

There are some notable similarities and differences between Sparta's involvement in the Peloponnesian War and Rome's conquest of Italy and Carthage.

In terms of similarities, both Sparta and Rome sought to expand and consolidate power over their rivals in their respective regions. Sparta wanted to defeat Athens and its Delian League to dominate Greece, while Rome wanted to conquer the other city-states on the Italian peninsula and the powerful Carthage to control the Mediterranean. Both did this primarily to gain economic and political strength rather than more "noble" reasons like defending allies (Morey, 1901).

However, the major differences between the two are: Sparta's motivation in the Peloponnesian War was more about suppressing a rival power, Athens, that threatened its hegemony over Greece. In contrast, Rome's wars against neighbors like the Latins, Samnites, and Greek colonies were more about opportunity, ambition, and the availability of rich lands to conquer. Expanding territory and resources was particularly important for Rome to feed its growing population. Rome's battle with Carthage - a mighty mercantile and naval power controlling lucrative trade routes - was also driven by a thirst to control coastal zones and wider spheres of commercial influence.

Additionally, Sparta did not necessarily want to conquer and hold the territories it defeated, but rather assert its military supremacy. The reality was that Sparta lacked the governmental machinery and resources to run an empire. So once Athens was defeated, Greek city-states were relatively autonomous. On the other hand, Rome systematically took over land, absorbed defeated city-states and set up networks of colonies and roads to completely Romanize its new holdings. Romans wanted to spread their institutions, laws, and way of life around the Mediterranean basin where they came to rule.

So, while Sparta fought mainly to be leader of an alliance of Greek states, Rome strove to build an empire and expand for greater wealth and glory. Its warfare led to more territorial gains and administrative control of those lands rather than just military dominance over rivals.

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Reference:

Morey C. William. (1901). *Layouts of Roman History*. American Book Company. New York