIBES

ILLYRIANS

THRACIANS

IBERIAN TRIBES

NUMIDIANS

THE MEDITERRANEAN, 218 BC



- Antigonids
- Seleucids
- Ptolemies
- Carthage
- Rome & Allies by 218
- Attalids
- Other States
- ★ Major Battles

IBERIA ALBANIA

BOSPORUS

PONTUS

MAZAKA

ARMENIA

ANTIOCH

JERUSALEM

ALEXANDRIA

MEMPHIS

CYRENE

LEPTIS

CARTHAGE

ZAMA

HIPPO

SYRACUSE

SICILY

CORSICA

SARDINIA

ROME

ANCONA

TRASIMENUS

MASSILIA

CAPUA

TARAS

CANNAE

KYNOSKEPHALAI

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The First Punic War (264-241 B.C.)

Fighting chiefly on the island of Sicily and in the Mediterranean Sea, Rome's citizen-soldiers eventually defeated Carthage's mercenaries (hired foreign soldiers). Rome annexed Sicily and then Sardinia and Corsica.

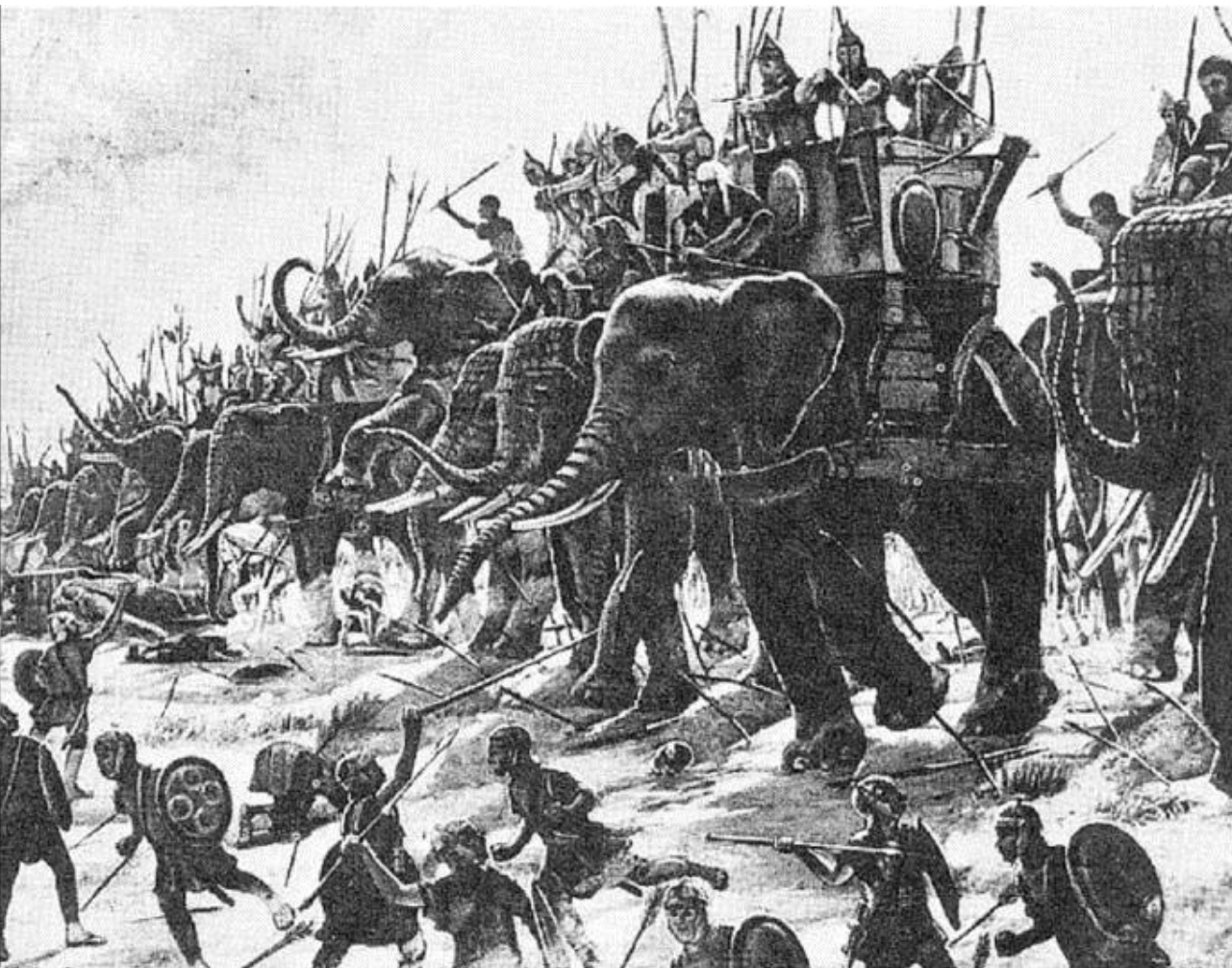
Both sides prepared to renew the struggle. Carthage acquired a part of Spain and recruited Spanish troops. Rome consolidated its position in Italy by conquering the **Gauls**, thereby extending its rule northward **from the Po River to the Alps**.

The Second Punic War (218-201 B.C.)

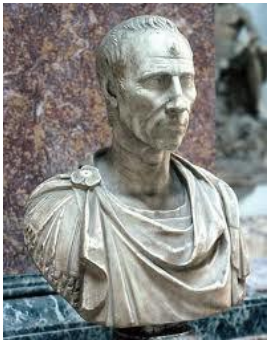
Hannibal, Carthage's great general, led an army from Spain across the Alps and into Italy. At first he won numerous victories, climaxed by the battle of Cannae. However, he was unable to seize the city of Rome. Gradually the tide of battle turned in favor of Rome. The Romans destroyed a Carthaginian army sent to reinforce Hannibal, then conquered Spain, and finally invaded North Africa. Hannibal withdrew his army from Italy to defend Carthage but, in the Battle of Zama, was at last defeated. **Rome annexed Carthage's Spanish provinces and reduced Carthage to a second-rate power.**



Hannibal of Carthage





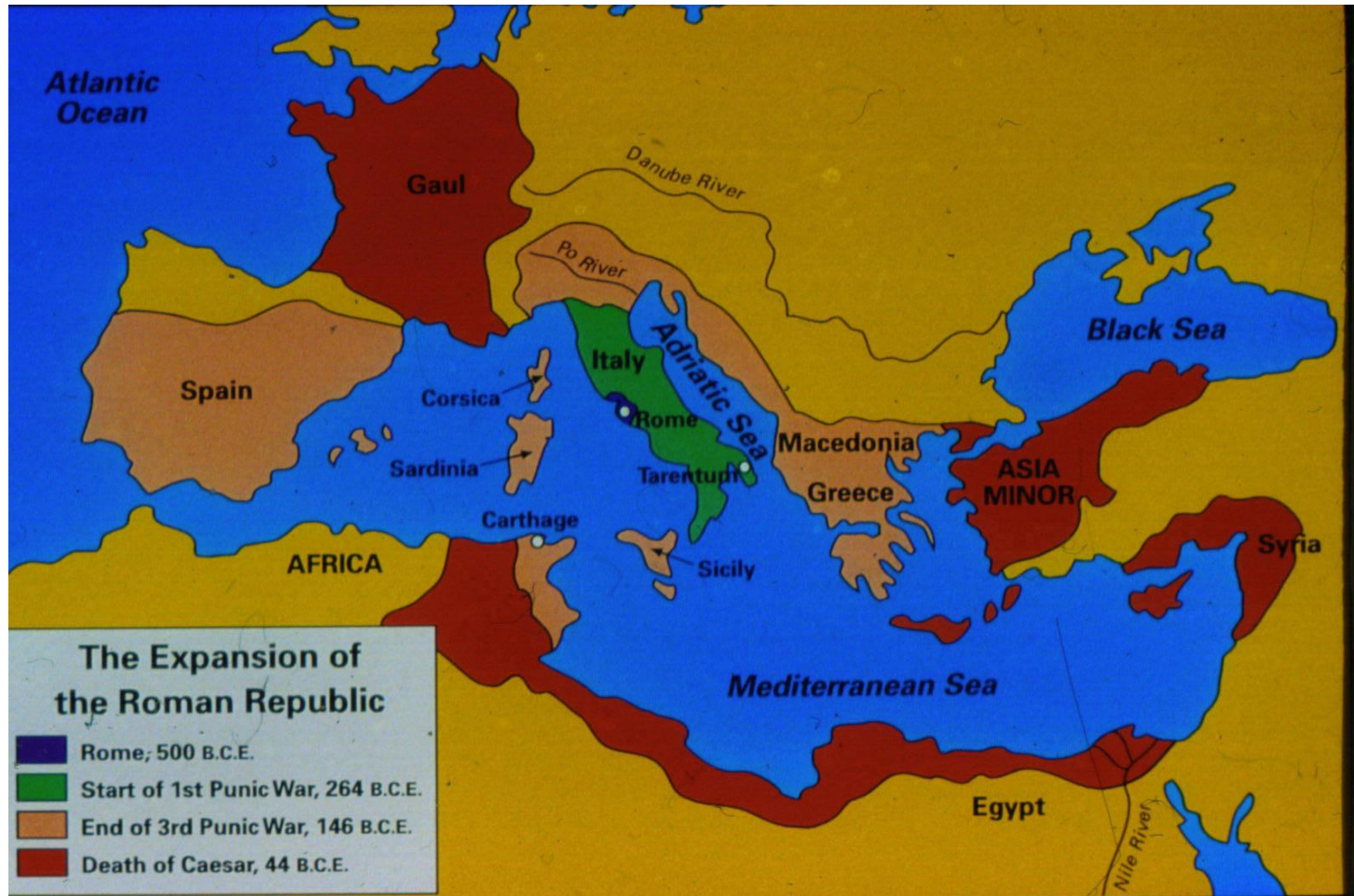


Reasons for Rome's Victory



- superior wealth and military power,
- the loyalty of most of its allies, and
- the rise of capable generals, notably Fabius and Scipio. Fabius was called the Delayer because he did not commit his troops to decisive battle in Italy. Believing that time would help Rome, he merely harassed the enemy. Scipio was named Africanus because he triumphed over Hannibal in North Africa.

Expansion of the Roman Republic



The Third Punic War (149-146 B.C.)

Some Romans believed that Carthage remained a threat. Cato, a prominent Roman senator, ended his speeches, regardless of subject, with the statement “Carthage must be destroyed.”

Rome finally attacked Carthage, destroyed the city and annexed the territory.

