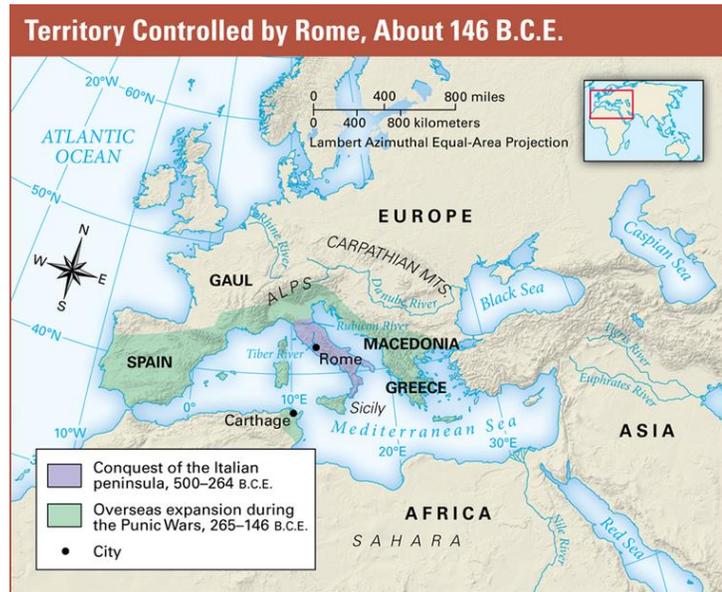


### 3. Expansion During the Punic Wars, 264 B.C.E. to 146 B.C.E.

During Rome's second period of expansion, it fought three savage wars for control of the Mediterranean region. In each of these brutal wars, Rome's enemy was Carthage, a powerful city-state in North Africa.

When the wars began, Carthage held North Africa, most of Spain, and part of the island of Sicily. It also controlled most of the trade in the western Mediterranean. The Greek cities in southern Italy had frequently clashed with Carthage over trading rights. When Rome conquered these cities, it was drawn into the fight with Carthage.



Rome's wars with Carthage are referred to as the **Punic Wars**, after the Latin name for the people of Carthage. The First Punic War began in 264 B.C.E. and was fought mostly at sea. Carthage had a very powerful navy, but the Romans developed their own navy by copying and improving on the Carthaginians' ship designs. A decisive victory at sea in 241 B.C.E. won the war for the Romans. The triumphant Romans took over Sicily, as well as other islands in the area.

The Second Punic War started 23 years later when the Carthaginians decided to attack Italy itself. In 218 B.C.E., Hannibal, a brilliant Carthaginian general, surprised the Romans by marching his army from Spain across the Alps (a high mountain range) and into Italy. His troops rode elephants and braved snowstorms, landslides, and attacks by local tribes. For 15 years, Hannibal's men fought the Romans in Italy.

In 202 B.C.E., Hannibal needed to return home to defend Carthage against an attack by a Roman army. There he was defeated in the battle that ended the Second Punic War. Carthage was forced to give up Spain to Rome, along with huge sums of money.

For about 50 years, there was peace between Rome and Carthage. Then, encouraged by Cato (KAY-toh), a senator who demanded the complete destruction of Carthage, the Romans attacked once more.

The Third Punic War lasted three years. In 146 B.C.E., the Romans burned Carthage to the ground. They killed many people and sold others into slavery. Rome was now the greatest power in the Mediterranean region, controlling North Africa, much of Spain, Macedonia, and Greece.

The Punic Wars expanded Roman power and territory, but Rome's victories came at a price. Countless young men had died in the long wars. Additionally, people living outside Rome suffered huge losses in population and property. Hannibal's army had destroyed thousands of farms, and others had been neglected while farmers went off to fight in Rome's armies. By the time the soldiers returned home, Rome had been forced to import grain from Sicily and other places. Small farms were being replaced by large estates, where the wealthy planted vineyards and raised livestock. Unable to compete with the wealthy landowners, many poor farmers were forced to sell their land.

While riches and slaves flowed into Rome from the conquered lands, so did new customs, many of which came from Greece. Wealthy Romans competed with one another to build Greek-style homes and beautiful temples.

## **4. Expansion During the Final Years of the Republic, 145 B.C.E. to 44 B.C.E.**

By 145 B.C.E., Roman conquests had brought considerable wealth to the city of Rome, but they had also put the ideals of the republic under great strain. By the end of Rome's third period of expansion, the republic **collapsed**.

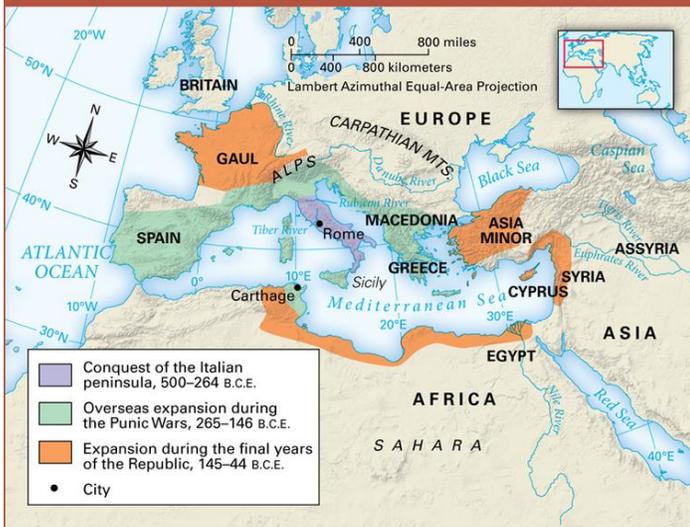
The final years of the republic were marked by still more wars. Many of Rome's allies resented having to pay Roman taxes and fight in Roman armies without enjoying the rights of citizenship. In 90 B.C.E., some rebelled, and, to end the revolt, Rome agreed to let all free Italians become Roman citizens.

Rome also had to fight to subdue slave revolts. As Romans conquered new territory, they brought hundreds of thousands of prisoners to Roman lands and turned them into slaves who labored on farms and in the city. Although some slaves were respected, Romans often treated their slaves very harshly. A slave named Spartacus led a famous revolt in 73 B.C.E. After crushing his army and killing Spartacus in battle, the Romans sentenced thousands of the surviving rebels to death on crosses.

There was trouble brewing in the city, too. With so many slaves to do the work, thousands of farmers and laborers had no jobs. They crowded into Rome, becoming a mob that an ambitious leader could turn into an army.

Rome's army was producing many such leaders. Generals used their armies to gain fame and power in distant lands and then to fight for influence in Rome. In one such civil war in the 80s B.C.E., a Roman leader named Sulla commanded an army to put down a revolt by Italian allies to obtain Roman citizenship.

### Territory Controlled by Rome, About 44 B.C.E.



Forty years later, another civil war erupted between two ambitious generals, Pompey (POM-pee) and **Julius Caesar** (SEE-zer). Pompey had expanded Roman rule in such eastern lands as Syria and the island of Cyprus, while Caesar had conquered much of Gaul.

By 49 B.C.E., Pompey was back in Rome, while Caesar commanded an army to the north of Italy, across the Rubicon River. Both men wanted to control Rome, but Pompey had the support of the Roman Senate.

Encouraged by Pompey, the Senate forbade

Caesar to enter Italy with his army. Caesar disobeyed in January of 49 B.C.E. and crossed the Rubicon with his army. After three years of fighting, he defeated Pompey. The frightened Senate named Caesar dictator for life. With Caesar in control, and after nearly 500 years, the republic came to an end.

As dictator, Julius Caesar introduced many reforms. He provided work to thousands of Romans by starting projects to create new roads and public buildings. To keep the poor satisfied, he staged gladiator contests that they could watch for free. He also adopted a new calendar that is still used today.

Caesar had a **vision** of Rome as a great empire. He started new colonies and granted citizenship to the people of cities in Gaul and Spain. However, he did not live to see his vision come true. On March 15, 44 B.C.E., a group of enemies stabbed Caesar to death as he was entering the Senate.

The men who killed Caesar thought they were saving the republic, but were wrong. Instead, real power would never return to the Senate, as an emperor eventually emerged to replace Caesar.