

EUROPA UNIVERSALIS  
ROME  
SPQR

# Ancient Rome and Roman Republic



# THE LEGEND OF ROMULUS AND REMUS

- ⦿ According to legend, *Romulus and Remus* were twin sons of the Roman god Mars.
- ⦿ There were plots that other gods wanted to harm the boys
- ⦿ To protect them, their mother Rhea sent them afloat in a basket down the Tiber River.
- ⦿ They were found by a female wolf and she fed them and took care of them.



# THE LEGEND OF ROMULUS AND REMUS

- ◉ Eventually a shepherd adopted the boys and raised them.
- ◉ As the twins grew older, they decided they didn't want to tend sheep, they wanted to be something greater.
- ◉ They built a city along the banks Tiber River.
- ◉ However, they both wanted to be king.
- ◉ They quarreled and in a fit of rage, Romulus killed Remus.
- ◉ The city was then named after its first king, Romulus.



# THE ORIGINS OF ROME

- ⦿ In reality, Rome was built by the Latin people between 1000 BC and 500 BC.
- ⦿ The city was founded along the Tiber River located on the Italian peninsula in center of Mediterranean Sea.
- ⦿ The site of Rome was chosen for its fertile soil and strategic location.



# THE ORIGINS OF ROME

- ◉ The land Rome was built on had several advantages.
- ◉ The city was built on seven hills, making it difficult to attack.
- ◉ Located on the Tiber River and the Mediterranean Sea meant that the people could easily conduct trade throughout the region.



# THE ORIGINS OF ROME

- Two other groups also lived on the Italian peninsula, the Etruscans in the north and the Greeks in the South.
- Both the Greeks and the Etruscans have a strong influence on the development of Rome.  
(ex. culture, architecture, military, religion, etc.)
- All three groups competed for control of the region.



# ETRUSCAN RULE

- ⦿ Around 600 BC, Etruscan kings take control of Rome and they rule over the Latins (Romans).
- ⦿ The Etruscan kings order temples and public centers to be built, including the *Forum*, the center of Roman politics.
- ⦿ Rome becomes a large, prosperous and commercially active city.



# THE FALL OF THE ETRUSCANS

- ⦿ King Tarquin assumes power.
- ⦿ He uses violence, murder and terrorism to maintain control over Rome.
- ⦿ The Romans resent the Etruscans.
- ⦿ According to legend, Tarquin allowed his son to rape a Roman woman.
- ⦿ This enrages the Romans and they overthrow the Etruscan king in 509 BC.
- ⦿ The Romans vowed to never be ruled by a king again.





# THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

- ◎ Following the expulsion of the Etruscans, the Roman people create a *republic* from the Latin term *res publica* or “public works”.
- ◎ In this system, Roman citizens were allowed to elect the leaders of their government.
- ◎ Only free-born males were considered citizens.



The Roman Senate



Senatus Populusque Romanus

# PATRICIANS AND PLEBEIANS

- ◎ Two groups struggled for power in the new republic—the patricians and the plebeians.
- ◎ **Patricians** were the wealthy, land-owning class that held most power.
  - Made up a very small portion of the population
- ◎ **Plebeians** were common farmers, artisans and merchants
  - Most people fell into this class



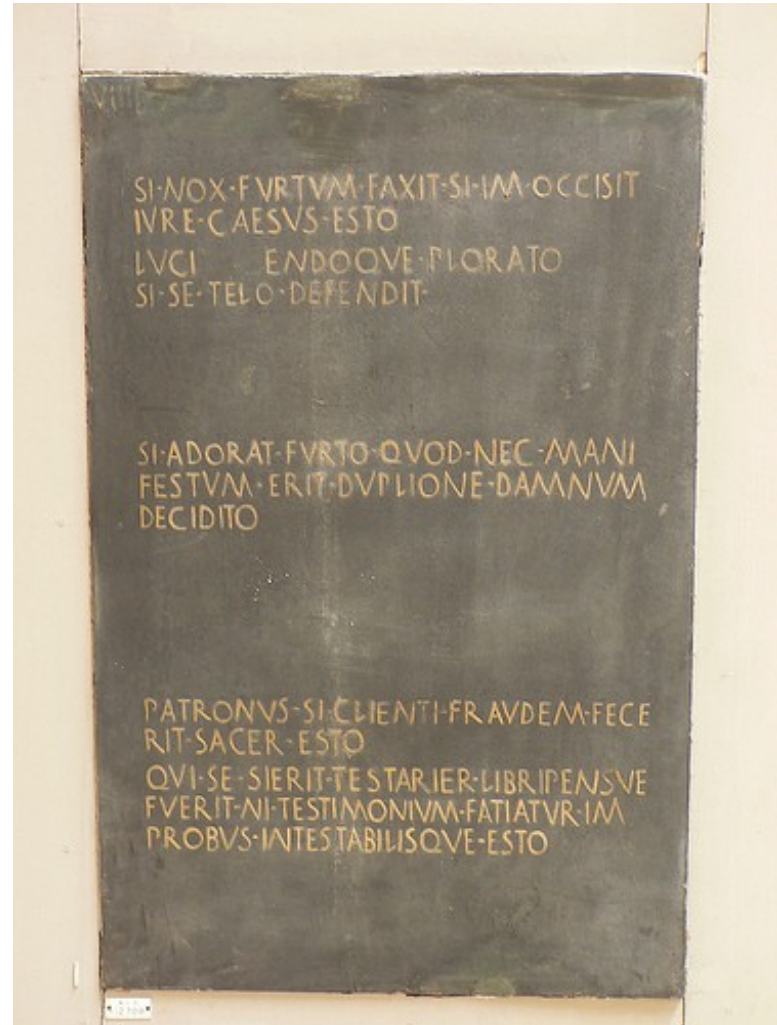
# PATRICIANS AND PLEBEIANS

- ◉ In time, plebeians were able to win more rights.
- ◉ Plebeians elected *tribunes* to represent them.
- ◉ Tribunes protected the rights of common people from the unfair acts of the patricians.
- ◉ Laws at this time were unwritten so the people developed the *Twelve Tables*.
- ◉ The Twelve Tables became the basis of law in Rome and protected all citizens, including the plebeians.



# THE TWELVE TABLES: BASIS OF ROMAN LAW

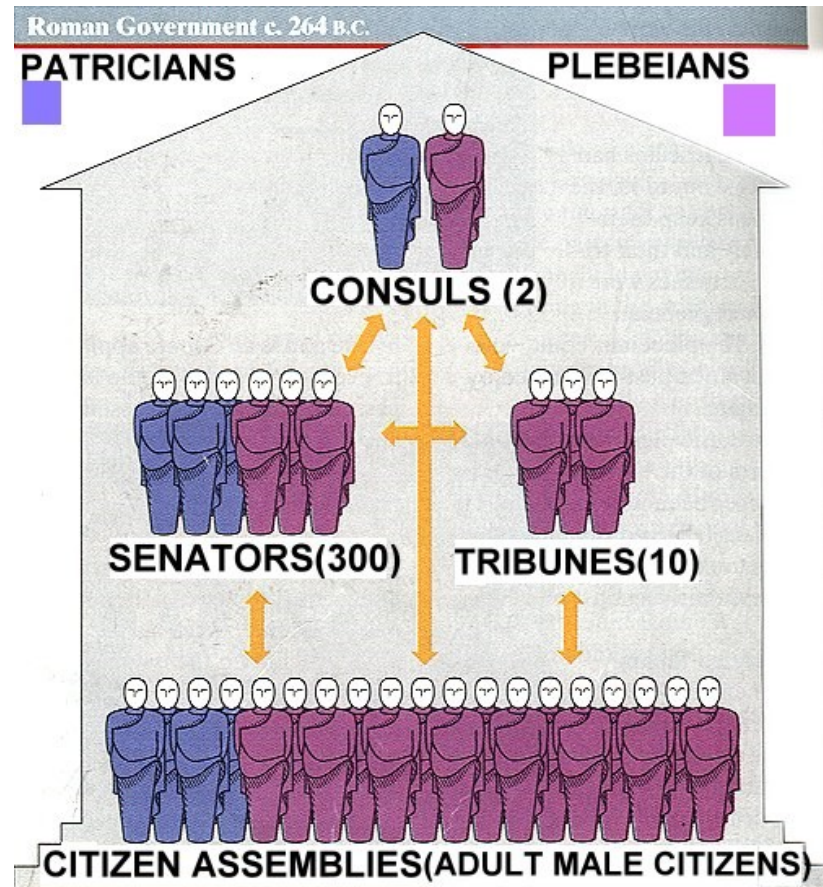
- ⦿ The twelve tables of Rome were the laws of Rome and the foundation for their first written constitution.
- ⦿ They outline the basic human rights and create mandates for different situations some bad, some good.
- ⦿ They were engraved on stone tablets and put on display at the Forum in the city of Rome, so that everyone could see them and know the laws of Rome. This is assumed to have helped their crime rates and made Rome a better place.



“Table VIII: If someone breaks another mans hand he must pay 300, slaves 150, if a man kills another mans crops he must pay...if you cause injury accidentally, you owe a ram”

# ROMAN GOVERNMENT

- ⊙ Roman government had three parts.
- ⊙ First, Romans elected 2 *consuls*.
- ⊙ Consuls were like kings. One led the government, the other led the army.
- ⊙ They could veto each other's decisions.



# DID YOU KNOW?

- ⦿ The word veto comes from the Latin term meaning, “I forbid”.
- ⦿ In the United States, the president has veto power over the Senate and may “forbid” any law or act passed by the Senate.



# ROMAN GOVERNMENT

- ◉ The second part of the government was the Senate.
- ◉ Senate members were elected by the people; however, most Senators were patricians.
- ◉ The Senate passed laws and also controlled the treasury (money).
- ◉ The Senate is the most powerful group in the government of the Roman Republic.



# ROMAN GOVERNMENT

- ⦿ Lastly, there were citizen assemblies.
- ⦿ Any citizen could belong to an assembly and they elected tribunes and made laws that applied to the common man.





# DICTATORS

- ⦿ *Dictators* were leaders appointed in times of crisis.
- ⦿ They were chosen by consuls then approved by the Senate.
- ⦿ Dictators had absolute power to make laws and control the army.
- ⦿ Their power would only last 6 months.



# THE STORY OF CINCINNATUS

- ◉ Cincinnatus was a humble farmer but was held in high regard by the citizens of Rome.
- ◉ Rome was threatened by invading enemies.
- ◉ The people called upon Cincinnatus to be their dictator in this time of crisis.
- ◉ Cincinnatus put down his plow and picked up his sword to lead the army.
- ◉ He defeated the enemy, and immediately resigned his position of dictator and returned to his farm.
- ◉ He is considered a Roman hero.



# AMERICAN CINCINNATUS?

- ◉ George Washington is sometimes called an American Cincinnatus because he too held his command only until the defeat of the British.
- ◉ At a time when he could have chosen to exercise great political power, he instead returned as soon as he could to cultivating his lands.



# THE ROMAN MILITARY

- ⦿ Romans placed a great value on their military.
- ⦿ All landowning citizens were required to serve in the military.
- ⦿ Some political positions even required 10 years of military service.
- ⦿ Roman soldiers were organized into large military units known as *legions*.
- ⦿ Therefore, soldiers were known as legionaries.



# ROMAN LEGIONS

- ◎ The Roman legions were based off the infamous Greek phalanx.
- ◎ However, legions were smaller and therefore could maneuver much more quickly and easily.
  - Usually around 5,000 soldiers.
- ◎ Units would usually be broken down even further into groups of 60-120 soldiers led by an officer.



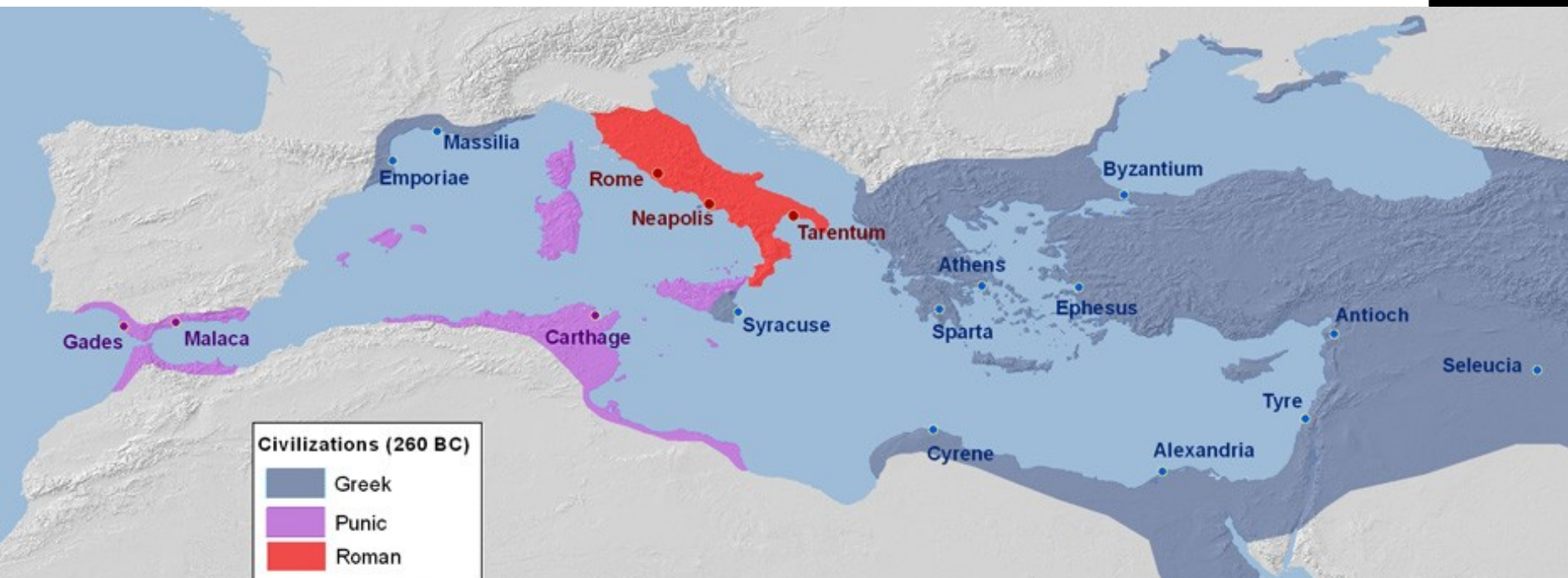
# ROMAN EXPANSION

- ◉ In the fourth century B.C., Rome began to expand.
- ◉ The Romans defeat the Etruscans in the north and the Greeks in the south.
- ◉ Within 150 years, it had captured almost all of Italy.
- ◉ Rome treated the conquered peoples justly. They even allowed some of the conquered peoples to enjoy the benefits of citizenship.



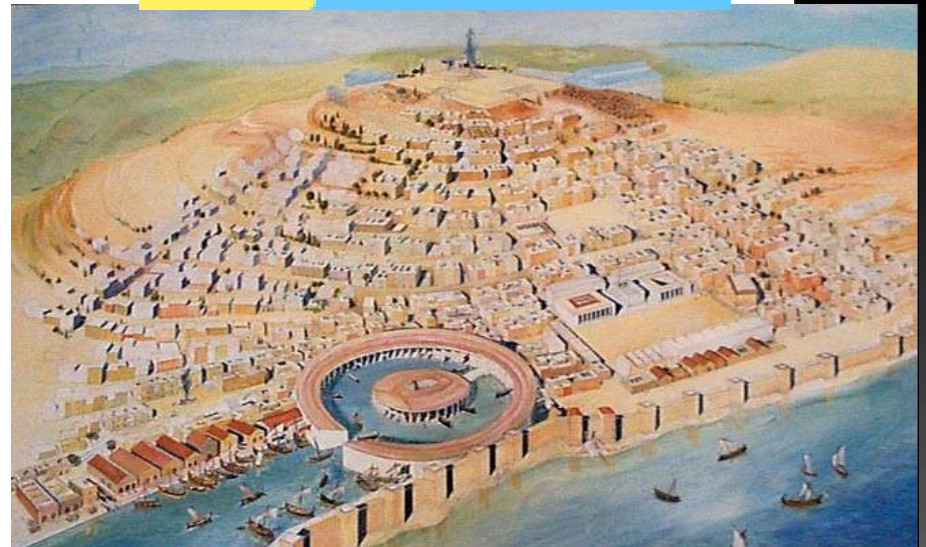


# ROMAN EXPANSION



# ROME VS. CARTHAGE

- ⊙ With full control of the Italian peninsula, Rome establishes a prosperous trade network throughout the Mediterranean Sea.
- ⊙ This brings Rome into conflict with the Punics.
- ⊙ The Punics were from Carthage, a powerful trading city located in North Africa (Tunisia).





# THE PUNIC WARS

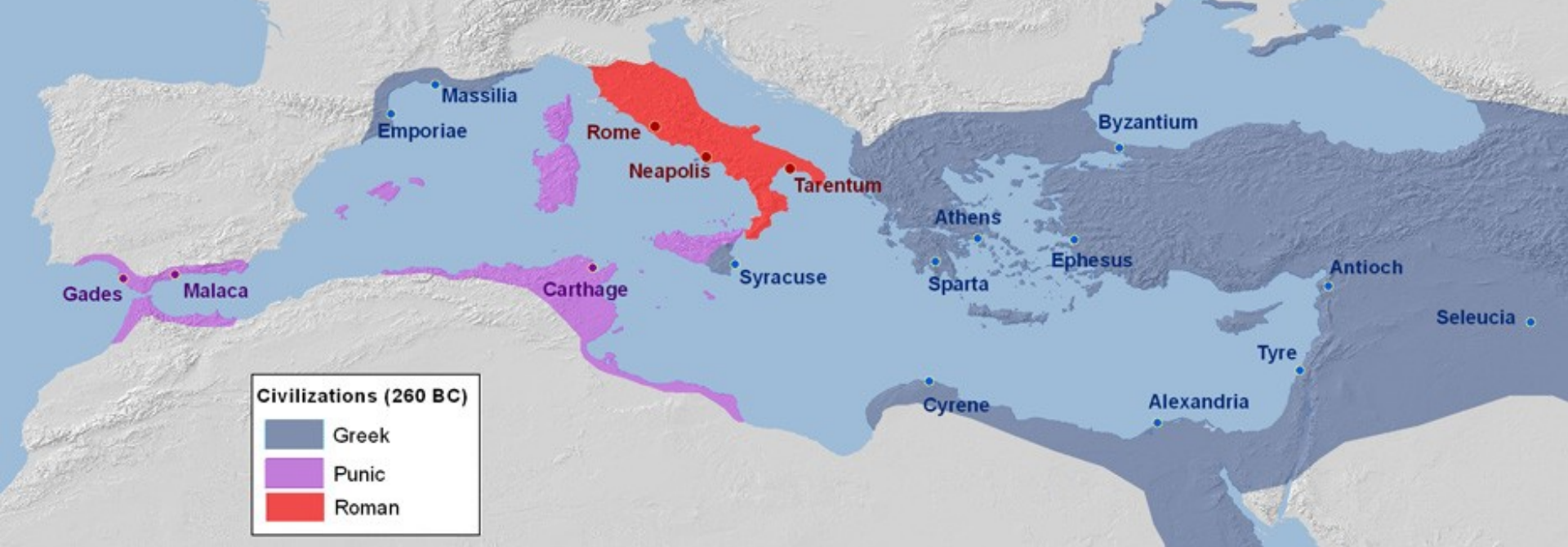
- ⦿ From 264 to 146 B.C., Rome and Carthage fought three bitter wars.
- ⦿ The conflict is better known as the *Punic Wars* and was fought over control of trade in the Mediterranean Sea.



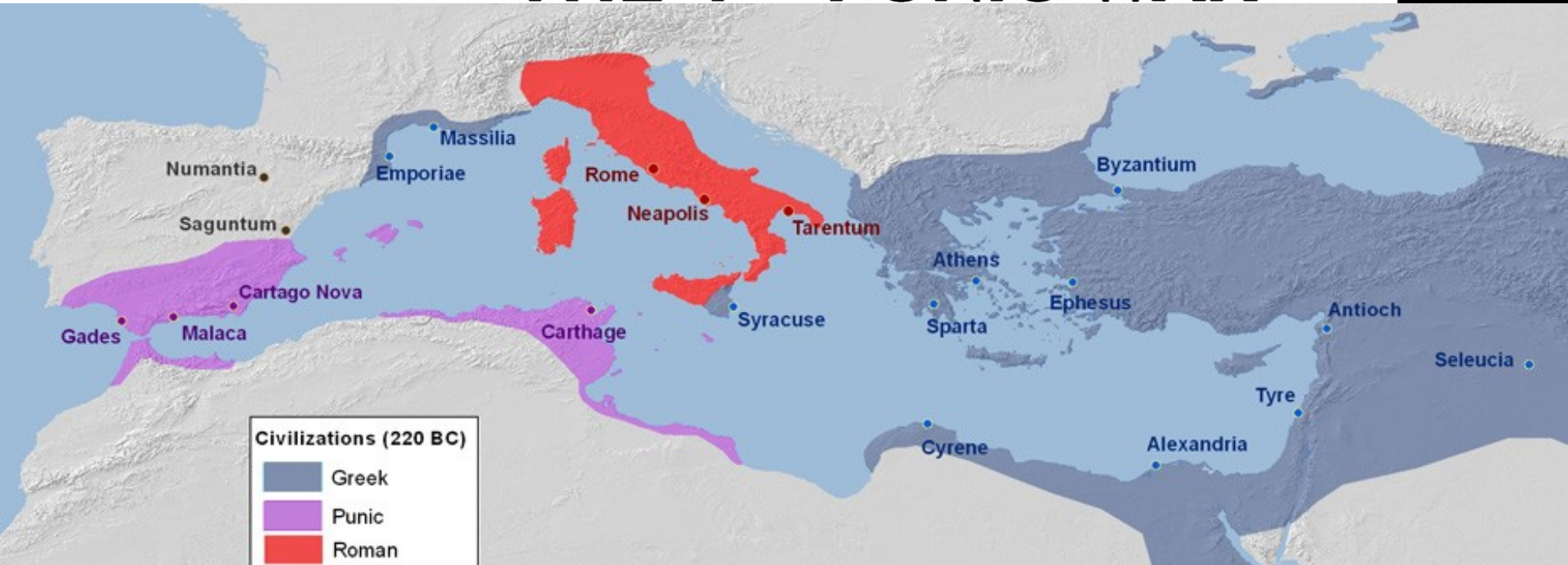
# THE PUNIC WARS

- ⦿ In the first war, Rome won control of the island of Sicily, Corsica and Sardinia.
- ⦿ The war lasted 23 years and Rome was able to defeat Carthage and gain control of the valuable islands.



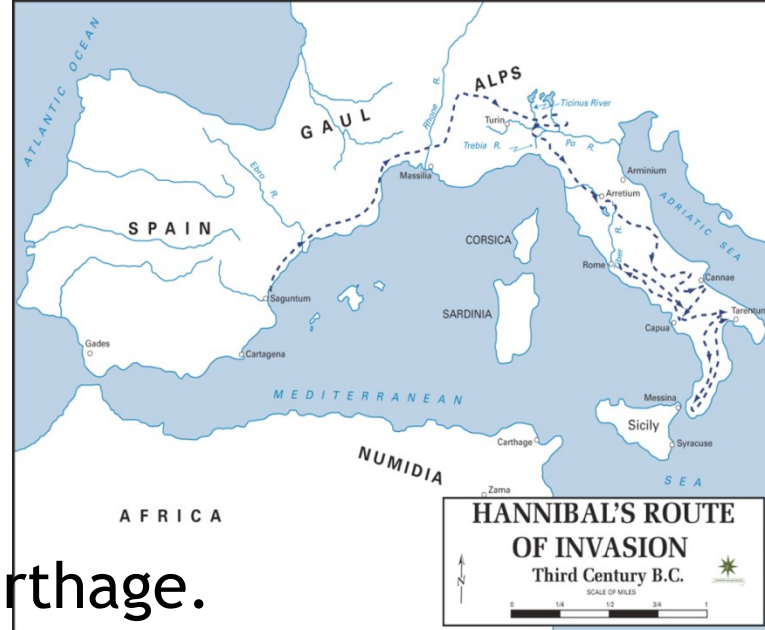


# THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PUNIC WAR



# THE PUNIC WARS

- ⦿ In the second war, a young general from Carthage named *Hannibal* marches on Rome.
- ⦿ Hannibal wanted to avenge Carthage.
- ⦿ Instead of a head on attack, Hannibal marched his enormous army (which included 50,000 men, 9,000 cavalry and 60 war elephants) through Spain and France, over the Alps and into Italy.
- ⦿ Led by General Scipio, the Romans attack Carthage and Hannibal is forced to return to defend his native homeland.

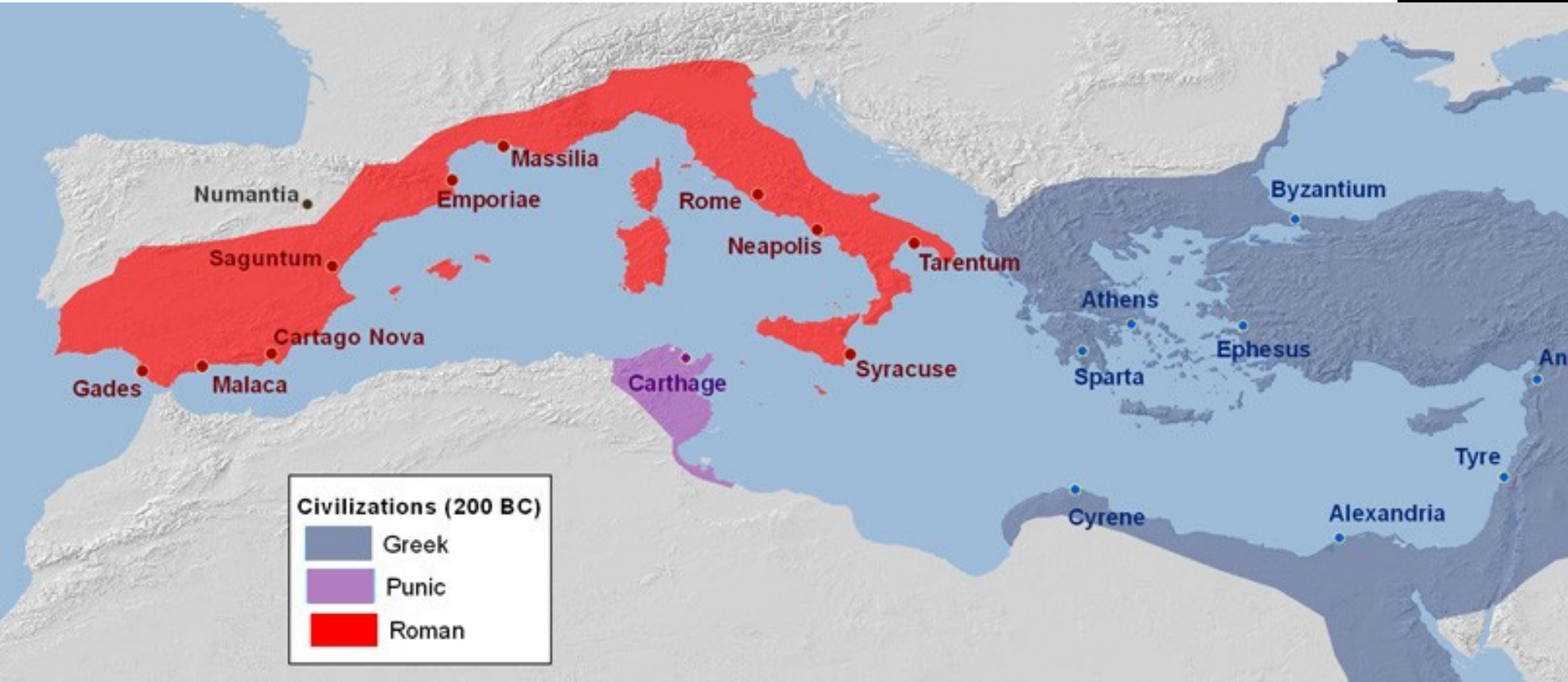


# THE PUNIC WARS

- ◉ Lastly, in the third and final Punic Wars, Rome once again attacks the hated rival Carthage.
- ◉ Rome burns the city to the ground and enslaves its 50,000 inhabitants.
- ◉ It was even said that the Romans covered the ground in salt so that the earth would not be able to produce any more crops.
- ◉ With Carthage finally destroyed, Rome gains dominance over the western Mediterranean



# ROME TRIUMPHS



**SECTION 2 -  
ROME SPREADS ITS POWER**

# ROMAN UPHEAVAL

- ⦿ Rome was now the sole power in the Mediterranean and very prosperous.
- ⦿ But as the territory grew, so did the gap between the rich and poor.
- ⦿ The wealthy patricians benefited greatly from Roman expansion.
  - Slaves brought from conquered territories were sold to wealthy landowners.
- ⦿ At one point, 1/3 of the population was slaves.





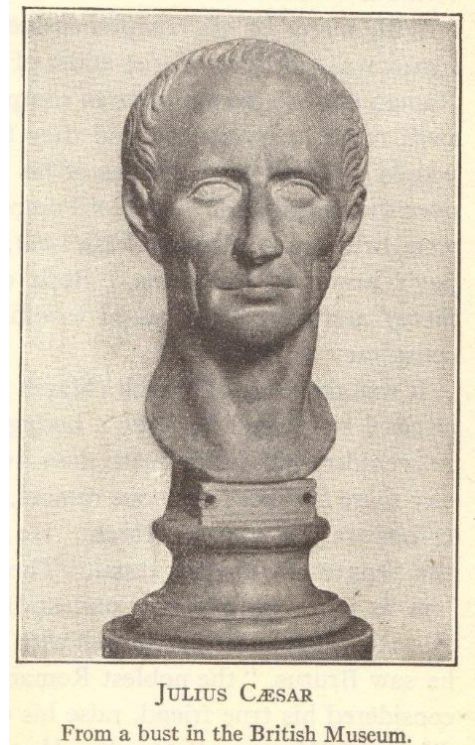
# ROMAN CIVIL WAR

- ⦿ This strife and upheaval between the rich and poor would lead to **civil war** - a conflict between two groups within the same country.
- ⦿ Many poor soldiers in the military became discontent and loyal to their generals rather than to Rome itself.
- ⦿ It would now become possible for a military leader supported by his troops to take over by force.



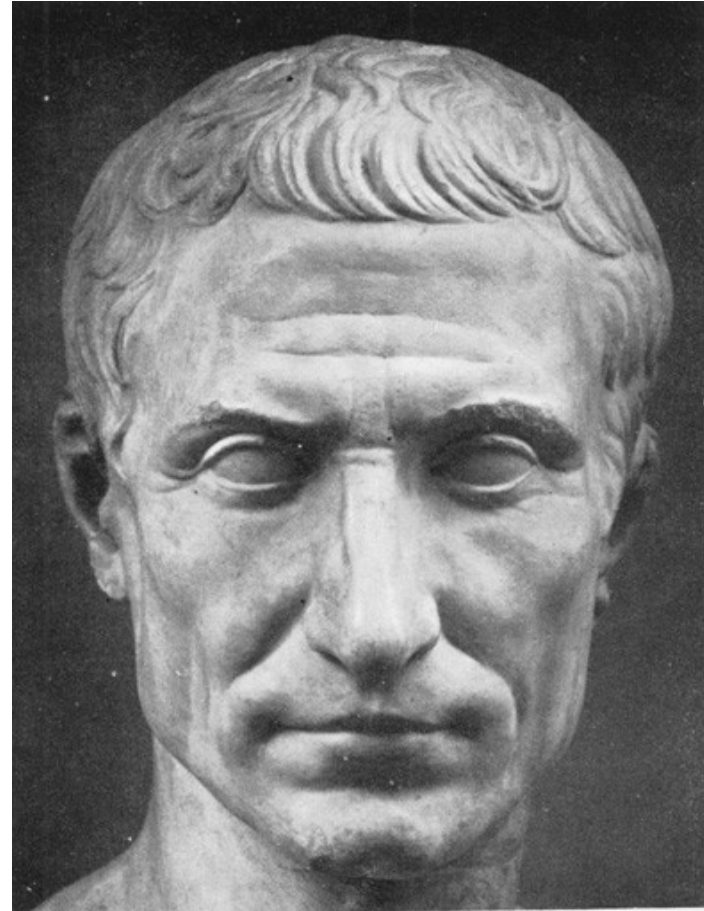
# THE FIRST TRIUMVIRATE

- ⦿ The First Triumvirate was an unofficial (and at first secret) pact to control Rome
- ⦿ From 60 to 53 BCE
- ⦿ Members:
  - Pompey
  - Marcus Crassus
  - Julius Caesar



# JULIUS CAESAR

- Julius Caesar was a great general and an important leader in ancient Rome.
- During his lifetime, he had held just about every important title in the Roman Republic including **consul**, **tribune of the people**, **high commander of the army**, and **high priest**.
  - He suggested new laws, most of which were approved by the Senate.
  - He reorganized the army.
  - He improved the way the provinces were governed.



# Dictator for Life

- ⦿ The Senate disliked many of Caesar's reforms and feared his popularity and power

- ⦿ Ides of March

  - March 15, 44 BCE -

  - Senators conspired to assassinate Caesar

  - Mark Antony tried to stop Caesar from entering the Senate, but a group of senators intercepted Caesar and got him to enter the building using a side entrance

  - Caesar was stabbed to death (at least 23 times) on the floor of the Senate house

# CHAOS AND MORE CIVIL WAR

- ⊙ Caesar left his grandnephew Octavian as his heir

- ⊙ Second Triumvirate

  - Octavian allied himself with Mark Antony and a politician named Lepidus

  - Went after Caesar's enemies

  - 42 BCE - defeated the forces of two of Caesar's assassins, Brutus and Cassius, at Philippi, Macedonia

- ⊙ Split the rule of the empire

  - Octavian took Rome and the West

  - Mark Antony took the East

# OCTAVIAN *VERSUS* MARK ANTONY

- ⊙ Octavian was a smart, capable ruler in Rome

- ⊙ Mark Antony made problematic alliances and ignored Rome's dictates for the East

  - Mark Antony formed a relationship with Cleopatra VII in Egypt

  - Antony and Cleopatra had three children together

  - Mark Antony divorced Octavia, Octavian's sister

  - Mark Antony offended Octavian by publicly suggesting that Caesarion (Julius Caesar's child with Cleopatra) was a legal and rightful heir of Julius Caesar

- ⊙ 32 BCE - Octavian's forces attacked Egypt

  - 31 BCE - Battle of Actium - Mark Antony's fleet was destroyed

  - 30 BCE - Mark Antony committed suicide

  - Cleopatra committed suicide a few weeks later

# OCTAVIAN TRIUMPHS

- ⦿ Having defeated Marc Antony, Octavian becomes the unchallenged ruler of Rome.
- ⦿ While he keeps many similar aspects of a republic, (such as the Senate), Octavian is granted supreme power.
- ⦿ He becomes the first emperor of Rome.
- ⦿ He even changes his name to **Caesar Augustus**, meaning “exalted or great one”.



# CAESAR AUGUSTUS

- ⦿ Augustus is a just and able ruler and further expands the empire.
- ⦿ He also creates a lasting system of government.
  - glorifies Rome with beautiful public buildings
  - sets up a civil service to administer the empire
- ⦿ Starting with Augustus' rule, Rome would enjoy a period of peace and prosperity known as the **Pax Romana** or “Roman Peace” which lasts about 200 years.





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