

ABSTRACT

THE FIRST PUNIC WAR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMAN NAVY

The First Punic War is demonstrative of how the Roman Republic reacted to military challenges and conducted warfare. However, it is also a unique example at the operational and tactical level because of Rome's adaptive military and the nature of its opponent, the seagoing Carthaginian Empire. The present study examines and assesses the traditional explanation of how Rome proved the victor of this contest. In particular it addresses the historiographic issues of its transmission, the historical roots of the conflict, and how Rome adjusted to and influenced naval warfare.

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