

1: By The Waters Of Carthage | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

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At its peak, the metropolis she founded, Carthage, came to be called the "shining city", [citation needed] ruling other cities around the western Mediterranean Sea and leading the Phoenician world. Elissa escaped the tyranny of her own country, founding the "new city" of Carthage and subsequently its later dominions. Details of her life are sketchy and confusing, but the following can be deduced from various sources. When he died, the throne was jointly bequeathed to her brother, Pygmalion, and her. She married her uncle Acerbas , also known as Sychaeus, the High Priest of Melqart , a man with both authority and wealth comparable to the king. This led to increased rivalry between the religious elite and the monarchy. Pygmalion was a tyrant, lover of both gold and intrigue, who desired the authority and fortune enjoyed by Acerbas. At the same time, the people of Tyre called for a single sovereign. In just seven years, since their exodus from Tyre, the Carthaginians have rebuilt a successful kingdom under her rule. Her subjects adore her and present her with a festival of praise. Her character is perceived by Virgil as even more noble when she offers asylum to Aeneas and his men, who have recently escaped from Troy. A spirit in the form of the messenger god, Mercury , sent by Jupiter , reminds Aeneas that his mission is not to stay in Carthage with his new-found love, Dido, but to sail to Italy to found Rome. Fitzgerald she says, an invocation of Hannibal. The entire area later came under the leadership and protection of Carthage, [20] which in turn dispatched its own colonists to found new cities [21] or to reinforce those that declined with the loss of primacy of Tyre and Sidon. The power of this city waned following numerous sieges by Babylonia , [24] [25] and then its later voluntary submission to the Persian king Cambyses and incorporation within the Persian empire. This changed with the rise of Carthage, since the Carthaginians appointed their own magistrates to rule the towns and Carthage retained much direct control over the colonies. In BC, a treaty was signed between Carthage and Rome [30] indicating a division of influence and commercial activities. By the beginning of the 5th century BC, Carthage had become the commercial center of the West Mediterranean region, [32] a position it retained until overthrown by the Roman Republic. The city had conquered most of the old Phoenician colonies including Hadrumetum , Utica , Hippo Diarrhytus and Kerkouane , subjugated the Libyan tribes with the Numidian and Mauretanian kingdoms remaining more or less independent , and taken control of the entire Northwest African coast from modern Morocco to the borders of Egypt not including the Cyrenaica , which was eventually incorporated into Hellenistic Egypt. Important colonies had also been established on the Iberian Peninsula. From their earliest days, both the Greeks and Phoenicians had been attracted to the large island, establishing a large number of colonies and trading posts along its coast; [40] battles had been fought between these settlements for centuries. By BC, Gelo , the tyrant leader of Greek Syracuse , backed in part by support from other Greek city-states , was attempting to unite the island under his rule. The Carthaginians marched along the coast to Himera, and made camp before engaging in the Battle of Himera. AR Reduced Nomos 3. By BC, Carthage had recovered after serious defeats. It had conquered much of modern-day Tunisia , strengthened and founded new colonies in Northwest Africa ; Hanno the Navigator had made his journey down the African coast, [47] [48] and Himilco the Navigator had explored the European Atlantic coast. He captured the smaller cities of Selinus modern Selinunte and Himera before returning triumphantly to Carthage with the spoils of war. But the primary enemy, Syracuse, remained untouched and, in BC, Hannibal Mago led a second Carthaginian expedition to claim the entire island. This time, however, he met with fierce resistance and ill-fortune. During the siege of Agrigentum , the Carthaginian forces were ravaged by plague, Hannibal Mago himself succumbing to it. In BC, Dionysius had regained his strength and broke the peace treaty, striking at the Carthaginian stronghold of Motya. Himilco responded decisively, leading an expedition which not only reclaimed Motya, but also captured Messina. The siege was close to a success throughout BC, but in BC plague again ravaged the Carthaginian forces, [54] and they collapsed. The fighting in Sicily swung in favor of Carthage in BC. After winning a naval battle off the coast of Catania, Himilco laid siege to Syracuse with 50,000 Carthaginians, but yet another epidemic struck down thousands of them. Dionysius then launched a

counterattack by land and sea, and the Syracusans surprised the enemy fleet while most of the crews were ashore, destroying all the Carthaginian ships. Himilco and his chief officers abandoned their army and fled Sicily. Sicily by this time had become an obsession for Carthage. Over the next fifty years, Carthaginian and Greek forces engaged in a constant series of skirmishes. By BC, Carthage had been pushed entirely into the southwest corner of the island, and an uneasy peace reigned over the island. In BC, Agathocles , the tyrant administrating governor of Syracuse, seized the city of Messene present-day Messina. In BC he invaded the last Carthaginian holdings on Sicily, breaking the terms of the current peace treaty, [57] and laid siege to Akragas. Hamilcar , grandson of Hanno the Great , led the Carthaginian response and met with tremendous success. By BC, he controlled almost all of Sicily and had laid siege to Syracuse itself. In desperation, Agathocles secretly led an expedition of 14, men to the mainland, [58] hoping to save his rule by leading a counterstrike against Carthage itself. In this, he was successful: Carthage was forced to recall Hamilcar and most of his army from Sicily to face the new and unexpected threat. Pyrrhus marched the main army across the Greek peninsula and engaged in battles with the Thessalians and the Athenian army. After his early success on the march Pyrrhus entered Tarentum to rejoin with his advance guard. According to Plutarch , Pyrrhus set his sights on conquering Carthage itself, and to this end, began outfitting an expedition. However, his ruthless treatment of the Sicilian cities in his preparations for this expedition, and his execution of two Sicilian rulers whom he claimed were plotting against him led to such a rise in animosity towards the Greeks, that Pyrrhus withdrew from Sicily and returned to deal with events occurring in southern Italy. For Carthage, this meant a return to the status quo. For Rome, however, the failure of Pyrrhus to defend the colonies of Magna Graecia meant that Rome absorbed them into its " sphere of influence " , bringing it closer to complete domination of the Italian peninsula.

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