THE ROMAN WAR MACHINE

PART 1 – ROMAN REPUBLICAN ARMY
C – THE ROMAN WAR MACHINE

**Chronology of Rome:**
- As a Monarchy: 753 BC - 509 BC
- As a Republic: 509 BC - 27 BC
- As an Empire: 27 BC - 395 BC

Legion: was the backbone of the Roman army during both the Republic and the Empire.
- Infantry
- Size: 3,000 – 6,000 men
- Roles, training, and tactics varied as Rome progresses from Republic to Empire
D – EARLY ROMAN REPUBLICAN WAR MACHINE

- Roman legions were NOT permanent, they were militia.
  - On-call farmers
  - Recruitment was strictly based on citizenship and wealth (*must be a landowner*)
    - Army was divided according to wealth
    - Soldiers supplied their own equipment

D – EARLY ROMAN REPUBLICAN WAR MACHINE

- Early army of Rome was heavily influenced by the Etruscan Army and the Greeks.
  - Weapons and equipment were predominantly of Greek type and origin.
  - Hand-to-hand combat → Phalanx
    - Small adjustments, such as using a short sword instead of a spear
D – EARLY ROMAN REPUBLICAN WAR MACHINE

- Phalanx proved inadequate against lightly-armed, fast-moving cavalry.
  - Romans forced to make modifications
    - **Roman Maniple** - literally meaning "a handful"
      - Organized the infantry into groups based on wealth
        - Velites
        - Hastati
        - Principes
        - Triarii

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D – EARLY ROMAN REPUBLICAN WAR MACHINE

**ENEMY**

**MANIPULAR ROMAN LEGION**

- Velites - 1,000 to 1,500 men
- Hastati - Each Maniple of two 80-man centuries
- Principes - Each Maniple of two 80-man centuries
- Triarii - Each Maniple of one 80-man century

Deployed as skirmishers
- 40 Yards
- 80 Yards
D – EARLY ROMAN REPUBLICAN WAR MACHINE

- Carthage founded in 814 BC
- Had become a dominant power located in modern day Lebanon
- Thrived as sea merchants
- Had a mighty navy
- Built 1st colonial empire throughout Med. Sea
  - Empire included...
    - Carthage
    - Western Sicily
    - Corsica & Sardinia
    - Southern Spain

E – FIRST PUNIC WAR

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E – FIRST PUNIC WAR

- Rome had a thirst for expansion and greatness
  - Manifest Destiny?
  - Saw Carthage as an obstacle
  - Rome wanted Sicily for strategic and economic purposes

- To complete, Rome built its’ first navy using the shipbuilding techniques of the Carthaginians
  - Carthaginian warship has washed up on Rome’s shores!

- Rome made the 1st move when they attacked Carthaginian holdings in northern Sicily
E – FIRST PUNIC WAR

- Rome wins!
  - Carthage is unable to send reinforcements
  - Rome was awarded Sicily and Carthage pays Rome “indemnity”
  - Civil War erupted in Carthage after loss
    - Rome pounced and conquered Corsica & Sardinia
  - Carthage was angry and embarrassed

E – SECOND PUNIC WAR AND REFORM

- **Hannibal**: son of a leading Carthaginian military leader.
  - 9 years old when Carthage lost to Rome
  - Hannibal’s father made him take an oath to always hate Rome
    - “I swear so soon as age will permit...I will use fire and steel to arrest the destiny of Rome.“
  - Became commander-in-chief of the army in 221 BC
Revenge on Rome was Hannibal’s primary goal.

- Winter of 218 BC: Began his march on Italy & Rome in
  - 40,000 infantry
  - 10,000 cavalry
  - 37 elephants

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**E – SECOND PUNIC WAR AND REFORM**
HANNIBAL
“THE GREAT’S” VICTORIES IN ITALY

- **Battle of Trebia:**
  - first major battle
  - Resounding Roman defeat (32,000 casualties)

- **Battle of Lake Trasimene:**
  - Hannibal defeated the Roman
  - Many of the Roman troops were forced into Lake Trasimene where they drowned or were massacred.
  - proved to Rome that Hannibal was a formidable enemy

- **Battle of Cannae**
  - Despite being massively outnumbered, Hannibal defeats Rome
  - Sent shockwaves through the Roman army
  - Leads to massive reforms → Gaius Marius

THE PUNIC WARS PRESENT CHALLENGES
HANNIBAL’S DEADLY SINS

- Failed to recruit members of Roman Confederation
- Marched on Rome, but “counts coup” & returns to interior to plunder
- Gave Rome too much time to rebuild forces
- Rome appointed Scipio to lead legions
  - instituted plan to attack Spain & Carthage
- Scipio…
  - Successful in Spain
    - Ended Carthaginian reinforcements
  - Prepared to attack Carthage
    - Forced Hannibal to leave Italian Peninsula