

Second Punic War (218-201)

- Rome continues naval expansion post first Punic war, gaining Corsica and Sardinia by aiding the citizens in revolt
- Carthage establishes additional military colonies and outposts in Spain
- Hannibal claims expands the Carthaginian territory in Spain, Rome demands an end to Carthaginian expansion (Sargentum)
- Carthage declines and continues to expand, Rome declares war
- Hannibal marches from Spain to Italy, through the Alps, to invade Rome
 - Leave with roughly 60,000 men and 37 Elephants
 - Loses anywhere from a third to half of his troops by the time he arrived in Italy
- Hannibal establishes control of northern Italy in 217 and reinforces his army with more mercenaries both native and foreign to Italy and continues to march south
- Battle of Cannae (216 BC):
 - About 86,000 Romans vs. about 50,000 Carthaginian mercenaries
 - Approximately 70,000 Romans are killed and captured compared to 8,000 Carthaginians
 - National day of mourning, every Roman citizen either knew or was related to someone who had died or was captured
- After the disaster of Cannae, Capua, the second largest city in Italy, defects to Hannibal in 215 BC, where he will station his campaign
- Various battles to take, retake, and reconquer ensue for another decade across Italy
- Rome conducts various counter attacks in Spain from 218 BC on, with neither side gaining any discernible advantage
 - Finally conquering New Carthage in 208 BC
 - In 207 BC Hasdrubal joins the war after marching through the Alps, and is defeated and killed on his way to besiege Rome with Hannibal
- 215 BC Carthage retakes control of Syracuse, only to be expelled five years later
- 206 BC Scipio (survivor of Cannae and Rome's top general in his 20s) forces the Carthaginians out of Spain, all volunteers, the soldiers want him to be king
- 203 BC Hannibal is ordered to Return to Africa, ending the Carthaginian campaign in Italy
- 202 BC Rome invades northern Africa
 - Battle of Zama
 - 36,000 Romans
 - 30,000 infantry & 6,000 cavalry
 - 40,000 Carthaginians
 - 36,000 infantry
 - 4,000 cavalry

- 80 elephants
- Carthage surrenders, pays more indemnity, relinquishes islands and Spain to Rome, and becomes an essential vassal state