

1: Roman Art of War Under the Republic (June edition) | Open Library

The art of war under the Roman republic was something that belonged to Rome, a plant that grew in Roman soil, something which needed for its application talent not genius, but in its culmination it did produce a soldier greater than itself, a soldier in whom there was that fusing of intellect and will that marks off genius from talent.

The ladder to political power in the Roman Senate was different for the wealthy patricians than for the lower-class plebeians. It all began when the Romans overthrew their Etruscan conquerors in B. Centered north of Rome, the Etruscans had ruled over the Romans for hundreds of years. Once free, the Romans established a republic, a government in which citizens elected representatives to rule on their behalf. A republic is quite different from a democracy, in which every citizen is expected to play an active role in governing the state. Citizen The Roman concept of the citizen evolved during the Roman Republic and changed significantly during the later Roman Empire. After the Romans freed themselves from the Etruscans, they established a republic, and all males over 15 who were descended from the original tribes of Rome became citizens. Citizens of Rome distinguished themselves from slaves and other noncitizens by wearing a toga; most wore a white toga. During the Empire, each emperor wore a purple toga to distinguish himself as the princeps, or "first citizen. The full citizen could vote, marry freeborn persons, and practice commerce. Some citizens were not allowed to vote or hold public office, but maintained the other rights. A third type of citizen could vote and practice commerce, but could not hold office or marry freeborn women. In the late Republic, male slaves who were granted their freedom could become full citizens. E, under the Edict of Caracalla, all free people of the Roman Empire could become citizens. Frescoes line the walls of long-forgotten Etruscan tombs. The aristocracy wealthy class dominated the early Roman Republic. In Roman society, the aristocrats were known as patricians. The highest positions in the government were held by two consuls, or leaders, who ruled the Roman Republic. A senate composed of patricians elected these consuls. At this time, lower-class citizens, or plebeians, had virtually no say in the government. Both men and women were citizens in the Roman Republic, but only men could vote. Tradition dictated that patricians and plebeians should be strictly separated; marriage between the two classes was even prohibited. Over time, the plebeians elected their own representatives, called tribunes, who gained the power to veto measures passed by the senate. Gradually, the plebeians obtained even more power and eventually could hold the position of consul. Despite these changes, though, the patricians were still able to use their wealth to buy control and influence over elected leaders. Hannibal marched his elephants south into the Italian peninsula during the Second Punic War. It was first created as a member advisory group for the Roman kings. Later kings expanded the group to members. When the kings were expelled from Rome and the Republic was formed, the Senate became the most powerful governing body. Instead of advising the head of state, it elected the chief executives, called consuls. Senators were, for centuries, strictly from the patrician class. They practiced the skills of rhetoric and oratory to persuade other members of the ruling body. The Senate convened and passed laws in the curia, a large building on the grounds of the Roman Forum. Much later, Julius Caesar built a larger curia for an expanded Senate. By the 3rd century B. Senatorial control was eventually challenged by Dictator Sulla around 82 B. Julius Caesar raised the number to it was reduced after his assassination. After the creation of the Roman Empire in 27 B. Although it survived until the fall of Rome, the Roman Senate had become merely a ceremonial body of wealthy, intelligent men with no power to rule. Occasionally, an emergency situation such as a war arose that required the decisive leadership of one individual. Under these circumstances, the Senate and the consuls could appoint a temporary dictator to rule for a limited time until the crisis was resolved. The position of dictator was very undemocratic in nature. Indeed, a dictator had all the power, made decisions without any approval, and had full control over the military. The best example of an ideal dictator was a Roman citizen named Cincinnatus. During a severe military emergency, the Roman Senate called Cincinnatus from his farm to serve as dictator and to lead the Roman army. The Twelve Tables One of the innovations of the Roman Republic was the notion of equality under the law. The Twelve Tables, as they came to be known, were the first Roman laws put in writing. Laws from the Twelve Tables Females shall remain in guardianship

even when they have attained their majority except Vestal Virgins. A spendthrift is forbidden to exercise administration over his own goods. If any person has sung or composed against another person a song such as was causing slander or insult to another, he shall be clubbed to death. With respect to the law and citizenship, the Romans took a unique approach to the lands that they conquered. Rather than rule those people as conquered subjects, the Romans invited them to become citizens. These people then became a part of Rome, rather than enemies fighting against it. Naturally, these new citizens received the same legal rights as everyone else.

The Punic Wars The early Roman Republic often found itself in a state of constant warfare with its surrounding neighbors. In one instance, when the Romans were fighting the Carthaginians, Rome was nearly conquered. The people of Carthage a city in what is today Tunisia in north Africa were a successful trading civilization whose interests began to conflict with those of the Romans. The two sides fought three bloody wars, known as the Punic Wars. In the second war, Hannibal, a Carthaginian general, successfully invaded Italy by leading an army complete with elephants across the Alps. He handed the Roman army a crushing defeat but was unable to sack the city of Rome itself. After occupying and ravaging Italy for more than a decade, Hannibal was finally defeated by the Roman general Scipio at the Battle of Zama. How did the word "Punic" become an adjective meaning "relating to the people of Carthage"? After a successful several-year siege of Carthage, the Romans burned the city to the ground. Legend has it that the Romans then poured salt into the soil so that nothing would ever grow there again. Carthage was finally defeated, and the Roman Republic was safe.

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Aquilonia From to , Rome won two battles against their Samnite neighbours, but were unable to consolidate their gains, due to the outbreak of war with former Latin allies. The Latins submitted to Roman rule. The war ended with Samnite defeat at the Battle of Bovianum. By the following year, Rome had annexed most Samnite territory, and began to establish colonies there; but in the Samnites rebelled, and defeated a Roman army, in a Third Samnite War. Following this success they built a coalition of several previous enemies of Rome. Rise of the plebeian nobility[edit] In the 4th century, plebeians gradually obtained political equality with patricians. The starting point was in , when the first plebeian consular tribunes were elected; likewise, several subsequent consular colleges counted plebeians in , , , and . The reason behind this sudden gain is unknown, [24] but it was limited as patrician tribunes retained preeminence over their plebeian colleagues. The issue of debt relief for the plebs remained indeed pressing throughout the century. Livy tells that Capitolinus sold his estate to repay the debt of many of them, and even went over to the plebs, the first patrician to do so. Nevertheless, the growing unrest he had caused led to his trial for seeking kingly power; he was sentenced to death and thrown from the Tarpeian Rock. The most important bill opened the consulship to plebeians. Finally, the resolution of the crisis came from the dictator Camillus , who made a compromise with the tribunes; he agreed to their bills, while they in return consented to the creation of the offices of praetor and curule aediles, both reserved to patricians. Lateranus also became the first plebeian consul in ; Stolo followed in . The four time consul Gaius Marcius Rutilus became the first plebeian dictator in and censor in . In , the tribune of the plebs Lucius Genucius passed his *Leges Genuciae* , which abolished interest on loans, in a renewed effort to tackle indebtedness, required the election of at least one plebeian consul each year, and prohibited a magistrate from holding the same magistracy for the next ten years or two magistracies in the same year. His first law followed the *Lex Genucia* by reserving one censorship to plebeians, the second made plebiscites binding on all citizens including patricians , and the third stated that the Senate had to give its prior approval to plebiscites before becoming binding on all citizens the *Lex Valeria-Horatia* of had placed this approval after the vote. During the early republic, senators were chosen by the consuls among their supporters. Shortly before , the *Lex Ovinia* transferred this power to the censors, who could only remove senators for misconduct, thus appointing them for life. This law strongly increased the power of the Senate, which was by now protected from the influence of the consuls and became the central organ of government. He also incorporated these freedmen in the rural tribes. Debt is once again mentioned by ancient authors, but it seems that the plebs revolted over the distribution of the land conquered on the Samnites. Popular assemblies were by now sovereign; this put an end to the crisis, and to plebeian agitation for years. They had indeed little in common with the mass of plebeians; Stolo was noteworthy fined for having exceeded the limit on land occupation he had fixed in his own law. They were replaced by plebeian aristocrats, of whom the most emblematic were the *Caecilii Metelli* , who received 18 consulships until the end of the Republic; the *Domitii* , *Fulvii* , *Licinii* , *Marcii* , or *Sempronii* were as successful. About a dozen remaining patrician gentes and twenty plebeian ones thus formed a new elite, called the *nobiles* , or *Nobilitas*. Pyrrhus was a brave and chivalrous general who fascinated the Romans, hence his presence in a Roman house. Carthage and the Greek kingdoms. It triggered a violent reaction from the Tarentine democrats, who sank some of the ships; they were in fact worried that Rome could favour the oligarchs in the city, as it had done with the other Greek cities under its control. The Roman embassy sent to investigate the affair was insulted and war was promptly declared.

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The siege of the fortress-city proved to be far more difficult than Kavadh expected; the defenders repelled the Persian assaults for three months before they were beaten. That year an armistice was reached as a result of an invasion of Armenia by the Huns from the Caucasus. Although the two powers negotiated, it was not until November that a treaty was agreed to. At the same time, the dilapidated fortifications were also upgraded at Edessa, Batnae and Amida. This was because the construction of new fortifications in the border zone by either empire had been prohibited by a treaty concluded some decades earlier. Anastasius pursued the project despite Persian objections, and the walls were completed by Belisarius was defeated by Persian and Lakhmid forces at the Battle of Callinicum in 531. In the same year the Romans gained some forts in Armenia, while the Persians had captured two forts in eastern Lazica. Iberia remained in Persian hands, and the Iberians who had left their country were given the choice of remaining in Roman territory or returning to their native land. Khosrau I invaded and devastated Syria, extorting large sums of money from the cities of Syria and Mesopotamia, and systematically looting other cities including Antioch, whose population was deported to Persian territory. Khosrau launched another offensive in Mesopotamia in 532 when he attempted to capture Sergiopolis. Khosrau besieged Edessa in 532 without success and was eventually bought off by the defenders. The emperor seized the chance, and in 532 combined Roman and Lazic forces won a series of victories against Persian armies, although they failed to take the key garrison of Petra. The city was finally subjugated in 532, but in the same year a Persian offensive led by Mihr-Mihroe occupied eastern Lazica. Khosrau, who now had to deal with the White Huns, renewed the truce in 532, this time without excluding Lazica; negotiations continued for a definite peace treaty. He invaded Anatolia and sacked Sebasteia, but after a clash near Melitene the Persian army suffered heavy losses while fleeing across the Euphrates under Roman attack. The Roman general Maurice retaliated by raiding Persian Mesopotamia, capturing the stronghold of Aphumon, and sacking Singara. Khosrau again opened peace negotiations but he died early in 532 and his successor Hormizd IV r. In 532, Maurice won a battle at Constantia over Adarmahan and Tamkhusro, who was killed, but the Roman general did not follow up his victory; he had to hurry to Constantinople to pursue his imperial ambitions. Hormizd was overthrown in a palace coup in 532 and replaced by his son Khosrau II, but Bahram pressed on with his revolt regardless and the defeated Khosrau was soon forced to flee for safety to Roman territory, while Bahram took the throne as Bahram VI. With support from Maurice, Khosrau raised a rebellion against Bahram, and in the combined forces of his supporters and the Romans defeated Bahram at the Battle of Blarathon and restored Khosrau II to power. In exchange for their help, Khosrau not only returned Dara and Martyropolis but also agreed to cede the western half of Iberia and more than half of Persian Armenia to the Romans.

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