

in the English word "January." Religious festivals honoring Janus lasted several days and included street carnivals, feasts, and sometimes gift giving.

Romans also adopted religious beliefs from other peoples. Jupiter, originally an Etruscan god, was identified with the powerful Greek god Zeus. The Roman goddess Venus was similar to Aphrodite (AF ruh DĪT ee), the Greek goddess of love. As Rome grew stronger, its gods acquired new powers. For example, Mars, originally worshipped as god of the fields, became god of war during the centuries of Roman conquests.

SECTION REVIEW

1. Locate: Italy, Sicily, Alps, Po River, Apennines, Rome, Tiber River.
2. Identify: Twelve Tables, Jupiter, Mars.
3. Define: republic, patrician, plebeian, consul, veto, dictator, legion, praetor, censor, tribune.
4. List three natural advantages Rome enjoyed.
5. What powers did the Senate have in the early Republic?
6. Name two rights plebeians won after 451 B.C.
7. What values did Roman children learn at home?

2 The Expansion of Rome

During the early years of the Republic, Rome's well-trained army fought in many wars. Between 509 B.C. and 133 B.C., Roman legions fought first for control of Italy and then for supremacy in the Mediterranean world. Success in war transformed the small city of Rome into the rich, turbulent capital of a huge empire. It also presented Rome with the problem of how to rule its new territories and preserve order at home.

The Conquest of Italy

For 200 years after the founding of the Republic, Romans fought for control of central Italy. Gradually, they subdued other Latin cities and conquered the Samnite people to the south and the Etruscans to the north. By 290 B.C., Rome was the leading state in Italy.

When Roman expansion threatened the Greek cities of southern Italy, these cities appealed to Pyrrhus (PIHR uhs), king of Epirus, for aid. Pyrrhus raised a large army and defeated the Romans in two hard-fought battles. But his own casualties were so heavy that he reportedly complained, "Another such victory and I am lost." Today, the expression "pyrrhic victory" refers to a victory won at great cost. When Pyrrhus was unable to gain a final victory over Rome, he abandoned the Greek cities and returned home.

By 264 B.C., Rome ruled all of Italy, as you can see from the map on page 118. Roman officials had to work out ways to govern the new territories. They gave nearby Latins full citizenship, including the right to vote, thereby winning their loyalty. More distant peoples did not receive Roman citizenship, but they were allowed to control their own affairs.

New military roads such as the Appian Way connected Rome to other Italian cities. These roads permitted rapid movement of troops and also encouraged trade, which helped unify the peoples of Italy. Roman settlers also contributed to Italian unity. Roman farmers and soldiers who received land in the new territories helped spread Roman customs and the use of Latin, the Roman language. Furthermore, the conquered regions supplied soldiers to fight in the Roman legions and often carried Roman ways back home with them.

Rivalry Between Rome and Carthage

Roman expansion in Italy led to conflict with Carthage, a city-state on the coast of North Africa. As you read in Chapter 3, Phoenician traders founded Carthage about 750 B.C. Carthage had flourished, and its huge commercial empire, protected by a powerful

navy, stretched across North Africa and into Spain.

When Rome conquered the Greek cities of southern Italy, it inherited the trade rivalry between those cities and Carthage. Moreover, Rome and Carthage viewed each other's power with suspicion. A struggle for control of the western Mediterranean seemed unavoidable. Between 264 B.C. and 146 B.C., Rome and Carthage fought three long, exhausting wars. These are called the Punic Wars, from the Latin word "Punicus," meaning Phoenician.

The First Punic War. In 264 B.C., a minor dispute between two cities in Sicily involved Carthage and Rome in the First Punic War. For 23 years, fighting raged across Sicily. Although Rome had excellent armies, Carthage controlled the seas. But the Romans quickly built a fleet and developed new ways of fighting at sea. For example, they used a wide plank to grasp hold of an enemy ship. Roman soldiers then boarded and seized the enemy vessel.

By 241 B.C., Rome and Carthage were exhausted. Rome had nearly won control of Sicily, and its new navy was victorious at sea. Carthage finally sued for peace, and Rome forced Carthage to pay a fine and surrender Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica. The war made Rome an important naval power and gave the Romans their first overseas provinces. However, Carthage remained a great power.

The Second Punic War. Two generals, Hamilcar (huh MIHL kahr), who had fought Rome in the First Punic War, and his son Hannibal (HAN uh b'l) helped extend Carthaginian power during the next 20 years. Together they brought much of Spain under Carthaginian control and began to plan revenge on Rome. According to legend, Hamilcar had made his son swear on a sacred altar to remain Rome's enemy for life. After his father's death, Hannibal pushed deeper into Spain. When Rome tried to stop him, he took the offensive.

In 218 B.C., Hannibal led an army on a hazardous winter march from Spain, across the Alps, into northern Italy. Hannibal used African war elephants to carry heavy equipment across the Alps. However, in the mid-winter crossing, all but one of the elephants

died. Roman legions rushed north to fight Hannibal, but Hannibal soundly defeated them. Hannibal then marched south, hoping to rally the peoples of Italy against their Roman conquerors, but most remained loyal to Rome.

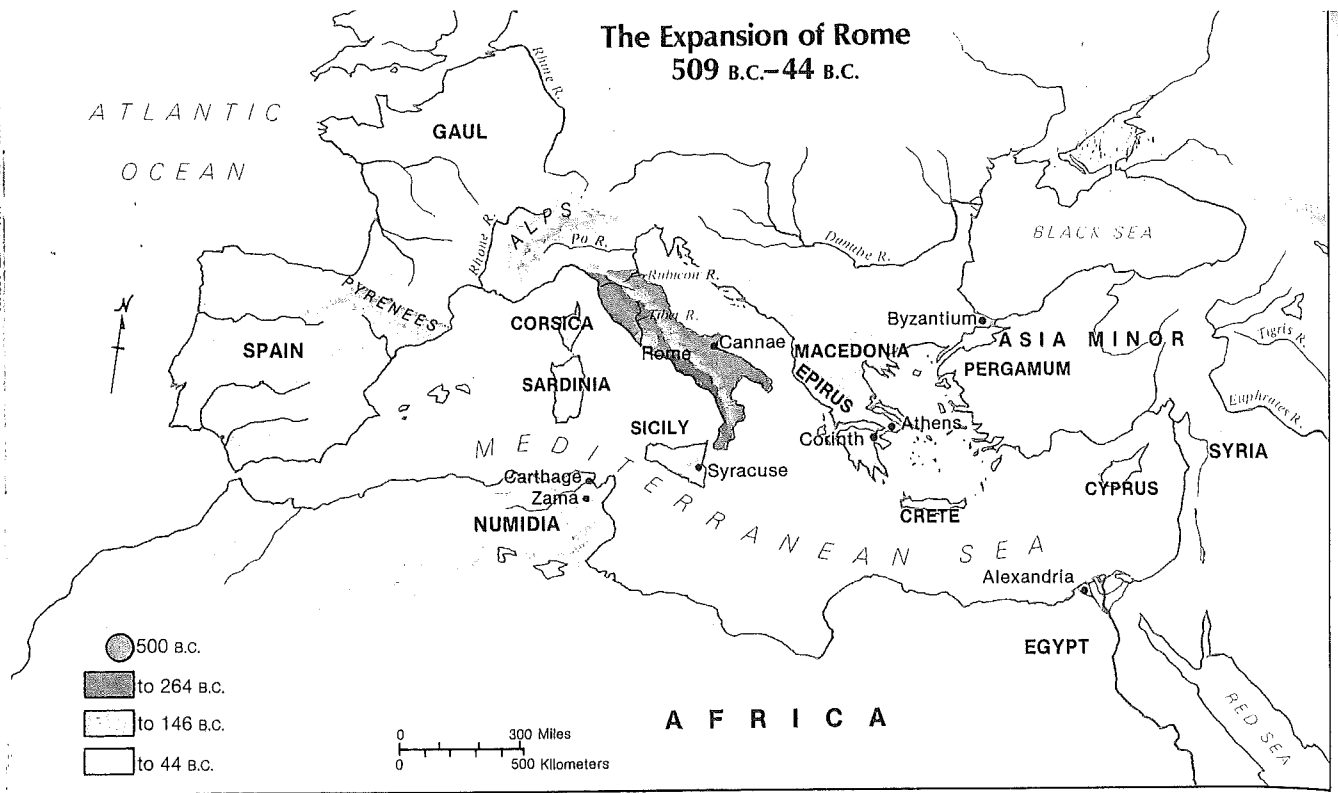
The Second Punic War lasted for 15 years. During that time, Hannibal's troops roamed across Italy, destroying towns and villages. Although Roman armies constantly harassed Hannibal, they avoided open battle. Finally, a Roman army landed in North Africa, and Hannibal was forced to leave Italy to defend Carthage.

Hannibal was decisively defeated at Zama, and he fled to Asia Minor. In 201 B.C., Carthage agreed to a peace that made Rome supreme in the western Mediterranean. Carthage was forced to pay a heavy fine and give Spain to Rome. Carthage also promised not to wage any war without Roman consent.

"Carthage must be destroyed." In 150 B.C., Carthage fought its neighbor, Numidia, without Roman consent. The violation of the peace terms enraged the Romans. The Senate rang with the words of Cato, a veteran of

Roman armies conquered an empire stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Euphrates River. The battle scenes that decorated many public buildings and monuments recalled famous Roman victories. In this scene, a standard bearer, carrying the symbol of his office, is shown leading four foot soldiers in a military parade.





■ Rome often expanded its empire through warfare. The Punic Wars, which ended in 146 B.C., brought large amounts of territory into the empire. Rome also acquired territory in other ways. For example, in 133 B.C., the king of Pergamum died without an heir and left his empire in Asia Minor to Rome.

the Second Punic War, "Carthage must be destroyed!"

The Third Punic War lasted only three years, from 149 B.C. to 146 B.C. A Roman army invaded North Africa, attacked Carthage, and burned the ancient city. The surviving population of Carthage was massacred or sold into slavery, and the territory around Carthage became the Roman province of Africa.

Winning an Empire

During the Punic Wars, Roman armies also won territory elsewhere. As you can see from the map above, Rome acquired parts of Spain, southern Gaul, Macedonia, and Greece. At first, Rome had allowed the city-states of Greece some independence. But when the Greeks pursued policies contrary to Roman interests, Rome intervened. In 146 B.C., Roman armies destroyed Corinth in the same brutal manner as they had Carthage.

Wars in the eastern Mediterranean brought Rome into conflict with many states

that had been part of Alexander the Great's empire. By 133 B.C., Rome controlled many of these states. Over the next 100 years, Roman conquests created a vast empire of diverse peoples.

Rome organized its foreign lands into provinces. The Senate chose former consuls or other officials to serve as provincial governors. Each Roman governor supervised tax collection, organized the defense of the province, and settled disputes between provincials and Romans. Rome did not attempt to change the customs, religion, or local governments of its foreign subjects. This tolerant policy made Roman domination more acceptable to the conquered peoples.

Yet Roman rule was a mixed blessing. Some governors built roads, developed the economy, and founded new towns. However, many Romans who served well as consuls or praetors at home abused their power in the provinces. Governors received no pay because the job was considered an honor, but many grew rich accepting bribes or keeping a portion of the taxes they collected.

Changing Economic and Social Conditions

Winning an empire brought Romans many gains. They were introduced to the advanced learning of Hellenistic civilization. Also, trade and commerce increased as wealthy Romans demanded expensive luxuries from the conquered territories. But the wars of expansion created problems for Romans at home. Three "prizes" of war had a profound effect on economic and social conditions in the capital: grain, treasure, and slaves.

Huge amounts of grain poured into Rome as *tribute*, or forced payment, from conquered areas. This influx created a surplus of grain, which lowered the price of grain. As prices dropped, many small farmers in Italy, once the economic backbone of the Republic, had to sell their land to pay their debts.

At the same time, a new class of Romans benefited from the war. They grew rich from captured treasure and the increased trade in luxury goods. This new class bought up land from small farmers and created vast estates called *latifundia* (LAT uh FUHN dee uh). Large numbers of slaves brought back

as prisoners of war provided cheap labor for the *latifundia*. Small farmers could not compete with these large landowners, and more farmers were forced off their land.

Landless farmers drifted to Rome, where they joined thousands of unemployed soldiers also attracted to the capital. In Rome, the poor became increasingly bitter about the luxuries enjoyed by the rich. As the numbers of the poor grew, they became a huge, restless mob easily swayed to violence by bribes and promises. The economic and social problems created by the wars of expansion were to plague Rome for years.

For answers, see p. A 17.

SECTION REVIEW

1. Locate: Carthage, Zama.
2. Identify: Pyrrhus, Punic Wars, Hannibal.
3. Define: tribute, *latifundia*.
4. What factors contributed to rivalry between Rome and Carthage?
5. What was the outcome of the Second Punic War?
6. List two ways in which winning an empire affected Rome.

3 Decline of the Republic

Between 133 B.C. and 44 B.C., bitter disputes divided Rome. The Senate had emerged from the wars of expansion as the most powerful governing body in Rome. But wealthy senators were more interested in preserving their privileges than in solving the problems of the empire. Meanwhile, popular leaders demanded reforms to help the landless poor who had crowded into Rome.

Early Attempts at Reform

In 133 B.C., Tiberius Gracchus (GRAK uhs), the son of a distinguished Roman family, was elected tribune. As spokesman for the plebeians, Tiberius campaigned for land reform:

The men who fight their country's battles enjoy nothing but the air and sunlight. . . . They fight and die to protect the wealth and luxury of others. They are called masters of the world, but they have not a foot of ground to call their own.

Tiberius called for limiting the size of large estates and redistributing land to unemployed farmers in Rome. Such measures, he argued, would strengthen the Republic because as landowners farmers could be recruited to fight in the army. But the Senate, which feared Tiberius and his supporters, strongly opposed the land reform program. To prevent his reelection as tribune, a mob of wealthy nobles murdered Tiberius and 300 of his followers.