

ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

LECTURE 29: Coming of Rome

Polybius

Had previous chroniclers neglected to speak in praise of History in general, it might perhaps have been necessary for me to recommend everyone to choose for study and welcome such treatises as the present, since men have no more ready corrective of conduct than knowledge of the past. But all historians, one may say without exception, and in no half-hearted manner, but making this the beginning and end of their labour, have impressed on us that the soundest education and training for a life of active politics is the study of History, and that surest and indeed the only method of learning how to bear bravely the vicissitudes of fortune, is to recall the calamities of others. Evidently therefore no one, and least of all myself, would think it his duty at this day to repeat what has been so well and so often said. For the very element of unexpectedness in the events I have chosen as my theme will be sufficient to challenge and incite everyone, young and old alike, to peruse my systematic history. **For who is so worthless or indolent as not to wish to know by what means and under what system of polity the Romans in less than fifty-three years have succeeded in subjecting nearly the whole inhabited world to their sole government — a thing unique in history?** Or who again is there so passionately devoted to other spectacles or studies as to regard anything as of greater moment than the acquisition of this knowledge?

Polybius 1.1

The Hellenistic World

cities and empires in 240 BCE



Illyrian Wars

1st Illyrian War (229-228)

first crossing with military force into Illyria and these parts of Europe, as well as the first diplomatic involvement with places in Greece...

Polybius 2.1 2.7



1st Illyrian War 229-228

- Pirates!
- Illyrian Queen Teuta
 - ▣ Starts to expand her control towards the Greek cities
 - ▣ Romans send an embassy in 230, ambassador is murdered
- War!
 - ▣ Rome wins, a number of Greek cities surrendered to the Romans

2nd Illyrian War 220-219

□ Demetrius of Pharos

- ▣ New Illyrian chieftain after the death of Teuta
- ▣ Had served under Teuta's husband but helped the Romans in the 1st war
- ▣ Re-expanded Illyrian Control

□ War

- ▣ Rome wins, Demetrius flees to the court of the young Philip V

Macedonian Wars

- 217 Rome demands Philip V surrender Demetrius to them
- Philip attempts to expand towards the Adriatic
- 214 Philip agrees to an alliance with Hannibal
- Attacks Orikos near Apollonia, Romans send a fleet, Philip retreats

1st Macedonian War 214-205

Rome allies
with the
Aetolian
league (211)



Rome and Aetolian Alliance

If the Romans take by force any of these peoples, let it be permitted, as far as concerns the *demos* of the Romans, for the *demos* of the Aetolians to have these cities and lands; whatever (the) Romans take besides the city and land, let (the) Romans have. If the Romans and the Aetolians together take any of these cities, let it be permitted, as far as concerns the *demos* (of the Romans) for the Aetolians to have these cities and lands; whatever they take besides the city, let it belong to both together. If any of these cities go over to, or surrender to, the Romans or the Aetolians, [let it be permitted, as far as concerns the] *demos* of the Romans, for the Aetolians to take these people and the cities and the lands [into their] state....

Bagnall and Derow 33,
cf. Livy 26.24

1st Macedonian War

- Essentially a war between Philip and the Aetolian league with naval support from Rome
- Spartans, Messenians, and Attalus I join Aetolia
- Multiple attempts to end the war by other Greek states
- 206 Philip forces the Aetolians to make peace
- Peace agreed to at Phoinike in 205

Anti-Roman sentiment in attempts to end the war



You say that you are fighting with Philip for the sake of the Greeks, that they may be delivered and may refuse to obey his commands; but as a fact you are fighting for the enslavement and ruin of Greece...

Polybius 11.4.6

2nd Macedonian War 200-197

- 201: Attalus, the Rhodians, and the Aetolians send embassies to Rome to complain about Philip

At the time that the Roman legates were present in Athens Nikanor, Philip's general, overran Attica up to the Academy, upon which the Romans, after sending a herald to him in the first place, met him and asked him to inform Philip that the Romans 'called upon' the king to make war on no Greek states and also to give such compensation to Attalus for the injuries he had inflicted on him as a fair tribunal should pronounce to be just. If he acted so, they added, he might consider himself to be at peace with Rome, but if he refused to accede the consequences would be the reverse.

Polybius 16.25-6

2nd Macedonian War

- P. Sulpicius Galba leads the war (Consul 200)
 - ▣ Aetolians rejoin Rome
- T. Quinctius Flaminius (Consul 198)
 - ▣ Achaean league joins Rome
 - Philopoimen (a prominent Achaean politician led the pro-Roman faction)
- “Fetters of Greece” (Chalkis, Demetrias and the Acrocorinth)

Battle of Cynoscephalae 197 BC

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UU4DfV_M2M

Flamininius and the Freedom of the Greeks

All the rest of the Greeks in Asia and Europe were to be free and subject to their own laws; Philip was to surrender to the Romans before the Isthmian Games [summer 196] those Greeks subject to his rule and the cities in which he had garrisons; he was to leave free, withdrawing his garrisons from them... [Philip was to pay the Romans] a thousand talents, half at once and the other half by installments extending over ten years.

-Polybius 18.44

Follow-up Reading

- Errington, R.M. 2008. *A History of the Hellenistic World: 323-30 BC*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. 165-214.