

Carthage



Carthage is indisputably of key importance to Roman history. The first great imperial opponent of Rome, they took the Romans to the very brink of defeat. The battles in the titanic struggle between the two powers helped forge the Roman legions and navies into the supreme fighting force in the Mediterranean. But the annihilation which befell Carthage after its final defeat by Rome makes it an almost unknown quantity to most students of Roman history.

The historical study of Carthage is problematic. Because its culture and records were destroyed by the Romans at the end of the Third Punic War, very few Carthaginian primary historical sources survive.



According to Roman sources, Phoenician colonists led by Queen Dido (Elissa) founded Carthage in 814 BCE.



Carthaginian Republic

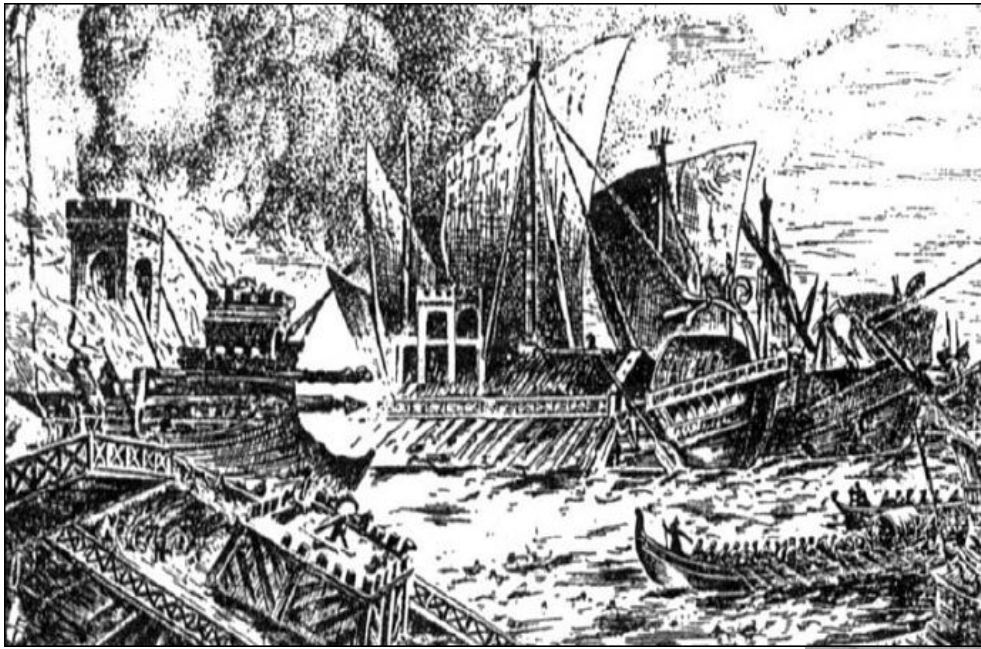
Carthaginian Empire in the 3rd century
BCE



Army



Navy



Roman trireme mosaic from Carthage, Bardo Museum, Tunis

Fall



Ruins of Carthage



Roman Carthage

