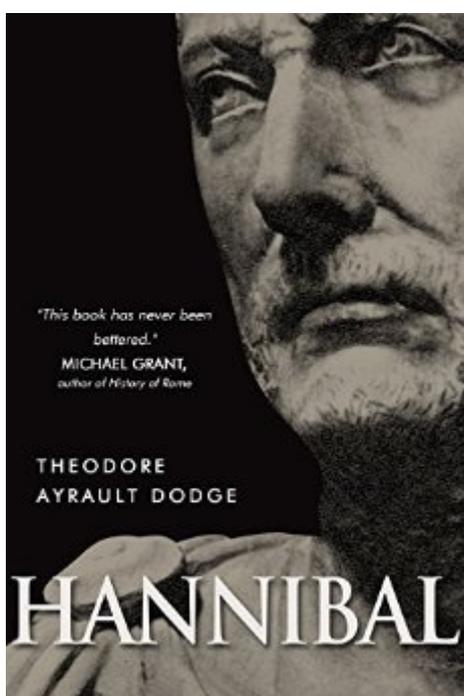


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Hannibal: A History Of The Art Of War Among The Carthaginians And Romans Down To The Battle Of Pydna, 168 B.C., With A Detailed Account Of The Second Punic War



Synopsis

Carthage grew to rival Rome. But only under the leader of its greatest general: Hannibal. A clash of titans was inevitable. Roman jealousy brought about the First Punic War in which Hamilcar became a leading commander and her efforts enabled her to defeat Carthage in her own element: at sea. Although Carthage was on the wane at the time of the Barcas, the impetus, intelligence and ability of Hamilcar and then his son Hannibal almost carried them to success. As a commander Hannibal was a visionary, recognising challenges that he would have to face before being able to set foot on Italian soil in 218 B.C., as well as opponent's weaknesses. By virtue of having followed in his footsteps with the sources, Dodge's narrative is very much grounded in the topography and delivers a greater understanding to the general's wars. With admirable calculation of the power of the forces opposing him, Hannibal disregarded the accepted rules of war and took advantage of circumstance or made his own. Much like Alexander, Hannibal would act promptly and energetically on this knowledge but following Cannae he was obliged to confine himself within much narrower boundaries. A master tactician, it was in logistics and overall strategy that Hannibal excelled and led to him defying numerous efforts to dislodge him from his Italian foothold. In the end it was the Carthaginian senate, facing defeat at Scipio's hands, who would relieve the pressure on Rome by ordering Hannibal to return home in attempt to save a lost cause. Inevitably the Romans proved themselves fast learners once more, and for all the bitter experiences he had inflicted upon them it was Hannibal who taught them the art of war. In this masterful two-volume study of the Romano-Carthaginian art of war, Theodore Ayrault Dodge charts Hannibal's extraordinary career and examines how he earned the moniker the Father of Strategy. This book has never been bettered. • Michael Grant, author of History of Rome Theodore Ayrault Dodge (1842-1909) was an American soldier and military historian. Enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1861, he saw action at Gettysburg and eventually rose to the rank of brevet lieutenant colonel. Spending his later life devoted to writing, he became known for his works on the Civil War and the great captains of Ancient and European history. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher.

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Customer Reviews

Dodge's book was written over a hundred years ago. The author has traveled around the battlefields of the second Punic War and tried to work out from the existing historical sources what really happened. Dodge was an army officer who served in the American Civil War. As such he knows the difficulty of moving large bodies of men, of supplying them with food, the difficulties of feeding horses and keeping them in good condition. The book establishes the greatness of Hannibal. Very little is left to tell us much of what Carthaginian civilization was like. Coins and sculpture suggest that the Greeks heavily influenced it. We know that Carthage was an oligarchy and that it was a city that traded extensively. It seems that it was probably a city that depended on slavery to produce its agricultural produce. This led to Rome having a pronounced advantage in the conflicts between the two cities. Rome had a sizeable peasant class who were integrated into its civil life. The Roman peasant class formed the basis of its armies. Rome as well had built up a coalition of allied cities some of which shared the benefits of citizenship. This meant that in any conflict Rome was able to put in the field 750,000 soldiers. In addition it had considerable economic power. Thus in the first Punic war Rome was able to build a number of fleets to challenge the Carthaginians at sea. The Carthaginians did not have a large class of landed peasants who could be mobilized and they depended on mercenary armies. The history of Carthage prior to their first war with Rome was not a history of military brilliance. Carthage had considerable problems in maintaining their control over about a third of Sicily fighting a large number of wars with the Greek city of Syracuse.

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