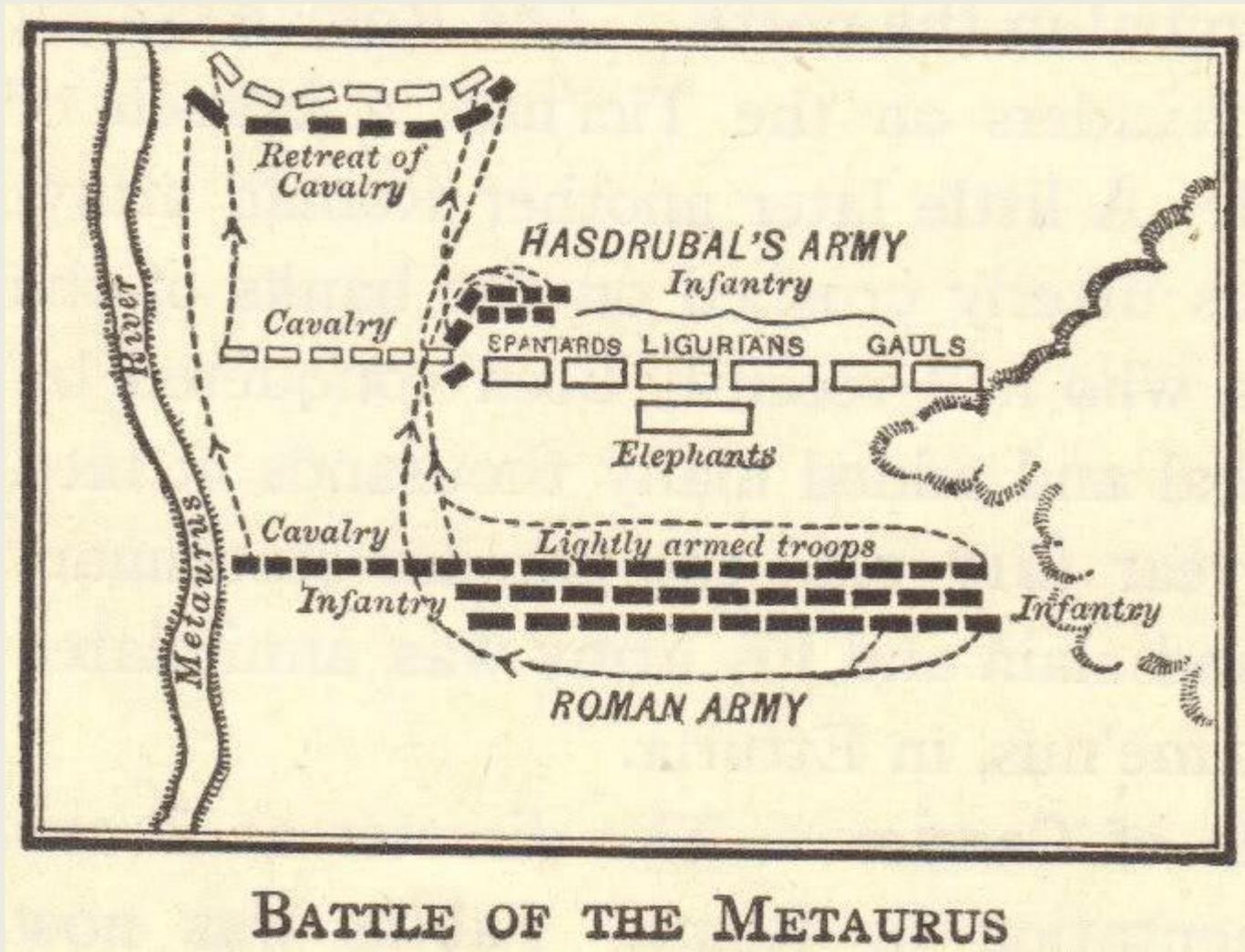


The Punic Wars (264-146 B.C.E.)



What was Carthage?

- Powerful city located near present-day Tunis, Tunisia, along the Mediterranean coast of Africa
 - Phoenician colony founded in the 8th century BCE
 - *Punic* is Latin for *Phoenician*
- Carthage had a large commercial empire
 - Great harbor at Carthage
 - Phoenician tradition of sailing and trading
 - Controlled trade in the western Mediterranean
 - Carthaginian trading empire spread to islands of Corsica, Sardinia, and western Sicily, along with southern Iberian peninsula (modern-day Spain)
- Major rival of Rome

Where did Carthaginian power lie?

- Navy
 - Very large
 - Phoenician sailing tradition
- Army
 - Mercenaries (hired soldiers)
- Government
 - Oligarchy – ruled by the wealthy elites (those made rich through trade)

How many Punic wars were there?

1st

- 264-241 BCE
- Fought over Sicily
- Rome won

2nd

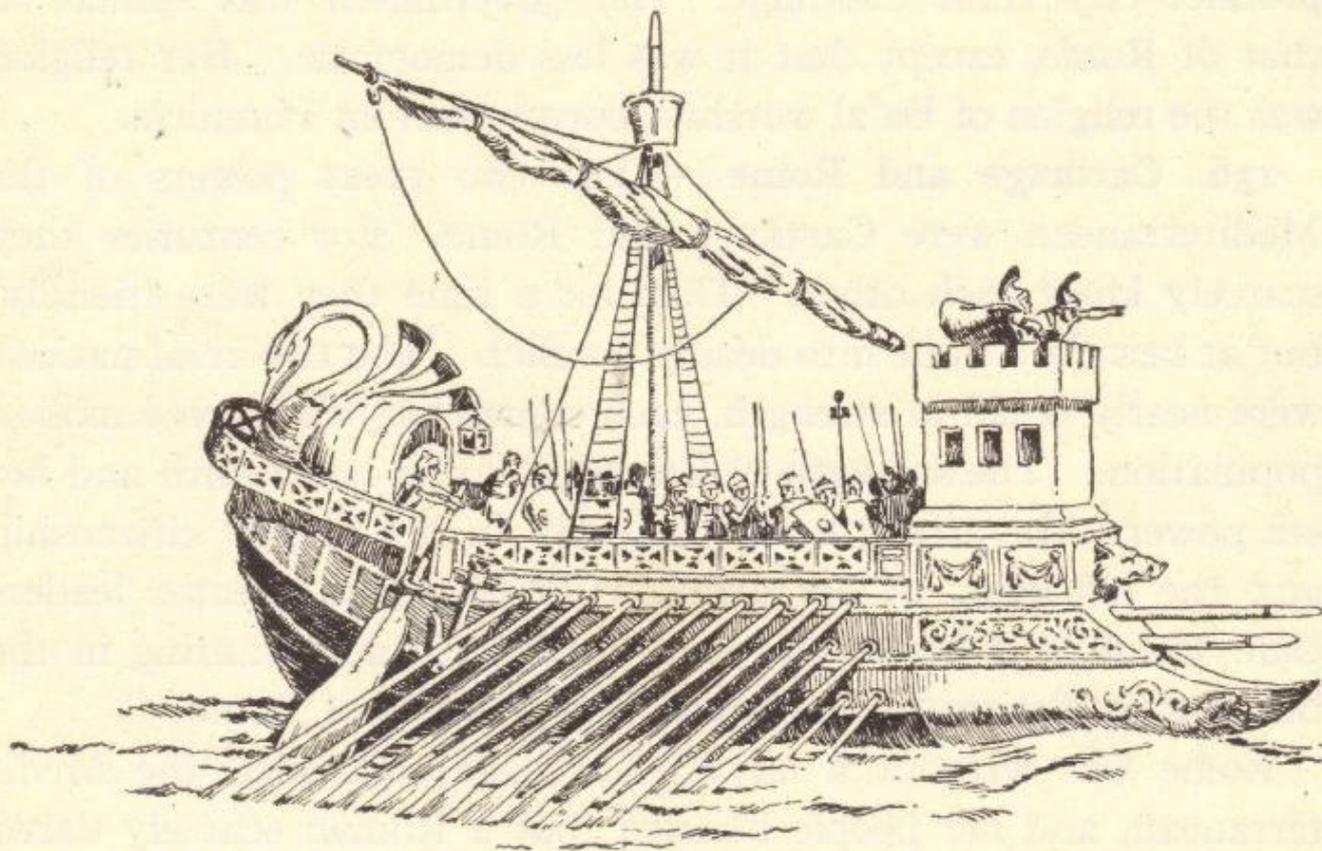
- 218-201 BCE
- Rome challenged Carthaginian expansion in Iberia (Spain)
- Rome won

3rd

- 149-146 BCE
- Rome feared Carthage was again becoming a threat
- Rome attacked Carthage and obliterated the threat for good

First Punic War (264-241 BCE)

- Carthage and Rome fought for 23 years over control of Sicily
- Strengths
 - Roman strength – army
 - Carthaginian strength – navy
- Rome's solution – build up its navy
 - Built four fleets, each destroyed in turn, before mastering naval warfare
- Rome's new weapon – grappling hook
 - Lashed ships together
 - Forced ship crews to fight one another on deck
 - Hand-to-hand fighting was a Roman strength
- Rome won – Sicily became a province of Rome



A ROMAN TRIREME (RECONSTRUCTION)

The trireme was planned for fighting at close quarters. The bow was strongly built, to withstand the shock when its powerful metal ram pierced the side of an enemy ship. The ram protruded from below the raised deck or castle tower, at the front, the part of a ship now known as the forecastle. Sometimes the warship had one sail, often two or more. Back of the tower was a long deck for light-armed soldiers, with places for the oarsmen below. The rowers were arranged about as in the Greek trireme (secs. 95 and 98). Near the stern was a deckhouse for the captain, with seats for the steersmen who guided the ship with sweeps hanging one from each side. In front of the stern post a carved ornament, the "goose-head," symbolized the floating powers of the ship. In later times, even down to the nineteenth century, vessels with several banks of oars, called galleys, were rowed by captives and prisoners known as galley slaves.

In the meantime...

Rome

- Rome came to control Corsica and Sardinia
- Rome conquered the Gauls of the Po River Valley

Carthage

- Carthage recovered from its defeat by Rome
- Carthage started expanding in Iberia (Spain)

Second Punic War (218-201 BCE)

Carthage: General Hannibal

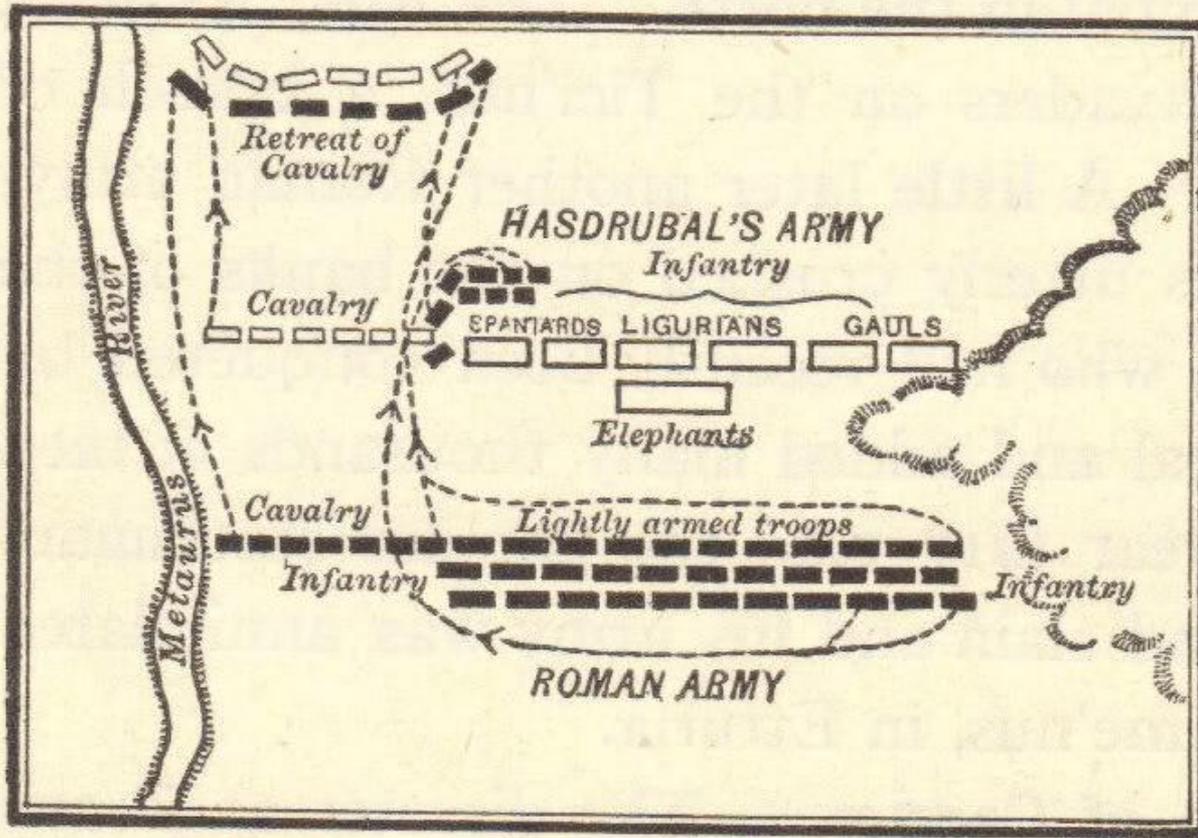
- Led 60,000 men and dozens of elephants through Spain, along the Mediterranean coast, through Gaul, and across the Alps to Italy
- Fought in Italy for 15 years, winning many battles
 - Battle of Cannae (216 BCE)
 - Romans lost over 50,000 soldiers
 - But Hannibal could not capture the city of Rome

Rome: General Scipio

- Led an army against Carthaginian Iberia (Spain)
- Then led an army against Carthage itself
- Then returned to Italy to defend the city of Rome
- Battle of Zama (202 BCE)
 - Hannibal's first and only defeat
 - Hannibal escaped and returned to Carthage
- Carthage lost its fleet, Iberia (Spain), and the larger part of its territory in northern Africa



THE PUNIC WARS



BATTLE OF THE METAURUS

- 207 BCE – Battle of the Metaurus
- Pivotal battle of the Second Punic War
- Hannibal’s brother, Hasdrubal, was bringing supplies and equipment to his brother for the siege against Rome
- Consul Marcus Livius was reinforced when Consul Gaius Claudius Nero brought troops via a forced march
- Carthaginians were outnumbered and Hasdrubal was defeated
- Consul Gaius Claudius Nero severed the head of Hasdrubal and had it thrown into Hannibal’s camp as a threat

In the meantime...

Carthage

- Carthage rebuilt its trading networks and commercial power

Rome

- Rome felt threatened by competition from Carthage
- Senator Cato ended all of his speeches with the warning: *“Carthago delenda est!”* (“Carthage must be destroyed!”)

Third Punic War (149-146 BCE)

Rome made ridiculous demands of Carthage

- 300 noble children to be given to Rome as hostages
- Carthage to be destroyed and rebuilt away from the coast

Carthage refused

- Carthage had no mercenaries
- Forced to defend their own city

Romans laid siege to Carthage

- Roman siege was successful
- Romans burnt Carthage to the ground – became Roman province
- Men killed; women and children sold into slavery

Results of the Punic Wars: During and After

Rome and Carthage had been what you might call the “superpowers” of the Mediterranean at the time

- Rome’s defeat of Carthage left Rome as the only remaining “superpower”
- It was much easier for Rome to conquer the rest of the Mediterranean once Carthage was out of the way

Roman control of Macedonia

- Hannibal had made an alliance with the Macedonian king
- Rome attacked and defeated Macedonia in 197 BCE

Rome went on to conquer the remnants of Alexander the Great’s empire in Eurasia

- Fighting among the Greek city-states
 - Rome took over, ending Greek independence (146 BCE)
- Kingdom of Pergamum
 - In modern-day Turkey
 - Under Roman rule in 133 BCE

Provincial Governments

- Each conquered area was a province of Rome
 - Proconsuls
 - Each province was governed by a Roman proconsul
 - Typically a member of the patrician (noble) class
 - More often than not these were corrupt
 - Publicans
 - Publicans were tax collectors
 - Became a publican by auctioning for the job
 - Squeezed as much money out of conquered peoples as they could

Rome Grows Wealthy

Money (from taxes and war booty) and cheap goods flooded Rome

Africa and Sicily – wheat

Spain – silver and tin

East – gems and luxury goods

Upper classes grew wealthier, and new class of wealthy merchants and traders emerged



Government had more money than ever before

Whoever controlled the government could use this money for its own needs (e.g., government contracts)

This caused greater tension in the struggle for control of the government

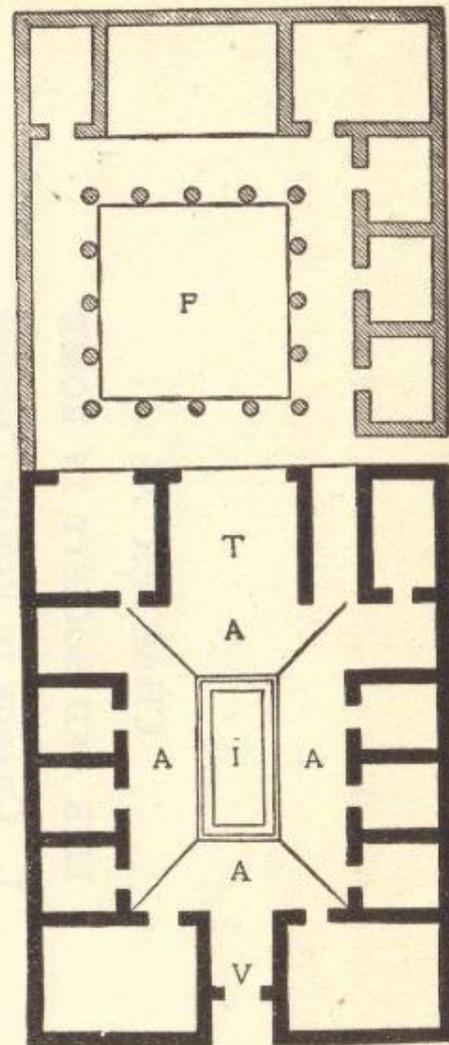
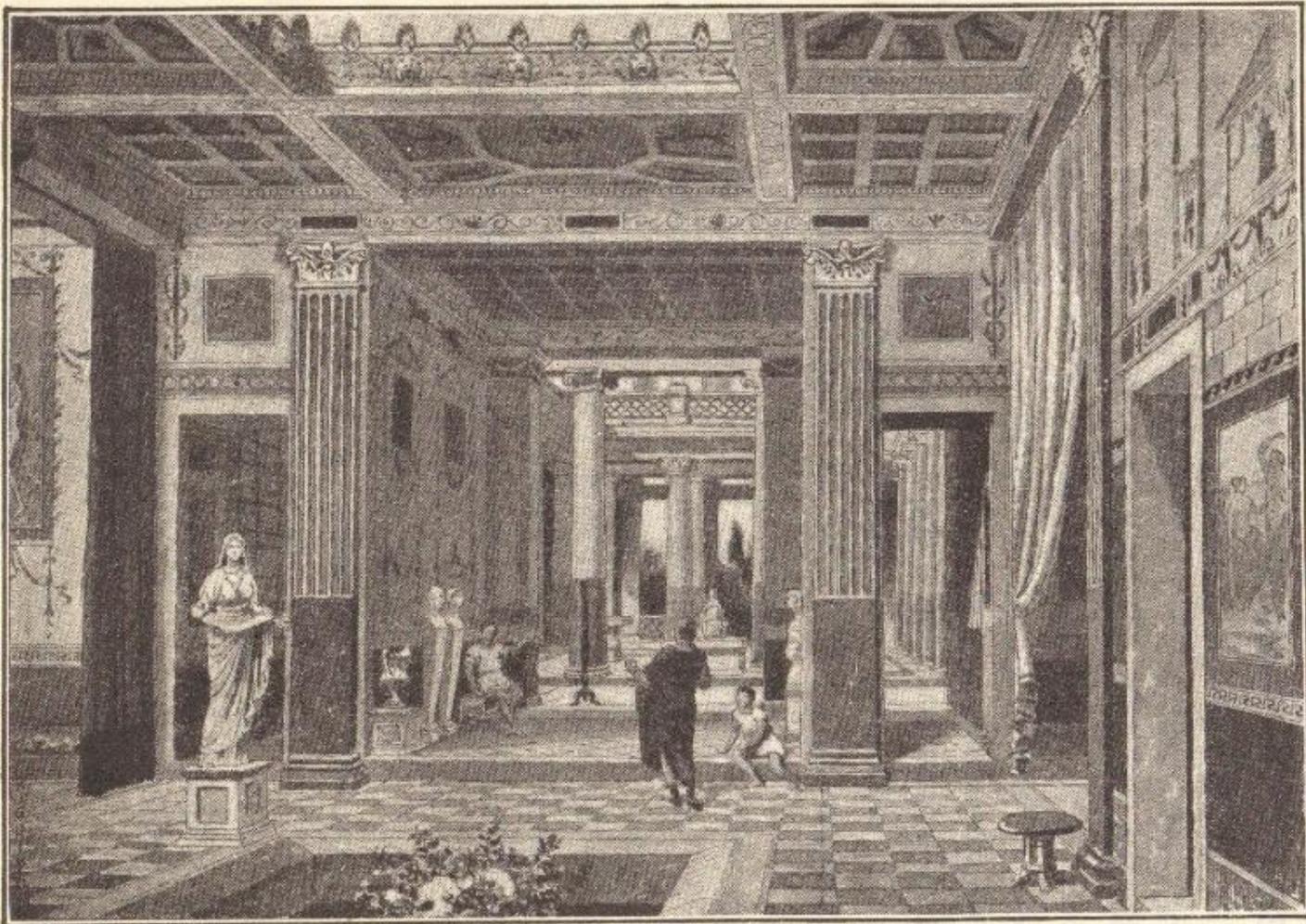
Old Roman Values Diminish

Roman Army

- Originally, it was staffed by volunteers
- Professional army lacked the former volunteer fighting spirit

Morals and Values

- Corruption replaced dedication to public service
- Pursuit of luxury, pleasure, and soft living replaced hard work, patriotism, and simplicity



INTERIOR AND PLAN OF ROMAN HOUSE — RESTORATION

V, Vestibulum (Entrance). *A*, Atrium (Reception Room). *I*, Impluvium (Basin in floor). *T*, Tablinum (A room whose purposes are not certain, at the right and left of which are passages). *P*, Peristylum (Open court surrounded by colonnades; the living quarters of the family). Small sleeping rooms opened off the atrium; at the rear of the house was the Hortus (Garden).

What did expansion mean for Rome?

Pros

- Wealth
 - From trade
 - From taxes
- Power
 - Control of most of the Mediterranean

Cons

- Difficult to manage an empire
 - Multicultural empire required a multifaceted approach
- Wealth created new classes in Rome
 - Slaves gained by conquests displaced free farmers and workers
 - These problems ultimately ended the “Republic” and led to the “Empire”

Rich Get Richer, Poor Get Poorer

Money from government contracts (building bridges, roads, and ships; supplying the armies)

High-interest loans

Bribes and graft in the provinces

Latifundia, the large farms of the wealthy, became operated by slaves

Poor farmers and workers could not compete with the products of slave labor

Wealthy class bought up the lands of impoverished farmers

Impoverished farmers and others flooded the city of Rome

These unemployed masses had one thing left—their right to vote

These unemployed masses—the “Roman mob”—threw their support to those politicians who offered “bread and circuses”

Review Questions

1. Where was the city of Carthage located?
2. What was the basic, underlying cause of all of the Punic wars?
3. Describe the military actions of Hannibal.
4. Why was it easier for Rome to expand following the defeat of Carthage?
5. How did Rome grow wealthy as its territory expanded?
6. How was the “Roman mob” created?