

## Roman Empire

*By imperial times, Rome dominated the entire Mediterranean, from the Spain to Egypt. The Roman Empire reached its maximum extent in about 120 A.D. as a result of Trajan's conquest of Dacia. Subsequent emperors worked to defend the empire rather than to expand it further.*

### **Cities—West:**

**Carthage:** Foremost city of the Phoenicians in the West. Greatest enemy of Rome. (Tunis)

**Massilia:** Important trading city in Gaul, near the mouth of the Rhone River. (Marseille)

**Utica:** Strongly fortified African city used by Republicans as a base to oppose Caesar.

**Barcino:** Trading city in Spain, near Ebro river, founded by Hamilcar Barca. (Barcelona)

**Lundinum:** Major Roman city in Britain. (London)

### **Cities—East:**

**Constantinople:** Founded by Constantine in 330, became capital of the Eastern Empire.

**Athens:** Remained a center for Greek culture and learning during the Greco-Roman era.

**Corinth:** A major commercial center of the East; was destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C..

**Ephesus:** Major Greek and Roman city in Asia Minor. Famous for Temple of Artemis.

**Alexandria:** Capital of Egypt at the Mouth of the Nile. Founded by Alexander the Great.

**Nicaea:** Major city on the Sea of Marmara. Famous as site of the Nicene Creed.

### **Provinces—West:**

**Hispania:** Included provinces of Baetica (farther Spain), and Tarraconensis (Spain).

**Gallia:** Included provinces of upper and lower Gaul, Aquitaine, Belgica, and Narbonne

**Britannia:** Included upper and lower Britain provinces (Britain).

**Mauritania:** Province populated by Numidian allies of Rome (Morocco, Algeria).

**Africa:** Province includes territory formerly controlled by Carthage (Tunisia, Libya).

### **Provinces—East:**

**Macedonia:** Province encompassing all of Northern Greece.

**Achaea:** Province encompassing all of Southern Greece.

**Thracia:** Province north of the Sea of Marmara, containing Constantinople (Bulgaria).

**Dacia:** Conquered by Trajan, and held by the Romans for 100 years (Romania).

**Bithynia:** Wealthy Roman province directly adjacent to Constantinople (Turkey).

**Pontus:** Province located south of the Black Sea. Realm of Mithradates (Turkey).

**Syria:** Eastern Provinces containing cities of Tyre, Sidon, Damascus, Palmyra.

**Palestine:** Roman name for Judea, renamed after Jewish Wars and Rebellions (Israel).

**Egypt:** Province controlled by descendants of Ptolemy until the age of Cleopatra.

## **Rivers and Mountains:**

**Rhodanos:** River in the south of Gaul, Hannibal crossed on rafts (Rhône).

**Rhenus:** River that denoted the eastern boundary of the Gallic Province (Rhine).

**Iberus:** River flowing through the north of Hispania (Ebro).

**Alps:** Mountains that formed northern border of Italy.

**Pyrenees:** Mountain range between Gaul and Hispania.

**Nile:** Major River of Egypt

## **Water Bodies and Islands:**

**Propontis:** Sea of Marmara

**Pontus Euxinus:** Black Sea

**Danuvius:** River that formed northern border of empire, until Trajan conquered Dacia.

**Cyprus:** Important Island off the coast of Syria. Site of a Jewish Rebellion in 115 A.D.

**Rhodes:** Center of Greek/Roman learning. Became part of the Roman Empire in 164 B.C.

**Pillars of Hercules:** Strait of Gibraltar

## **Battle Sites—West:**

**Carthago Nova:** Battle at which Scipio Africanus conquered Carthage dominions in Hispania.

**Zama:** Final battle of the Second Punic War, fought outside Carthage (202 B.C.).

**Alesia:** Caesar besieges rebel stronghold under Vercingetorix in Eastern Gaul (52 B.C.).

**Thapsus:** Caesar defeated Republic army under Cato in North Africa (46 B.C.).

**Munda:** Caesar's final battle against a Republican stronghold in Hispania (45 B.C.).

**Teutoburg Forest:** German hero Hermann annihilates Rome in Germany (9 A.D.).

**Milvian Bridge:** Constantine defeats Maxentius near Rome (312 A.D.).

**Chalons:** Romans and Visigoths fend off Attila the Hun in central Gaul (451 A.D.).

## **Battle Sites—East:**

**Pydna:** Aemilius Paulus defeats Antigonid king Persia in Macedonia (168 B.C.).

**Pharsalus:** Julius Caesar defeated Republicans under Pompey, in central Greece (49 B.C.).

**Philippi:** Octavio and Antony defeat Cassius and Brutus in Thrace.

**Actium:** Antony retreats from a Naval battle off west coast of Achaëa (31 B.C.).

**Carrhae:** Roman legion under Crassus is annihilated by Parthia in Syria (53 B.C.).

**Jerusalem:** Vespasian and Titus put down rebellion, destroy Jerusalem (70 A.D.).

**Palmyra:** Aurelian puts down the rebellion of Queen Zenobia Palmyra (272 A.D.).

**Hadrianople:** Goths invade Thrace, battle is a disaster for Rome, Emperor Valens killed (378 A.D.).