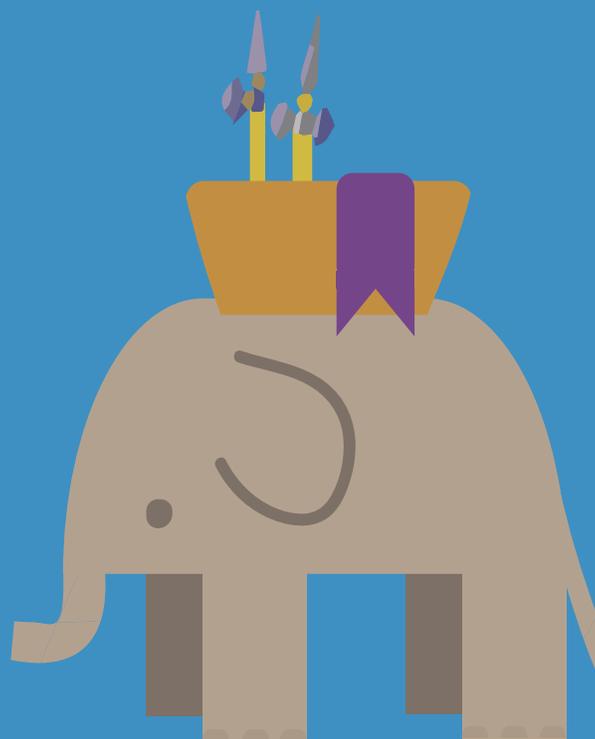


HISTORICAL CRISIS CARTHAGE



Hello delegates,

Welcome to the Carthage Crisis Committee! My name is Sachit Shroff and I have the pleasure of serving as your head chair for the sixty seventh session of Berkeley Model United Nations. I'm a third year computer science student with a passion for politics and international relations. This conference marks my seventh year of MUN, and I'm looking forward to a weekend I know will be filled with lots of exciting debate and creative solutions. When I'm not working or updating myself on the news, I love to procrastinate by repeatedly watching and reading Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and the like an ungodly number of times. Someday I hope to be able to spend my time traveling on a worldwide cruise, but until then I can't wait to meet all of you in March! Joining me on the dais as vice chairs will be Olivia Lipari and Riya Master.

Olivia Lipari is a third year at Cal from Los Angeles. She is doubling majoring in Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies and minoring in Public Policy. Aside from BMUN, Olivia is the Vice President of Programming for her sorority, the Social Chairman for the International Relations Council at Berkeley, and works as a law clerk at a family law firm in San Francisco. This is her seventh year doing Model UN. She is looking forward to an exciting and fast-paced debate!

Riya Master is a first year at Cal from the Washington D.C. area. Riya is an intended Integrative Biology and Political Science major and has been doing MUN for five years. She loves discussing and debating international relations and hopes to become an international aid worker in the future. Riya is currently involved with Cal Habitat and the Sage Mentorship Program, and her favorite TV shows are the Office and Parks and Rec. Riya can't wait to meet everyone in March, and she wishes you the best of luck prepping for BMUN LXVII!



Sachit Shroff

Head Chair, Carthage Crisis Committee

Berkeley Model United Nations, Sixty-Seventh Session

INTRODUCTION

Much of our perspective of Ancient Mediterranean history today is shaped by Classical (Greek and Roman) records and the study of Classical history. But the Mediterranean region has been home to numerous civilizations, cultures, and empires over the past several thousand years, all of which have had their impact on the world today. Before we dive into the history of the region and the rest of the synopsis, it's important to have an understanding of the geography of the Western Mediterranean, where most of the events relevant to this committee take place. The following map depicts the territory of Carthage and Rome before the Punic Wars began (so several years before the start of committee).

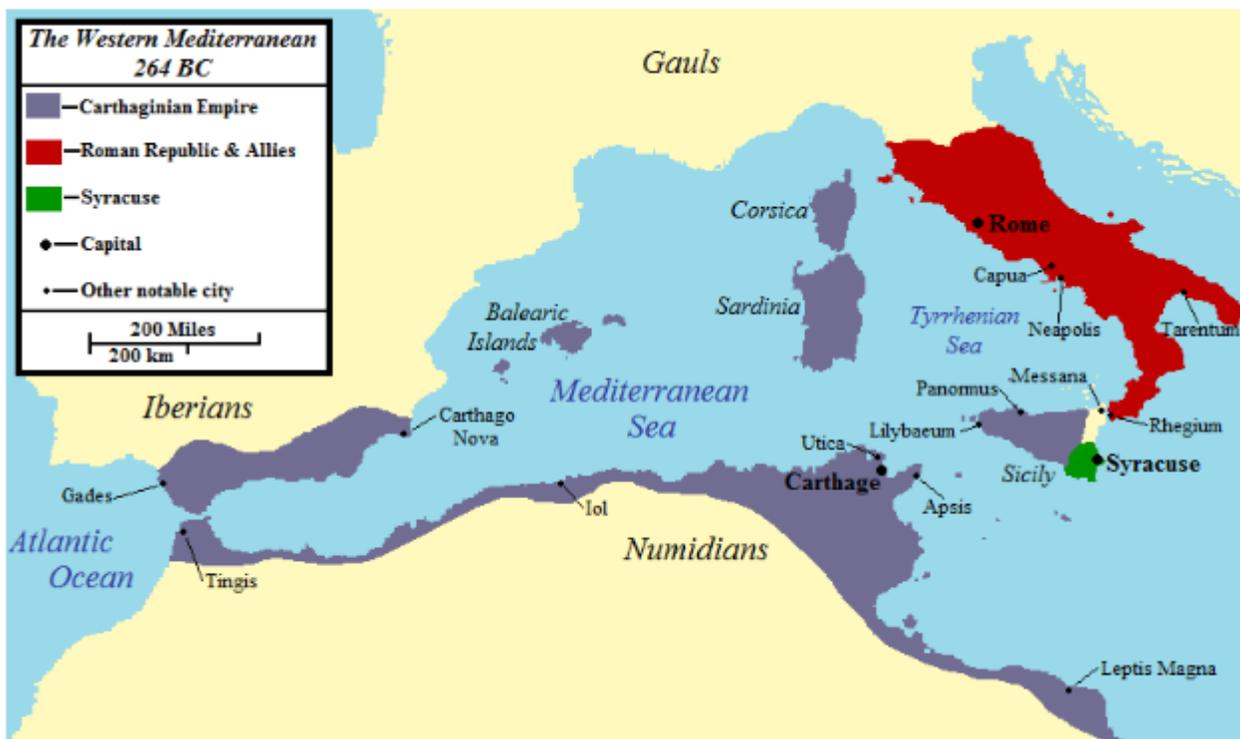


Figure 1: A Map of the Western Mediterranean in 264 BC. Source: Platek

The city of Carthage, located in modern-day Tunisia, was a massive metropolis for its time and the heart of Carthage's empire and its bustling trade network. Its port harboured both the empire's navy and hundreds of trading vessels. The city was well defended both from the sea and from land, and was also surrounded by a massive wall (Carthage). Carthage's empire existed largely to maintain and expand its trade network, meaning that it covered much of the Western Mediterranean coast and islands. The Iberian Peninsula, which contains modern-day Spain and Portugal, is a mountainous semi-fertile region that served

as a foothold of the Carthaginian empire on the European continent. The island of Sicily was heavily contested, as it formed a natural chokepoint that allowed Carthage to control trade to and from the Western Mediterranean, and was a logical avenue of expansion for a fledgling Roman empire (Polybius). Corsica and Sardinia also remained important territories for the advantages in naval control they offered. The Italian Peninsula was home to the Roman Republic, and the base of its empire. It's important to note that the peninsula's population wasn't always united- loyalties often shifted and many of those living in the southern peninsula remained dissatisfied with their Roman overlords (Charles-Picard). Gaul largely encompasses a region that forms modern-day France. The various tribes living there during this time period were fiercely independent, often coming into conflict with other tribes and empires. The last area highlighted on the map is Numidia- a kingdom of ethnic North Africans (Berbers) that served as the point of contact between Carthage and the rest of the African continent. Numidia was divided by a conflict between two factions, the Massylli and the Masaesyli, each with their own leader and alliances (Charles-Picard).

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CARTHAGINIAN HISTORY

Upon its founding sometime in the ninth century BC, Carthage served as a settlement and trading outpost for the Phoenician empire, ruled from its capital city of Tyre (in modern-day Lebanon). According to Carthaginian myths recorded by Classical historians, the city was founded by a figure known as Queen Elissa or Queen Dido, who managed to convince the then-Numidian king to allow her to found a settlement for her band of refugees fleeing persecution by the Phoenician king (Carthage). Carthage became a bustling settlement, that quickly evolved into a city. It's prime location at the crossroads of various land and sea trade routes, as well as its artificial harbour and the fertility of the surrounding countryside allowed the city to develop into a metropolis. From the outset- and even in the myths of its founding- Carthage viewed itself as distinct from the rest of the Phoenician empire. As the empire declined, this attitude was quick to manifest and Carthage began to assert its independence. Politically, Carthage rejected Tyre's influence and instituted its own monarchy (Warmington). Economically, the city distinguished itself as a hub of regional trade, building or conquering additional settlements like Utica and Apsis. It also began exerting control over

the surrounding fertile countryside, expanding somewhat into Numidian territory. Carthage developed its own social institutions, religions, and even its own offshoot language- Punic (Warmington). A few centuries after its founding, a more democratic and oligarchic system of governance emerged. By the late fifth century BC, the monarchy had lost most of its power to a pseudo-representative body of Elders (Constitution). By this time, Carthage had come to dominate Mediterranean trade and had built a sizeable empire by collecting and expanding the remnants of the shattered Phoenician empire. Despite having a hierarchical social structure that restricted its military capabilities, the city was able to hire enough mercenaries to fight most of its battles. As the city expanded its empire, it also looked for new trade opportunities. Several distinguished Carthaginians led expeditions throughout the empire's heyday. Hanno the Navigator (one of many Hannos mentioned here) sailed down the western coast of Africa during the sixth century BC, reaching as far as Gabon and possibly even rounding the Cape of Good Hope (Carthage). Although no maps of his voyage survived, a roughly transcribed account of his voyage has allowed scholars to confirm he reached regions of Africa not explored by Europeans for another 2000 years. As Hanno voyaged south, however, Carthage also commissioned Himilco the Navigator to explore trade routes to northwestern Europe. He sailed into the Atlantic, following the European coast as far as northern France and even England. As it expanded, Carthage faced challenges from the armies of the regions it conquered and rival civilizations. Using a mix of slaves, Berber allies, and other mercenaries, the Carthaginians were able to hold back the Sicilians and other Greeks (Warmington). With no significant army of its own, however, Carthage relied on steady profits from its trade network to pay mercenaries and finance its military operations. Hanno I the Great was one of many Carthaginian leaders who was able to use the wars in Sicily to garner support in the fourth century BC. His attempt to use his popularity to seize control of Carthage backfired, however, and despite his wealth and status he and his family were executed. Carthage's political institutions proved resilient in the face of the ensuing chaos, and indeed served as the base for some Roman political traditions (Charles-Picard).

POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND SOCIETY IN CARTHAGE

The government of Carthage was comprised of various executive, legislative, and even

judicial bodies. Although it's unclear exactly how the representative legislative body- often referred to as "the Council of Elders" or "the Senate" in many Roman sources- was elected, it appeared that voting citizens all had to be native wealthy males (Livy). These citizens also formed a popular assembly that had the ability to supersede the Senate on some issues. After the fall of the monarchy around the sixth century, the Senate controlled Carthage, dealing with everything from legislation to civil disputes to military matters. Executive power rested with two suffetes, who were elected annually and held accountable by the Senate (Constitution). Participation in this level of government seems to have been restricted to a ruling class of wealthy elites, whose members came from influential families of oligarchs and those who had made fortunes trading. Senators also served on various commissions and sub-bodies that dealt specifically with issues from customs to military campaigns (not unlike Congress today). By the time this committee takes place around 237 BC, one of these commissions evolved into The 104, an infamous body of 104 senators that judged generals and eventually came to have control over the Senate and by extension the suffetes (Constitution). Comprising roughly a third of the Senate, this body came to have the final judgement on a variety of issues. Created to hold generals accountable (and punish them for their failures- sometimes even with crucifixion), The 104 quickly fell victim to corruption. Indeed Carthage's vast bureaucracy, which oversaw everything from tribute paid by protected and allied territories to customs at Carthaginian ports, was rife with corruption. Despite these disadvantages and a rigid hierarchical social, political, and religious structure, Carthage was often able to respond effectively to threats ranging from outside invasions to internal coups. But because the government came to be controlled by such large bodies, it often proved vulnerable to paralysis as competing factions disagreed. Two of the most famous factions from Carthaginian history were the Magonids and Barcids (Warmington). Many of the Carthaginian monarchs came from one of these two families, and they continued to compete after the fall of the monarchy. What made Carthage extraordinary, however, was its trade network. A vast web of desert caravans, merchant fleets, trading outposts, and of course customs houses that enforced trade agreements and collected taxes, ensured that Carthage had a hand in almost all Mediterranean trade- and made steady profits. From gold and other metals to processed fine goods like Tyrian Purple silk and

Carthage's famous wine, records show that "anything could be bought and sold in Carthage" (Carthage). The empire and its traders had a reputation for being shrewd hagglers, but were respectful of merchants visiting Carthage. As Carthage established more outposts and conquered more territory, it created a trading cycle similar to trans-Atlantic trade between Europe and colonial America. By moving raw goods from inland and other remote areas to cities and other economic centers for processing, Carthaginian traders were able to upsell for lucrative prices. Later, the same merchants shipped processed goods to these same territories and other distant markets, making hefty profits in the process. The most successful of these traders joined an elite class of Carthaginians, who occupied the vast majority of higher-level government and religious position. As priests, some of them oversaw worship of a Punic pantheon of deities, and presided over rituals that may have included child sacrifice (Charles-Picard). Unfortunately, little record is left of the details of Carthaginian religion. Most of the details we know were recovered from archaeological expeditions or translated accounts from a few scattered Ancient sources.

HISTORY OF ROME

The history of Rome, on the other hand, is incredibly well documented. One of the few points of uncertainty surrounds the myths of the city's founding. Most popular accounts describe the tale of two brothers, Romulus and Remus, who first settled Rome in 753 BC. Eventually, the two got in a disagreement that led Romulus to kill Remus and name the city after himself. The Roman Kingdom, which constituted the first phase of the civilization's existence, was ruled by a monarchy that would only see 7 kings come to power (Livy). Under this system of government, Rome came to prosper and develop an identity distinct from the Etruscans in Northern Italy and the Greek colonies of Southern Italy. Like the Etruscans to the north, Romans began to develop a significant trade-based economy, and developed their city into one of the largest trading hubs in Central Italy. Much of their culture (most notably religion), however, was derived from the Hellenistic influence of Greek colonies and states. But by 510 BC, the last king- Tarquin the Proud- was overthrown in a rebellion led by Lucius Junius Brutus, and the Roman Republic was born (Livy). Although the Republic didn't have a formal Constitution, it created a series of governing bodies designed to ensure that no

one person could seize power. Various bodies and positions, were born, often derived from foreign influences. The consulship, or executive leadership of the government and Senate, for instance, was said to have been modelled off of Carthage's suffetes. The goal of the new government was to be accountable to the people, but it quickly became clear that only certain noble citizens from a few families, known as the patricians, were being represented in popular assemblies (Livius). The remainder of Rome's citizens were lumped together in another class known as the plebeians (often referred to as the plebs) regardless of their wealth. Sick of being excluded from government positions, the plebeians went on strike in 494 BC. Eventually, the government caved and created a powerful assembly of plebeians called the Comitia Centuriata that had the power to actually approve the Senate's laws among many other things. But class tensions would continue to rise, particularly among the disenfranchised poor. Despite such setbacks at home, Rome was able to conquer a lot of territory in the Italian Peninsula and establish itself as a regional power. Even without a significant navy, Rome's well-organized legions brought tribute-paying territories, important trade routes, and ports under Rome's control (Livius). By this point, Rome had developed into a metropolitan trade hub, with a significant if dissatisfied population. Poor living conditions led to ongoing unrest that would prevent the government from functioning effectively or achieving complete stability. With military and legislative power scattered throughout various assemblies, representative bodies, and executive offices, Rome's government was often a chaotic mess. Nevertheless, the Roman military was able to quickly develop into a dominant regional force, as leaders were often able to stir up public support for military causes. Even in the middle of their transformative first strike in 494 BC, dissatisfied plebeians were quick to pledge support for the military when news of an imminent attack by the Volsci people (who lived in the hills southwest of Rome) reached Rome (Livius). In fact, despite ongoing class conflict, the mixed-class military force sent to repel the Volsci proved immune to the Volsci attempt to divide them and successfully unified to counter an ambush. Following some heavy losses and an invasion by a force of Northern European Celts that sacked Rome and demanded a large indemnity in 483 BC, Rome's military quickly adopted a formal structure. Beginning with the construction of the city's famous fortifications, Romans were quick to borrow more advanced tactics from their Etruscan, Latin, and Greek neighbors. The city's

famous heavy infantry units first perfected the phalanx formation, which allowed them to defend against the cavalry attacks that had previously decimated them, and even repel other heavy infantry units. Military service came to be expected of most males, allowing the army to undertake significant campaigns (Livius). In the Samnite Wars that lasted from 343 to 290 BC, the Romans were able to eventually conquer the Samnite people and their territory South and East of Rome, consolidating their hold on central Italy. They famously fought the Greeks, led by the legendary Pyrrhus of Epirus, in a series of bloody battles that forced the Greeks to withdraw, conquering the Italian Peninsula south of Rome (Livius). Around the same time, Rome's armies began pushing the Etruscans northward, eventually conquering them (although Etruscan influences could be observed in Roman culture for centuries afterwards). And although the military continued to grow in strength and size throughout the fifth to third centuries BC and Rome expanded its territories, it is important to note that at this time Rome had not yet become the Roman Empire. Executive power still rested with two consuls who often had control of the army (Livius). And although a leader could be declared as a dictator in times of emergency, their absolute power was (intended to be) temporary.

ROME AT THE START OF COMMITTEE

By the time committee begins around 237 BC, Rome had developed from a small settlement ruled by Etruscan-influenced kings into a superpower that had managed to conquer the majority of the Italian Peninsula (Polybius). Its political traditions had become entrenched despite bouts of continuing instability. Led by two annually appointed consuls, the government now oversaw an empire of millions. And although the Republic evolved significantly in the roughly 300 years since its founding, many of its most powerful institutions remained mostly untouched (Livius). The consulship was the most important office in the Roman Republic, and consisted of two annually appointed figures- one plebeian and one patrician. The consuls were responsible for leading the government, proposing laws, overseeing the Senate, and leading military campaigns among various other duties. They were appointed annually by the Centuriate Assembly, one of two significant voting assemblies in Rome by this time (Livius). The assembly was split into units of 100 citizens, or

centuries, based on military rank, social status, and wealth. Each unit was given one vote, used to determine matters including the appointment of high-ranking executive officials like the consuls, declarations of war, and other judicial and legislative matters. The other major voting assembly was the Tribal Assembly, which consisted of 35 units based on tribes, but otherwise functioned similarly to the Centuriate Assembly (Livius). However, this assembly was often seen as the lesser of the two, as it only had the power to appoint lower-level executives and rule on certain judicial matters. In addition, it was often chaired by a consul, whose decisions could not be contested by members of the assembly. The most famous of the Roman assemblies, however, was the Senate. Although it technically had no voting or legislative power, the Senate was charged with advising the consuls and proposing laws. And although the body was directed by the consuls, individual senators managed to become very influential, as they served for life (Livius). A few other important positions included the praetorship and the censorship. Both of these offices belonged to a pair of high ranking executive officials appointed by the assemblies. The praetors were second only to the consuls in their power and authority. The censors were charged with overseeing the treasury and given wide-ranging powers to supervise ethics. There were a few checks on the power of the executive offices. Most notably, the Tribunes of the Plebs had the power to veto many of the consul's and praetor's decisions. This office was established in 493 BC as a result of the major class conflict described earlier, and could only be held by a plebeian (Livius). The Roman economy, however, was far simpler than its government. Rome, which largely flourished on the trade of agricultural products, was not yet known for fabulous wealth or as a place where fine goods could be purchased in the way Carthage was (Smith). Nevertheless, it had a significant banking system that offered loans, minted coins, and more. In fact, issues with debt caused by the banking system were often at the forefront of class conflict, most notably during the strikes of 494 BC. But by 238 BC, Rome was beginning to expand its economy into new areas, including naval trade (Polybius). Although this often brought it into conflict with its Greek and Gaulish neighbors, Rome also found strong allies in some Greek kingdoms, Italian tribes, and Berber kingdoms.



Figure 2: Territory of Rome and her Allies. Source: van der Crabben

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ROME AND CARTHAGE

Despite their geographical proximity, Carthage and Rome were only involved in a few small disputes with each other before the First Punic War. In fact, a series of treaties signed between the two powers established careful boundaries for navigation, expansion, and warfare that remained largely respected until the First Punic War. Essentially, the treaties limited Rome's westward trade and expansion, while limiting Carthage's prospects of claiming land or expanding into the Italian Peninsula (often referred to as Latium). There were a variety of other terms that governed how citizens of each civilization would be treated by the other under a variety of specific circumstances (Smith). One notable conflict in which both powers ended up on the same side was the Pyrrhic Wars which began in 290 BC and lasted roughly fifteen years. Although the conflict was borne (in most accounts) out of Roman ambitions to take over the Greek settlements and cities in Southern Italy, it

quickly spread to Sicily. At this point, Carthage allied itself with Rome to defend her Sicilian interests. The two empires faced Pyrrhus, the king and legendary commander of the forces from Epirus, an eastern Greek kingdom on the coast of the Ionian Sea. Pyrrhus' organized forces and war elephants were able to do significant damage to the Romans in Italy, but at a heavy cost. Afraid of his intentions in Sicily (where other Greek settlers were often in conflict with Carthage), the Carthaginian suffete Mago visited the Roman Senate and Pyrrhus himself to gauge the situation (Polybius). Eventually, Carthage and Rome agreed to form an alliance and signed another treaty. This treaty was largely viewed as an attempt by Carthage to ensure it could take advantage of Rome's considerable army in the event of attacks on Carthaginian settlements in Sicily. It also allowed Rome to take advantage of Carthage's sizeable navy for troop transport and aid. Up to this point, both empires were if not cooperating then at least getting along peacefully.

THE FIRST PUNIC WAR

All of this changed during the First Punic War, which ravaged both sides, triggered massive political and economic changes, and caused most of the issues that this committee will discuss. The conflict lasted from 264 to 241 BC, and was the most devastating the region had ever seen (Polybius). What began as a dispute in Sicily evolved in a full blown land and naval battle between two massive armies. In around 265 BC, a city called Messana on the eastern coast of Sicily was attacked by the forces of another city, Syracuse, led by its tyrant (absolut leader) Hieron II (Smith). A threatened Messana reached out to Carthage, which maintained settlements on the western part of the island, for help, and the Carthaginians obliged. An enterprising Roman Senate saw Sicily as an avenue for expansion, and also offered help so that Rome could establish a foothold on the island. Messana accepted Rome's offer, and told the Carthaginian reinforcements to leave. An enraged Carthaginian government responded by allying itself with Syracuse and a south Sicilian city called Acragas instead (Polybius). The Carthaginians sent a sizeable naval force to help lay siege to Massena, and warned the Romans that they would not allow them to even reach Massena, and planned to destroy the Roman ships and forces at sea. But the Romans were able to slip past the Carthaginian ships, and landed two legions led by a consul in Messana (Charles-Picard).

They quickly broke the siege, and pushed the attackers back to Syracuse. Upon witnessing the devastation the Roman army left in its wake, Hiero II surrendered to Rome despite continued pledges of Carthaginian support. Despite this setback, Carthage continued to send soldiers to Sicily, but was repeatedly soundly defeated. The city of Acragas was brutally sacked and its people enslaved (Polybius). The war on the sea told a different story, however. The Carthaginian Navy reigned supreme, and was able to easily supply and reinforce its territories and garrisons. Realizing this, the Romans decided to build a fleet of ships. Despite having no significant experience with naval war or ships, the Romans managed to build around 140 ships in just 60 days, a remarkable feat by any standards. To top it all off, the Romans modified their ships by adding a contraption called a corvus that allowed them to easily board enemy ships and use their well-trained infantry to win battles at sea (Polybius). The new fleet was quickly met with success. At the battle of Mylae, the outnumbered Carthaginians lost a crushing defeat to the Romans off the northern coast of Sicily, allowing the Romans to gain control of the Mediterranean north of Sicily. Unable to counter the corvus, the Carthaginian commander chose to retreat after losing almost half his ships. In Sicily, however, the Carthaginians were able to win one of their first victories on land in a successful attack on the soldiers from the Roman fleet near Thermae in northern Sicily. The victorious force made its way South, seizing the cities of Enna and Camarina (Livius). Despite these temporary victories, the future looked grim for Carthage. Unable to counter Rome's newfound naval strength, the Carthaginians were being pushed back everywhere. Roman raids on Corsica and Sardinia went largely unpunished, as the Romans managed to escape before the Carthaginian reinforcements arrived. Eventually, the Carthaginian fleet engaged a Roman fleet at the Battle of Sulci off the coast of Sardinia, but was largely destroyed or grounded (Smith). Nevertheless, stranded Carthaginian forces were able to regain control of Sardinia. In Sicily, however, Roman forces were finally able to secure supply lines and retake the cities of Enna and Camarina. They continued to push westward throughout the next few years, but were met with stubborn defenders and well-defended cities (Polybius). A frustrated Rome decided to take the fight to Carthage, and built a massive fleet of over 300 ships to transport an invasion force to Africa. The Carthaginian navy responded by sending an equally massive armada to intercept the Roman fleet. The ensuing battle off the coast of Ecnomus

was one of the most devastating yet, and ended with yet another Roman victory. Led by the Roman consul Regulus, four legions of soldiers landed near Aspis and laid siege to the city. Despite many of his forces and ships being recalled to Rome, Regulus was able to wreak havoc in the Carthaginian hinterlands, eventually taking the city of Tunis in 256 BC (Smith). A devastated Carthage was unable to effectively counter the Romans, who knew how to use the terrain to their advantage, and agreed to negotiate peace terms. At the same time, the Carthaginians brought in a Spartan commander named Xanthippus to reorganize their forces (Polybius). This proved to be a wise move when peace negotiations fell apart, as Carthage believed Rome's demands to cede all of Sicily were too steep. The rejuvenated Carthaginian forces under Xanthippus were finally able to defeat the Romans in a stunning victory that left thousands of Romans dead and saw their commander, consul Regulus, captured. The survivors made their way to Aspis, where they met a large Roman fleet maintaining control over the African coast. Shortly after leaving Aspis, the entire fleet was destroyed in a massive storm that drowned tens of thousands of Romans (Livius). As the Roman threat to Africa faded, both powers turned back to Sicily. Carthage was able to regain a foothold on the southern coast when it retook Acragas, but lost the cities of Thermae and Panormus, allowing the Romans to regain control of most of western Sicily. The tables turned on the Romans again, however, when another large fleet of around 150 ships sank in a storm near the African coast. The Carthaginians took advantage of the surprise loss to quell Berber rebellions in Libya, which had caught the eye of Hanno II the Great as a possible avenue for expansion (Smith). Not to be deterred, Carthage sent another army to Sicily in 251 BC, which was promptly defeated outside the strategically located city of Panormus, which had fallen to the Romans just a year prior. The Romans were unable to sack any of the other Carthaginian footholds on Sicily, however, as all of them were well-defended and managed to withstand years of siege. In 249 BC, the Romans suffered another loss at sea, this time at the hands of the Carthaginian commander Adherbal, who managed to capture most of the Roman ships sent to battle his fleet (Polybius). Finally, after another devastating loss of hundreds of ships to a third storm, the Romans began to relent. Both sides were feeling the strain of such a massive conflict that had claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, and internal disagreement in both governments grew stronger. Carthage's forces were split between Hamilcar Barca,

who became the commander of the Carthaginian fleet and its forces in Sicily, and Hanno II the Great, who led conquests of Berber territory in Libya to extract more taxes to ease the burden on an overstretched Carthaginian treasury (Carthage). Although Hasdrubal was able to reach and attack the Italian mainland and employ guerilla warfare tactics to ambush and harass the Roman forces in Sicily starting in 247 BC, his efforts proved fruitless. Rome was able to construct yet another fleet of ships, this time relying on its citizens to fund the war effort directly (Polybius). This fleet was able to successfully attack the last Carthaginian fortress on Sicily, and defeat the last of the Carthaginian Navy. In 241, both sides agreed to end the war after Carthage sued for peace. The resulting peace treaty and strains of the war would forever reshape Carthage, and allow Rome to finally claim its status as an equal, if not superior, Mediterranean superpower.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR

The initial peace agreement was signed between Hamilcar Barca and the commander of Rome's forces in Sicily. It called for the return of Roman prisoners, for Carthage to cede Sicily, and pay a war indemnity of a few thousand talents of silver (Hannibal). But the Roman voting assemblies, still reeling from decades of war and still angry at Hamilcar for raids on the Italian mainland, rejected this initial agreement. Instead, they demanded even more silver (3200 talents), and also the islands of Corsica and Sardinia. It also put restrictions on Carthage's navy in hopes of preventing another war (Polybius). At this point, the Carthaginians were split roughly into two factions. One, led by Hamilcar Barca, favored regaining Carthage's status as a trading superpower by conquering more territory around the Mediterranean and pushing back against the terms imposed by Rome. Hamilcar had the support of reformists, his own powerful family, and many merchants who wanted a return to prosperity (Hannibal). The other, led by Hanno II the Great, was opposed to continued conflict with Rome. In fact, he had ordered the Carthaginian Navy to stand down after their victory over the Romans in 249 BC, as he was unwilling to overcommit to war (Smith). Like many other aristocrats, he supported expanding Carthage's control over the surrounding African territory in an effort to make Carthage more self-sustaining. In Rome, some favored a shift back to the old stance on Carthage as an amicable neighbor. Although Rome emerged

victorious, the cost of that victory was high. In fact, although Sicily became Rome's first province, it wasn't of much economic use to the Romans in its first few decades as a province (Polybius). On the other hand, Rome also had several hard-liners, who persisted in trying to persuade the government to continue to push Carthage back. The most famous of these was Cato the Elder (who lived about a century after the end of the First Punic War), who ended all of his speeches to the Roman Senate with "and Carthage must be destroyed," (Carthage). Although both powers were pulled in two separate directions, a revolt of mercenaries would soon raise tensions and force Rome and Carthage to interact and even cooperate.

THE MERCENARY WAR

The Mercenary War was a brutal conflict that stemmed from the economic hardship suffered by Carthage after her loss to Rome in the First Punic War. In short, the conflict began after tens of thousands of mercenaries employed by Carthage during the First Punic War demanded payment. But after having emptied the city's treasury to pay part of the war indemnity demanded by the Romans, Carthage's leaders found themselves unable to pay the mercenaries (Polybius). A paralyzed government found itself facing a unified force of disgruntled mercenaries camped near Carthage itself. The mercenaries, who came from various European and African backgrounds, submitted a series of demands to Hanno II the Great, who had been sent to negotiate with them. Still angry over Hanno and other leaders' conduct towards them, the mercenaries were enraged by Hanno's rejection of their initial demands. Thousands of them then marched on Tunis, a city near Carthage, and took the city (Polybius). As thousands more Carthaginian conscripts of African descent defected and joined the mercenaries, the government agreed to the new, harsher terms proposed by the mercenaries. Despite the agreement, two mercenary commanders, Mathos and Spendius began to spread rumors that Carthage planned to betray its African conscripts and hired mercenaries once the rest had left for Europe. Quickly joined by the natives of modern-day Libya, who were resentful of Carthage's continued expansion into their land, the group of mercenaries managed to form blockades around two major cities and Carthage itself and imprison a Carthaginian envoy before Carthage could muster a response (Polybius). Eventually, Carthage managed to raise a combined force of soldiers and mercenaries still

loyal to Carthage. Hanno II the Great managed to secure a victory over the rebels and break the blockade around the besieged city of Utica. But his army quickly proved vulnerable to a rebel counter attack and was forced to retreat to Utica where it continued to keep an eye on the rebel forces. In the meantime, Hamilcar Barca was given command of a fresh army. He managed to slip past the river that separates Carthage from the mainland at night, and escape to the country. There, he outmaneuvered two armies commanded by Spendius and smashed a force that was at least twice the size of his own. From there Hamilcar and Spendius began a war of attrition (Polybius). Hamilcar led his army through the Carthaginian hinterlands, cutting off rebels' supply lines and recruitment by retaking the small towns dotted throughout the region. In addition, Carthage's newly-constructed navy began blockading the rebels camped near Carthage, imprisoning the Roman traders that were bringing them supplies. Spendius, weary of engaging in another open battle with Hamilcar, and hoping to outlast him in a war of attrition, began a deadly guerilla warfare-like campaign against Hamilcar's forces. At one point, he managed to trap Hamilcar's army in a valley, but a defecting Numidian chief named Navaras allowed the Carthaginians to retreat through a mountain pass (Polybius). Meanwhile in Sardinia, rebel mercenaries besieged and slaughtered the occupants of a Carthaginian outpost. The mercenaries reached out to Rome for help, but were quickly refused. In the interest of maintaining Carthage's ability to pay its war indemnity and negotiating for the return of captured Roman sailors, Rome chose not to intervene (Livius). As the war took its toll on both sides, Hamilcar (who at this time had full command of Carthaginian forces) managed to break the siege of Carthage by cutting off the rebels supplies. Despite their vastly greater numbers, the rebels were never able to face Hamilcar's force in an open battle. Instead, they were forced to chase him through terrain with which he was now very familiar. Hamilcar's brilliant maneuvering skills allowed him to trap the rebel forces in a ravine. The ensuing "Battle of the Saw" was a brutal, one-sided victory. Angry with the rebels for harassing them for years, torturing their envoys, and killing their citizens, the Carthaginians gave no quarter (Polybius). After this massacre, the Carthaginians raised a fleet to sail to Sardinia and retake their outpost. But an enterprising Rome quickly accused Carthage of planning to attack Sicily, and demanded that Carthage not only surrender, but cede Sardinia and pay an additional war indemnity. Exhausted from years of war, Carthage

capitulated, much to the dismay of Hamilcar (Livius). It is just after this point that we begin committee. Although the two powers are at peace, a poor and disgruntled Carthage remains on the brink of stability. Rome remains torn between ambitions to expand and a desire to see Carthage pay off its debt. Another war, which could be immensely destructive to the already strained governments, could very well be in the cards.

DESCRIPTIONS OF ROLES:

This section of the synopsis will go through each character's role and powers in committee. Not all the figures you will be representing were actually alive or holding an important post at the same time. But for the sake of having a balanced and exciting debate, all of the following characters will be represented.

As a side note, some of the Carthaginian figures didn't have recorded names or motivations. For such characters, the description below will include a brief overview of the character's background and attitudes. As delegates you will be expected to follow the general position outlined here, but other than that will have freedom to make your own decisions.

Hanno II the Great

Hanno II the Great was one of three Hanno the Greats in Carthaginian history. A rich landed noble, he was involved in Carthaginian expansion and politics for much of his life. After earning a reputation for his conquests in Africa, he joined the political elite as a general. Throughout the First Punic War, he led the faction that opposed continued conflict, especially naval conflict (Polybius). Supported by many of Carthage's wealthy, land-owning elites, he instead continued to advocate for increased expansion into Africa and for transforming Carthage into a landed empire. He famously stands in opposition to Hamilcar Barca, who advocated for increased naval conquest and for expanding Carthage's trade network. The two were often at odds, and mistrusted each other. This led to a dangerous lack of cooperation that ended up prolonging the Mercenary War as neither general wanted to cooperate with the other. In this committee, he will serve as a general and influential political figure.

Hamilcar Barca

Today, Hamilcar Barca is best known as the father of the legendary Hannibal Barca. But he was a brilliant general in his own right, and led a more populist movement that supported expanding and maintaining Carthage's trade network (Polybius). He was the leader of the Barcid clan, an ancient and respected family in Carthaginian politics, for most of the mid-late 3rd century BC. He never forgave Rome for the First Punic War, and as described above resented the policies of Hanno II the Great. After the Mercenary War, he moved to Iberia (modern-day Spain) with his family, where he began conquering territory and establishing trade outposts (Livius). In this committee he will also serve as a general and influential politician.

Hieron II

Hieron II was the tyrant of Syracuse during and after the first Punic War. Syracuse was a small but powerful greek city-state located on the island of Sicily. Although he came into power after he led Syracusan forces to victory against Carthaginian-supported mercenaries, Hieron II established himself as an ally of Carthage early in the First Punic War. But when the Romans threatened Syracuse, he quickly switched sides (Livius). For the rest of his time as ruler, Syracuse maintained a strong alliance with the Romans as its influence slowly dwindled. In this committee, he will play the role of the tyrant of Syracuse, and at least begin committee as a Roman ally.

Adherbal of Gades

Adherbal of Gades was the governor of the city of Gades (sometimes Gadir in Ancient sources), today known as Cadiz, in Iberia. Not much is known about his political motivations, but from his association with Hamilcar Barca's sons Hannibal and Mago, and his presence in Iberia it is safe to say he was allied with the Barcids in many of their decisions (Polybius). Located on the Atlantic coast of Iberia near the Strait of Gibraltar, the city he ruled served as a Phoenician trading outpost for hundreds of years before it was taken by Carthage. From Gades, Carthage was able to control trade of the region's mineral and agricultural resources,

and raise armies to face its enemies. In this committee, Adherbal will serve as the governor of Gades and have control over much of its resources and trading.

Hannibal Barca

Perhaps the most famous of Carthaginians, Hannibal Barca is one of the few recognized names from Carthage today. He was the son of Hamilcar Barca, and learned a great deal about the arts of war from his father. He would have supreme command over a legendary invasion force during the Second Punic War, but during this committee he will serve as a general over some of his father's army based in Iberia (Livius). Hannibal expressed many of the same opinions and attitudes as the rest of the Barcid clan, and indeed led the Barcids to fame during the late 3rd century BC.

Hasdrubal Gisco

Hasdrubal Gisco was a member of the Carthaginian elite who proved to be a resourceful and talented commander. Although he is known for the battles he won in the Second Punic War (after this committee takes place), often while sharing command with one of the Barca brothers, not much is known about his motivations (Livius). Based on his interactions with the Barcid family and the characterization of his arrival in Iberia years after this committee, it seems possible that he was more of a conservative figure whose main goal was to defend Carthage. For the purpose of this committee, he will also serve as a general and centrist politician protecting Carthage's security above all else.

Mago V

Mago V in this committee will serve as one of the suffetes of Carthage. Although suffetes only served for one year, for simplicity's sake Mago V and his co-suffete Bomilcar will serve as suffetes for the entirety of committee unless they are for some reason deposed. Unfortunately, the real names of most of Carthage's suffetes have been lost to time, meaning there is no available information on Mago V. For the purpose of committee, Mago V will be one of the last remnants of the Magonid clan, which once ruled Carthage while it was still a monarchy. As a member of an ancient, elite family, Mago V will support the same view as

many of Carthage's elites. Chief among these is that Carthage should continue to protect and expand its empire in Africa as it attempts to recover from the effects of the First Punic War (Polybius). The delegate representing Mago V will otherwise have the freedom to come up with their own specific policy and ideas.

Bomilcar

Bomilcar was also a figure about whom very little is known, and will serve as co-suffete to Mago V. Not to be confused with Bomilcar, the last king of Carthage, this Bomilcar married one of Hannibal Barca's older sister and at times was an active military commander (Polybius). For the purpose of this committee, he will serve as a suffete cautiously supporting the expansionary policy of the Barcids, but who makes it a point to avoid conflict. The delegate representing Bomilcar will also have creative freedom to otherwise determine their own policy.

Boodes

Boodes was a commander and senator in Carthage, and yet another figure of whom little is known. Beyond the fact that he captured Gnaeus Cornelius Scipio Asina, a relative of Scipio Africanus, during the First Punic War, we know only that Boodes served as a senator (Livius). Given that he served as a commander, but witnessed some of Carthage's most devastating defeats, for the purpose of this committee we will assume Boodes was a centrist senator: cautious of Roman military might but eager to help Carthage regain its status as a dominant empire.

Hampsicora

Hampsicora was a resident and landowning elite in Sardinia. Though Carthage ceded control of the island to Rome after the Mercenary War, many residents with ties to Carthage or of Carthaginian descent remained behind. As one of the island's richest residents, Hampsicora will serve as an informal leader of much (but not all) of Sardinia in committee, and an ally to Carthage (Polybius). It is important to note, however, that he does not represent all of the Sardinian population, including the Roman affiliated residents as well as

members of local tribes.

Hasdrubal Barca

Hasdrubal Barca was another son of Hamilcar Barca and brother to Hannibal. Though not quite as famous as his brother, he was also considered a great commander (Smith). He was a loyal ally of his father and brothers, and for the purpose of our committee will serve as a general of rear guard forces based in Iberia and a staunch Barcid supporter.

Hasdrubal the Fair

Hasdrubal the Fair was married to one of Hannibal's older sisters, and spent much of his life involved with the semi-populist Barcid movement. Not much is known of his life before the time in which committee takes place, but it is clear that he help Hamilcar Barca and his son Hannibal in high esteem. Unlike the Barcas, however, he was a skilled diplomat who preferred to come to agreements rather than fight battles (Charles-Picard). For the purpose of this committee, he will serve as a deputy leader of Iberia, endorsed by the senate to help the Barcas establish a Carthaginian base.

Mago Barca

Mago Barca is the last son of Hamilcar Barca, brother of Hannibal and Hasdrubal. He too was a talented general, and like his brothers he was very young in real life when this committee takes place (although we will ignore that for the sake of debate). For the purpose of this committee, he will serve as a junior general in Iberia and political figure of the Barcid clan, as well as a liaison with the Carthaginian Senate.

Scipio Africanus

Scipio Africanus is perhaps Rome's most famous general. As a member of the powerful Corneli family, he was well connected politically and otherwise. Like the Medici family that would come to power in Florence 1500 years later, the Corneli family was involved at the highest levels in Roman politics, religion, economics, and the military (Livius). Scipio earned the moniker Africanus after the time this committee takes place for his military achievements

there. For the purpose of this committee, he will serve as one of Rome's leading generals, and a popular political figure.

Gaius Lutatius Catulus

Gaius Lutatius Catulus was a successful Roman plebeian consul and general during the First Punic War, who was able to drive back Carthage's navy during the final years of the war. He became popular for his military successes, and this committee will serve as the plebeian consul. Like the suffetes of Carthage, consuls only served for one year (Livius). However, Catulus and his co-consul will serve as consuls for the entirety of the committee unless deposed. However, like the consuls of Rome, they will be able to veto each other's decisions.

Pacuvius Calavius

Pacuvius Calavius was the enterprising and power-hungry leader of the powerful city-state of Capua in Southern Italy. At the time that this committee starts, he remained an ally of the Romans, as did the powerful senate of Capua (Livius). For the purpose of its committee, he will serve as the leader of Capua- in control of its army, public wealth, food, etc. He will, however, still be accountable to the senate and people of Capua.

Gnaeus Cornelius Scipio Asina

Gnaeus Cornelius Scipio Asina was a general famous for his naval and other military blunders during the First Punic War. (Polybius) Despite these, he remained a powerful politician, and was part of the same branch of the Cornelii family as Scipio Africanus. For the purpose of this committee, he will serve as the well-connected and elitist patrician consul, co-consul of Gaius Lutatius Catulus.

L. Caecilius Metellus II

L. Caecilius Metellus II was an important figure in the Roman military, government, and in religion. He served successfully as a consul and general in the First Punic War, and later became Rome's Pontifex Maximus: its chief religious leader. As pontifex maximus, Metellus II had authority over the power and functions of religious institutions. In addition to his "priestly

duties," the pontifex was charged with maintaining the peace of the gods. This involved dealing directly with the government as an adviser to high-level magistrates. It also meant things like determining important dates and holidays, setting the calendar, interpreting religious omens, etc (Livius). In this committee, Metellus II will serve as the pontifex maximus, whose chief goal is to ensure the prosperity of Rome.

Marcus Fabius Buteo

Marcus Fabius Buteo was a successful politician, who served as consul then eventually as censor. As censor, he was one of a few magistrates in charge of a wide range of duties, including taking a census, managing finances for large projects, and maintaining public morality. This last responsibility was rather vague, and allowed censors to do things like expel Senators for lewd behavior, and charge people with crimes relating to morality (Livius). Although censors served only for 18 months, he will serve as censor for the entirety of committee, with the primary goal of maintaining the stability of the Roman Republic.

Naravas

Naravas was the chief of a federation of Berber and Numidian tribes bordering the hinterlands of Carthage. During the Mercenary War, he initially joined many of his countrymen in supporting the mercenaries. But at a critical moment when Hamilcar and his army were trapped in a valley, he defected to Carthage's side, allowing Hamilcar safe passage out of the valley and adding his cavalry to Hamilcar's army (Polybius). He became the son-in-law of Hamilcar when he married his daughter, and became a figure of minor importance in Carthage. For the purpose of this committee, he will continue to serve as chief of his small association of tribes, and as a liaison with the tribes around Carthage's African borders. He will also support Hamilcar and the Barcids in their quest to expand Carthage's empire overseas (not into the African interior), though he will have little formal power in government.

Autaritus II

Autaritus II is another figure about whom there is no information (his name and

position are based on other historical figures, but he did not exist). In this committee, he will serve as the leader of Gaulish mercenaries after the Mercenary War. His namesake, the real Autaritus, was a leader of mercenaries who fought for Carthage during the First Punic War. During the Mercenary War, he was a vocal leader and barbaric enemy. He was imprisoned along with hundreds of others after the Battle of the Saw, and was crucified for his actions (Polybius). Autaritus II will serve in a similar position, but will be understandably cooler towards Carthage than his predecessor. Other than that he will have few motives other than protecting Gaulish territory (on which Rome was beginning to encroach), earning money, and fighting on the winning side. Like many of the other positions in this committee, the delegate representing Autaritus II will have a lot of creative freedom.

Gaius Flaminius

Gaius Flaminius was a famous, outspoken, popular politician that held several important posts throughout the third century BC. Even though he didn't belong to an important plebiscite family, he quickly made a name for himself with stirring speeches and his commitment to morality (Livius). Although he didn't hold the post until later, in our committee he will serve as a Tribune of the Plebs. This was arguably one of the most important positions in the Roman government. Tribunes were tasked with protecting the plebs from the tyranny of the largely patrician-controlled government, which meant they had final veto power over most magistrates' decisions (including consuls and praetors), could call Senate meetings, and chaired the people's assembly. Gaius Flaminius was a particularly reformist Tribune, who didn't hesitate to push for and pass important reforms (Livius). This often brought him into conflict with some of the more elitist families and politicians. He will be motivated by his genuine desire to protect the plebs and to reform and improve Rome.

Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus

Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus was descended from a long line of successful politicians and generals, and lived up to his family legacy. He proved himself to be an able patrician commander, even finding ways to counter Hannibal's tactics (Livius). In this committee, he will serve as an elitist patrician general, who is willing and able to protect Rome and her territories.

Masinissa

Masinissa was the king of the eastern Numidian kingdom of Massylii. Although he came to power after this committee takes place, he will serve as the leader of the Massylii. Massylii was in constant conflict with the western Numidian kingdom, ruled by Masinissa's rival Syphax. Under Masinissa's father, much of the eastern kingdom had been conquered by the west. But Masinissa spent much of his rule pushing back against the western kingdom in hopes of conquering it and creating a single, united kingdom (Livius). His main goal in committee will be to prevent the western kingdom from taking more territory, and finding a way to push them back.

Syphax

Syphax was the king of the western Numidian kingdom known as Masaesyli. Like his eastern counterpart, he too sought to conquer and unite the Numidian kingdoms. Under his rule, the kingdom prospered, with access to its own harbour, significant agricultural resources, and a large military. He was able to expand eastward, taking land from the Massylii, and assert his independence despite his proximity to Carthage (Polybius). Although he too ruled after the time this committee takes place, he will serve as King of Masaesyli, whose primary ambition is to protect his kingdom's territorial independence and conquer the Massylii in the east.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Question 1:

How should leaders be held accountable for their actions and the results of their actions during times of conflict?

Question 2:

To what extent does your desire to see peace outweigh the importance of the issues you feel must be addressed?

Question 3:

How does the political structure you are a part of or subject to help your civilization in times of peace? What about in times of conflict?

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