

THE PUNIC WARS

Carthage

- settled by Phoenician colonists from Tyre – circa 800 BC
- punic = punicus, a, um = Phoenician

The First Punic War – Sicily – 264-241 BC

- had been contested between Greece and Carthage
- Rome defeats Pyrrhus to take control of southern Italy
- Carthage besieges Messana
 - Rome moves to defend
- war expands
 - Rome builds navy and adopts land tactics
 - major victory for Rome at Mylae – 260 BC
 - Rome invades Africa – defeated by Xanthippus
 - further battles in and around Sicily
 - Carthage led by Hamilcar Barca
- Rome wins
 - terms: lose Sicily, pay tribute

[Interim]

- Rome seizes Corsica and Sardinia
- Hamilcar expands control of Spain (silver + copper; soldiers)
 - continues after his death by son-in-law Hasdrubal up to Ebro River
 - founds New Carthage
- 230 – Rome agrees to protect Saguntum
- 226 – Hasdrubal agrees not to advance beyond Ebro River
- 221 – Hasdrubal dies; Hannibal takes over @ 25
- 219 (Fall) – Hannibal takes Saguntum
- 218 (March) – Rome declares war

The Second Punic War – Spain and Italy – 218-201 BC

- Hannibal marches over Pyrenees and Alps in five months – 218 BC
- victories in Italy:
 - skirmish at Ticinus River
 - battle at Trebia River (v. P. Cornelius Scipio)
 - annihilation at Lake Trasimenus – 217 BC
- Roman defense led by Quintus Fabius (“Cunctator”)
- Battle of Cannae – 216 BC
 - Hannibal (50K) v. Paulus and Varro (80K)
- Hannibal chooses not to attack Rome and Rome returns to Fabius defense meanwhile back in Spain...
 - brother Hasdrubal defeats and kills P. Cornelius Scipio – 210 BC
 - son P. Cornelius Scipio is sent to replace father @ 25
 - crosses Alps into Italy to meet and join forces with Hannibal
 - Hasdrubal defeated and killed at Metaurus River – 207

P. Cornelius Scipio invades Africa

Carthage recalls Hannibal to defend city

defeats Hannibal at Battle of Zama – 202 BC (Hannibal escapes)

thereafter: P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus

Rome wins

terms: lose Spain, all but 10 ships, pay tribute, no war without consent

[Interim]

Carthage recovers and thrives as commercial center

M. Porcius Cato (“the censor”): “Censeo ceterum Karthaginem esse delendam!”

Map of the Second Punic War



Map : John Sloan



The Third Punic War – Carthage – 149-146 BC

Numidia, ally of Rome, attacks Carthaginian territory

Carthage defends itself

Rome declares breach of peace

demands refused

three-year siege

Carthage is captured by P. Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus

son of Aemilius Paullus and grandson by adoption of Africanus

Rome wins

terms: Karthago delenda est↓

