[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Pp-move](/wiki/Template:Pp-move) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox military person](/wiki/Template:Infobox_military_person) **Hannibal** (247 – between 183 and 181 BCE),[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) fully **Hannibal**[**Barca**](/wiki/Barcids), was a [Punic](/wiki/Punics) military commander from [Carthage](/wiki/Ancient_Carthage), generally considered one of the greatest military commanders in history. His father [Hamilcar Barca](/wiki/Hamilcar_Barca) was the leading Carthaginian commander during the [First Punic War](/wiki/First_Punic_War). His younger brothers were [Mago](/wiki/Mago_Barca) and [Hasdrubal](/wiki/Hasdrubal_Barca), and he was brother-in-law to [Hasdrubal the Fair](/wiki/Hasdrubal_the_Fair).

Hannibal lived during a period of great tension in the [Mediterranean Basin](/wiki/Mediterranean_Basin), when the [Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic) established its supremacy over other great powers such as [ancient Carthage](/wiki/Ancient_Carthage) and the Hellenistic kingdoms of [Macedonia](/wiki/Macedonia_(ancient_kingdom)), [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily#Greek_period), and the [Seleucid Empire](/wiki/Seleucid_Empire). One of his most famous achievements was at the outbreak of the [Second Punic War](/wiki/Second_Punic_War), when he [marched an army](/wiki/Hannibal's_crossing_of_the_Alps) which included [war elephants](/wiki/War_elephant) from [Iberia](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) over the [Pyrenees](/wiki/Pyrenees) and the [Alps](/wiki/Alps) into [Italy](/wiki/Italy). In his first few years in Italy, he won three dramatic victories—[the Trebia](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Trebia), [Lake Trasimene](/wiki/Battle_of_Lake_Trasimene), and [Cannae](/wiki/Battle_of_Cannae), in which he distinguished himself for his ability to determine his and his opponent's strengths and weaknesses, and to play the battle to his strengths and the enemy's weaknesses—and won over many allies of Rome. Hannibal occupied much of Italy for 15 years but was unable to march on Rome. An enemy counter-invasion of [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa) forced him to return to Carthage, where he was decisively defeated by [Scipio Africanus](/wiki/Scipio_Africanus) at the [Battle of Zama](/wiki/Battle_of_Zama). Scipio had studied Hannibal's tactics and brilliantly devised some of his own, and finally defeated Rome's nemesis at Zama, having previously driven Hannibal's brother Hasdrubal out of the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula).

After the war, Hannibal successfully ran for the office of [sufet](/wiki/Shophet). He enacted political and financial reforms to enable the payment of the war indemnity imposed by Rome; however, Hannibal's reforms were unpopular with members of the Carthaginian aristocracy and in Rome, and he fled into voluntary exile. During this time, he lived at the [Seleucid](/wiki/Seleucid_Empire) court, where he acted as military advisor to [Antiochus III the Great](/wiki/Antiochus_III_the_Great) in his war against Rome. Antiochus met defeat at the [Battle of Magnesia](/wiki/Battle_of_Magnesia) and was forced to accept Rome's terms, and Hannibal fled again, making a stop in the [Kingdom of Armenia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Armenia_(antiquity)). His flight ended in the court of [Bithynia](/wiki/Bithynia), where he achieved an outstanding naval victory against a fleet from [Pergamon](/wiki/Pergamon). He was afterwards betrayed to the Romans and committed suicide by poisoning himself.

Hannibal is often regarded as one of the greatest military strategists in history and one of the greatest generals of antiquity, together with [Alexander the Great](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great), [Julius Caesar](/wiki/Julius_Caesar), [Scipio Africanus](/wiki/Scipio_Africanus), and [Pyrrhus of Epirus](/wiki/Pyrrhus_of_Epirus). [Plutarch](/wiki/Plutarch) states that Hannibal was questioned by Scipio as to who was the greatest general, and Hannibal replied either Alexander or Pyrrhus, then himself,[[1]](#cite_note-1) or, according to another version of the event, Pyrrhus, Scipio, then himself.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Military historian [Theodore Ayrault Dodge](/wiki/Theodore_Ayrault_Dodge) called Hannibal the "father of strategy",[[3]](#cite_note-3) because his greatest enemy, Rome, came to adopt elements of his military tactics in its own strategic arsenal. This praise has earned him a strong reputation in the modern world, and he was regarded as a great strategist by [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon) and others.

## Contents

* 1 Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 Background and early career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
* 3 Second Punic War in Italy (218–204 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 3.1 Overland journey to Italy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 3.2 Battle of Trebia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 3.3 Battle of Lake Trasimene[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 3.4 Battle of Cannae[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 3.5 Stalemate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 3.6 Hannibal's retreat in Italy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
* 4 Conclusion of the Second Punic War (203–201 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 4.1 Return to Carthage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 4.2 Battle of Zama[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
* 5 Later career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 5.1 Peacetime Carthage (200–196 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 5.2 Exile (after 195 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 5.3 Death (183 x 181 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
* 6 Legacy to the ancient world[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
* 7 Legacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 7.1 Military history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 7.2 Hannibal in literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
  + 7.3 Hannibal in theatre and opera[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
  + 7.4 Hannibal in film and on television[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
  + 7.5 Comics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

## Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The [English form](/wiki/Anglicisation_of_names) of the name is derived from the [Latin](/wiki/Latinisation_of_names). [Greek historians](/wiki/Greek_historiography) rendered the name as *Anníbas Bárkas* ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)).

Hannibal was his [given name](/wiki/Given_name). Hannibal's name was recorded in Carthaginian sources as ḤNBʻL (in [Punic](/wiki/Punic_language):[Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)). Its precise vocalization remains a matter of debate. Suggested readings include *Ḥannibaʻl* or *Ḥannibaʻal*,<ref name=benz/><ref name=baier/> meaning "grace of [Baʻal](/wiki/Baal)",<ref name=benz>Benz, Franz L. 1982. Personal Names in the Phoenician and Punic Inscriptions. P.313-314</ref> "Ba'al is gracious", or "Ba'al has been gracious";<ref name=baier>Baier, Thomas. 2004. Studien zu Plautus' Poenulus. P.174</ref>[[4]](#cite_note-4) or *Ḥannobaʻal*, with the same meaning.<ref name=brown>Brown, John Pairman. 2000. Israel and Hellas: Sacred institutions with Roman counterparts. P.126–128</ref>

Barca ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), BRQ) was the [surname](/wiki/Surname) of his aristocratic family, meaning "shining" or "lightning".[[5]](#cite_note-5) It is thus equivalent to the [Arabic name](/wiki/Arabic_name) *Barq* or the [Hebrew name](/wiki/Hebrew_name) [Barak](/wiki/Barak_(given_name)) or the [ancient Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greek) [epithet](/wiki/Cognomen) *keraunos*, which was commonly given to military commanders in the [Hellenistic period](/wiki/Hellenistic_period).[[6]](#cite_note-6) In English, his clan are sometimes collectively known as the [Barcids](/wiki/Barcids). As with [Greek](/wiki/Greek_name) and [Roman practice](/wiki/Roman_naming_conventions), [patronymics](/wiki/Patronymic) were a common part of Carthaginian nomenclature, so that Hannibal would also have been known as "Hannibal son of Hamilcar".[[7]](#cite_note-7)

## Background and early career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Hannibal was one of the sons of [Hamilcar Barca](/wiki/Hamilcar_Barca), a Carthaginian leader. He had several sisters and two brothers, Hasdrubal and Mago. His brothers-in-law were [Hasdrubal the Fair](/wiki/Hasdrubal_the_Fair) and the [Numidian](/wiki/Numidians) king [Naravas](/wiki/Naravas). He was still a child when his sisters married, and his brothers-in-law were close associates during his father's struggles in the [Mercenary War](/wiki/Mercenary_War) and the Punic conquest of the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula). In light of Hamilcar Barca's cognomen, historians refer to Hamilcar's family as the Barcids. However, there is debate as to whether the cognomen Barca (meaning "thunderbolt") was applied to Hamilcar alone or was hereditary within his family. If the latter, then Hannibal and his brothers also bore the name "Barca".[[8]](#cite_note-8) After Carthage's defeat in the [First Punic War](/wiki/First_Punic_War), Hamilcar set out to improve his family's and Carthage's fortunes. With that in mind and supported by [Gades](/wiki/Gades), Hamilcar began the subjugation of the tribes of the Iberian Peninsula. Carthage at the time was in such a poor state that its navy was unable to transport his army; instead, Hamilcar had to march it towards the [Pillars of Hercules](/wiki/Pillars_of_Hercules) and then cross the [Strait of Gibraltar](/wiki/Strait_of_Gibraltar).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

According to [Polybius](/wiki/Polybius), Hannibal much later said that when he came upon his father and begged to go with him, Hamilcar agreed and demanded that he swear that as long as he lived he would never be a friend of Rome. There is even an account of him at a very young age begging his father to take him to an overseas war. In the story, Hannibal's father took him up and brought him to a sacrificial chamber. Hamilcar held Hannibal over the fire roaring in the chamber and made him swear that he would never be a friend of Rome. Other sources report that Hannibal told his father, "I swear so soon as age will permit...I will use fire and steel to arrest the destiny of Rome."[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[9]](#cite_note-9) According to the tradition, Hannibal's oath took place in the town of [Peñíscola](/wiki/Peñíscola), today part of the [Valencian Community](/wiki/Valencian_Community), Spain.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Hannibal's father went about the conquest of [Hispania](/wiki/Hispania). When his father drowned[[11]](#cite_note-11) in battle, Hannibal's brother-in-law Hasdrubal the Fair succeeded to his command of the army with Hannibal serving as an officer under him. Hasdrubal pursued a policy of consolidation of Carthage's Iberian interests, even signing a [treaty](/wiki/Treaty) with Rome whereby Carthage would not expand north of the [Ebro](/wiki/Ebro) so long as Rome did not expand south of it. Hasdrubal also endeavoured to consolidate Carthaginian power through diplomatic relationships with native tribes.

Upon the assassination of Hasdrubal in 221 BCE, Hannibal was proclaimed commander-in-chief by the army and confirmed in his appointment by the Carthaginian government. [Livy](/wiki/Livy), a Roman scholar, gives a depiction of the young Carthaginian: "No sooner had he arrived...the old soldiers fancied they saw Hamilcar in his youth given back to them; the same bright look; the same fire in his eye, the same trick of countenance and features. Never was one and the same spirit more skillful to meet opposition, to obey, or to command[.]"[[12]](#cite_note-12) After he assumed command, Hannibal spent two years consolidating his holdings and completing the conquest of Hispania, south of the Ebro.[[13]](#cite_note-13) In his first campaign, Hannibal attacked and stormed the [Olcades'](/wiki/Olcades) strongest centre, Alithia, which promptly led to their surrender, and brought Punic power close to the River [Tagus](/wiki/Tagus). His following campaign in 220 was against the [Vaccaei](/wiki/Vaccaei) to the west, where he stormed the Vaccaen strongholds of Helmantice and Arbucala. On his return home, laden with many spoils, a coalition of Spanish tribes, led by the [Carpetani](/wiki/Carpetani), attacked, and Hannibal won his first major battlefield success and showed off his tactical skills at the battle of the River Tagus.[[14]](#cite_note-14) However, Rome, fearing the growing strength of Hannibal in Iberia, made an alliance with the city of [Saguntum](/wiki/Sagunto), which lay a considerable distance south of the River Ebro and claimed the city as its [protectorate](/wiki/Protectorate). Hannibal not only perceived this as a breach of the treaty signed with Hasdrubal, but as he was already planning an attack on Rome, this was his way to start the war. So he laid [siege](/wiki/Siege) to the city, which fell after eight months. Rome reacted to this apparent violation of the treaty and demanded justice from Carthage. In view of Hannibal's great popularity, the Carthaginian government did not repudiate Hannibal's actions, and the war he sought was declared at the end of the year. Hannibal was now determined to carry the war into the heart of Italy by a rapid march through Hispania and southern [Gaul](/wiki/Gaul).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

## Second Punic War in Italy (218–204 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Overland journey to Italy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|300px|right|Hannibal´s route of invasion given by the Department of History, United States Military Academy. There is a mistake in the scale.](/wiki/File:Hannibal_route_of_invasion.gif)

This journey was originally planned by Hannibal's brother-in-law Hasdrubal the Fair, who became a Carthaginian general in the Iberian Peninsula in 229 BCE. He maintained this post for eight years until 221 BCE. Soon the Romans became aware of an alliance between Carthage and the [Celts](/wiki/Celts) of the [Po Valley](/wiki/Po_Valley) in [Northern Italy](/wiki/Northern_Italy). The Celts were amassing forces to invade farther south in Italy, presumably with Carthaginian backing. Therefore, the Romans preemptively invaded the Po region in 225 BCE. By 220 BCE, the Romans had annexed the area as [Cisalpine Gaul](/wiki/Cisalpine_Gaul).[[15]](#cite_note-15) Hasdrubal was assassinated around the same time (221 BCE), bringing Hannibal to the fore. It seems that the Romans lulled themselves into a false sense of security, having dealt with the threat of a Gallo-Carthaginian invasion, and perhaps knowing that the original Carthaginian commander had been killed.

Hannibal departed [New Carthage](/wiki/Cartagena,_Spain) in late spring of 218 BCE.[[16]](#cite_note-16) He fought his way through the northern tribes to the foothills of the [Pyrenees](/wiki/Pyrenees), subduing the tribes through clever mountain tactics and stubborn fighting. He left a detachment of 20,000 troops to garrison the newly conquered region. At the Pyrenees, he released 11,000 Iberian troops who showed reluctance to leave their homeland. Hannibal reportedly entered Gaul with 40,000 foot soldiers and 12,000 horsemen.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Hannibal recognized that he still needed to cross the Pyrenees, the Alps, and many significant rivers.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Additionally, he would have to contend with opposition from the [Gauls](/wiki/Gaul), whose territory he passed through. Starting in the spring of 218 BCE, he crossed the Pyrenees and reached the [Rhône](/wiki/Rhône) by conciliating the Gaulish chiefs along his passage before the Romans could take any measures to bar his advance, arriving at the Rhône in September. Hannibal's army numbered 38,000 infantry, 8,000 cavalry, and 38 elephants, almost none of which would survive the harsh conditions of the Alps.[[19]](#cite_note-19) [thumb|upright|left|Hannibal and his men crossing the](/wiki/File:Hannibal3.jpg) [Alps](/wiki/Alps).

Hannibal outmaneuvered the natives who had tried to prevent his crossing, then evaded a Roman force marching from the Mediterranean coast by turning inland up the valley of the Rhône. His exact route over the Alps has been the source of scholarly dispute ever since. (Polybius, the surviving ancient account closest in time to Hannibal's campaign, reports that the route was already debated.) The most influential modern theories favor either a march up the valley of the [Drôme](/wiki/Drôme_(river)) and a crossing of the main range to the south of the modern highway over the [Col de Montgenèvre](/wiki/Col_de_Montgenèvre) or a march farther north up the valleys of the [Isère](/wiki/Isère_(river)) and [Arc](/wiki/Arc_(Savoie)) crossing the main range near the present [Col de Mont Cenis](/wiki/Mont_Cenis) or the [Little St Bernard Pass](/wiki/Little_St_Bernard_Pass).[[20]](#cite_note-20) Recent [numismatic](/wiki/Numismatic) evidence suggests that Hannibal's army may have passed within sight of the [Matterhorn](/wiki/Matterhorn).[[21]](#cite_note-21) By Livy's account, the crossing was accomplished in the face of huge difficulties.[[22]](#cite_note-22) These Hannibal surmounted with ingenuity, such as when he used [vinegar and fire](/wiki/Fire-setting) to break through a rockfall.[[23]](#cite_note-23) According to Polybius, he arrived in Italy accompanied by 20,000 foot soldiers, 4,000 horsemen, and only a few elephants. The fired rockfall event is mentioned only by Livy; Polybius is mute on the subject and there is no evidence[[24]](#cite_note-24) of carbonized rock at the only two-tier rockfall in the Western Alps, located below the [Col de la Traversette](/wiki/Col_de_la_Traversette) (Mahaney, 2008). If Polybius is correct in his figure for the number of troops that he commanded after the crossing of the Rhône, this would suggest that he had lost almost half of his force. Historians such as Serge Lancell have questioned the reliability of the figures for the number of troops that he had when he left Hispania.[[25]](#cite_note-25) From the start, he seems to have calculated that he would have to operate without aid from Hispania.

Hannibal's vision of military affairs was derived partly from the teaching of his Greek tutors and partly from experience gained alongside his father, and it stretched over most of the Hellenistic World of his time. Indeed, the breadth of his vision gave rise to his grand strategy of conquering Rome by opening a northern front and subduing allied city-states on the peninsula, rather than by attacking Rome directly. Historical events which led to the defeat of Carthage during the First Punic War when his father commanded the Carthaginian Army also led Hannibal to plan the invasion of Italy by land across the Alps.

The task was daunting, to say the least. It involved the mobilization of between 60,000 and 100,000 troops (see Proctor, 1971) and the training of a war-elephant corps, all of which had to be provisioned along the way. The alpine invasion of Italy was a military operation that would shake the Mediterranean World of 218 BCE with repercussions for more than two decades.

### Battle of Trebia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|300px|A diagram depicting the tactics used in the](/wiki/File:Battle_trebia.gif) [Battle of the Trebia](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Trebia) Hannibal's perilous march brought him into the Roman territory and frustrated the attempts of the enemy to fight out the main issue on foreign ground. His sudden appearance among the [Gauls](/wiki/Gaul) of the Po Valley, moreover, enabled him to detach those tribes from their new allegiance to the Romans before the Romans could take steps to check the rebellion. [Publius Cornelius Scipio](/wiki/Publius_Cornelius_Scipio) was the consul who commanded the Roman force sent to intercept Hannibal (he was also Scipio Africanus' father). He had not expected Hannibal to make an attempt to cross the Alps, since the Romans were prepared to fight the war in the Iberian Peninsula. With a small detachment still positioned in Gaul, Scipio made an attempt to intercept Hannibal. He succeeded, through prompt decision and speedy movement, in transporting his army to Italy by sea in time to meet Hannibal. Hannibal's forces moved through the Po Valley and were engaged in the [Battle of Ticinus](/wiki/Battle_of_Ticinus). Here, Hannibal forced the Romans to evacuate the plain of [Lombardy](/wiki/Lombardy), by virtue of his superior [cavalry](/wiki/Cavalry).[[26]](#cite_note-26) The victory was minor, but it encouraged the Gauls and Ligurians to join the Carthaginian cause, whose troops bolstered his army back to around 40,000 men. Scipio was severely injured, his life only saved by the bravery of his son who rode back onto the field to rescue his fallen father. Scipio retreated across the Trebia to camp at [Placentia](/wiki/Piacenza) with his army mostly intact.[[26]](#cite_note-26) The other [Roman consular](/wiki/Roman_consul) army was rushed to the Po Valley. Even before news of the defeat at Ticinus had reached Rome, the Senate had ordered Consul [Tiberius Sempronius Longus](/wiki/Tiberius_Sempronius_Longus_(consul_218_BC)) to bring his army back from Sicily to meet Scipio and face Hannibal. Hannibal, by skillful maneuvers, was in position to head him off, for he lay on the direct road between Placentia and Arminum, by which Sempronius would have to march to reinforce Scipio. He then captured Clastidium, from which he drew large amounts of supplies for his men. But this gain was not without loss, as Sempronius avoided Hannibal's watchfulness, slipped around his flank, and joined his colleague in his camp near the [Trebia River](/wiki/Trebbia) near [Placentia](/wiki/Piacenza). There Hannibal had an opportunity to show his masterful military skill at the Trebia in December of the same year, after wearing down the superior Roman [infantry](/wiki/Infantry), when he cut it to pieces with a surprise attack and ambush from the flanks.

### Battle of Lake Trasimene[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Hannibal quartered his troops for the winter with the Gauls, whose support for him had abated. In the spring of 217 BCE, Hannibal decided to find a more reliable base of operations farther south. Gnaeus Servilius and Gaius Flaminius (the new consuls of Rome) were expecting Hannibal to advance on Rome, and they took their armies to block the eastern and western routes that Hannibal could use.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[right|300px|thumb|](/wiki/File:Battle_of_lake_trasimene.gif)[Battle of Lake Trasimene](/wiki/Battle_of_Lake_Trasimene), 217 BCE.  
From the Department of History, United States Military Academy The only alternative route to central Italy lay at the mouth of the [Arno](/wiki/Arno). This area was practically one huge marsh, and happened to be overflowing more than usual during this particular season. Hannibal knew that this route was full of difficulties, but it remained the surest and certainly the quickest way to central Italy. [Polybius](/wiki/Polybius) claims that Hannibal's men marched for four days and three nights, "through a land that was under water", suffering terribly from fatigue and enforced want of sleep. He crossed without opposition over both the [Apennines](/wiki/Apennine_Mountains) (during which he lost his right eye[[28]](#cite_note-28) because of [conjunctivitis](/wiki/Conjunctivitis)) and the seemingly impassable Arno, but he lost a large part of his force in the marshy lowlands of the Arno.[[29]](#cite_note-29) He arrived in [Etruria](/wiki/Etruria) in the spring of 217 BCE and decided to lure the main Roman army under Flaminius into a pitched battle by devastating the region that Flaminius had been sent to protect. As Polybius recounts, "he [Hannibal] calculated that, if he passed the camp and made a descent into the district beyond, Flaminius (partly for fear of popular reproach and partly of personal irritation) would be unable to endure watching passively the devastation of the country but would spontaneously follow him... and give him opportunities for attack."[[30]](#cite_note-30) At the same time, Hannibal tried to break the allegiance of Rome's allies by proving that Flaminius was powerless to protect them. Despite this, Flaminius remained passively encamped at Arretium. Hannibal marched boldly around Flaminius' left flank, unable to draw him into battle by mere devastation, and effectively cut him off from Rome (thus executing the first recorded [turning movement](/wiki/Turning_movement) in military history). He then advanced through the uplands of [Etruria](/wiki/Etruria), provoking Flaminius into a hasty pursuit and catching him in a [defile](/wiki/Defile_(geography)) on the shore of [Lake Trasimenus](/wiki/Lake_Trasimeno). There Hannibal destroyed Flaminius' army in the waters or on the adjoining slopes, killing Flaminius as well (see [Battle of Lake Trasimene](/wiki/Battle_of_Lake_Trasimene)). This was the most costly ambush that the Romans ever sustained until the [Battle of Carrhae](/wiki/Battle_of_Carrhae) against the [Parthian Empire](/wiki/Parthian_Empire).

Hannibal had now disposed of the only field force that could check his advance upon Rome, but he realized that, without [siege engines](/wiki/Siege_engine), he could not hope to take the capital. He preferred to exploit his victory by entering into central and southern Italy and encouraging a general revolt against the sovereign power.[[31]](#cite_note-31) The Romans appointed [Fabius Maximus](/wiki/Fabius_Maximus) as their dictator. Departing from Roman military traditions, Fabius adopted the [strategy named after him](/wiki/Fabian_strategy), avoiding open battle while placing several Roman armies in Hannibal's vicinity in order to watch and limit his movements.

Hannibal ravaged Apulia but was unable to bring Fabius to battle, so he decided to march through [Samnium](/wiki/Samnium) to [Campania](/wiki/Campania), one of the richest and most fertile provinces of Italy, hoping that the devastation would draw Fabius into battle. Fabius closely followed Hannibal's path of destruction, yet still refused to let himself be drawn out of the defensive. This strategy was unpopular with many Romans, who believed that it was a form of cowardice.

Hannibal decided that it would be unwise to winter in the already devastated lowlands of Campania, but Fabius had ensured that all the passes were blocked out of Campania. To avoid this, Hannibal deceived the Romans into thinking that the Carthaginian army was going to escape through the woods. As the Romans moved off towards the woods, Hannibal's army occupied the pass, and then made their way through the pass unopposed. Fabius was within striking distance but in this case his caution worked against him. Smelling a stratagem (rightly), he stayed put. For the winter, Hannibal found comfortable quarters in the [Apulian](/wiki/Apulia) plain. What Hannibal achieved in extricating his army was, as [Adrian Goldsworthy](/wiki/Adrian_Goldsworthy) puts it, "a classic of ancient generalship, finding its way into nearly every historical narrative of the war and being used by later military manuals".[[32]](#cite_note-32) This was a severe blow to Fabius' prestige and soon after this his period of dictatorial power ended.

### Battle of Cannae[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[right|thumb|330px|Destruction of the Roman army (red), courtesy of The Department of History, United States Military Academy.](/wiki/File:Battle_cannae_destruction.gif)[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) In the spring of 216 BCE, Hannibal took the initiative and seized the large supply depot at Cannae in the Apulian plain. By capturing Cannae, Hannibal had placed himself between the Romans and their crucial sources of supply.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Once the Roman Senate resumed their consular elections in 216 BCE, they appointed [Gaius Terentius Varro](/wiki/Gaius_Terentius_Varro) and [Lucius Aemilius Paullus](/wiki/Lucius_Aemilius_Paullus_(consul_219_BC)) as [consuls](/wiki/Roman_consul). In the meantime, the Romans hoped to gain success through sheer strength and weight of numbers, and they raised a new army of unprecedented size, estimated by some to be as large as 100,000 men, but more likely around 50-80,000.[[34]](#cite_note-34) The Romans and allied legions resolved to confront Hannibal and marched southward to [Apulia](/wiki/Apulia). They eventually found him on the left bank of the Aufidus River, and encamped six miles (10 km) away. On this occasion, the two armies were combined into one, the consuls having to alternate their command on a daily basis. Varro was in command on the first day, a man of reckless and hubristic nature (according to Livy) and determined to defeat Hannibal.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Hannibal capitalized on the eagerness of Varro and drew him into a trap by using an [envelopment tactic](/wiki/Pincer_movement). This eliminated the Roman numerical advantage by shrinking the combat area. Hannibal drew up his least reliable infantry in a semicircle in the center with the wings composed of the Gallic and Numidian horse.[[34]](#cite_note-34) The Roman legions forced their way through Hannibal's weak center, but the Libyan mercenaries on the wings, swung around by the movement, menaced their flanks. The onslaught of Hannibal's cavalry was irresistible. Hannibal's chief cavalry commander [Maharbal](/wiki/Maharbal) led the mobile [Numidian cavalry](/wiki/Numidian_cavalry) on the right, and they shattered the Roman cavalry opposing them. Hannibal's Iberian and Gallic heavy cavalry, led by Hanno on the left, defeated the Roman heavy cavalry, and then both the Carthaginian heavy cavalry and the Numidians attacked the legions from behind. As a result, the Roman army was hemmed in with no means of escape.

Due to these brilliant tactics, Hannibal managed to surround and destroy all but a small remnant of his enemy, despite his own inferior numbers. Depending upon the source, it is estimated that 50,000-70,000 Romans were killed or captured.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Among the dead were Roman Consul [Lucius Aemilius Paullus](/wiki/Lucius_Aemilius_Paullus_(consul_219_BC)), as well as two consuls for the preceding year, two [quaestors](/wiki/Quaestor), twenty-nine out of the forty-eight [military tribunes](/wiki/Military_tribune), and an additional eighty senators (at a time when the Roman Senate was composed of no more than 300 men, this constituted 25%–30% of the governing body). This makes the battle one of the most catastrophic defeats in the history of [Ancient Rome](/wiki/Ancient_Rome), and one of the bloodiest battles in all of human history (in terms of the number of lives lost within a single day).[[34]](#cite_note-34) After Cannae, the Romans were very hesitant to confront Hannibal in pitched battle, preferring instead to weaken him by attrition, relying on their advantages of interior lines, supply, and manpower. As a result, Hannibal fought no more major battles in Italy for the rest of the war. It is believed that his refusal to bring the war to Rome itself was due to a lack of commitment from Carthage of men, money, and materiel — principally siege equipment. Whatever the reason, the choice prompted Maharbal to say, "Hannibal, you know how to gain a victory, but not how to use one."[[35]](#cite_note-35)[thumb|upright|left|Hannibal counting the signet rings of Roman nobles killed during the battle, statue by](/wiki/File:Hannibal_Slodtz_Louvre_MR2093.jpg) [Sébastien Slodtz](/wiki/Sébastien_Slodtz), 1704, [Louvre](/wiki/Louvre). As a result of this victory, many parts of Italy joined Hannibal's cause.[[36]](#cite_note-36) As Polybius notes, "How much more serious was the defeat of Cannae, than those that preceded it can be seen by the behavior of Rome's allies; before that fateful day, their loyalty remained unshaken, now it began to waver for the simple reason that they despaired of Roman Power."[[37]](#cite_note-37) During that same year, the Greek cities in Sicily were induced to revolt against Roman political control, while Macedonian King [Philip V](/wiki/Philip_V_of_Macedon) [pledged his support](/wiki/Macedonian–Carthaginian_Treaty) to Hannibal – thus initiating the [First Macedonian War](/wiki/First_Macedonian_War) against Rome. Hannibal also secured an alliance with newly appointed [Hieronymus of Syracuse](/wiki/Hieronymus_of_Syracuse). It is often argued that, if Hannibal had received proper material reinforcements from Carthage, he might have succeeded with a direct attack upon Rome. Instead, he had to content himself with subduing the fortresses that still held out against him, and the only other notable event of 216 BCE was the defection of certain Italian territories, including [Capua](/wiki/Capua), the second largest city of Italy, which Hannibal made his new base. However, only a few of the Italian city-states defected to him that he had expected to gain as allies.

### Stalemate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

The war in Italy settled into a strategic stalemate. The Romans used the [attritional](/wiki/Attrition_warfare) strategy that Fabius had taught them, and which, they finally realized, was the only feasible means of defeating Hannibal.[[38]](#cite_note-38) Indeed, Fabius received the surname "Cunctator" ("the Delayer") because of his policy of not meeting Hannibal in open battle but through guerilla, scorched earth tactics.[[39]](#cite_note-39)The Romans deprived Hannibal of a large-scale battle and instead assaulted his weakening army with multiple smaller armies in an attempt to both weary him and create unrest in his troops.[[3]](#cite_note-3) For the next few years, Hannibal was forced to sustain a [scorched earth](/wiki/Scorched_earth) policy and obtain local provisions for protracted and ineffectual operations throughout southern Italy. His immediate objectives were reduced to minor operations centered mainly round the cities of [Campania](/wiki/Campania).

The forces detached to his lieutenants were generally unable to hold their own, and neither his home government nor his new ally Philip V of Macedon helped to make up his losses. His position in southern Italy, therefore, became increasingly difficult and his chance of ultimately conquering Rome grew ever more remote. Hannibal still won a number of notable victories: completely destroying two Roman armies in 212 BCE, and killing two consuls (including the famed [Marcus Claudius Marcellus](/wiki/Marcus_Claudius_Marcellus)) in a battle in 208 BCE. However, Hannibal slowly began losing ground—inadequately supported by his Italian allies, abandoned by his government (either because of jealousy or simply because Carthage was overstretched), and unable to match Rome's resources. He was never able to bring about another grand decisive victory that could produce a lasting strategic change.

Carthaginian political will was embodied in the ruling oligarchy. There was a Carthaginian Senate, but the real power was with the inner "[Council of 30 Nobles](/wiki/Council_of_30_Nobles)" and the board of judges from ruling families known as the "[Hundred and Four](/wiki/Hundred_and_Four)". These two bodies came from the wealthy, commercial families of Carthage. Two political factions operated in Carthage: the war party, also known as the "[Barcids](/wiki/Barcid)" (Hannibal's family name); and the peace party led by [Hanno II the Great](/wiki/Hanno_the_Great#Hanno_II_the_Great). Hanno had been instrumental in denying Hannibal's requested reinforcements following the battle at Cannae.

Hannibal started the war without the full backing of Carthaginian oligarchy. His attack of Saguntum had presented the oligarchy with a choice of war with Rome or loss of prestige in Iberia. The oligarchy, not Hannibal, controlled the strategic resources of Carthage. Hannibal constantly sought reinforcements from either Iberia or North Africa. Hannibal's troops who were lost in combat were replaced with less well-trained and motivated mercenaries from Italy or Gaul. The commercial interests of the Carthaginian oligarchy dictated the reinforcement and supply of Iberia rather than Hannibal throughout the campaign.

### Hannibal's retreat in Italy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

In 212 BCE, Hannibal captured [Tarentum](/wiki/Taranto) but he failed to obtain control of its harbour. The tide was slowly turning against him, and in favor of Rome.

The Romans then mounted two sieges of Capua, which fell in 211 BCE, and completed their conquest of Syracuse and destruction of the Carthaginian army in Sicily. Shortly thereafter, the Romans pacified Sicily and entered into an alliance with the [Aetolian League](/wiki/Aetolian_League) to counter [Philip V of Macedon](/wiki/Philip_V_of_Macedon). Philip, who attempted to exploit Rome's preoccupation in Italy to conquer [Illyria](/wiki/Illyria), now found himself under attack from several sides at once and was quickly subdued by Rome and her Greek allies. Meanwhile, Hannibal had defeated Fulvius at the battle of Herdonia in Apulia, but lost Tarentum the following year.

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Isis_priest01_pushkin.jpg)[Scipio Africanus](/wiki/Scipio_Africanus)

In 210 BCE, Hannibal again proved his superiority in tactics by inflicting a severe defeat at Herdonia (modern [Ordona](/wiki/Ordona)) in Apulia upon a [proconsular](/wiki/Proconsul) army and, in 208 BCE, destroyed a Roman force engaged in the siege of [Locri](/wiki/Locri). But with the loss of Tarentum in 209 BCE and the gradual reconquest by the Romans of [Samnium](/wiki/Samnium) and [Lucania](/wiki/Lucania), his hold on south Italy was almost lost. In 207 BCE, he succeeded in making his way again into Apulia, where he waited to concert measures for a combined march upon Rome with his brother [Hasdrubal Barca](/wiki/Hasdrubal_Barca). On hearing, however, of his brother's defeat and death at the [battle of the Metaurus](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Metaurus), he retired to [Calabria](/wiki/Calabria), where he maintained himself for the ensuing years. His brother's head had been cut off, carried across Italy, and tossed over the palisade of Hannibal's camp as a cold message of the iron-clad will of the Roman Republic. The combination of these events marked the end to Hannibal's success in Italy. With the failure of his brother Mago in [Liguria](/wiki/Liguria) (205–203 BCE) and of his own negotiations with Phillip V, the last hope of recovering his ascendancy in Italy was lost. In 203 BCE, after nearly fifteen years of fighting in Italy, and with the military fortunes of Carthage rapidly declining, Hannibal was recalled to Carthage to direct the defense of his native country against a Roman invasion under Scipio Africanus.

[Template:Anchor](/wiki/Template:Anchor)

## Conclusion of the Second Punic War (203–201 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Anchor](/wiki/Template:Anchor)

### Return to Carthage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|left|upright=2.0|Final act of the second punic war with the](/wiki/File:Campagna_africana_di_Scipione_202_aC.png) [battle of Zama](/wiki/Battle_of_Zama) (202 B.C.).

In 203 BCE, Hannibal was recalled from Italy by the war party in Carthage. After leaving a record of his expedition engraved in [Punic](/wiki/Punic_language) and [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language) upon bronze tablets in the temple of [Juno](/wiki/Juno_(mythology)) at [Crotona](/wiki/Crotone), he sailed back to Africa.[[40]](#cite_note-40) His arrival immediately restored the predominance of the war party, which placed him in command of a combined force of [African](/wiki/Africa) [levies](/wiki/Conscription) and his mercenaries from Italy. In 202 BCE, Hannibal met Scipio in a fruitless peace conference. Despite mutual admiration, negotiations floundered due to Roman allegations of "Punic Faith," referring to the breach of protocols that ended the First Punic War by the Carthaginian attack on Saguntum, and a Carthaginan attack on a stranded Roman fleet. Scipio and Carthage had worked out a peace plan, which was approved by Rome. The terms of the treaty were quite modest, but the war had been long for the Romans. Carthage could keep its African territory but would lose its overseas empire. Masinissa ([Numidia](/wiki/Numidia)) was to be independent. Also, Carthage was to reduce its fleet and pay a war indemnity. But Carthage then made a terrible blunder. Its long-suffering citizens had captured a stranded Roman fleet in the [Gulf of Tunis](/wiki/Gulf_of_Tunis) and stripped it of supplies, an action that aggravated the faltering negotiations. Meanwhile, Hannibal, recalled from Italy by the Carthaginian Senate, had returned with his army. Fortified by both Hannibal and the supplies, the Carthaginians rebuffed the treaty and Roman protests. The decisive [battle of Zama](/wiki/Battle_of_Zama) soon followed; the defeat removed Hannibal's air of invincibility.

### Battle of Zama[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Unlike most battles of the [Second Punic War](/wiki/Second_Punic_War), at Zama, the Romans were superior in cavalry and the Carthaginians had the edge in infantry. This Roman cavalry superiority was due to the betrayal of [Masinissa](/wiki/Masinissa), who had earlier assisted Carthage in Iberia, but changed sides in 206 BCE with the promise of land and due to his personal conflicts with [Syphax](/wiki/Syphax), a Carthaginian ally. Although the aging Hannibal was suffering from mental exhaustion and deteriorating health after years of campaigning in Italy, the Carthaginians still had the advantage in numbers and were boosted by the presence of 80 war elephants.

[right|thumb|Engraving of the](/wiki/File:Slaget_ved_Zama_-_Cornelis_Cort,_1567.jpg) [Battle of Zama](/wiki/Battle_of_Zama) by [Cornelis Cort](/wiki/Cornelis_Cort), 1567. Note that [Asian elephants](/wiki/Asian_elephant) are illustrated rather than the very small [North African elephants](/wiki/North_African_elephant) used by Carthage.

The Roman cavalry won an early victory by swiftly routing the Carthaginian horse, and standard Roman tactics for limiting the effectiveness of the Carthaginian war elephants were successful, including playing trumpets to frighten the elephants into running into the Carthaginian lines. Some historians say that the elephants routed the Carthaginian cavalry and not the Romans, whilst others suggest that it was actually a tactical retreat planned by Hannibal.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Whatever the truth, the battle remained closely fought. At one point, it seemed that Hannibal was on the verge of victory, but Scipio was able to rally his men, and his cavalry, having routed the Carthaginian cavalry, attacked Hannibal's rear. This two-pronged attack caused the Carthaginian formation to collapse.

With their foremost general defeated, the Carthaginians had no choice but to surrender. Carthage lost approximately 20,000 troops with an additional 15,000 wounded. In contrast, the Romans suffered only 2,500 casualties. The last major battle of the Second Punic War resulted in a loss of respect for Hannibal by his fellow Carthaginians. The conditions of defeat were such that Carthage could no longer battle for Mediterranean supremacy.

## Later career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

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### Peacetime Carthage (200–196 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

Hannibal was still only 43 and soon showed that he could be a statesman as well as a soldier. Following the conclusion of a peace that left Carthage stripped of its formerly mighty empire, Hannibal prepared to take a back seat for a time. However, the blatant corruption of the [oligarchy](/wiki/Oligarchy) gave Hannibal a chance to re-emerge and he was elected [suffete](/wiki/Shophet) (chief [magistrate](/wiki/Magistrate)). The office had become rather insignificant, but Hannibal restored its power and authority. The oligarchy, always jealous of him, had even charged him with having betrayed the interests of his country while in Italy, for neglecting to take Rome when he might have done so. So effectively did Hannibal reform abuses that the heavy tribute imposed by Rome could be paid by installments without additional and extraordinary taxation. He also reformed the [Hundred and Four](/wiki/Hundred_and_Four), stipulating that its membership be chosen by direct election rather than co-option. He also used citizen support to change the term of office in the Hundred and Four from life to a year, with a term limit of two years. [Template:Anchor](/wiki/Template:Anchor)

### Exile (after 195 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Seven years after the victory of Zama, the Romans, alarmed by Carthage's renewed prosperity, demanded Hannibal's surrender. Hannibal thereupon went into voluntary exile. He journeyed to [Tyre](/wiki/Tyre,_Lebanon), the mother city of Carthage, and then to [Ephesus](/wiki/Ephesus), where he was honorably received by [Antiochus III](/wiki/Antiochus_III) of [Syria](/wiki/Syria), who was preparing for war with Rome. Hannibal soon saw that the king's army was no match for the Romans. He advised equipping a fleet and landing a body of troops in the south of Italy, offering to take command himself. But he could not make much impression on Antiochus, who listened to his courtiers and would not entrust Hannibal with any important office.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) According to [Cicero](/wiki/Cicero), while at the court of Antiochus, Hannibal attended a lecture by Phormio, a philosopher, that ranged through many topics. When Phormio finished a discourse on the duties of a general, Hannibal was asked his opinion. He replied, "I have seen during my life many old fools; but this one beats them all." Another story, according to [Aulus Gellius](/wiki/Aulus_Gellius), is that when Antiochus III showed off the gigantic and elaborately equipped army he had created to invade Greece to Hannibal, he asked him if they would be enough for the Roman Republic, to which Hannibal replied, "I think all this will be enough, yes, quite enough, for the Romans, even though they are most avaricious."[[42]](#cite_note-42) In 191 BCE, the Romans under [Manius Acilius Glabrio](/wiki/Manius_Acilius_Glabrio_(consul_191_BC)) routed Antiochus at the [battle of Thermopylae](/wiki/Battle_of_Thermopylae_(191_BC)) and obliged him to withdraw to Asia. The Romans followed up their success by attacking Antiochus in [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia) and the [Seleucid Empire](/wiki/Seleucid_Empire) was decisively defeated at the [battle of Magnesia](/wiki/Battle_of_Magnesia) in 190 BCE by [Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus](/wiki/Lucius_Cornelius_Scipio_Asiaticus).

In 190 BCE, he was placed in command of a Seleucid fleet but was defeated in the [battle of the Eurymedon](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Eurymedon_(190_BC)). According to [Strabo](/wiki/Strabo) and [Plutarch](/wiki/Plutarch), Hannibal also received hospitality at the Armenian royal court of [Artaxias I](/wiki/Artaxias_I). The authors add an apocryphal story of how Hannibal planned and supervised the building of the new royal capital [Artaxata](/wiki/Artaxata).[[43]](#cite_note-43) When Antiochus seemed prepared to surrender him to the Romans, Hannibal fled to [Crete](/wiki/Crete), but he soon went back to Anatolia and sought refuge with [Prusias I of Bithynia](/wiki/Prusias_I_of_Bithynia), who was engaged in warfare with Rome's ally, [King Eumenes II of Pergamon](/wiki/Eumenes_II). Hannibal went on to serve Prusias in this war. During one of the naval victories he gained over Eumenes, Hannibal had large pots filled with venomous snakes thrown onto Eumenes' ships.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Hannibal also went on to defeat Eumenes in two other battles on land until the Romans interfered and threatened [Bithynia](/wiki/Bithynia) into giving up Hannibal.[[45]](#cite_note-45) [Template:Anchor](/wiki/Template:Anchor)

### Death (183 x 181 BC)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Prusias agreed to give him up, but Hannibal was determined not to fall into his enemy's' hands. The precise year and cause of Hannibal's death is unknown. Pausanias wrote that Hannibal's death occurred upon when mounting his horse, his finger becoming wounded by his drawn sword resulted in a fever and then his death three days later.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Juvenal asserts that his death was at [Libyssa](/wiki/Gebze) on the eastern shore of the [Sea of Marmara](/wiki/Sea_of_Marmara), after having taken poison, which, it was said, he had long carried about with him in a ring.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Before dying, he left behind a letter declaring, "Let us relieve the Romans from the anxiety they have so long experienced, since they think it tries their patience too much to wait for an old man's death."[[48]](#cite_note-48) In his *Annales*, [Titus Pomponius Atticus](/wiki/Titus_Pomponius_Atticus) reports it occurred in 183 BCE,[[49]](#cite_note-49) and [Livy](/wiki/Livy) implies the same. [Polybius](/wiki/Polybius), who wrote nearest the event, gives 182 BCE. Sulpicius Blitho[[50]](#cite_note-50) records it under 181 BCE.[[49]](#cite_note-49)

## Legacy to the ancient world[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

Hannibal caused great distress to many in Roman society. It has been said[Template:By whom](/wiki/Template:By_whom) that for generations, Roman housekeepers would tell their children brutal tales of Hannibal when they misbehaved. In fact, Hannibal became such a figure of terror that whenever disaster struck, the Roman Senators would exclaim "[*Hannibal ante portas*](/wiki/List_of_Latin_phrases:_H)" ("Hannibal is at the gates!") to express their fear or anxiety. This famous Latin phrase became a common expression that is often still used when a client arrives through the door or when one is faced with calamity.[[51]](#cite_note-51) The works of Roman writers such as [Livy](/wiki/Livy), [Frontinus](/wiki/Frontinus), and [Juvenal](/wiki/Juvenal) show a grudging admiration for Hannibal. The Romans even built statues of the Carthaginian in the very streets of Rome to advertise their defeat of such a worthy adversary.[[52]](#cite_note-52) It is plausible to suggest that Hannibal engendered the greatest fear Rome had towards an enemy. Nevertheless, they grimly refused to admit the possibility of defeat and rejected all overtures for peace; they even refused to accept the ransom of prisoners after Cannae.[[53]](#cite_note-53) During the war there are no reports of revolutions among the Roman citizens, no factions with the Senate desiring peace, no pro-Carthaginian Roman turncoats, no coups.[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55) Indeed, throughout the war Roman aristocrats ferociously competed with each other for positions of command to fight against Rome's most dangerous enemy. Hannibal's military genius was not enough to really disturb the Roman political process and the collective political and military capacity of the Roman people. As Lazenby states,

It says volumes, too, for their political maturity and respect for constitutional forms that the complicated machinery of government continued to function even amidst disaster—there are few states in the ancient world in which a general who had lost a battle like Cannae would have dared to remain, let alone would have continued to be treated respectfully as head of state.[[56]](#cite_note-56)

According to the historian Livy, the Romans feared Hannibal's military genius, and during Hannibal's march against Rome in 211 BCE[[57]](#cite_note-57)"a messenger who had travelled from Fregellae for a day and a night without stopping created great alarm in Rome, and the excitement was increased by people running about the City with wildly exaggerated accounts of the news he had brought. The wailing cry of the [matrons](/wiki/Women_in_ancient_Rome) was heard everywhere, not only in private houses but even in the temples. Here they knelt and swept the temple-floors with their dishevelled hair and lifted up their hands to heaven in piteous entreaty to the gods that they would deliver the City of Rome out of the hands of the enemy and preserve its mothers and children from injury and outrage."[[57]](#cite_note-57) In the Senate the news was "received with varying feelings as men's temperaments differed,"[[57]](#cite_note-57) so it was decided to keep Capua under siege, but to send 15,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry as reinforcements to Rome.[[57]](#cite_note-57) According to Livy, the land occupied by Hannibal's army outside Rome in 211 BCE was sold at the very time of its occupation and for the same price.[[58]](#cite_note-58) This may not be true but as Lazenby states, "could well be, exemplifying as it does not only the supreme confidence felt by the Romans in ultimate victory, but also the way in which something like normal life continued.[[59]](#cite_note-59) After [Cannae](/wiki/Cannae) the Romans showed a considerable steadfastness in adversity. An undeniable proof of Rome's confidence is demonstrated by the fact that after the Cannae disaster she was left virtually defenseless, but the Senate still chose not to withdraw a single garrison from an overseas province to strengthen the city. In fact, they were reinforced and the campaigns there maintained until victory was secured; beginning first in Sicily under the direction of [Claudius Marcellus](/wiki/Claudius_Marcellus), and later in [Hispania](/wiki/Hispania) under [Scipio Africanus](/wiki/Scipio_Africanus).[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61) Although the long-term consequences of Hannibal's war are debatable, this war was undeniably Rome's "finest hour".[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63) Most of the sources available to historians about Hannibal are from Romans. They considered him the greatest enemy Rome had ever faced. [Livy](/wiki/Livy) gives us the idea that he was extremely cruel. Even [Cicero](/wiki/Cicero), when he talked of Rome and its two great enemies, spoke of the "honourable" [Pyrrhus](/wiki/Pyrrhus_of_Epirus) and the "cruel" Hannibal. Yet a different picture is sometimes revealed. When Hannibal's successes had brought about the death of two [Roman consuls](/wiki/Roman_consul), he vainly searched for the body of [Gaius Flaminius Nepos](/wiki/Gaius_Flaminius_Nepos) on the shores of [Lake Trasimene](/wiki/Lake_Trasimeno), held ceremonial rituals in recognition of [Lucius Aemilius Paullus](/wiki/Lucius_Aemilius_Paullus_(General)), and sent [Marcellus'](/wiki/Marcus_Claudius_Marcellus) ashes back to his family in Rome. Any bias attributed to [Polybius](/wiki/Polybius), however, is more troublesome, since he was clearly sympathetic towards Hannibal. Nevertheless, Polybius spent a long period as a hostage in Italy and relied heavily on Roman sources, so there remains the possibility that he reproduced elements of Roman [propaganda](/wiki/Propaganda).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

## Legacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

### Military history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[thumb|right|The material of legend: in](/wiki/File:Joseph_Mallord_William_Turner_081.jpg) [*Snow Storm: Hannibal and his Army Crossing the Alps*](/wiki/Snow_Storm:_Hannibal_and_his_Army_Crossing_the_Alps), [J. M. W. Turner](/wiki/J._M._W._Turner) envelops Hannibal's crossing of the Alps in [Romantic](/wiki/Romanticism) atmosphere.

Hannibal is generally regarded as one of the best military strategists and tacticians of all time, the double envelopment at Cannae an enduring legacy of tactical brilliance. According to [Appian](/wiki/Appian), several years after the Second Punic War, Hannibal served as a political advisor in the Seleucid Kingdom and [Scipio](/wiki/Scipio_Africanus) was sent there on a diplomatic mission from Rome. [Template:QuoteMilitary](/wiki/Template:Quote) academies all over the world continue to study Hannibal's exploits[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) (especially his victory at [Cannae](/wiki/Battle_of_Cannae)).

[thumb|left|Hannibal's celebrated feat in crossing the Alps with](/wiki/File:HannibalFrescoCapitolinec1510.jpg) [war elephants](/wiki/War_elephant) passed into European legend: detail of a fresco by [Jacopo Ripanda](/wiki/Jacopo_Ripanda), ca. 1510, [Capitoline Museums](/wiki/Capitoline_Museums), [Rome](/wiki/Rome).

Maximilian Otto Bismarck Caspari, in his article in the [Encyclopædia Britannica Eleventh Edition](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica_Eleventh_Edition), praises Hannibal in these words: [Template:Quotation](/wiki/Template:Quotation)

Even the Roman chroniclers acknowledged Hannibal's supreme military leadership, writing that, "he never required others to do what he could and would not do himself".[[64]](#cite_note-64)According to Polybius 23, 13, p. 423: [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote) Count [Alfred von Schlieffen](/wiki/Alfred_von_Schlieffen) developed his eponymously titled "[Schlieffen Plan](/wiki/Schlieffen_Plan)" (1905/1906) from his military studies, with a particularly heavy emphasis on the envelopment technique which Hannibal employed to surround and destroy the Roman army in the [battle of Cannae](/wiki/Battle_of_Cannae).[[65]](#cite_note-65)[[66]](#cite_note-66) [George S. Patton](/wiki/George_S._Patton) believed himself a reincarnation of Hannibal as well as of many other people, including a Roman [legionary](/wiki/Legionary) and a Napoleonic soldier.[[67]](#cite_note-67)[[68]](#cite_note-68) [Norman Schwarzkopf Jr.](/wiki/Norman_Schwarzkopf_Jr.), the commander of the [Coalition of the Gulf War](/wiki/Coalition_of_the_Gulf_War), claimed, "The technology of war may change, the sophistication of weapons certainly changes. But those same principles of war that applied to the days of Hannibal apply today."[[69]](#cite_note-69) According to the military historian [Theodore Ayrault Dodge](/wiki/Theodore_Ayrault_Dodge), [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

### Hannibal in literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[upright|thumb|A ca. 1817](/wiki/File:DeniéreetMatelin.jpg) [French Empire mantel clock](/wiki/French_Empire_mantel_clock) depicting Hannibal by [Deniére et Matelin](/wiki/Deniére_et_Matelin). Currently displayed in the [Blue Room](/wiki/Blue_Room_(White_House)) of the [White House](/wiki/White_House).

Hannibal's name occurs commonly in later art and popular culture, an objective measure of his considerable influence on [Western history](/wiki/Western_history).

As with other military leaders, Hannibal's victories against superior forces in an ultimately losing cause won him enduring fame that outlasted his native [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa). His crossing of the Alps remains one of the most monumental military feats of ancient warfare[[70]](#cite_note-70) and has since captured the imagination of the world (romanticized by several artworks). [Template:Cleanup list](/wiki/Template:Cleanup_list) List of derivative works (novels unless otherwise noted):

* 29 to 19 BC: Upon her death in [Virgil's](/wiki/Virgil) epic poem the [Aeneid](/wiki/Aeneid), [Dido, Queen of Carthage](/wiki/Dido), warns of a Carthaginian who will avenge her. By almost all critical accounts, this predicts the wars of Hannibal against Rome.
* written 1308-1321, Dante's [*Divine Comedy*](/wiki/Divine_Comedy), poem, Inferno XXXI.97-132, 115-124 ([Battle of Zama](/wiki/Battle_of_Zama)) and Paradiso VI
* 1726, [*Gulliver's Travels*](/wiki/Gulliver's_Travels), satirical work
* 1862, [Gustave Flaubert's](/wiki/Gustave_Flaubert) [*Salammbô*](/wiki/Salammbô_(novel)), set in Carthage at the time of [Hamilcar Barca](/wiki/Hamilcar_Barca). Hannibal appears as a child.
* 1887, [G. A. Henty's](/wiki/G._A._Henty) "The Young Carthaginian" tells the story of Hannibal and the [Second Punic War](/wiki/Second_Punic_War) from the perspective of the fictional character Malchus, a cousin of Hannibal.
* 1996, Elisabeth Craft, *A Spy for Hannibal: A Novel of Carthage*, 091015533X
* 1996–2000, Ross Leckie, *Carthage* trilogy, source of the 2008 film (1996, Hannibal: A Novel, ISBN 0-89526-443-9 ; 1999, Scipio, a Novel, ISBN 0-349-11238-X ; Carthage, 2000, ISBN 0-86241-944-1)
* 2002, [John Maddox Roberts](/wiki/John_Maddox_Roberts), [*Hannibal's Children*](/wiki/Hannibal's_Children), ISBN 0-441-00933-6, an [alternate history](/wiki/Alternate_history). In the opening, Hannibal conquers Rome in 215 BC and exiles the Romans from Italy. In 100 BC, Romans visit Carthage, where the descendants of Hannibal operate as hereditary rulers, using the title *shofet*.
* 2005, Terry McCarthy, *The Sword of Hannibal*, ISBN 0-446-61517-X
* 2006, [David Anthony Durham](/wiki/David_Anthony_Durham), [*Pride of Carthage*](/wiki/Pride_of_Carthage)*: A Novel of Hannibal*, ISBN 0-385-72249-4
* 2006, [Esther Friesner](/wiki/Esther_Friesner), "First, Catch Your [Elephant](/wiki/Elephant)," in *Alternate Generals III*, edited by [Harry Turtledove](/wiki/Harry_Turtledove). This is a [Monty Python](/wiki/Monty_Python)-style spoof replete with humorous [anachronisms](/wiki/Anachronisms).
* 2006, Angela Render, *Forged By Lightning: A Novel of Hannibal and Scipio*, ISBN 1-4116-8002-2
* 2008, Bill Mahaney, 'The Warmaker—Hannibal's Invasion of Italia and the Aftermath' ISBN 978-0-595-48101-9
* 2011, Ben Kane, *Hannibal: Enemy of Rome*, Preface Publishing: London. Hannibal appears frequently in this novel set during the Second Punic War and told from the points-of-view of two young men, one Roman, one Carthaginian. Covers the siege of Saguntum, the crossing of the Alps by Hannibal's forces and the Battle of the Trebia.
* 2011, William Kelso, "The Shield of Rome", 216 BC. The novel is set in the aftermath of Hannibal's stunning victory at Cannae and Rome's heroic response.
* In [Poul Anderson's](/wiki/Poul_Anderson) [time travel](/wiki/Time_travel) story [*Delenda Est*](/wiki/Delenda_Est), two adventurers from the future join Hannibal's army, use modern weapons to help him defeat the Romans, but then assassinate Hannibal and take over Carthage.
* One of the episodes in [Erich Kästner's](/wiki/Erich_Kästner) satire fantasy [*The 35th of May, or Conrad's Ride to the South Seas*](/wiki/The_35th_of_May,_or_Conrad's_Ride_to_the_South_Seas) depicts Hannibal in his afterlife being engaged in a fierce war with General [Wallenstein](/wiki/Wallenstein) of the [Thirty Years' war](/wiki/Thirty_Years'_war) and emphasizes both generals' callous disregard for the lives of their soldiers - underlining Kästner's [pacifist](/wiki/Pacifist) views.
* 2013, [Ken Sibanda](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3879098/), a graphic novel "[Hannibal the Great](https://www.amazon.com/Hannibal-Great-Born-Ken-Sibanda/dp/0988615606?ie=UTF8&ref_=asap_bc)," a tie-in to the upcoming mini-series - [Hannibal the Great](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5778434/?ref_=nm_flmg_dr_3).

### Hannibal in theatre and opera[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

* In [Hector Berlioz's](/wiki/Hector_Berlioz) 1858 opera [*Les Troyens*](/wiki/Les_Troyens) (itself a re-imagining of [Virgil's](/wiki/Virgil) [Aeneid](/wiki/Aeneid), above), he appears in a vision to [Dido](/wiki/Dido_(Queen_of_Carthage)) just before she dies.
* In [Andrew Lloyd Webber's](/wiki/Andrew_Lloyd_Webber) 1986 musical [*The Phantom of the Opera*](/wiki/The_Phantom_of_the_Opera_(1986_musical)) and its [2004 film adaption](/wiki/The_Phantom_of_the_Opera_(2004_film)), the [Paris](/wiki/Paris) Opera Populaire is in rehearsal for an opera by the fictional composer Chalumeau about Hannibal starring the humorous opera stars Piangi and Carlotta. This opera features the aria "Think of Me," sung by the character Elissa. Carlotta was supposed to play Elissa; however, the Phantom's intimidation of Carlotta causes her to forfeit the role in favor of [Christine Daaé](/wiki/Christine_Daaé).
* In [Ken Sibanda's](/wiki/Ken_Sibanda) opera [*Hannibal the Great*](https://www.amazon.com/Hannibal-Great-Opera-Ken-Sibanda/dp/153061807X?ie=UTF8&ref_=asap_bc) the life of general Barca is told in one whole narrative from rise to fall.

### Hannibal in film and on television[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **| Film** | **Other notes** |
| 1914 | [*Cabiria*](/wiki/Cabiria) | Italian [silent film](/wiki/Silent_film) |
| 1939 | [*Scipio Africanus: The Defeat of Hannibal*](/wiki/Scipio_Africanus:_The_Defeat_of_Hannibal) | Italian motion picture |
| 1955 | [*Jupiter's Darling*](/wiki/Jupiter's_Darling_(film)) | MGM musical picture starring [Howard Keel](/wiki/Howard_Keel) and [Esther Williams](/wiki/Esther_Williams) |
| 1959 | [*Hannibal*](/wiki/Hannibal_(1959_film)) | Italian motion picture starring [Victor Mature](/wiki/Victor_Mature) |
| 1997 | *The Great Battles of Hannibal* | British [documentary](/wiki/Documentary_film) |
| 2001 | [*Hannibal: The Man Who Hated Rome*](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0411465/) | British documentary |
| 2004 | [*Decisive Battles*](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1755143/?ref_=ttep_ep1) | History channel documentary |
| 2005 | [*The True Story of Hannibal*](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0446490/) | British documentary |
| 2005 | *Hannibal vs. Rome* | in [National Geographic Channel](/wiki/National_Geographic_Channel) |
| 2006 | [*Hannibal - Rome's Worst Nightmare*](/wiki/Hannibal_-_Rome's_Worst_Nightmare) | TV film starring [Alexander Siddig](/wiki/Alexander_Siddig) in the title role |
| 2009 | [*Battles BC*](/wiki/Battles_BC) | History Channel TV film |
| 2009 | [*Ancients Behaving Badly*](/wiki/Ancients_Behaving_Badly) | History Channel TV film |
| 2010 | [*On Hannibal's Trail*](/wiki/On_Hannibal's_Trail) | BBC TV documentary |
| 2011 | [*Deadliest Warrior*](/wiki/Deadliest_Warrior_(season_3)#Episode_26:_Genghis_Khan_vs._Hannibal) | [Spike](/wiki/Spike_(TV_channel)) television series |
| 2016 | *Barbarians Rising* | History Channel TV series |
|  |  |  |

### Comics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

<gallery> File:Comic History of Rome p 201 Hannibal makes the usual neat and appropriate Speech previous to killing himself.jpg|"Hannibal (indulging) in (one) of those speeches which are usually attributed by classical historians." ([Gilbert Abbott à Beckett](/wiki/Gilbert_Abbott_à_Beckett)) File:Comic History of Rome p 173 Hannibal crossing the Alps.jpg|Hannibal crossing the Alps. File:Young Folks' History of Rome illus169.png|Hannibal's Vow. File:Comic History of Rome Table 06 Hannibal whilst even yet a child swears eternal hatred to the Romans.jpg|Hannibal whilst even yet a child swears eternal hatred to the Romans. </gallery>

* The [webcomic](/wiki/Webcomic) [Hannibal Goes to Rome](http://web.archive.org/web/20140107025738/http://www.shadowlineonline.com/webcomics/hannibal-goes-to-rome/) serializes Hannibal's voyage in a humorous fashion.
* In the [*G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero*](/wiki/G.I._Joe:_A_Real_American_Hero_(Devil's_Due)) comic by Devil's Due, [Hannibal](/wiki/Hannibal_(G.I._Joe)) is genetically re-created by [Doctor Mindbender](/wiki/Doctor_Mindbender) and becomes a member of [The Coil](/wiki/The_Coil).
* In [Kouta Hirano's](/wiki/Kouta_Hirano) new Work [Drifters](/wiki/Drifters_(manga)) he appears as an old man alongside his Roman adversary Africanus helping the Octo-brist against the Offscourings.
* The comedian [Hannibal Buress](/wiki/Hannibal_Buress) was named after Hannibal.[[71]](#cite_note-71)