

010_Wars of the Roman Republic

A. The Roman Military Machine

- a. Citizens and Army were one.
- b. Centuries
 - i. The Army assembled into centuries was the chief law-making body of the state.
 - ii. First Class – Heavy Infantry
 1. Two spears, dagger, sword
 2. Full Armor
 - iii. Second Class
 1. Missing Cuirass
 - iv. Third and Fourth
 1. No armor
 - v. Fifth Class
 1. Slings

B. The Legion

- a. Mixed Brigade
 - i. 4200 infantry
 - ii. 300 cavalry
 - iii. Various auxiliary groups
- b. Divided into Centuries
 - i. First of 100 then later 200
- c. Vexillum – Banner
 - i. Dishonored if this falls into enemy hands
 - ii. Officers threw it at enemies
- d. Tactics
 - i. First Stage
 1. Front Rows –
 - a. At 10-20 paces, volley of javelins
 2. Wings –
 - a. Arches and slingers
 - ii. Second Stage
 1. Decisive action
 2. Hand to hand
 - iii. Maniples
 1. Reorganized in 366 BCE
 2. Checkerboard pattern of troops
 3. Made possible for rapid reinforcement
 4. And for quick flanking
 5. Free play for individual combat

C. Discipline

- a. Romans were educated for War
- b. Studied Military Art before all others
- c. Roman Army was vegetarian
- d. No Pay until 405 BCE
- e. They lost battles not wars

D. The Conquest of Italy

a. War With the Latin League

- i. 496 BCE – Tarquins convinced surrounding towns to attack Rome
- ii. Called First Dictator Aulus Postumius
- iii. In three years Rome emerged victorious
- iv. Quote “Between the Romans and the cities of the Latins there shall be peace as long as heaven and earth shall last...Both shall share equally in all booty taken in a common war”
- v. Rome became a member of the league then its master.

b. War with Veii (405)

- i. Battled for control of the Tiber
- ii. Etruria joined the war against Rome
- iii. Rome besieged Veii, for nine years
- iv. After several other wars Rome Annexed Veii and Etruria
 - 1. Renamed it Tuscia

c. War with the Gaul

- i. Began in 390 and lasted until Caesar
- ii. Gauls
 - 1. Not much known of their origins
 - 2. From Spain to Wales and Scotland, Germany
 - 3. Polybius Description
 - a. Tall and handsome
 - b. Fought naked except for golden amulets
 - 4. Durant Quote “When the Celts of Southern Gaul tasted the Italian wine, they were so pleased with it that they decided to visit the land that produced such transporting fruit; probably they were moved by the quest for fresh acres and new pasturage. “
- iii. Around 400 – They moved into Etruria which put up little defense
- iv. 390 – 30000 Gauls defeated Rome in battle and sacked Rome.
 - 1. They destroyed a large part of the city
 - 2. For seven months the remnants of the Roman Army was besieged
 - 3. They finally paid off the Gauls, 1000 pounds of Gold to leave
- v. Other Celtic invasions
 - 1. 367, 358, and 350
 - 2. After being repelled they finally settled in Northern Italy

- a. Cisalpine Gaul
 - d. Pyrrhus, King of Epirus
 - i. Rome was pinched between Gaul in the North and Greeks in the South
 - 1. A few Greek cities, gave themselves over to Rome
 - 2. Tarentum refused and called on Pyrrhus to Aid them
 - ii. Heraclea (280) – Rome was defeated
 - 1. Hence the name Pyrrhic Victory
 - 2. Greek cities joined Pyrrhus and pressed Rome for peace
 - 3. Appius Claudius
 - a. Old and blind, he asked to be carried into the Senate
 - b. Said Rome should never make peace with foreigners on Italian soil
 - c. Rome resumed the war they finally drove out Pyrrhus in 275.
 - iii. After two centuries Rome was the undisputed master of Italy
- E. Carthage
 - a. Carthage
 - i. Origins
 - 1. Phoenician Colony (First settle in 813 BC)
 - 2. Legend Queen Dido – Fled Tyre when it was sacked by Alexander.
 - ii. Economy –
 - 1. Carthage was a trade empire
 - 2. They preferred to trade agricultural goods for manufactured goods
 - a. Although they were skilled in metal-working
 - 3. Merchants ruled the city not aristocracy
 - iii. Empire –
 - 1. From North Africa to Spain
 - 2. Islands of the Mediterranean
 - a. Malta, Sardinia, Corsica and West Sicily
 - 3. They demanded tribute, conscription and control of foreign relations
 - 4. By 400, Carthage was the richest city.
 - a. 20 x wealthier than Athens had been at its height.
 - iv. The City of Carthage
 - 1. 250,000 people
 - 2. Surrounded by water on three sides
 - 3. Forty five foot tall wall on the land side of the city.
 - 4. Had accommodations for 4000 horses, 300 elephants and 20000 men.
 - v. Morals

1. Mostly what we know is from their enemies
 - a. Quote “ Greek and Roman writers describe them as heavy eaters and drinkers, loving to gather in dinner clubs, and loose in their sex relations as they were corrupt in their politics.”
 - b. Polybius – “ Nothing that results in profit is regarded as disgraceful”
 - b. Carthaginian motivation was driven by concerns of profit and cost-effectiveness, which differed greatly from Roman motivation.
 - i. Carthage was run like a large company, with citizens getting a share in the profits of trade.
 - ii. The Carthaginians resorted to war when necessary but preferred peaceful means of resolving potential conflicts.
 - iii. In contrast, the Romans were motivated by the sociopolitical considerations of loyalty to one’s friends and allies and maintaining face.
- F. The First Punic War
- a. The First Punic War started small and by accident, but developed into a titanic struggle for control of Sicily.
 - b. The spark that ignited the First Punic war was small.
 - i. Italian adventurers, called the Mamertines, seized the eastern Sicilian city of Messina and, when pressured by Syracuse, appealed first to Carthage and then to Rome.
 - ii. The humiliation of the Carthaginian fleet and the movement of the Romans into Sicily caused the Carthaginians to send troops to Sicily to crush the Mamertines.
 - iii. This affair brought Rome and Carthage into open conflict.
 - c. The Course of the War happened in three phases.
 - i. The first phase (264–60 BC) saw Roman and Punic armies fighting on land in Sicily. The Roman feat of arms in storming and capturing Agrigentum in 262 BC cowed the Carthaginians, who avoided engaging the legions in a set-piece land battle for the rest of the war.
 - ii. Roman frustration at the Punic ability to resupply Sicily by sea led to the second phase of the war, fought on the Tyrrhenian Sea and in Africa (260–55 BC).
 1. The Romans built a huge fleet in a few months and put to sea in 260 BC, defeating the Carthaginians at the battle of Mylae.
 2. Quote Page 44 – “This Fact...shows us better that anything else how spirited and daring the Romans are when they are determined to do a thing...they had never given the thought to a navy; yet when they had once conceived the project they took it in hand so boldly that before gaining any experience in such

matters they at once engaged the Carthaginians, who for generations had held undisputed command of the seas. “

3. A Roman invasion of North Africa in 256 BC ended with the ambush and defeat of the Roman force in 255 BC, followed shortly thereafter by the destruction of the Roman fleet in a storm off Sicily.
- iii. The third and final phase of the war was fought on Sicily and the surrounding seas (255–41 BC).
 1. The Carthaginians fought most of this phase of the war as a guerrilla campaign from their impregnable bases at Mt. Eryx and Mt. Hercte in western Sicily. Both sides also vied for control of naval bases in Sicily.
 2. Carthaginian cost-effective thinking hampered their war effort and, in 241 BC, when they faced a new Roman fleet at the Aegates Islands, they were roundly defeated.
 3. In 241 BC the Carthaginians surrendered.
 - a. The Romans imposed a huge war indemnity and debarred Carthage from Sicily (which Rome promptly annexed as its first overseas province).
 - d. The First Punic War had important ramifications for Rome and for Carthage.
 - i. Rome enjoyed several benefits as a result of its victory in the First Punic War.
 - ii. The Romans had been drawn out of the Italian peninsula and now possessed their first overseas province, the fertile island of Sicily.
 - iii. The Romans now possessed the largest fleet in the Mediterranean.
 - iv. They took advantage of their fleet and Punic weakness to annex Sardinia and Corsica in 238 BC, further encroaching into the traditional Carthaginian sphere of activity.
 - v. Roman tenacity and determination in the face of adversity had been made clear to all.
 - vi. Defeat drove Carthage to new pastures.
 - vii. The closing of the seas around Sicily and Italy drove Carthage westward.
 - viii. Between 241 and 220 BC the Carthaginians carved out a small empire in Spain.

In certain Carthaginian circles, the Roman victory was too bitter a pill to swallow and an even larger conflict was to emerge from this circumstance.