



UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

HIST 1421-01 GREEK & ROMAN CIVILIZATION - AY2024-T3

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CAUSES OF CONFLICT BETWEEN ROME AND MACEDON

INTRODUCTION

There were multiple key factors driving conflict between Rome and Macedon as Rome expanded against various Mediterranean rivals. Macedon and Rome fought four major wars as the kingdom sought to maintain its Hellenic empire while Rome aimed to eliminate regional rivals, culminating in Macedon's defeat and incorporation into the growing Roman Republic (Morey, 1901).

TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS

Rome grew rapidly in peninsular Italy and challenged Macedon's colonial possessions like southern Illyria and Magna Graecia. These brought Roman territory in close proximity with Macedon's admired Greek cities and important interests. Macedon feared Rome's growing imperialism, as the young state pursued redistribution of land and resources through colonies in coastal western Illyria. This increased competition for territory and control of strategic ports that both powers saw as vital to their continued expansion. Their competing strategies for growth inevitably clashed, and Macedon perceived the Romans as invading its regional interests on the Adriatic.

ALLIANCE POLITICS IN THE PUNIC WARS

Historical alliances and changing power dynamics drew Rome and Macedon into enmity. Macedon allied with Carthage during Rome's Second Punic War, aiming to deny Rome territorial growth as well as maintain Macedon's own strength in the region. They shared ambitions to prevent total Roman domination of central Mediterranean trade routes and ports. With Carthage allied to Hannibal's army in Italy, Rome saw Antigonid Macedon's pact as a

significant threat of war in two theaters. The Romans viewed Macedon's royalty as enemies for this commitment to their Punic rivals.

LIBERATION OF GREEK STATES

Rome exploited Greek hostility toward Macedon. Since Alexander, Hellenic city-states remained subject to Macedon's king. Various Greek liberation movements allied with Rome, inviting them to bring their armies against Macedon. Rome painted themselves as saviors defending the liberty and autonomy of independent Greek cities, gaining political capital as the enemy of Macedon's imperial Hellenic monarchy. This deepened the antagonism between both sides in what may have begun as simple military expansionism by Rome.

THE BATTLE OF PYDNA AND AFTERMATH

Pydna in 168 BCE devastated Macedon as a great power, ending the Third Macedonian War. Rome's decisive victory eliminated the Antigonid dynasty from the imperial scene of the Mediterranean. Rome usurped their regional authority, establishing permanent colonial garrisons in Antigonid territory and later annexing the entire state as a Roman province, enriching themselves with Macedon's resources. The consequences for Macedon's role in Greek affairs were monumental – never again would a Macedonian king exert military dominance over Mediterranean states. Rome had successfully removed their central political rival for control of the western Mediterranean and opened routes into Greece and Asia Minor.

CONCLUSION

A complex blend of power politics, resources competition, and opposing alliances led to protracted warfare between Rome and Macedon. As Rome rose to dominance, Macedon sought to check its growing power through strategic alliances. This ensured endemic hostility and ultimately led to a series of wars that ended with Macedon's decline and Roman command of its

territory and clients. Macedon's defeat at Pydna and Rome's subsequent annexation of her realm was the death knell for Hellenic politics in the Mediterranean and beginning of Rome's era of dominance.

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REFERENCE:

Morey, W. C. (1901). Outlines of Roman History. American Book Company. Chapter XIV. The First Punic War. Retrieved from <http://www.forumromanum.org/history/morey14.html>