From Village to Empire: an Introduction to the History of Rome

Lecture 8: Rome in the Hellenistic World II

Aegean c. 200 BC

Antiochus and Rhodes

Livy 33.20: Antiochus gave audience to the Rhodian envoys: and although their message was of a kind to inflame the king's anger, he restrained his wrath and replied that he would send ambassadors to Rhodes, and would authorise them to renew the long-established ties between himself and his ancestors and that community, and to bid them have no fear of the king's approach, with the assurance that no harm or treachery was in store for them, or for their allies; for **he would not violate the friendship with the Romans. As evidence for this intention he quoted his own recent embassy to Rome, and the Senate's respectful decrees and replies to his messages. As it happened, it was just at this time that his envoys had returned from Rome, where they had been heard and sent back with courtesy, as the situation demanded, since the issue of the war against Philip was still uncertain**.

Settlement with Philip V of Macedon

Livy 33.30: The ten commissioners arrived from Rome, and on their advice peace was granted to Philip on the following terms:

1. That all Greek cities, in Europe and in Asia, should have their freedom and their own laws.

2. That Philip should withdraw his garrisons from the cities which had been in his control; and that he should hand the cities over to the Romans, with his troops removed from them, before the time of the Isthmian Games.

3. That he should also withdraw his garrisons from the following cities in Asia: Euromum, Pedasa, Bargyliae, Iasus, Myrina, Abydus, Thasos, and Perinthus (for it had been decided that these places also should be free); with regard to the liberty of the Ciani, Quinctius was to write to Prusias, King of Bithynia, telling him of the decision of the Senate and the ten commissioners).

4. That Philip should surrender to the Romans the prisoners and deserters, all the decked ships except five and one royal galley (of almost unmanageable size, propelled by sixteen rows of oars).

5. That he should have no more than 5,000 soldiers, and no elephants at all.

6. That he should not wage war outside Macedonia without the Senate's permission.

7. That he should pay 1,000 talents to the Roman people, half of this immediately, the other half in ten annual instalments.

[…] Hostages were taken to guarantee fulfilment of these terms, among them Demetrias, Philip's son.

Aetolians invite Antiochus into Greece

Livy 35.33: [Afterwards] Thoas and others of the same party were listened to with general applause; and they succeeded […] in passing a decree by which Antiochus was invited to set Greece free, and to decide the argument between the Aetolians and the Romans. To this decree, arrogant enough in itself, Damocritus, the Aetolian chief magistrate, added a personal insult. When Quinctius [Flamininus] asked for the actual decree, he showed no reverence for the high dignity of the Roman, and he replied that at the moment he had a more urgent matter to attend to; the decree, and the answer, he would shortly be delivering in Italy, after pitching camp on the banks of the Tiber. Such was the extent of madness that at this time had taken possession of the Aetolian people, including their magistrates.

The ‘fetters of Greece’

Corinth, Chalcis and Demetrias

Antiochus not welcome to 'liberate' Chalcis

Livy 35.46: The king [i.e. Antiochus] himself encamped at Salganea and crossed the Euripus by boat with the Aetolian chiefs and, since he had disembarked not far from the harbour, the magistrates of the Chalcidenses also and the foremost citizens came out before the gate. A few from each side met for a conference. The Aetolians urged them strongly while retaining the Roman friendship to take the king also as an ally and friend: for he had not come to Europe to make war but to free Greece, and to free it in reality, not in words and pretence, as the Romans had done; nothing, moreover, was more useful to the Greek cities than to embrace both friendships, for thus they would always be guarded by the protection and good faith of the one from the injustice of the other. For if they did not receive the king, they would see at once what they would have to endure, when Roman aid was far away and Antiochus, an enemy whom they could not withstand by their own might, was at their gates. At this Micythio, one of the chiefs, said that he wondered for whose liberation Antiochus had left his own kingdom and crossed to Europe: for he knew no state in Greece which had a garrison or paid tribute to the Romans or suffered, under the compulsion of an unfair treaty, laws which it did not wish; therefore the people of Chalcis needed neither any champion of their liberty, since they were free, nor any protection, since by the kindness of the same Roman people they enjoyed peace along with liberty.

Manius Acilius Glabrio

Thermopylae

Defeat of Antiochus at Magnesia (189)

The Empire of Antiochus III, c. 200 BC

Eumenes in Rome

Livy 42.11: [Eumenes] told the house that his reason for coming to Rome - apart from his eagerness to see the gods and men thanks to whom he enjoyed such good fortune that he would not venture even to wish for anything more - had been to urge the Senate, in person, to take counter measures against the designs of Perseus.

Then, starting with the plans of Philip, he went on to tell of the killing of Philip's son Demetrius, who was opposed to war with Rome; and he described the encouragement given to the Bastarnae to leave their homeland, explaining that Philip relied on their help for his crossing to Italy. While Philip was working out these plans in his mind, fate had overtaken him, and he had bequeathed the throne to one who - as he had realised - was most hostile to the Romans. Accordingly, said Eumenes, Perseus had been left this war as a bequest from his father, handed on to him together with the throne; he had been nursing it along and tending it in all his planning, and now it was very close at hand…

Perseus told to surrender

Polybius 27.8: **After the victory of the Macedonians Perseus held a council in which some of his friends suggested to him that he should send an embassy to the Roman general, consenting still to pay the same tribute to Rome that his father on his defeat engaged to pay and to evacuate the same places**. […]. When the envoys had explained themselves according to their instructions, the Romans requested Pantauchus [Perseus' ambassador] and his colleague to withdraw, and consulted about the message. It was unanimously decided to give as severe a reply as possible, it being in all cases the traditional Roman custom to show themselves most imperious and severe in the season of defeat, and most lenient after success. That this is noble conduct every one will confess, but perhaps it is open to doubt if it is possible under certain circumstances. In the present case, then, their answer was as follows. **They ordered Perseus to submit absolutely, giving the senate authority to decide as they saw fit about the affairs of Macedonia**. The envoys, on receiving this answer, returned and reported it to Perseus and his friends, some of whom, astonished at the pride of the Romans, chafed at it, and advised the king to send no further embassies or any other communications about anything whatever. Perseus, however, was by no means so disposed, but sent several times to Licinius, always offering a larger sum. But as he made no progress, and most of his friends found fault with him and told him, that now he was victorious, he was acting as if he were unsuccessful and indeed utterly defeated, he was obliged to give up these embassies...

L. Aemilius Paullus and the defeat of Perseus at Pydna (168)

Overview of Events

218-201	Second Punic War
214-205	First Macedonian War (against King Philip V)
200-196	Second Macedonian War (against King Philip V)
197	Battle of Cynoscephalae
196	Flamininus' proclamation at Corinth
192-189	War with King Antiochus
191	Defeat of King Antiochus at Thermopylae
189	Defeat of King Antiochus at Magnesia
188	Settlement of Asia
172-167	Third Macedonian War (against King Perseus)
168	Defeat of King Perseus at Pydna
167	Macedon divided into four 'republics'
150	Death of Callicrates
149	Rebellion of Andriscus in Macedon
147	Macedon made into a province
146	Sack of Corinth by L. Mummius

Relevant reading

- Badian, E. (1958), *Foreign Clientelae*, Oxford.

- Derow, P. S. (1989), 'Rome, the fall of Macedon and the sack of Corinth', in A. E. Astin, *et al*., eds., *The Cambridge Ancient History,* volume 8: Rome and Mediterranean to 133 B.C., second edition, Cambridge, 290-323.

- Errington, R. M. (1971), *The Dawn of Empire: Rome's Rise to World Power*, London. [principal thesis out-of-date; see Harris' *War and Imperialism*].

- Errington, R. M. (1989), 'Rome and Greece to 205 B.C.', in A. E. Astin, *et al*., eds., *The Cambridge Ancient History,* volume 8: Rome and Mediterranean to 133 B.C., second edition, Cambridge, 81-106.

- Errington, R. M. (1989), 'Rome against Philip and Antiochus', in A. E. Astin, *et al*., eds., *The Cambridge Ancient History,* volume 8: Rome and Mediterranean to 133 B.C., second edition, Cambridge, 244-289.

- Gruen, E. (1985), *The Hellenistic World and the Coming of Rome*, Berkeley.

- Scullard, H. H. (1980), *A History of the Roman World, 753 to 146 BC*, fourth edition, London.