The 2nd Punic War
218 – 201 B.C.E
GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is HATE?
What does it really mean to HATE something or someone?
Hannibal Barca

• Born in Carthage in 247 B.C.E
• Oldest son to Hamilcar Barca, who was the lead Carthaginian General by the end of the 1st Punic War.
• Hamilcar forced Hannibal to keep a promise, a promise to hate the Romans for as long as he lived.
• Hannibal would grow up to be known as Rome’s greatest enemy and threat and one of the greatest military generals in world history.
Between the Wars

Carthage's humiliating defeat and the economic depression that followed precipitated a vicious rebellion by Carthage's mercenary soldiers and African allies known as the "Truceless" or "Mercenary" War (241–237 BC). Rome, which officially supported Carthage in the conflict, nevertheless took advantage of Carthage's weakness to seize Sardinia and Corsica and to extort additional reparations. Eventually, under the leadership of Hamilcar and Hannibal's brother-in-law, Hasdrubal the Fair, Carthage was able to suppress the rebellion. Because of Hamilcar's role in rescuing Carthage from this crisis, he and his family gained considerable influence among the Carthaginian people, as well as widespread support throughout the Carthaginian government.

With its territories in Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica lost to Rome, Hamilcar sought new conquests in Hispania, a wealthy region that included the richest silver mines in the Mediterranean. By the 220s Carthage had recovered from its defeat in the First Punic War. Meanwhile Rome, content with the status quo, recognized Carthage's gains in Hispania and turned its attention to governing its new territories and completing the conquest of northern Italy. The Romans organized Sicily and then Sardinia and Corsica as their first overseas provinces. From 225 to 222 BC, Rome pacified the Gauls in northern Italy and then began campaigning in Illyria across the Adriatic Sea. Rome's eastward expansion into Illyria, however, was cut short by unforeseen events in Hispania, events that would soon involve Rome in a fight for its very survival.
In 219 B.C.E., Hannibal Barca laid siege to Saguntum. The coastal city had a long-standing treaty of friendship with Rome. Saguntum appealed to Rome for help, which in turn pressured Carthage to recognize their friendship with Saguntum. Attempts at a negotiation failed and Hannibal took the city after an 8 month siege.

With Carthage refusing Roman demands to lay down their arms, both sides again prepared for war.

During the Siege of Saguntum, most or all of Saguntum’s fighting force of 91,000 were killed. Hannibal only lost 9,000 of his men.

https://safeshare.tv/x/hxui8wn8bUU
Both Carthage and Rome entered the 2nd Punic War with different advantages than the first war. Hannibal led the best-trained and equipped army in the world. Rome had complete naval superiority of the Mediterranean.

Rome’s plan was to use its navy and wage a quick war against Carthage in the hopes that Carthage would sue for peace. Knowing this, Hannibal created a daring plan that no Roman anticipated. He would march his army of 40,000 men, 8,000 cavalry, and 37 war elephants through the Alps and invade Italy from the north. Hannibal’s plan would be to recruit soldiers from the recently conquered regions of northern and southern Italy and convince other kingdoms in the East to join forces against Rome.

Hannibal’s goal at the beginning of the war was not to destroy the city of Rome or exterminate the Roman people, despite the claims made by later Roman authors. Hannibal assumed that a few decisive victories in Italy would compel Rome to negotiate a new peace treaty on terms favorable to Carthage.
The brutal march over the mountains in early winter cost Hannibal nearly a third of his army and most of his elephants. Ultimately he succeeded in his goal of marching an intact army into Italy.

GROUP DISCUSSION: Was Hannibal’s decision to march his army through the Alps worth the risk?
The majority of Rome’s forces were in the southern portion of Italy as they prepared for an invasion of Carthage. News of Hannibal marching an army through the Alps and invading Rome from the north sent shockwaves throughout the Republic. Rome now had to quickly move its military forces north to engage Hannibal before he could begin taking Roman territory. Their plan did not work.

**DECEMBER, 218: Trebia River**

At Trebia River, Hannibal lured Roman soldiers into an ambush. Rome suffered 30,000 casualties as a result of the battle.  

![Image](https://safeshare.tv/x/OQUKxSb5MxQ)

Soon after Trebia, Rome raised another army of 40,000. Hannibal again displayed his mastery of battlefield tactics and ambushed the Roman force at Lake Trasimene. Nearly all the soldiers were killed or captured.

![Image](https://safeshare.tv/x/HGlo6QowOIM)
ROME IS SEIZED BY PANIC!