

3. Campaigns of Julius Caesar

* Julius Caesar is quite simply one of the most famous people who ever lived and is also regarded as an all time great military leader.

* His actions left an indelible imprint not just on Rome but also in the history of the world.

* He was also a great writer and orator.

Battle of Bibracte (58 BC)

* The Battle of Bibracte was the second major battle during Caesar's Gallic campaign and resulted in a decisive victory for the Roman general.

* After his stint as consul in 59 BC, Caesar was in a significant amount of debt. His membership in the First Triumvirate provided him with the proconsulship of Illyricum and Cisalpine Gaul.

* When Metellus Caelius the Governor Transalpine Gaul died suddenly, Caesar received this province as well.

* It appears as if Caesar hoped to use his legions to plunder some territories and alleviate his debt.

* The Helvetii was one of the largest groups (they were an amalgamation of five tribes) and had massacred a Roman army in one battle in 107 BC.

* Caesar ultimately began his Gallic campaign in 58 BC in response to Helveti plans for a mass migration into Roman territory.

* Caesar positioned his men in three lines at the top of a hill to protect their baggage train.

* The Helvetian army charged directly at the Romans who waited for the perfect moment.

* Caesar ordered his men to charge and they started to destroy the enemy front lines.

* The Romans won the battle.

* Caesar showed his military command ability by calmly assessing the situation.

Battle of Alesia:

* By 52 BC the Gauls realized that a united front was essential if they were to have any hope of beating the Romans.

* They named Vercingetorix of Averni as the leader of Gallic forces and began a wave of violence after thousands of Roman soldiers and settlers were killed.

* When Caesar learned of this problem, he emerged from his winter quarters at Cisalpine Gaul to deal with the threat.

* The Romans won a few minor victories before suffering defeat at Gergovia.

* The Roman force of 60,000 attempted to lift siege but the 70,000-80,000 proved

stubborn goes

* Gauls launched one last assault with 40,000 men and focused on the Roman forces on the northern side of town.

* In the midst of the fighting Caesar ordered his cavalry to leave their position and attack the rear of the enemy.

* It was a decisive move as the horsemen slaughtered Gauls and forced a retreat.

* Vercingetorix surrendered to Caesar was taken to Rome as prisoner and executed several years later.

BATTLE OF PHARSALUS! - (48 BC)

* A civil war broke out between Caesar and the Senate when the latter wouldn't allow the conqueror of Gaul to run for consul.

* Caesar was furious and in 49 BC he led his army across the Rubicon River on the border of Gaul and Italy.

* The patrician faction led by Pompey is known as optimates and the populist faction led by Caesar is known as populares.

* After crossing the Rubicon river, Caesar with the aid of Mark Antony captured several Italian towns.

* After initial success, Caesar

suffered a defeat at Dyrrachium in July 48 BC

- * This crucial battle took place in Greece, on 9th Aug, and Caesar was in weak position.

- * His army probably featured no more than 22,000 soldiers while Pompey commanded a force of approximately 45,000.

- * Pompey's legions disintegrated and fled while their leader escaped to Larissa.

- * It was a remarkable victory to Caesar.

Battle of Thapsus (46 BC)

- * Pompey was assassinated in Egypt by the men of Pharaoh Ptolemy XII.

- * The remaining optimates refused to give in and assembled a resistance in the African provinces led by Caecilius Metellus Scipio with 12,000 soldiers.

- * Caesar had at least 50,000 soldiers and 5,000 cavalry and blocked the southern side of Thapsus.

- * Caesar was free to renew his siege on Thapsus and the city fell quickly.

- * Scipio escaped the battle only to commit suicide several months later.

- * Caesar moved on to Utica where Cato the Younger was located and he also committed suicide.

- * Although it was another

important win for Caesar, the civil war was not yet over.

Battle of Munda:-

* Munda was the last battle in the civil war between Caesar and took place in Spain on March 17, 45 BC.

* After Caesar's victory at Thapsus the previous year, the only remaining opposition to his rule lay in Hispania.

* A couple of legions declared their loyalty to Pompey's son Gnaeus Pompeius.

* Two of the Caesar's generals in the region Maximus and Pedius decided to stay at a place called Oculis rather than engage the enemy in battle.

* The Optimates had their hand forced and no longer delay the battle so they met Caesar at Munda.

* Gnaeus had up to 70,000 men and 6,000 cavalry against Caesar's 8,000 cavalry and 40,000 troops.

* It was a complete defeat to Optimates.

* Julius Caesar became dictator of life but was assassinated less than a year after winning at Munda.

2. Punic wars.

⇒ Punic wars were a series of three wars between 264 and 146 BC fought by the states of Rome and Carthage.

⇒ The First Punic War broke out in Sicily (264 - 241 BC) in 264 BC.

⇒ It is a result of Rome's expansionary attitude combined with Carthage's proprietary approach to the island.

⇒ At the start of the war, Carthage was dominant power of the western Mediterranean, with an executive maritime empire.

⇒ While Rome was a rapidly expanding power in Italy with a strong army but a weak navy.

⇒ The fighting took place primarily on the Mediterranean island of Sicily and its surrounding waters, and also in North Africa, Corsica and Sardinia.

⇒ It lasted 23 years, until 241 BC, when after immense material and human losses on both sides the Carthaginians were defeated.

⇒ Sicily was annexed as Roman province.

Second Punic War (218 - 202 BC)

⇒ It began in 218 BC and witnessed Hannibal's crossing of the Alps and invasion of mainland Italy.

⇒ This expedition enjoyed considerable early success, but after 14 years the survivors withdrew.

⇒ There was also a extensive fighting in Iberia, on Sicily, on Sardinia and in North Africa.

⇒ The successful Roman invasion of the Carthaginian homeland in Africa in 204 BC led to Hannibal's recall.

⇒ He was defeated in battle of Zama in 202 BC and Carthage sued for peace.

THIRD PUNIC WAR (149-146 BC).

⇒ This conflict was entirely on Carthage's territories.

⇒ In 146 BC the Romans stormed the city of Carthage, sacked it, slaughtered most of its population and completely demolished it.

⇒ The previously Carthaginian territories were taken over as the Roman Province of Africa.

	1 st Punic War	2 nd Punic War	3 rd Punic War
Date	264 - 241 BC (23 yrs).	218 - 201 BC (17 yrs).	149 - 146 BC (3 yrs).
Location	Mediterranean Sea, Sicily, North Africa, Corsica, Sardinia	Western Mediterranean	Carthaginian territories
Territorial changes	Roman annexation of Sicily (except Syracuse).	Roman conquest of Carthaginian Iberia.	Carthage territory fully under Rome.
Result	Roman victory	Roman victory	Roman victory (Destruction of Carthage).

Commanders & Leaders.

Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Marcus Atilius Regulus * Gnaeus D. Atilius * Gnaeus Lutatius Catulus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Scipio Africanus * Fabius Cunctator * Publius Cornelius Scipio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Scipio Aemilianus * Manius Manilius * Lucius Marcius Censorius * Lucius Calpurnius Piso
Carthage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hamilcar Barca * Xanthippus * Hasdrubal the Fair * Carthago 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hannibal * Hasdrubal Barca * Mago Barca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hasdrubal * Diogenes