

De Bello Punico

Background

- Series of three wars fought between Rome and Carthage
- 264-146 BC
- “Punic” comes from the Latin word “Punicus” or “Poenicus” which was what they called the Carthaginians
- Started as a result of Rome’s expansionistic goals

Bellum Primum

Anni 264 - 241 BC

Bellum Primum

- **Duces Romani**

- Marcus Atilius Regulus
 - Successful Consul and Army general
 - Commander of new Navy
 - POW tortured to death ☹️
- Gaius Lutatius Catulus
 - Cavalryman-turned-naval officer
- Scipio Asina
 - Terrible naval commander
- Gaius Duilius
 - A nobody-turned- junior commander who saved the troops from Scipio's mistakes

Bellum Primum

- **Duces Punici**
 - Hamilcar Barca
 - Commander of land forces in Carthage
 - Commanded expedition to Hispania
 - Hanno the Great
 - Moneybags
 - Opposed continuing the war, especially on the naval front
 - Hasdrubal the Fair
 - Second in command after Hamilcar
 - Took command after Hamilcar's death until his sons could lead
 - Xanthippus
 - War hero responsible for training soldiers and designing formations

Bellum Primum

- **Ante Bellum**

- Started in Sicily
 - Carthage held western Sicily
 - Southeast held by Syracuse
 - Northeast (Messana) held by Campanian soldiers (Mamertines)
 - Took this land by killing its inhabitants;
- King attacked to the extent that Campanians needed help to survive
 - Choices were Rome and Carthage; they asked Carthage first and then also asked Rome
 - Feared/regretted Carthaginian presence
 - Rome sent them packing

Bellum Primum

- **In Bello**
- Carthage responded by sending a larger troop to retaliate against the mean old Romans
- Rome responded by sending a full consular army.
 - Literally called in “the big guns”
- Several battles later, by 262 BC Rome had control over the whole island
 - However, to have true control, they needed the sea.
 - Carthage was, unfortunately, a naval power. Rome was not.

Bellum Primum

- **Fine**
- War continued for 20 more years, the forces being essentially matched as the Romans gained naval experience and the Carthaginians wore themselves out
 - The Carthaginians called uncle, giving up in 241 BC
- After the war, the Romans and the Carthaginians signed a peace treaty
 - Carthage gave up Sicily
 - Carthage paid Rome restitution
- Carthage went home, strengthened its economy and focused on taking up lands in Hispania

Bellum Primum

- Punic Wars

Bellum Secundum

Anni 218 – 201 BC

Bellum Secundum

- **Duces Romani**

- Publius Cornelius Scipio
 - co- consul at beginning of 2nd PW; led successful Hispanian front
- Tiberius Sempronius Longus
 - co- consul at beginning of 2nd PW; led troops at Trebbian River defeat
- Gaius Flaminius
 - next consul after Scipio and Sempronius; leader of troops at Lake Trasimene
- Gnaeus Servilius Geminus
 - co-consul with Gaius Flaminius; command of Roman coastal troops and naval fleet
- Quintus Fabius Maximus
 - emergency elected dictator; had delay strategy
- Marcus Minucius Rufus
 - Fabius Maximus' master of horse, elected co-dictator
- Gnaeus Cornelius Scipio

Bellum Secundum

- **Duces Romani (cont.)**

- Lucius Aemilius Paullus

- consul with Varro; elderly and cautious; advised against action at Cannae

- Gaius Terentius Varro

- consul with Paullus; young and risk-seeking; mistakes lead to defeat at Cannae

- Marcus Livius Salinator

- co-consul with Nero; lead troops in a successful battle against the Carthaginians

- Gaius Claudius Nero

- co-consul with Livius; lead troops in a successful battle against the Carthaginians

- Masinissa

- Numidian leader loyal to Rome

- P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus

- son of P. Cornelius Scipio; lead major Carthaginian defeat, leading to end of war

Bellum Secundum

- **Duces Punici**

- Hannibal

- son of Hamilcar; leader of Carthaginian troops in Italy

- Hasdrubal,

- son of Hamilcar; commanded Carthaginian troops in Spain

- Hasdrubal Gisco

- Son-in-law of Hamilcar; leader of empire between death of Hamilcar and leadership of Hannibal

- Mago

- son of Hamilcar Barca; helped Hannibal in many major battles

- Hanno

- Terrible Carthaginian general; helped with some successes but mostly failures

- King Antiochus

- ally and protector of Hannibal

- Philip V

- Macedonian ally to Carthage

Bellum Secundum

- **Ante Bellum**

- As we know, Rome won the First Punic War
 - As a result, Carthage was broke and did what they could to gain some money and some lands elsewhere
 - Rome got not only Sicily but later Corsica and Sardinia, too
- Hamilcar was busy gaining lands for Carthage and establishing a nice colony in Hispania
 - He died, leaving his son-in-law, Hasdrubal, in charge
 - Until Hamilcar's sons were old enough to lead an army
 - Empire continued to expand to the Pyrenees Mountains in N. Hispania/S. Gaul

Bellum Secundum

- **Ante Bellum**

- Rome began supporting the anti-Carthaginian city of Saguntum in Hispania after the city appealed for help
- Hannibal, son of Hamilcar, sieged Saguntum
 - Rome, too busy with other endeavors, doesn't offer much help
 - In the aftermath, Rome gave the Carthaginians a choice: peace or war
 - Spoilers: Carthage did not choose peace

Bellum Secundum

- **Ante Bellum**

- Hannibal left his brother Hasdrubal behind to command some troops in Saguntum; meanwhile, he took another troop over the Alps into N. Italy.
 - Moves large army, including thousands of men, cavalry and war elephants
 - Only a fraction of the troops remained after this adventure
 - Rome totally did not anticipate this move
 - One general was off leading troops in Sicily while another was off in Saguntum, with only a small faction of troops left on the mainland

Bellum Secundum

- **In Bello**
 - Within months, Hannibal conquered N. Italy
 - He had help from the Gauls who were tired of Rome's nonsense
 - War marked by many Roman defeats on its own soil
 - Battle at Trebbia River
 - Sneaky sneak attack from behind- it's a trap!
 - Battle at Lake Trasimene
 - Sneaky sneak ambush defeat
 - Battle of Cannae
 - Hannibal's genius paired with Roman commander's stupidity
 - Romans elect a dictator, an action done in extreme emergency only

Bellum Secundum

- **In Bello**

- Hannibal tries to win the war by gaining support of some of Rome's own allies
 - Allies remained mostly true to Rome
- Hannibal offers a peace treaty; Romans naturally refuse
- Rome decides instead to pester the crap out of the Carthaginian troops until they were weak, creeping on the troops and denying them food and access to necessary supplies
 - Rome takes war to Carthage, attacking troops in Spain, prompting mainland Carthage to send support there instead of Italy
 - Rome also attacks Carthaginian allies in Sicily and Macedon

Bellum Secundum

- **In Bello**
 - Scipio, a general who proved himself with his successes in Spain, takes troops to mainland Carthage
 - Carthage calls Hannibal home to face this new threat
 - Rome gains aid from Numidian prince, Masinissa
 - This aid of Numidian cavalry is major turning point in battle

Bellum Secundum

- **Fine**
 - War ends when Scipio and his Roman troops successfully defeat Hannibal and Carthaginians at Battle of Zama
 - Scipio returns a hero
 - Dubbed “Scipio Africanus Major”
 - Carthage sues for peace and Rome gives it to them for the small price of:
 - Spain
 - Reparations (\$\$\$\$)
 - Limitations on nautical prowess
 - Limitations on army endeavors

Bellum Secundum

- [Part One](#)
- [Part Two](#)
- [Part Three](#)

Bellum Tertium

Anni 149 – 146 BC

Bellum Tertium

- **Duces Romani**

- Manius Manilius

- co-consul with Marcus Censorinus; unsuccessful general in attack on Carthage

- Lucius Marcus Censorius

- co-consul with Manius Manilius; unsuccessful general in attack on Carthage

- Scipio Aemilianus

- Adopted son of Scipio Africanus; commanded destruction of Carthage

Bellum Tertium

- Duces Punici
 - Hasdrubal the Boeotarch
 - Carthaginian general who successfully repelled the first Roman attack but could not manage the second.
 - Himilco Phameas
 - co-general to Hasdrubal

Bellum Tertium

- **Ante Bellum**

- Rome felt uneasy that Carthage continued to exist
- Not to mention, Carthage began to have a border dispute against Numidia (a neighboring country)
 - Remember how Rome said no more war-mongering unless they said it was okay? Rome did not think this was okay
- Rome also insisted that Carthage keep paying them money, despite the fact that Carthage had officially paid them off

Bellum Tertium

- **Ante Bellum**

- Roman citizens, eager for war, urged the Republic into war
 - In a famous speech, senator Cato ended his speeches with *Carthago delenda est*, “Carthage must be destroyed”
 - This was to be a rally cry to encourage the war
- The citizens did everything they could to show that Carthage was flourishing and thus an impending threat to their peace

Bellum Tertium

- In Bello
 - Rome declared war on Carthage
 - This may have been the best decision ever, as there was evidence that Carthage may have been taking up arms in preparation to attack
 - Rome naturally stomps the Carthaginians (again)
 - Carthaginians sue for peace (again) but Rome keeps providing conditions that the Carthaginians refuse
 - Rome decides to go ahead and siege Carthage (for three years), and then burns the city to the ground

Bellum Tertium

- **Fine**
 - Carthage falls
 - Roman troops salt the earth so that nothing ever grows in Carthage again
 - This may or may not have happened

Post Bellum

Post Bellum

- Carthage ceases to exist as a separate entity and becomes a province of the Roman Empire.
 - This officially gives Rome control over not only mainland Italy but North Africa and the Western portion of the Mediterranean