

Hannibal Barca

247-182 BC



One of the
greatest
military
commanders
in history.

(Barca means "thunderbolt")

Principal sources:

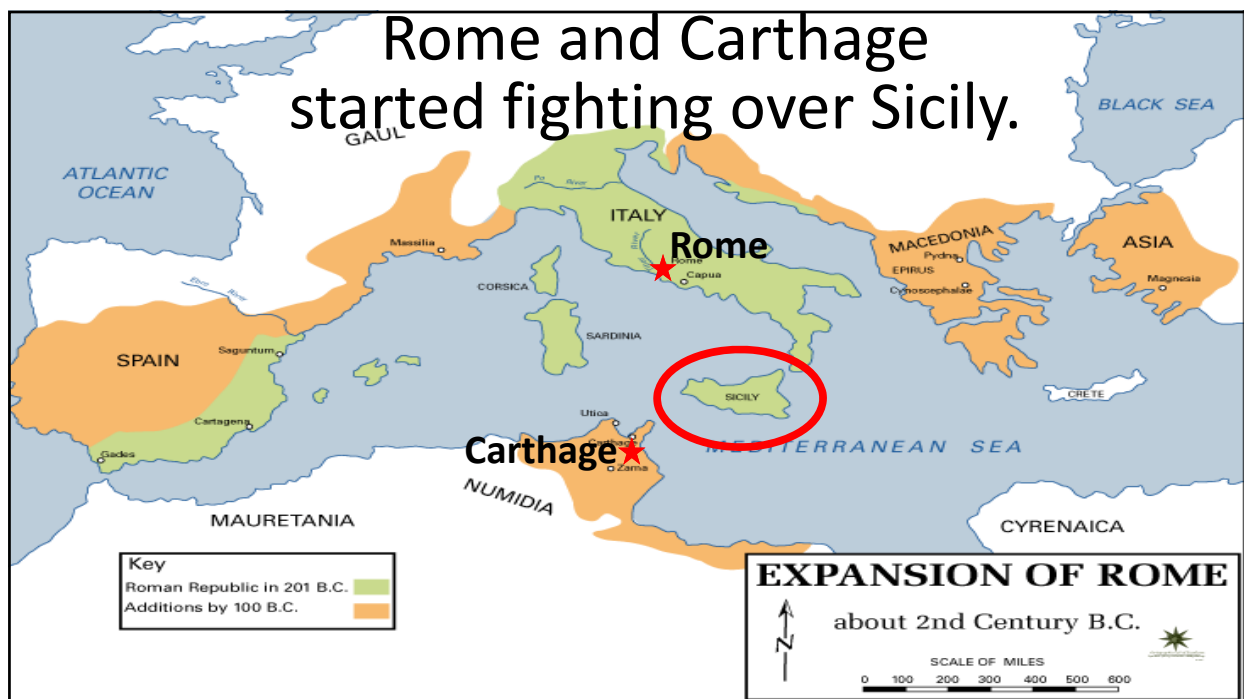
- *1001 Battles that Changed the Course of History* Principal Ed RG Grant
- Greek Historian Polybius c. 200 – c. 118 BC
- Roman historian Livy 59 BC-17 AD
- *The Battle of Lake Trasimene* Historia Civilis
- *The Battle of Cannae* Historia Civilis
- *The True Story of Hannibal* The History Channel

When we think of North Africa,
what sort of land do we think of?



The Punic Wars

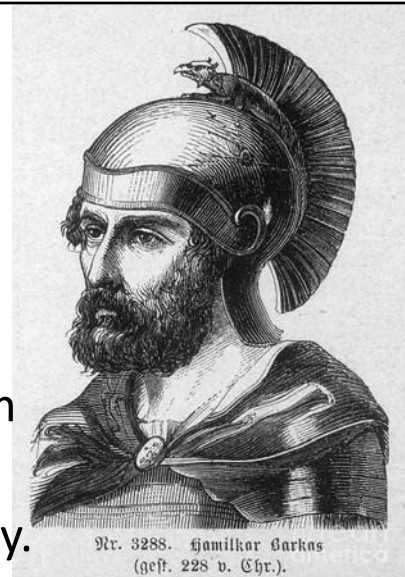
- 1st Punic War
- 2nd Punic War
- 3rd Punic War



Rome won the 1st Punic War but imposed unbelievably harsh conditions in the peace treaty.

Can you think of another occasion the in history of Europe when a punitive treaty with heavy reparations caused another war?

- **Hamilcar Barca:** Hannibal's father.
- Was a bridge between the 1st and 2nd Punic Wars.
- Undefeated (until his last battle).
- His own government betrayed him by making peace behind his back.
- His army mutinied from lack of pay.
- He gathered a new army and invaded Spain.



Hamilcar swore his
sons to fight Rome.

Hannibal



Hasdrubel



Mago



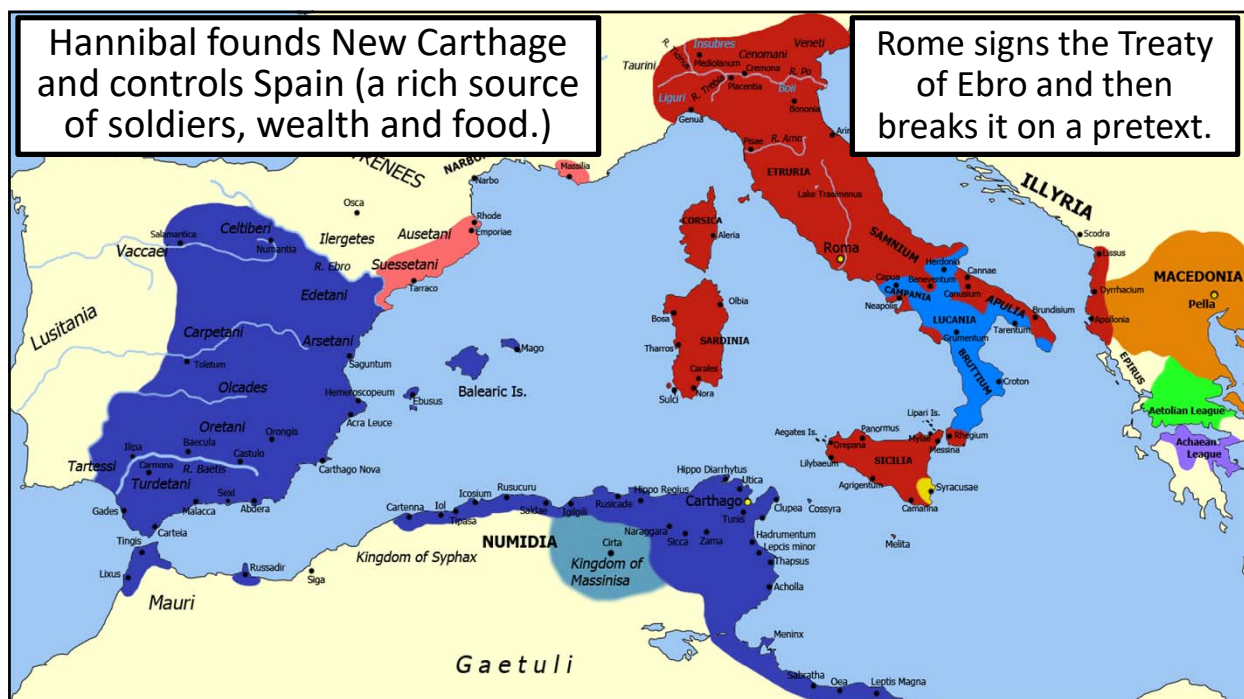
Hamilcar Barca



My son Hannibal will be a great
general, because of all my
soldiers he best knows how to
obey.

AZ QUOTES

- Ambushed by Spaniards, Hamilcar gave his life to save his three sons.
- In 224 BC: Hannibal was appointed Supreme Commander.
- Rome seizes Corsica and Sardinia.



Hannibal's Enemy: Rome

- How long did the Roman Empire last?
- At its height, what territory did it cover?
- Why did Rome want to conquer more and more territory?





The Roman Empire at the start of the Second Punic War

What is Hannibal famous for?

Crossing the Alps with elephants.

Major defeats of the Roman army against superior numbers.

Remaining undefeated on enemy soil for 15 years (until he left).

Some factors in Hannibal's success

- He was a professional soldier: full time, since age 9
- He was charismatic
- He was very intelligent
- He got on well with all nationalities and sought out allies
- He used the unique skills of various allies rather than integrating his troops
- To chose his battles: when to fight and where to fight

- He used the terrain for his advantage
- He used reconnaissance.... (except in the alps!)
- He set ambushes, even moving his soldiers by night
- He established good communications when in battle
- He did not position himself or his generals where they might be easily killed.
- He turned his opponents' strengths into weaknesses
- He used surprise
- He used speed
- He treated his men, his animals and his enemies with care and respect





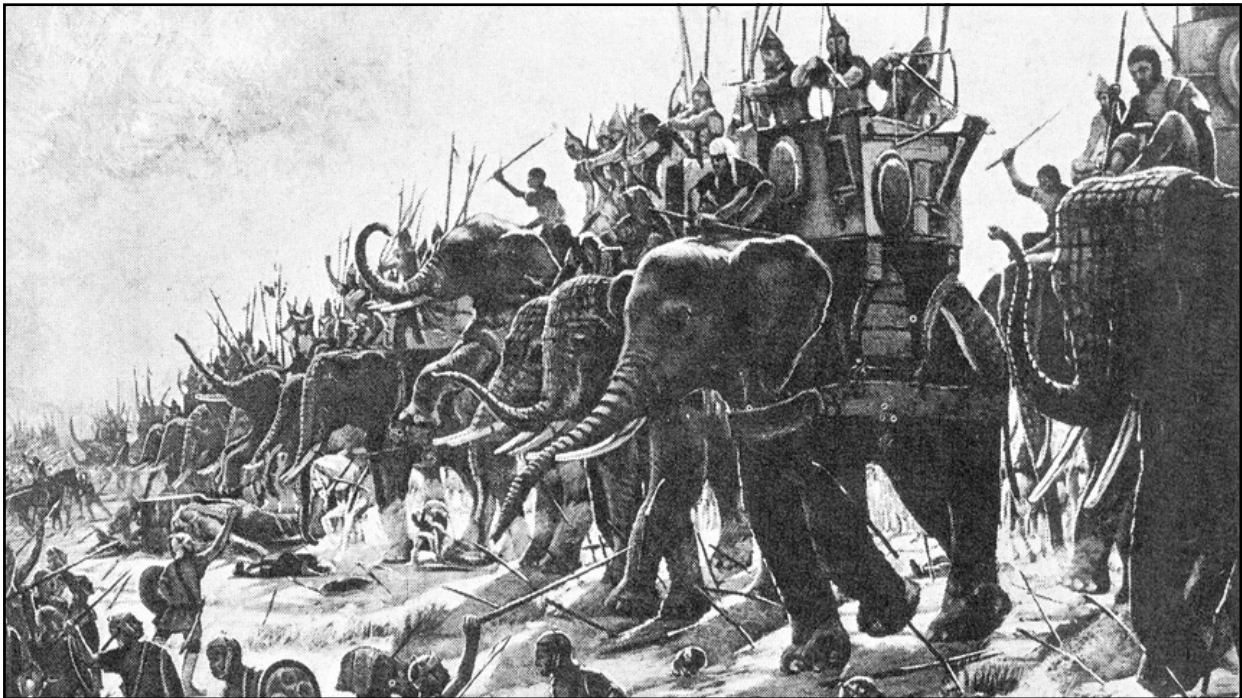
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Ancient mining technique called "fire setting"

I will either find a way, or make one.



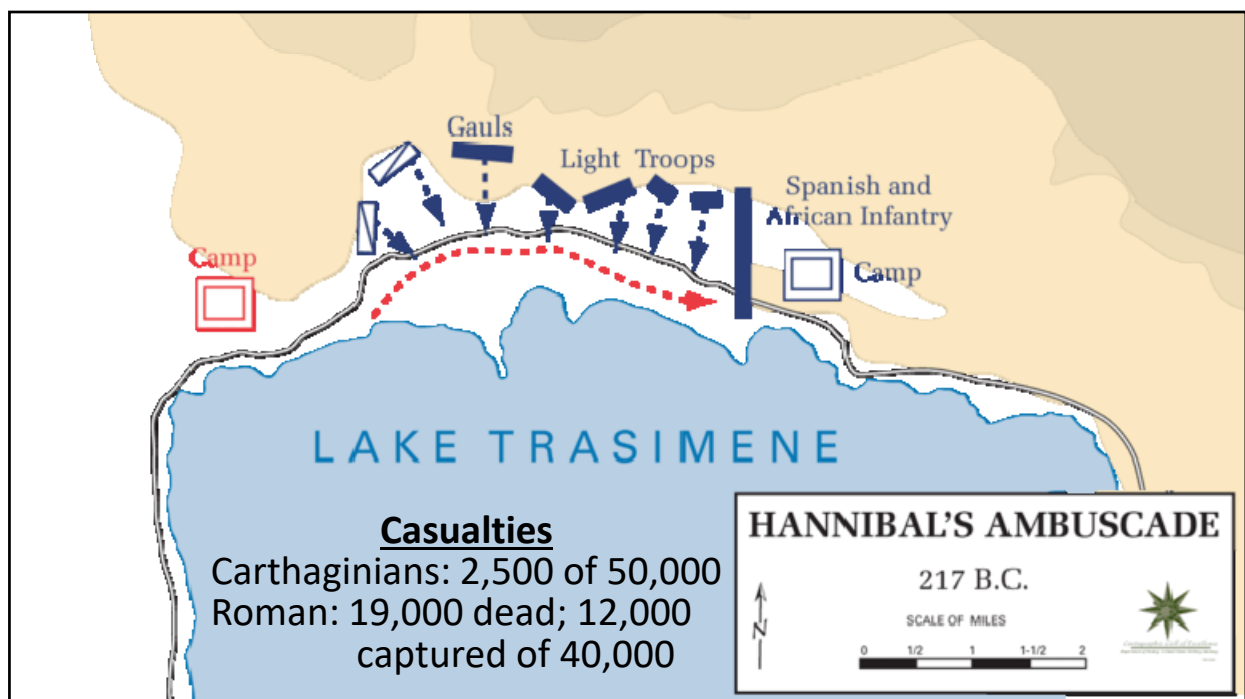
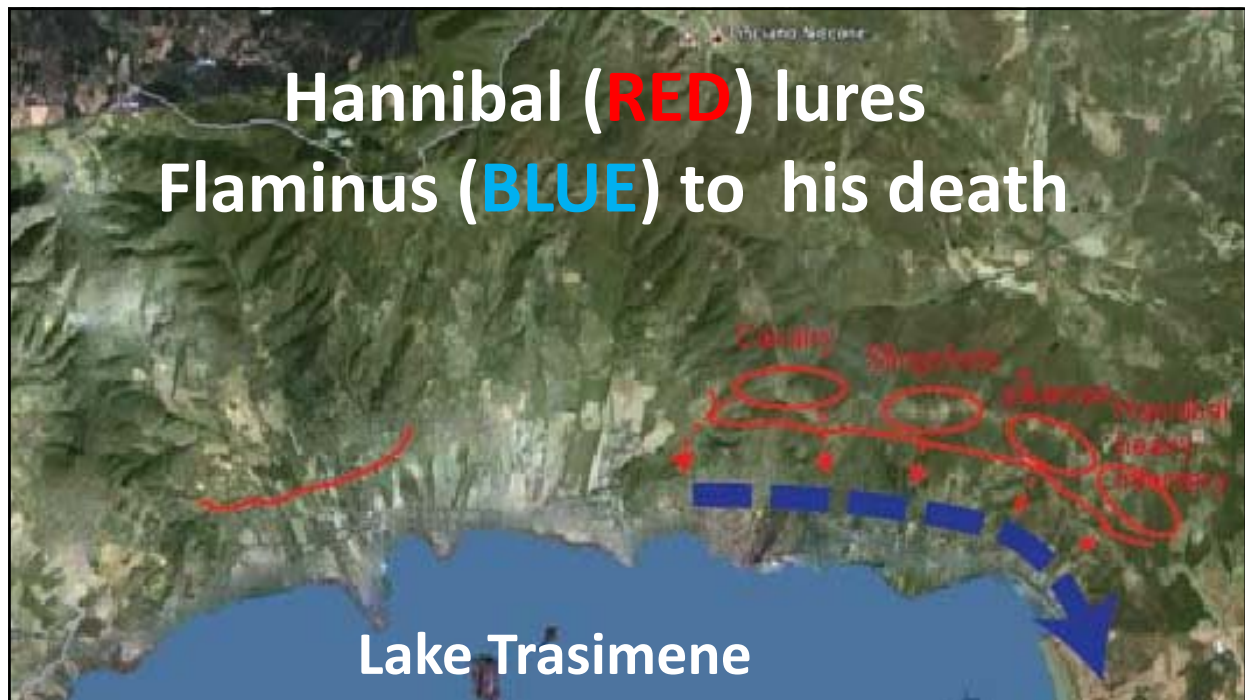


Two of Hannibal's most famous battles

- **Lake Trasimene** 24 June 217 BC

(Show film.)

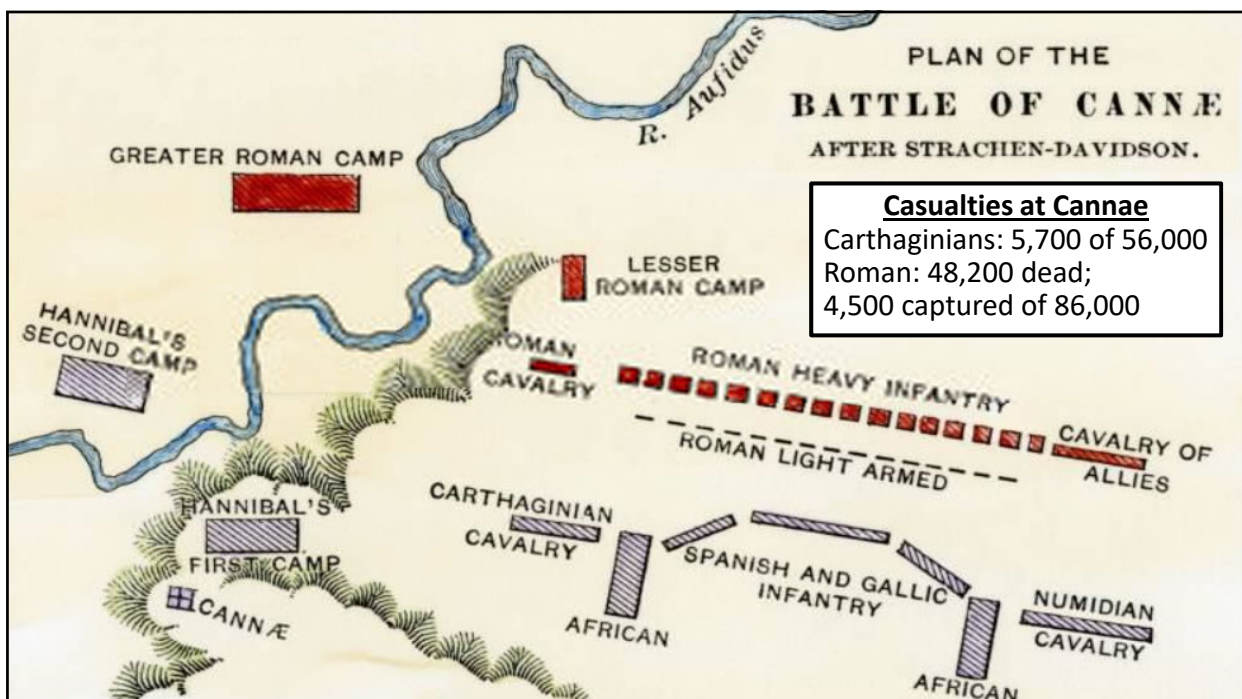
- **Cannae** 2 August 216 BC



Cannae:

What problems can you foresee having two consuls lead one army?

Show film.



Hannibal's Mistakes

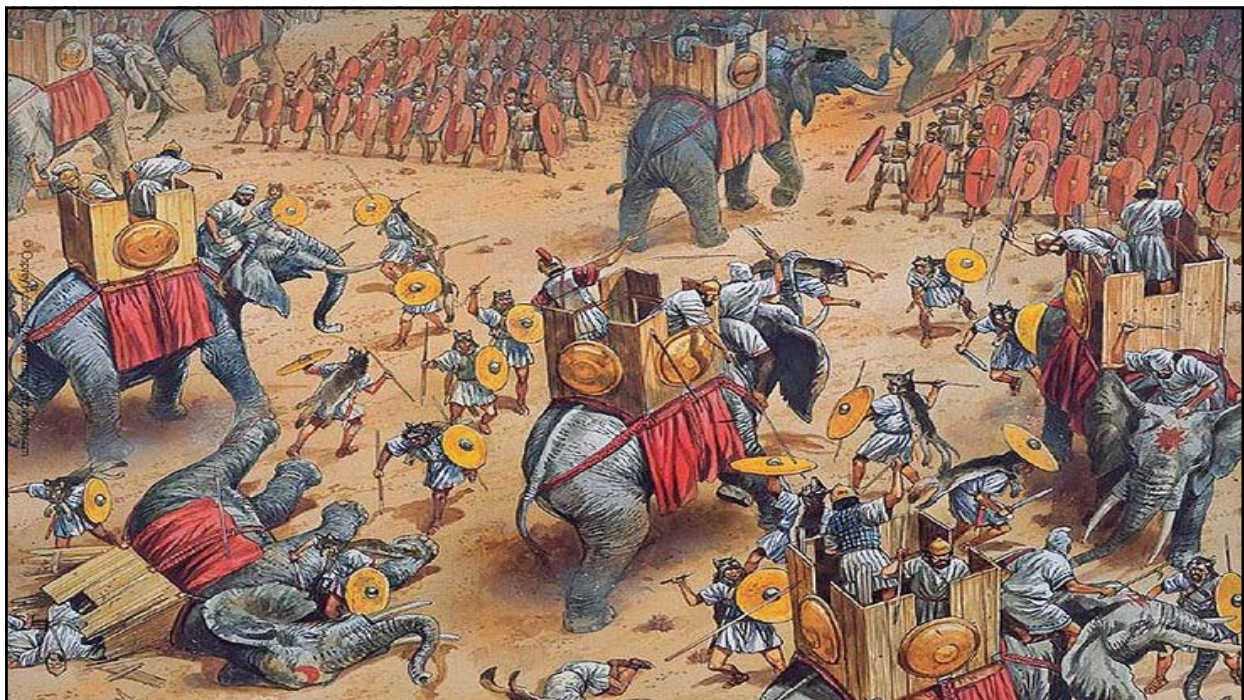
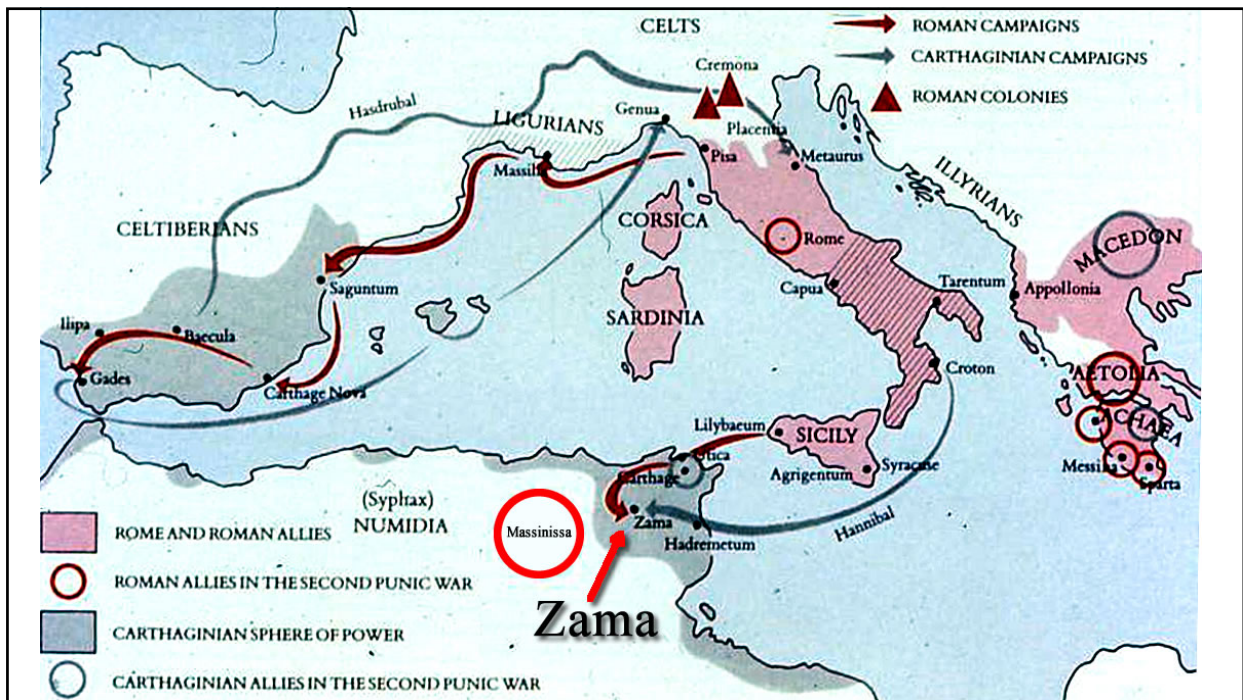
- A mistaken belief that defeat on the battlefield would prompt Rome's surrender.
- He saw himself as a liberator and expected the Italian tribes/villages to join him as allies.
- He did not attack Rome after Cannae.

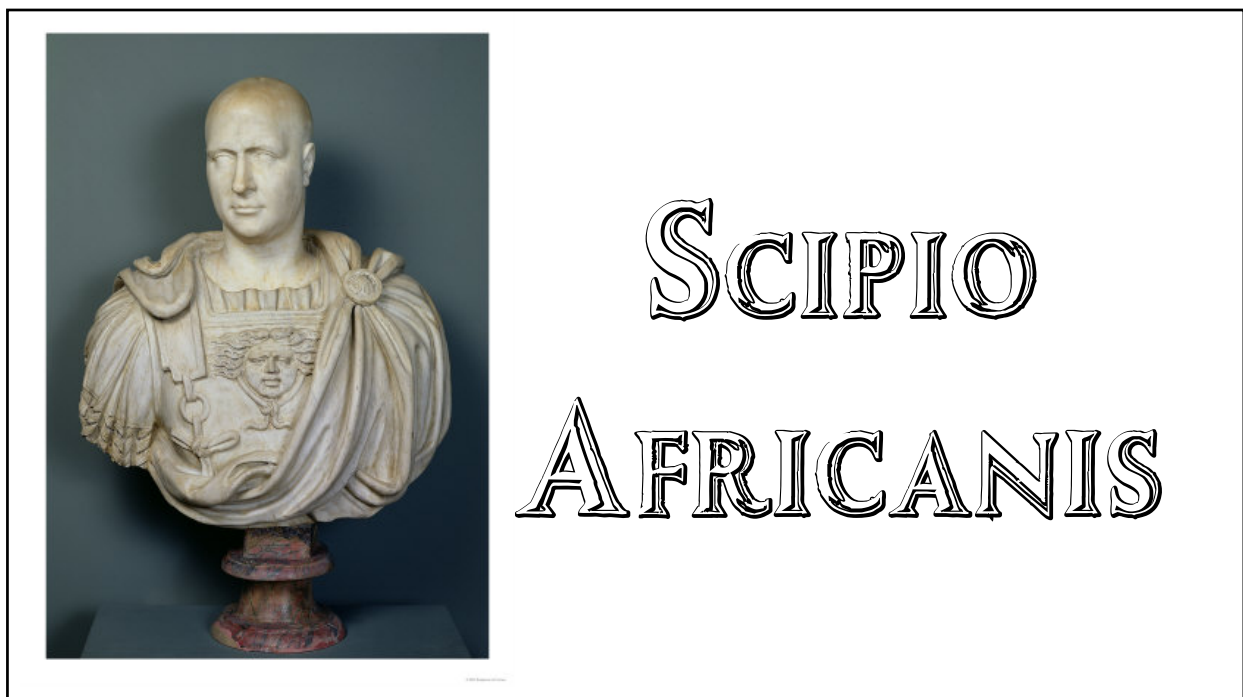
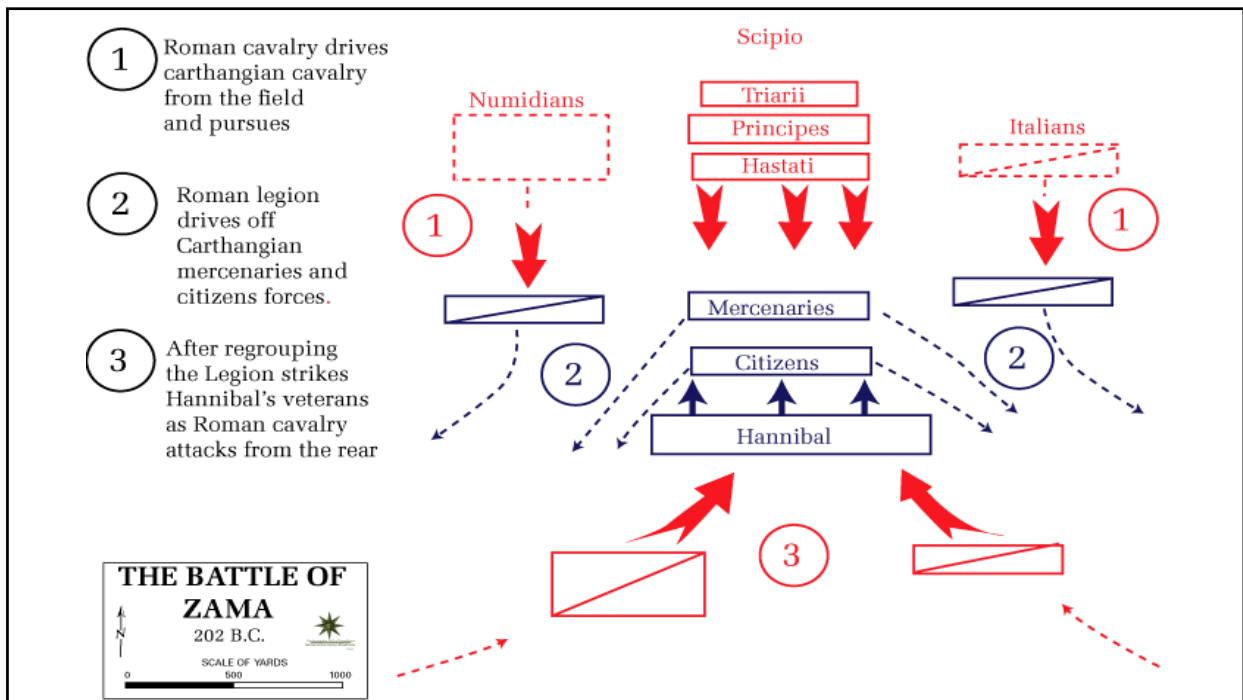
"Of a truth the gods do not give the same man everything: you know how to gain a victory, Hannibal, but you do not know how to make use of it!" Maharbal, commander of Hannibal's Numidian cavalry, as quoted in *Livy's History of Rome* (1880)

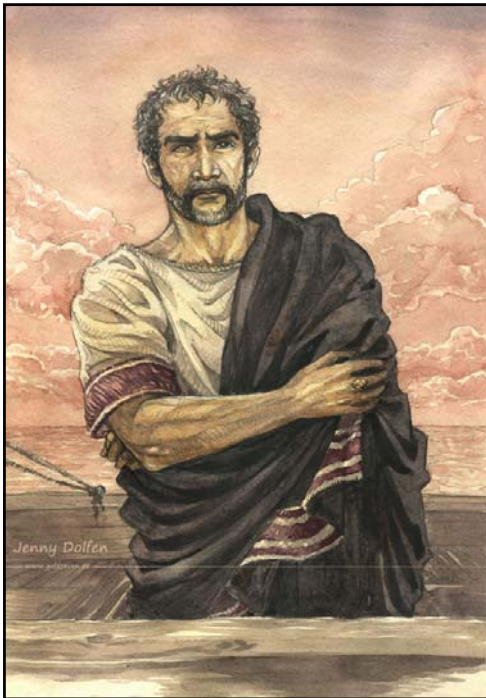
Zama 201 BC

- He under-estimated Scipio at Zama.
- He was continually let down and betrayed by corrupt politicians.









Hannibal becomes a Magistrate at Carthage and fights to stamp out corruption.

But he is betrayed by corrupt politicians who travel to Rome and falsely report that Hannibal intends to break the treaty.



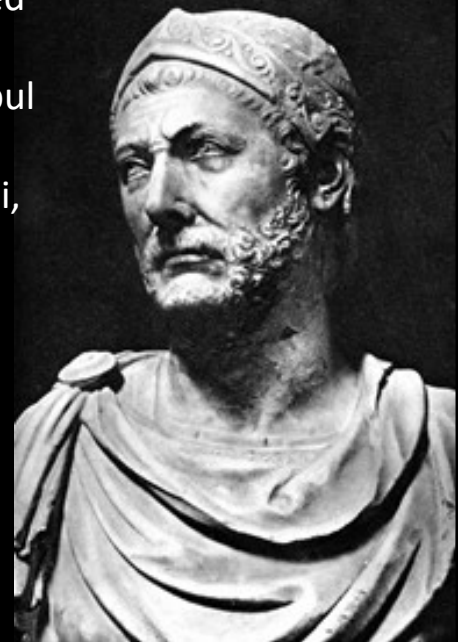
Hannibal becomes a fugitive.



He flees to Syria, then Bithynia where he is betrayed by the king to Rome.

- Hannibal poisoned himself when threatened with being held prisoner.
- He did so in Libyssia, close to today's Istanbul in Turkey.
- The ruins of his grave site are near Dilikelesi, south of Gebze, 60 km east of Istanbul.

“Let us release the Romans from their long anxiety, since they think it too long to wait for the death of an old man.”



What is Hannibal's place in history?

What should it be?

Hannibal's place in history

Hannibal excelled as a tactician. No battle in history is a finer sample of tactics than Cannae. But he was yet greater in logistics and strategy. No captain ever marched to and fro among so many armies of troops superior to his own numbers and material as fearlessly and skilfully as he. No man ever held his own so long or so ably against such odds. Constantly overmatched by better soldiers, led by generals always respectable, often of great ability, he yet defied all their efforts to drive him from Italy, for half a generation. ... As a soldier, in the countenance he presented to the stoutest of foes and in the constancy he exhibited under the bitterest adversity, Hannibal stands alone and un-equaled. As a man, no character in history exhibits a purer life or nobler patriotism.

– [Theodore Ayrault Dodge](#), *Hannibal : A History of the Art of War among the Carthaginians and Romans* (1893), p. 652.

As to the transcendent military genius of Hannibal there cannot be two opinions. The man who for fifteen years could hold his ground in a hostile country against several powerful armies and a succession of able generals must have been a commander and a tactician of supreme capacity. In the use of strategies and ambuscades he certainly surpassed all other generals of antiquity. Wonderful as his achievements were, we must marvel the more when we take into account the grudging support he received from Carthage. As his veterans melted away, he had to organize fresh levies on the spot. We never hear of a mutiny in his army, composed though it was of North Africans, Iberians and Gauls. ...

For steadfastness of purpose, for organizing capacity and a mastery of military science he has perhaps never had an equal.

[Encyclopædia Britannica Eleventh Edition \(1911\).](#)