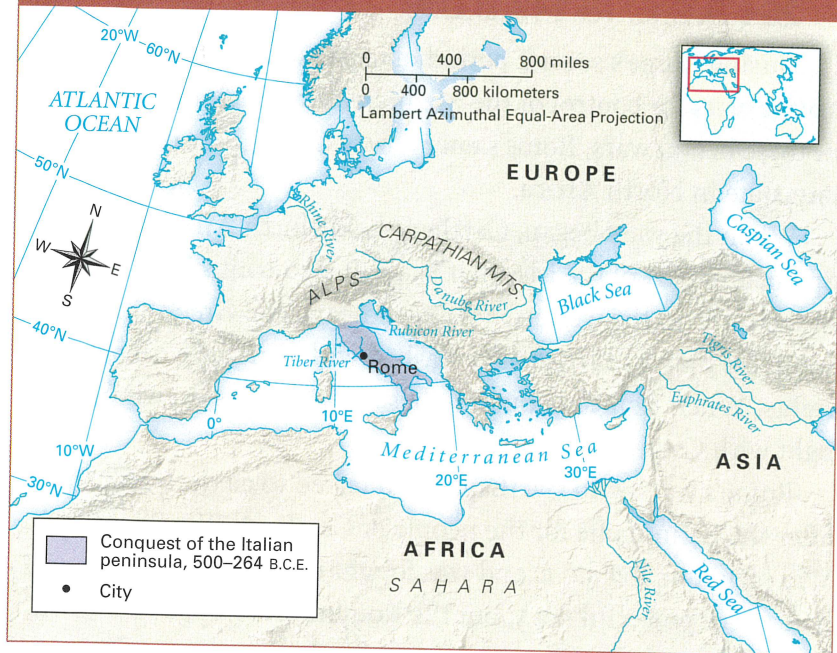


Territory Controlled by Rome, About 264 B.C.E.



By 264 B.C.E., the Romans had taken over the entire Italian peninsula. All those under Roman rule paid a cost for the territory's expansion.

With the city in ruins, the Romans considered fleeing. Instead, they bravely decided to start over by rebuilding their city and surrounding it with walls. They also developed their army, and, before long, Roman soldiers were on the march again.

During the 300s B.C.E., Rome conquered the Etruscans and many neighboring tribes. To the south, they battled a people called the Samnites and several Greek city-states. By 275 B.C.E., Rome's conquest of the Italian peninsula was complete. However, expansion came at great cost. Romans had been fighting for two centuries, and the Gauls had once destroyed their capital city.

As Rome's territory expanded, the city had to maintain a large, permanent army to defend it and the conquered lands. As a result, more and more Romans were forced to serve in the army. Many soldiers were plebeians who resented this fact, leading to civil unrest.

Roman citizens were not the only ones who sacrificed for Rome's expansion. Rome allowed the people of some defeated cities to become Roman citizens. Unfortunately, other cities were not treated so well. Many received more limited privileges, such as the ability to trade with Rome. And Roman allies were required to pay Roman taxes and supply soldiers for Roman armies.

By 264 B.C.E., Rome had more citizens and well-trained soldiers than any other power in the Mediterranean world. But very soon, the Romans would face their greatest challenge yet.

Territory Controlled by Rome, About 146 B.C.E.



By 146 B.C.E., Roman power had spread across much of the northern Mediterranean. However, this expansion came with great sacrifice.

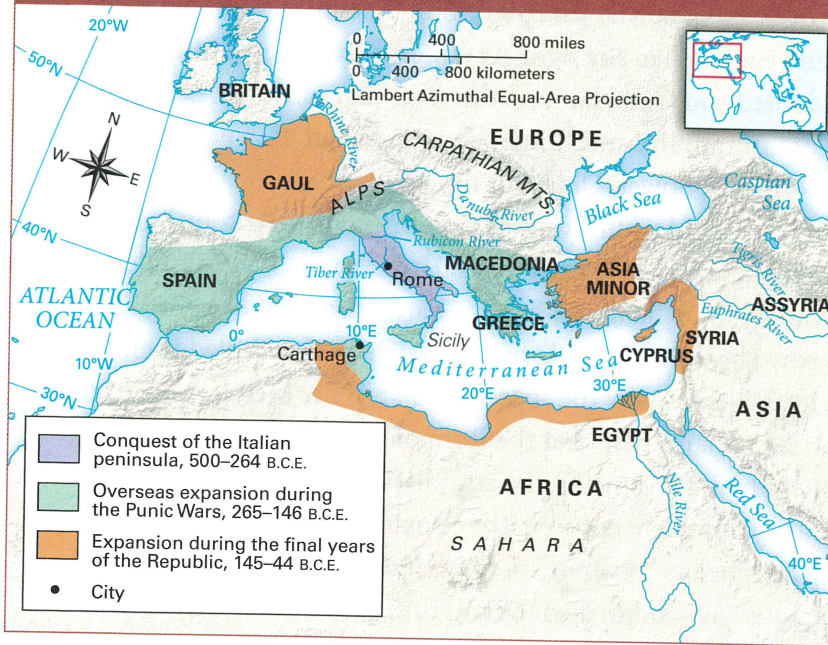
For about 50 years, there was peace between Rome and Carthage. Then, encouraged by Cato (KAY-toh), a senator who demanded the complete destruction of Carthage, the Romans attacked once more.

The Third Punic War lasted three years. In 146 B.C.E., the Romans burned Carthage to the ground. They killed many people and sold others into slavery. Rome was now the greatest power in the Mediterranean region, controlling North Africa, much of Spain, Macedonia, and Greece.

The Punic Wars expanded Roman power and territory, but Rome's victories came at a price. Countless young men had died in the long wars. Additionally, people living outside Rome suffered huge losses in population and property. Hannibal's army had destroyed thousands of farms, and others had been neglected while farmers went off to fight in Rome's armies. By the time the soldiers returned home, Rome had been forced to import grain from Sicily and other places. Small farms were being replaced by large estates, where the wealthy planted vineyards and raised livestock. Unable to compete with the wealthy landowners, many poor farmers were forced to sell their land.

While riches and slaves flowed into Rome from the conquered lands, so did new customs, many of which came from Greece. Wealthy Romans competed with one another to build Greek-style homes and beautiful temples.

Territory Controlled by Rome, About 44 B.C.E.



By the time Julius Caesar seized power in the 40s B.C.E., Rome ruled most of the Mediterranean and much of Europe. Uniting the diverse environments of Egypt, North Africa, Syria, Asia Minor (or Anatolia), Greece, and Europe increased Roman access to trade routes and other needed resources.

By 49 B.C.E., Pompey was back in Rome, while Caesar commanded an army to the north of Italy, across the Rubicon River. Both men wanted to control Rome, but Pompey had the support of the Roman Senate.

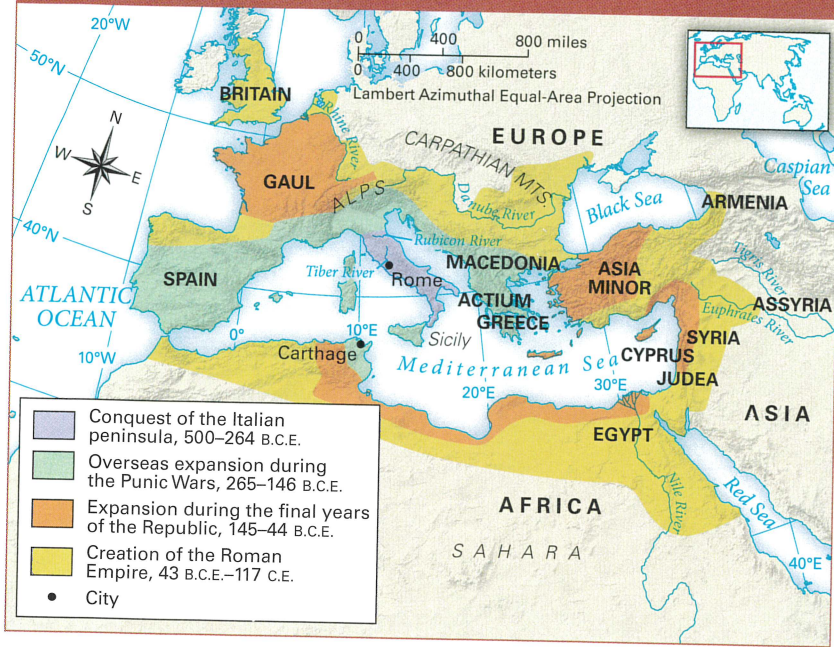
Encouraged by Pompey, the Senate forbade Caesar to enter Italy with his army. Caesar disobeyed in January of 49 B.C.E. and crossed the Rubicon with his army. After three years of fighting, he defeated Pompey. The frightened Senate named Caesar dictator for life. With Caesar in control, and after nearly 500 years, the republic came to an end.

As dictator, Julius Caesar introduced many reforms. He provided work to thousands of Romans by starting projects to create new roads and public buildings. To keep the poor satisfied, he staged gladiator contests that they could watch for free. He also adopted a new calendar that is still used today.

Caesar had a **vision** of Rome as a great empire. He started new colonies and granted citizenship to the people of cities in Gaul and Spain. However, he did not live to see his vision come true. On March 15, 44 B.C.E., a group of enemies stabbed Caesar to death as he was entering the Senate.

The men who killed Caesar thought they were saving the republic, but were wrong. Instead, real power would never return to the Senate, as an emperor eventually emerged to replace Caesar.

Territory Controlled by Rome, About 117 C.E.



At its largest, Rome was a mighty empire that ruled over the entire Mediterranean, large parts of the Middle East, and most of Europe. Many emperors contributed to this territory's countless achievements.

Later emperors added to the territory controlled by Rome. From Britain to the Red Sea, a single power ruled over the greatest empire the world had ever known.

Lesson Summary

In this lesson, you read about four main periods of Roman expansion. In each period, the costs of expansion were great. Yet, the Roman Empire lasted 500 years.

Conquest of the Italian Peninsula The first period of expansion began in 509 B.C.E. The Romans rebelled against the Etruscans, and Rome became a republic. The Romans then conquered central Italy, which they controlled entirely by 264 B.C.E.

The Punic Wars During the second period of expansion, from 264 to 146 B.C.E., Rome fought Carthage in the three Punic Wars. As a result, Rome gained North Africa, much of Spain, and Sicily. Rome also conquered Macedonia and Greece.

The Final Years of the Republic During the third period of expansion, from 145 to 44 B.C.E., Rome took control of Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, and Gaul. However, civil wars divided the republic. Julius Caesar made himself dictator for life. Then Octavian seized power, becoming the first emperor, Caesar Augustus.

Rome Becomes an Empire The fourth period of expansion began with the start of the empire and lasted until 14 C.E. The emperors continued to add a great deal of new territory. At its height, around 117 C.E., the Roman Empire stretched from Britain to the present-day Middle East.