

BETWEEN ROME AND CARTHAGE

Hannibal invaded Italy with the hope of raising widespread rebellions among Rome's subordinate allies. Yet even after crushing the Roman army at Cannae, he was only partially successful. Why did some communities decide to side with Carthage and others to side with Rome? This is the fundamental question posed in this book, and consideration is given to the particular political, diplomatic, military and economic factors that influenced individual communities' decisions. Understanding their motivations reveals much, not just about the war itself, but also about Rome's relations with Italy during the prior two centuries of aggressive expansion. The book sheds new light on Roman imperialism in Italy, the nature of Roman hegemony and the transformation of Roman Italy in the period leading up to the Social War. It is informed throughout by contemporary political science theory and archaeological evidence, and will be required reading for all historians of the Roman Republic.

MICHAEL P. FRONDA is Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Classical Studies, McGill University. He has published a number of articles on topics in ancient history and has contributed to D. Hoyos (ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to the Punic Wars*.



BETWEEN ROME AND CARTHAGE

Southern Italy during the Second Punic War

MICHAEL P. FRONDA

McGill University





> CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

> > Cambridge University Press The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521516945

© Michael P. Fronda 2010

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2010

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
Fronda, Michael P., 1970–
Between Rome and Carthage: Southern Italy during the
Second Punic War / Michael P. Fronda.

p. cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 978-0-521-51694-5 (hbk.)

1. Punic War, 2nd, 218–201 B.C.–Campaigns–Italy, Southern. 2. Punic War, 2nd, 218–201 B.C.–Social aspects–Italy, Southern. 3. Punic War, 2nd, 218–201 B.C.–Political aspects–Italy, Southern. 4. Italy, Southern–History–To 535. 5. Italy, Southern–History, Military. 6. Hannibal, 247–182 B.C.–Military leadership. 7. Rome–Relations–Italy. 8. Italy–Relations–Rome. 9. Carthage (Extinct city)–Relations–Italy. 10. Italy–Relations–Carthage (Extinct city) I. Title.

DG247.33.F76 2010 937'.04–dc22 2010009141

ısвn 978-0-521–51694-5 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



For Joseph D. Fronda (1935–1985)



Contents

Acknowledgments		<i>page</i> ix
N	ote on abbreviations	xi
Maps		xiii
I	Introduction	I
	Prologue	I
	Sources, problems and methodologies	5
	Rome and the Italians, circa 350–220	13
	Hannibal's strategy	34
	Hannibal's strategic failure: previous explanations	37
	Local conditions and the failure of Hannibal's strategy in Italy	50
2	Apulia	53
	Introduction	53
	The revolt of Arpi, 216	57
	The revolt of Arpi's 'satellite' allies, 216	85
	Hannibal's incomplete success: Canusium, Teanum	
	Apulum, Luceria and Venusia	91
	Conclusion	99
3	Campania	100
	Introduction	100
	The revolt of Capua, 216	103
	The revolt of Capua's 'satellite' allies, 216–215	126
	Hannibal's incomplete success: Naples, Nola, Cumae, Acerrae and Nuceri	ia 130
	Conclusion	146
4	Bruttium and western Magna Graecia	148
	Introduction	148
	The revolt of the Bruttians, 216–215	149
	The revolt of Locri and subordinate communities, 215	159
	The revolt of Croton, 215	171
	Hannibal's incomplete success: Rhegion	178
	Conclusion	т86

vii



viii

Cambridge University Press 978-0-521-51694-5 - Between Rome and Carthage: Southern Italy during the Second Punic War Michael P. Fronda Frontmatter More information

Contents

5	Southern Lucania and eastern Magna Graecia	188
	Introduction	188
	Taras' tenuous loyalty, 216–213	189
	The revolt of Taras, 213/12	211
	Aftermath of the Tarentine revolt: Metapontion, Heraclea and Thurii, 212	217
	Conclusion	231
6	The Roman reconquest of southern Italy	234
	Introduction	234
	'Holding the wolf by the ears': Hannibal's strategic conundrum after 216–215	235
	Campania, 215–211	243
	Apulia, 215–210	253
	Taras and south-eastern Italy, 212–207	260
	Western Magna Graecia and Bruttium, 215–203	269
	Conclusion	279

7	Conclusions	280
	Local conditions revisited: a brief summary	280
	Enduring interstate rivalry and Realist theory	281
	Could Hannibal have won? Three hypothetical scenarios	288
	Overcoming local conditions: the Roman genius?	300
	Rome and the Italians, <i>circa</i> 200–90	307
	Epilogue	329
Ap	ppendix A: The war in Samnium, 217–209	331

11	
Appendix B: Chronology of events in Bruttium, 215	334
Appendix C: Chronology of events from the defection of Taras	
through the defection of Thurii, 213–212	337
Appendix D: Defection of the southern Lucanians, 212	340
Bibliography	342
Index	365



Acknowledgments

It is perhaps clichéd for a scholar to open his or her first academic book by noting that it started as a PhD dissertation and took final form after a long period of development and revision. Yet some clichés become so because they are true. This is certainly the case with the present book, which did in fact begin as a dissertation written in fulfilment of my doctoral degree at The Ohio State University. Indeed, the core of the book the basic question, why did some allies revolt during the Second Punic War? – had its roots in a seminar paper that I wrote in 1994 in my early days as a graduate student, the central thesis of which the professor for the course deemed 'ingenious but ultimately unconvincing'. The work has grown and developed a great deal since then, just as has my own thinking on Roman Italy and ancient history in general has evolved and matured. New arguments and ideas have been added, others have disappeared. This book is the end result. It was written and revised at three different academic institutions - The Ohio State University, Denison University and McGill University - and has benefited immensely from thoughtful criticisms, corrections and suggestions by many colleagues and friends whom I have been fortunate to meet. Any remaining weaknesses, fallacies and errors are my own. I leave it for the reader to determine whether the final product is ingenious or convincing.

It is impossible to name everyone who has helped me directly and indirectly along the way, but the following individuals must be acknowledged. First, I thank Nathan Rosenstein, my dissertation supervisor and the professor who commented on that original seminar paper. He is a formidable scholar, a careful critic and one of the finest professors I have ever had. He more than anyone else taught me how to be an ancient historian. He has been and continues to be both a mentor and a friend. I am indebted as well to the other members of my dissertation committee, Timothy Gregory, who first introduced me to the world of archaeology, and Barry Strauss, who rightly urged that I look at political science and



x

Cambridge University Press 978-0-521-51694-5 - Between Rome and Carthage: Southern Italy during the Second Punic War Michael P. Fronda Frontmatter More information

Acknowledgments

international relations theory to help unpack my ideas. Fellow graduate comrades Bill Caraher and Jack Wells read various drafts of my dissertation and continued to give welcome suggestions as that dissertation grew into this book. From Ohio State I should also thank Will Batsone for helping me to become a more sensitive reader of ancient texts, and Jack Balcer (†) for his gentle guidance. Garrett Jacobsen and Tim Hofmeister, my friends and colleagues in the Classics Department at Denison University, provided both moral support and practical advice. The influence of Lisa Fentress, John Dobbins and Darby Scott, whom I met during my wonderful summer at the American Academy in Rome in 2000, can be found in the more archaeological sections. My colleagues in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University helped me immeasurably during the major revision stage. Hans Beck attentively read through and commented on the entire manuscript. He also provided invaluable insights on Roman historiography and the sources for early Roman history, which greatly improved Chapter 1. He has been a great friend and ally. John Serrati read drafts of Chapter 7. Discussions with Bob Morstein-Marx, Claude Eilers, Rene Pfeilschifter, Craige Champion, Martin Jehne and most of all Art Eckstein have helped to clarify and strengthen arguments throughout the book. Art also showed me the manuscript of Mediterranean Anarchy, Interstate War, and the Rise of Rome before its publication. Stephen Oakley graciously allowed me to see drafts of volumes III and IV of his Commentary on Livy Books 6-10 before they were published.

I am grateful to the staff at Cambridge University Press for their diligence, assistance and especially patience in seeing the manuscript through various revisions to final production. I thank especially my editor, Michael Sharp, and also the anonymous readers whose comments and suggestions invariably improved the work. Student research assistants at McGill, Sarah Limoges and Robert Eisenberg, did a great service by aiding with proofreading and typesetting.

I would be remiss not to mention my wife Jennifer Brecht. She has, among other things, proofread texts, offered pointers on prose style and taken part in innumerable one-sided discussions of interstate relations and the Roman alliance system. But most importantly, she has been there with love and support throughout the long and often trying process of writing and publication. Without her, this book would not have been written. Finally, I dedicate this book to my father Joseph Fronda (†), whose love of history made a deep impression on me as a child, though I did not realise it at the time. I only wish that he could be here to read it.



Note on abbreviations

The abbreviations used throughout this book are those of the Oxford Classical Dictionary, 3rd edn (for references to ancient literary sources and inscriptions) and of L'Année Philologique (for the titles of scholarly journals), with the following additions and variations:

All references to Dionysius of Halicarnassus (Dion. Hal.) refer to the *Roman Antiquities* unless otherwise indicated.

Beck and Walter, FRH Beck, H. and Walter, U. (eds.), Die frühen

römischen Historiker (2 vols.). Darmstadt,

2001.

Cauer, P. (ed.), Delectus Inscriptionum

Graecarum, 2nd edn. Leipzig, 1883.

DNP Cancik, H. and Schneider, H. (eds.), Der

neue Pauly: Enzyklopädie der Antike (16

vols.). Stuttgart, 1996-2003.



Maps



> Maps xiv -48°N 16°E 48°N 400 km 200 miles 150 46°N icinum (Pàvia) Placentia Mutina ONING H Ariminum Arnus UMBRIA Arretium 42°N Taras Metapontion Heraclea LUCANIA Grumentum 40°N **S**Thurii Consentia • Petelia ♦ Locri -38°N Rhegion . 38°N Aegates Lilybaeum Agrigentum Syracuse Cossura Land over 1,000 metres 10 E 8°E 14°E 16°E 18°Ė

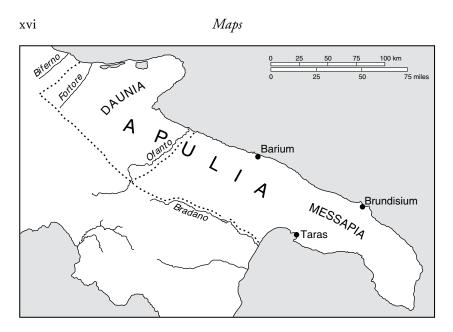
Map I Italy, third century вс



Maps xvApulum ADRIATIC Luceria SEASalapia U Cánusium < Capua CAMPANIA Venusia **Compsa** Naples Brundisium Nuceria Taras LUCANIA Manduria Metapontion Poseidonia/ Paestum Heraclea Thurii TYRRHENIAN Petelia SEACroton Vibo Velentia Caulonia Messana Locri Rhegion Land over 1,000 metres Syracuse 100 miles

Map 2 Southern Italy, third century вс

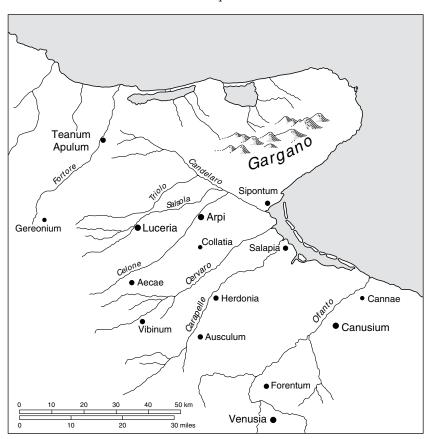




Map 3 Apulia, Daunia and Messapia



Maps xvii



Map 4 Northern Apulia/Daunia



> Maps xviii Adriatic Sea Lake Varano Lake Lesina Gargano San Severo Manfredonia salsola Lake Gulf of Passo di Corvo Manfredonia Amendola Lucera Foggia Salp • Troia 400 Ascoli ● Satriano Rome 600 ₂₀₀ ··· Isohyets (in mm) Boundaries of main S

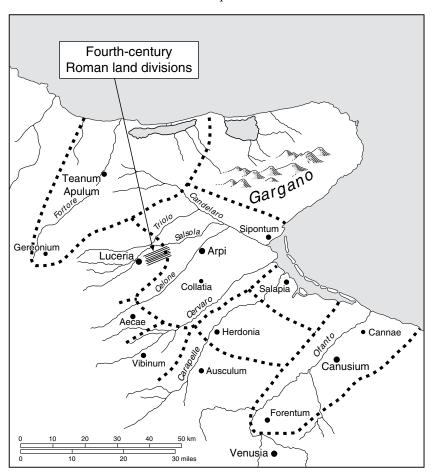
Map 5 Northern Apulia/Daunia: hydration systems (From G. Jones 1987)

drainage basins 20 km □ 15 miles

10

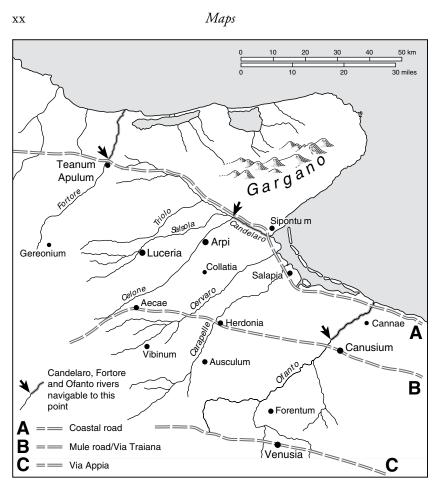


Maps xix



Map 6 Northern Apulia/Daunia: approximate boundaries between cities





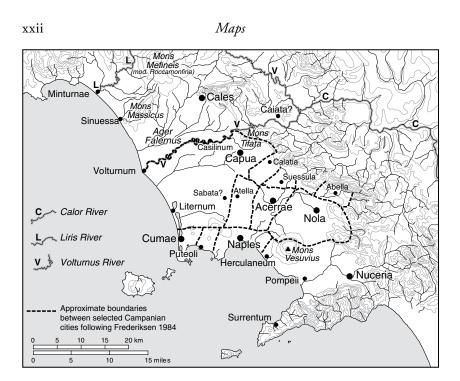
Map 7 Northern Apulia/Daunia: roads and navigable rivers



Maps xxi Mons Mefineis Cales/ Sinuessa Capua Volturnum Atella Sabata? ● Acerrae Liternum Nola Naples Cumae Puteoli Herculaneum Calor River Nuceria Pompeii Liris River Surrentum Volturnus River

Map 8 Campania





Map 9 Campania: approximate boundaries between selected cities





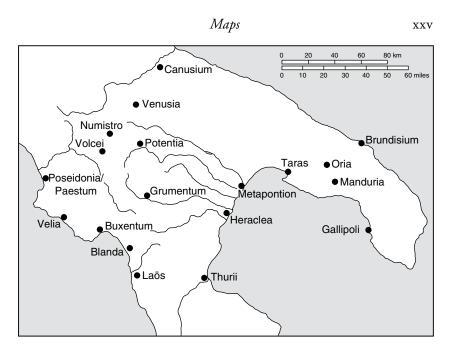
Map 10 Bruttium and SW Magna Graecia





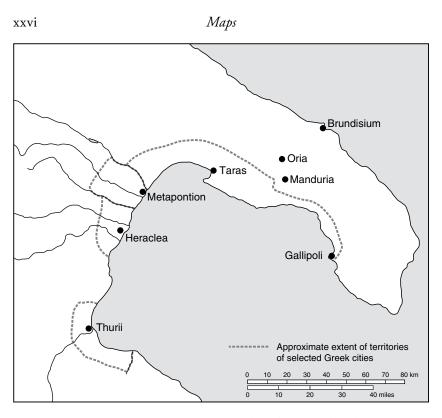
Map 11 Bruttium and SW Magna Graecia: approximate boundaries between selected cities





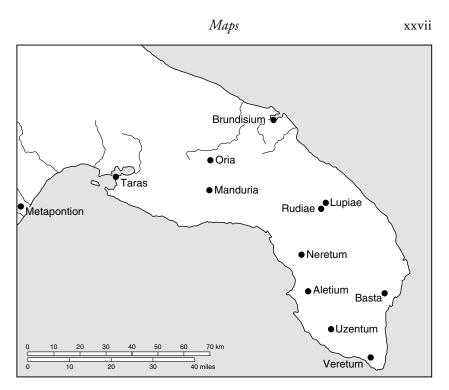
Map 12 Lucania and SE Italy





Map 13 SE Magna Graecia: approximate boundaries between selected cities





Map 14 Taras and the Sallentine Peninsula





Map 15 Roman confiscations and colonisation, с. 200–100 вс