

Hannibal: A Life of Courage and Cruelty

Hannibal Barca was a Carthaginian military commander who is considered one of the greatest generals in history. He is best known for his invasion of Italy in 218 BC, during which he crossed the Alps with a large army of elephants. Hannibal's campaigns in Italy were highly successful, and he defeated the Romans in several major battles. However, he was eventually defeated by the Roman general Scipio Africanus at the Battle of Zama in 202 BC. Hannibal returned to Carthage, where he served as a political leader until he was forced to flee into exile. He eventually committed suicide to avoid being captured by the Romans.



Hannibal (Illustrated) by Jacob Abbott

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3124 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 230 pages

Lending : Enabled

Item Weight : 1.19 pounds

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Early Life and Career

Hannibal was born in Carthage in 247 BC. His father, Hamilcar Barca, was a Carthaginian general who fought against the Romans in the First Punic War. Hannibal grew up to be a brilliant military strategist, and he quickly

rose through the ranks of the Carthaginian army. In 221 BC, he was appointed commander of the Carthaginian forces in Spain.

Hannibal's first major victory came in 218 BC, when he defeated the Roman army at the Battle of the Trebia. This victory convinced Hannibal that he could invade Italy and defeat the Romans on their own soil. In the spring of 218 BC, Hannibal set out from Spain with a large army of elephants, cavalry, and infantry. He crossed the Alps into Italy, and he defeated the Romans in several major battles. However, the Romans eventually rallied and defeated Hannibal at the Battle of Zama in 202 BC.

Later Life and Exile

After the Battle of Zama, Hannibal returned to Carthage. He served as a political leader until he was forced to flee into exile in 195 BC. He eventually committed suicide to avoid being captured by the Romans.

Legacy

Hannibal is considered one of the greatest military commanders in history. He was a brilliant strategist, and he was able to defeat the Romans in several major battles. However, he was eventually defeated by the Romans, and he is remembered as a tragic figure. Hannibal's life is a reminder that even the greatest generals can be defeated.

Additional Resources

- [Hannibal - Britannica](#)
- [Hannibal - History.com](#)
- [Hannibal: The Great Carthaginian General - National Geographic](#)



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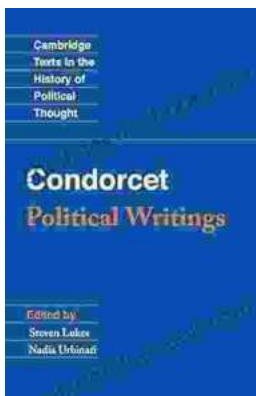
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