Name: _____ Date: _____

Study Guide #20 **The Rise of Rome**

Italy's Geography. The Italian Peninsula provided an ideal place for an empire to emerge. The boot-shaped peninsula jutted down into the Mediterranean Sea and nearly halfway to Africa. The northern end of the peninsula was protected by the Alps, while the other three sides were shielded by the sea. Though Italy had short, fast rivers that were unsuited for internal travel, the land contained rich soil and many trees. Overall, it supported a better balance between agriculture and fishing than its neighbor, Greece.

Rome developed from a series of small villages centered around a **Forum**, or central marketplace. The city was located on the Tiber River, along trade routes between north and south, and close to the sea.

The Conquest of Italy. An Indo-European-speaking people known as the Latins migrated from the northeast and established Rome sometime before the mid-700s B.C. Latin kings initially ruled the villages and kingdoms near Rome, but around 600 B.C. Rome came under the rule of Etruscan kings from the northern part of the Italian Peninsula.

Around 509 B.C. the Roman aristocracy revolted against the Etruscans. The aristocrats proceeded to establish a **republic**, a government in which elected officials ran the state. Early on, the heads of aristocratic families, known as **patricians**, selected these officials. Later, common people known as **plebeians** also participated in the government.

As the Roman population grew, so did the demand for land. Rome solved this problem by conquering its neighbors with a highly disciplined and organized army. The army was organized into **maniples**—small, flexible infantry formations well suited to fighting on rough terrain. Maniples were organized into groups called cohorts. Ten cohorts of 600 men each constituted a **legion**.

Roman expansion suffered a setback in 390 B.C., when Gaulic warriors swept in from the north and burned the city. Rome recovered quickly, however, and by around 265 B.C. Rome had conquered the Etruscans and the Greek cities in southern Italy.

Rome and Carthage. As Rome continued to expand, it came into conflict with Carthage, a trading city in northern Africa that controlled an empire including Sardinia, western Sicily, Corsica, and outposts along the coasts of North Africa and southern Spain. Carthage feared

that its commerce would be threatened by Roman expansion. Soon Rome and Carthage went to war.

The First Punic War began in 264 B.C. Rome had the advantage of a strong army, while Carthage had a very powerful navy. The Romans tried to develop their own navy, and despite missteps and heavy casualties, they eventually defeated Carthage. In the peace treaty, the Romans forced the Carthaginians to pay a large settlement and give up Sicily, where Rome established an imperial province. A few years later, Rome seized Sardinia and Corsica as well.

The Second Punic War started in 218 B.C. Hannibal, a great Carthaginian general, hoped to use Spain's manpower to create a land force to challenge the Romans. Hannibal led his army through the Pyrenees and the Alps and invaded Italy, defeating one Roman army after another. The Romans suffered great losses but refused to give up. Eventually, they triumphed over Hannibal, forcing him to withdraw. The Romans routed Hannibal's forces outside Carthage and took the city in 202 B.C., ending the war.

The Conquest of the Mediterranean World. In the wake of the Roman victory, Carthage lost most of its navy, its territories in Spain, and its independence in foreign policy. This made Rome the leading power in the western Mediterranean. Many Romans still desired revenge for the losses of the Second Punic War, however, and in 149 B.C. Rome decided to declare war on Carthage a third time. This time the Roman army destroyed Carthage entirely and enslaved its people. Meanwhile, Rome went to war with Macedonia, a former ally of Carthage. Next to fall were the Hellenistic kingdoms of Greece and Syria to the east. By 133 B.C. the Roman empire reached from one end of the Mediterranean to the other, and beyond.

Answer the questions below **in your own words** and in complete sentence. Highlight your evidence.

1. What geographical factors supported Rome's development?

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2. What kind of government did the Romans establish after overthrowing the Etruscan kings?

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3. What areas were controlled by Carthage at the start of the Punic Wars?

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4. What were the strengths and weaknesses of each side in the First Punic War?

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5. What were Hannibal's successes and failures in the Second Punic War?

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6. Which side won the First Punic War? the Second Punic War? the Third Punic War?

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