
WITNESS THE HISTORY,
SHAPE THE *FUTURE*.

IUMUNX

ROMAN SENATE

STUDY GUIDE



LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Exalted Senators of the Roman Republic,

Second Punic War is perhaps one of the most important turning points for the Roman Republic since it had marked the subsequent Roman victories both abroad and within the Italian Peninsula. However, this historical occurrence would have been interpreted as its downfall should Hannibal emerged triumphant at the end of the war with marching beyond the gates of Rome. Not only that, if the Senate had failed its duty in keeping the Republic and the city of Rome in line, we would have been reading a different story than normally it is. Yet again, the question is that how the simulation of antiquity history will differ from the reality; and the answer, in fact, will solely be depended upon the senators' individual, and collective, ability to govern military, economic, and political affairs of the Republic.

These being said, it is worthwhile highlighting that this committee is, perhaps, one of the best examples of "decision-making in times of crisis" not just only perspective of a country but also individuals alike. Why? Well, since at that time, both reputation and prominence are obtained via deeds that glorify the nation. However, the negative is also true in case of failure which makes senators' decisions to take account of their own interests. That is being said, it also indicates that some senators may approve or disapprove decisions that will bring downfall to their rivals within the senate. This so-called "cutthroat political" nature of the Roman Republic, which is not so different from modern times, therefore necessities a cunning mind-set to come up with the most effective term of action that will not only benefit to the whole community but benefit himself compared to others.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to thank Dağhan Aktaş, under-secretary-general of the Roman Senate, and his assistant Ece Bahar Sekban for writing this study guide.

Cordially,

Secretary-General
Çağdaş Başar Bahar

LETTER FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

Fellow Senators,

I welcome you all to the Senatus Romanus and of course IUMUNX. I am Dağhan Aktaş; your beloved Under Secretary General who designed the Roman Senate committee for you. While I encourage you to read this guide with full attention, you may skip this part.

So, our lovely committee; The Roman Senate. The initial goal of this committee is to give you an experience as a Senator (delegate), who lived 2 millenniums ago and served in a system of democracy. In order for you to fully experience the committee properly, you will have to get into that mindset. Imagine yourself and your country facing Hannibal's full wrath and trying to come up with plans via making debates or by yourselves. Even though I do not expect you to fully understand the conditions of the era, you most certainly should learn as much as you can.

While governing your country and facing Hannibal himself, you will also have to coordinate with your fellow Senators. Debating in the Senate, voting when necessary, voting your conscience and not surprising your country. There will be multiple factors for a Senator like you to consider every step of the way so, I suggest read the guide properly and do your research.

Be advised, nearly all of the numbers in this guide are estimates and a lot of them are adjusted for the purposes of the committee as well as some roles of the Roman Republic.

Aut viam inveniam aut faciam!

Ultimate Dictator of the Senatus Romanus

Dağhan Aktaş

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION	2
A. Introduction to the Committee	2
B. Glossary of Terms	3
II. HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK	5
A. The Romans.....	6
B. First Punic War	8
1. Carthaginians	10
2. History of the Barca Family Until the Second Punic War	12
B. The Peninsula After the First Punic War	13
III. MECHANICS OF SENATUS ROMANUS	14
A. How Did the Senatus Romanus Work?	14
B. How Did the Romans Elect Magistrates?	15
IV. BEING A SENATOR IN SENATUS ROMANUS.....	18
REFERENCES	21

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Introduction to the Committee

So, the Second Punic War; this committee's agenda and arguably one of the most important wars in history. Well, pre-Second Punic War history of it is explained with more details in the Historical Framework, so this part will include the Senate and a brief look into the Second Punic War. As you may or may not know, some historians believe the Second Punic War is considered one of the most important wars of the Roman Republic era. Romans overall faced multiple problems and challenges both internally and externally. The Romans faced Hannibal Barca's wrath multiple times during this war. It affected both countries (Rome and Carthage) severely, changing their borders, suffering a significant number of casualties (on both sides) and so on. So, the purpose of this committee is to coordinate and cooperate with your fellow senators, designing and approving new legislatives, defending your country, improving your country or making conquest for your country. In order to successfully govern your country of course there are many things for you to consider. This will include being able to feed your people, train and arming your soldiers, making proper decisions in order to prevent disasters etc.

You can of course research about the history of the events prior and during the Second Punic War, but everything may not and probably will not be the same as history. Since you will take different actions than history in the Roman Senate committee we will create an alternative history for the Second Punic War. This also means the result of the committee can vary depending on actions you take and counter actions taken by the Carthaginian side (crisis team). So ultimate goal for the committee will be to win the war basically but of course there are more details to it (making treaties, governing properly etc.).

Also note that the character that will be given to you will determine your traits. You may be younger, older, wealthier or poorer than the other Senators. This will be decided depending on your experience levels on other committees. Yet, note that even if your character is not great, you can accomplish a lot. On the other hand, even if your characters traits are superior to your fellow Senators, that does not necessarily

mean that you will have more success compared to your fellow Senators. Although it may be hard, a good Praetor could potentially be more useful to the Roman Republic than a bad Consul.

While in committee it is not mandatory to be a candidate for any magistrate role, if you want to achieve a great deal in the committee, it is the best course of action to take.

Although getting elected in the first place is some sort of success, it may result badly for you in the committee as well depending on the actions you will take as a magistrate. So, make your plans properly, convince the country to vote for you and of course write your directives properly in order to make a successful impact on the Second Punic War process.

Lastly I would like to mention that, if you do not act according to the roleplay (the details are stated in the section IV of this guide, it is not likely that you will make an actual impact on the committee. So, learn your role properly, learn the political necessities of the time, learn how to write directives if you do not know how to (it will be explained with details in committee) and arguably the most crucial one follow Roman traditions and rules.

B. Glossary of Terms

Roman Senate (Senatus Romanus): An assembly formed by 300 Senators. Their main duties included making plans/advising Magistrates, passing legislatures/ laws and managing foreign affairs.

Patrician: A Patrician is a wealthy man who is believed to be a descendant of the original Roman Senators that were chosen by Romulus. Basically, a nobleman or an aristocrat.

Plebian: A member of the common folk; farmers, merchants etc.

Magistrate: An administrator or justice (depending on the role) elected by the Roman citizens of wealth and status.

Comitia Centuriata: An assembly of the Roman republic consisting of 193 centuries, the assembly's main goal was to elect Magistrates.

Senator: A member of the Senatus Romanus chosen from the wealthy population (even from plebeians), and they were the highest rank member (except Magistrates) for governing the republic.

Legion: A unit main military unit of the Roman Republic's army. Each legion consists of their own cavalry, physicians, engineers and a commander.

Hannibal Barca (key person): Son of Hamilcar Barca (who was an effective general in the First Punic War) a fierce Carthaginian General who seeks the downfall of Rome.

II. HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK

During the 2nd century BC, The Roman currency relied on bronze for the commoners which was in high demand at the time, often competing with the need for weaponry. Therefore, bronze was made convertible to silver which was used for the legionary payments. Thus, the treasury required a significant amount of funds. A legionary received 2 obols of silver a day while a centurion received 4, and the cavalryman got a drachma (silver coins) a day taking approximately 2 tons of silver away from the aerarium, annually, which mostly returns through donations and taxes.

There may seem like a significant amount of silver was being spent on the Roman legion, although the real monetary burden was using mercenary forces. Carthage's military heavily depended on mercenary Numidian cavalry and foot soldiers. This military system caused Carthage to get into the Mercenary War since the military was left unpaid after the First Punic War which Rome assisted in suppressing. This left Carthage with an indemnity to Rome which they paid at the outbreak of the Second Punic War with the sack from the siege of Saguntum. Thus, Carthage had the freedom to utilize whatever monetary resources remained at their disposal for the Second Punic War.

Against this mercenary of Carthage, Rome had a legion with infantry troops, cavalrymen and war elephants. Besides, Romans had undertaken a major naval building program right after the First Punic War started. These powerful vessels were used during the war against the Carthaginian navy of the same type. The vessels required excessive manpower, an estimated crew of 364 men, that created the need for supplies such as food, water and supplementary arms.

The daily life of Romans differed significantly depending on their economic status. Averagely working six hours a day, Romans had a leisure to attend gladiatorial competitions, theatre, wrestling or chariot races. The majority of the Romans who lived in the countryside were engaged in farming; with wheat being the predominant crop cultivated for bread production, followed by grains, olives and grapes. The imperial expansion granted it authority over a diverse range of mineral resources, including gold, silver, copper, lead, and tin, allowing miners to emerge. For the less affluent, joining the army provided a consistent income and an opportunity to

acquire land upon completion of service since the Roman Army required a vast quantity of soldiers while the more educated Romans could become lawyers. There were also merchants of all sorts who kept the market alive. Both individual shop workers and slaves were working as craftsmen, making various products from weapons to jewellery. Additionally, a wide array of government positions existed, ranging from tax collectors and clerks to prestigious roles such as Senators.

A. The Romans

Originally established in 509 B.C.E., the Roman Republic (only after 27 B.C. it was renamed as The Roman Empire) was governed by its famous Roman Senate. The Roman Senate took a huge part in governing the Republic at that time. Their governing authorities included overseeing the treasury, approving legislations, approving infrastructure proposals, declaring a state of emergencies, declaring wars or making peace treaties, which was a responsibility of the foreign affairs, and etc. This type of governing allowed Romans to split the power of governing amongst the nobles of their country because of the fact that it was not an easy task to become a member of the senate without having a certain amount of wealth, especially in the early stages of The Roman Republic. This resulted in wise and powerful men of their society to rule the country instead of relying on one man. While this may sound credible, it created its own problems. That is why in times of crises, The Senate had the authority to do extreme things to set things straight for a time. This included declaring a state of emergency referred to as *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* in Latin, which allowed them to authorize a consul or consuls to stay in charge for another year or increase their jurisdictions. Another action that could be taken is that they could simply just appoint a Dictator, which was an official term at the time, for six months with extreme power. Yet this was efficient at times of crises. The last Roman Dictator got hacked by the Senate since he, in fact, did not want to give his powers away (Polybius, *Histories*, Book 6, Chapter 12).

The Senate in the early stages of the Republic, which was nearly fully consisted of Patricians (Mythologically these were the descendants of the people selected by Romulus for his initial senate). This resulted in conflicts with the Plebeians, which were

common people or commoners. In 494 B.C.E., the Plebeians wanted to represent their own interest by establishing the Tribune of the Plebs (Tribuni Plebis) and the Plebeian Consul (Concilium Plebis). Concilium Plebis allowed the Plebeians to pass their own laws, which only applied to Plebeians at that time until the Lex Hortensia, while the Tribune of the Plebs was an organization to protect Plebeians from Patricians in terms of power and dominance, so the Tribuni Plebis would pass legislatures of their own and veto some of the legislations of the Aristocrats that they deemed harmful toward the Plebeians. Then a law was passed named Lex Hortensia by the Concilium Plebis in 287 B.C.E. Although this law was not officially recognized by the Roman Senate due to secessions (basically abandoning a certain area in order to protest the Aristocrats) by the Plebeians over time, this law was accepted by all of the Roman Republic's people and eventually it became a tradition. The law allowed Concilium Plebis's legislations to have equal legal status, which resulted in the Struggle of the Orders (conflicts between the Plebeians and Aristocrats) to resolve significantly. This led the roles of Magistrates to be not dominated by the Patricians. Over time, this led to partial contribution to the Roman Senate by the Plebeians. Of course, while these developments were made, the Romans had fought through many wars and battles (Polybius, Histories, Book 6, Chapter 17).

The Romans had a conquest of the Italian Peninsula during the 5th-2nd centuries B.C.E. This time period had many wars and strategic alliances within it. In conclusion, especially at that time period, Romans learned how to fight better, how to make alliances, and how they can use them to their advantage in order to fight and wipe out their enemies from the peninsula. Gradually, the Romans managed to take control of the peninsula entirely in the 2nd century B.C.E. After the end of the Italian Peninsula conquest, the Romans were craving for other glories and expansions such as Sicily, which led to the First Punic War between the Romans and the Carthaginians. Although it was a hard-fought long war with both sides suffering heavy casualties ranging over a hundred thousand in estimate, the Romans were the clear victors of the First Punic War. With this war, Romans had managed to accelerate their conquest process, conquering Sicily Island. Yet the Romans made the Carthaginians pay a tribute after the war, which drove Carthaginians vengeful because of the fact that

Carthaginians had a crippled economy caused by the Romans after the war. That was one of the main reasons for the need for a Second Punic War (Polybius, Histories, Book 1, Chapters 10-20).

A few important details for the committee:

There is a reason why all roads lead to Rome, the importance of the city's location and infrastructure. Being one of the most stubborn and hot-headed nations and people of their time, the Romans learned to use this trait to their advantage. Not being able to select a leader for the long term for their people and their armies, most people who were at the top of the Roman Empire for that period (Consuls, predators, etc.) nearly always sought glory in their time of rule. This can be interpreted as positive and negative at the same time. Since their Consul elect sought glory and fame for their ruling period, most of them tried accomplishing many goals at a quite hazardous pace. Sometimes this meant swift conquests and passage of the laws that were important for their ways of thinking, and sometimes it meant huge crushing defeats both at the battlefield and at the senate (Polybius, Histories, Book 1, Chapter 20).

Before the First Punic War, the Romans or the government that they had built called the Roman Republic was not the Roman Empire we know from our history classes. Their landmass was much smaller, their population was not great in numbers, and they had no naval forces other than some rowing boats. But the Romans were quite alike in terms of seeking glory and fame through war and violence, and they had a plan. They wanted to obtain the Sicily peninsula to expand their empire. The main reason for this conquest was Romans wanting to improve their trade in the Mediterranean Sea by taking over Sicily. In the post-war era, with Romans conquering Sicily after a fierce battle with the Carthaginians, the political balance in the Mediterranean Sea had shifted considerably but not fully (Polybius, Histories, Book 1, Chapters 10-20).

B. First Punic War

The First Punic War was a fierce war between the Roman Empire and Carthage Empire in the years during 264-241 BCE. The war was caused by many reasons, but

the main reason was one empire's ambition to take control of the Sicily while the other's desire to maintain control of the island. Multiple small parties who were on the island were all forced to choose sides between the Romans and the Carthaginians. Both sides had their strengths and their weaknesses. Romans' strength being their land force, the spirit of their soldiers and their discipline in battle but the biggest weakness that they had was lack of a navy and experienced crews to sail those non-existent ships. While Carthage being one of the biggest naval forces at that time had a clear advantage over the Mediterranean Sea but their lack of loyal troops (Carthaginian army mostly included mercenaries), inexperienced and undisciplined armies made facing Romans on land almost impossible to face them on land Polybius, Histories, Book 1, Chapter 12-18).

Although having a non-existent navy, they learned how to build ships and find their ways on sea properly during this war. Even though Roman Sailors lacked experience in naval combat compared to Carthaginians who had a lot of experience on sea (their main strength) the Romans managed to defeat the Carthaginians a few times in naval battles during the First Punic War period. It is crucial to note that this war effort gave both nations a hard time for both their financials and military. During the war both sides faced many difficulties, especially Romans. Their lack of navy and naval skills caused many Roman souls to perish deep beneath the Mediterranean Sea. Also, since Sicily had no land border with the Italian peninsula; Romans also had a hard time supplying the war for the island (which is one of the main reasons why this war lasted for 23 whole years). Another reason would be even though their system was almost perfect it caused many problems (Consulship system). Since both Consuls would serve for only a year, they nearly always wanted to cut corners. War is of course a long process, sometimes it would take years for them to just capture a single castle. So, if a specific Consul wanted to be successful by conquering more land and win the war during the time of servitude; they would need quite the bright ideas. One of these ideas in the First Punic War was to attack Carthage on the mainland. While multiple battles were in process on the Sicily Island, in 256 BCE a Roman Consuls at that time (Marcus Atilius and Lucius Manlius Vulso Longus) made a significant impact on the war efforts. Although not being able to win against Carthaginians on the

mainland(fully), their actions certainly distracted the Carthaginians from the Sicilian Island. Ultimately resulting in Romans taking control of the entire island. But of course, in order for them to attack Carthage on the mainland; they needed a navy. How did the Romans build a navy out of nothing? They copied. Many historians believe the Romans captured a Carthaginian Quinquereme and build their own ships just like the Carthaginian ships. Historians believe it only took Romans approximately just 60 days to build 100 Quinqueremes (Polybius, Histories, Book 1, Chapter 22-26).

Yet, of course, experience could not be copied as easily. Leading many Romans drowning in storms and dying at the Carthaginian hands. After a while Romans decided to come up with something new named Corvus (which essentially made navigating and surviving bad weather conditions more difficult). Corvus would allow Romans to ram and board any ship that they can get near to. Ultimately changing a naval battle to a land battle (which Romans were much more superior at that time). Although this worked well for a while Romans eventually removed them from their ships. While it is not certain why they did that there are a few likely options like; Romans eventually gaining experience in "normal" naval battle strategies, it took a lot of man to just operate, it added weight to the ship significantly (ultimately causing them to have more naval problems) and Carthaginians got used to their tactics with it.

The End of the War: Battle of Aegates Islands

With this naval battle Carthaginians were unable to continue their war efforts for the Island of Sicily. Ultimately ending the First Punic War and signing the treaty after the war which was called the Treaty of Lutatius (Siculus, 1868).

1. Carthaginians

Back in the 9th century BCE, Phoenicians (Punics) in Tyre started exportation movements across the Mediterranean region and took control of the market. In the course of time, trading caused many colonies to be established, one of which being the Carthage Colony. The expanding colony turned into a semi-democratic republic with its own Senate and Judiciary in the 7th century. The initial relations between Carthage and Rome were positive, proven by a treaty signed in 509 BCE stating that

there shall be friendship between the Romans and their allies, and the Carthaginians and their allies

By 300 BC, Carthage had achieved dominance over the largest expanse of territory in the region, comprising the coast of northwest Africa, southern and eastern Iberia, and the islands of Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Malta, and the Balearic archipelago, thanks to its extensive network of colonies, vassal states, and satellite states, all held together by its naval supremacy in the western and central Mediterranean Sea. This led to Carthage being one of the largest and wealthiest cities of the ancient world, benefited from its strategic position, which offered access to rich, fertile lands and key sea trading routes. Its vast trading network extended to western Asia and northern Europe, allowing it to import a variety of goods from across the ancient world while exporting profitable agricultural produce and manufactured items.

Despite the diverse nature of its empire, Carthage maintained a culture and identity deeply anchored in its origins. Carthaginians, who were known to the Romans as Poeni, inherited their religious beliefs from their founding fathers. People were faithful worshippers of their god, Melqart. Hannibal, who is a Carthaginian general, swore to him that he would forever be the enemy of Rome.

Hannibal was proclaimed to be Carthaginian army's commander chief at the age of 26. His hate for the Romans and the expanding Roman lands caused the First Punic War to be established. Carthage started to gather an army that mostly consisted of foreigners, mostly North Africans, which brought a range of troops. Civilians also chose to fight during critical attacks.

In 219 BCE, he attacked Saguntum which was determined to be the Northern border of Carthage after the First Punic war. This led the Romans to believe that the attack was an open act of war, due to their good relations with the city. Thus, Rome declared the Second Punic War after eight months of combat in Saguntum.

2. History of the Barca Family Until the Second Punic War

Hamilcar Barca:

The father of Hannibal Barca was a fierce Carthaginian General during the First Punic War and after. He is mainly known for his "guerilla" warfare in Sicily during the First Punic War and his conquest of Iberian Peninsula after the First Punic War. According to many historians he was a genius at military strategies, and he was loved by his men quite a lot. This allowed him to make the Iberian conquest a rather easy conquest for Carthage.

His war efforts during the First Punic War slowed the Roman conquest of the island immensely by cutting (ambushing) Roman supply lines constantly throughout the battle. Making Hamilcar Barca one of the key persons of the First Punic war. In his conquest of Iberia, he took his son Hannibal Barca with him for him to experience battles and learn how to lead. This early exposure to battles was one of the main reasons why Hannibal Barca turned out to be an extraordinary leader and a commander.

Hannibal Barca:

Son of Hamilcar Barca was arguably the most crucial person of the Second Punic War. Due to his physical participation in battles for the Iberian Peninsula, he quickly gained respect and admiration by his men. Since Hannibal Barca had gained experience at the early stages of his life, he quickly took command after his father and stepbrother had passed away. Hannibal, just like his father, had an exclusive mind for military strategies and tactics. Again, like his father, he was also neither a fan of the Romans nor the Roman Republic and what the Roman Republic has done to their country. So, like his father, he sought revenge on the Roman Republic and began his conquest.

For Committee Purposes:

Although the Romans did face Hannibal on the field of battle multiple times, they had little success at beating him on the battlefield. Most of the Consuls who were chosen by the Romans, were outmatched by Hannibal's strategies and intelligence. Yet, since the Romans were a nation and a people of war and stubbornness, they chose to face him many times after their defeats. Eventually, they (the Romans) found methods to

overcome Hannibal's supremacy and dominance over them. So, in the Committee, always remember that Hannibal is not your equal, he is superior to you. Thus, when you face him, treat him and his strategies accordingly.

B. The Peninsula After the First Punic War

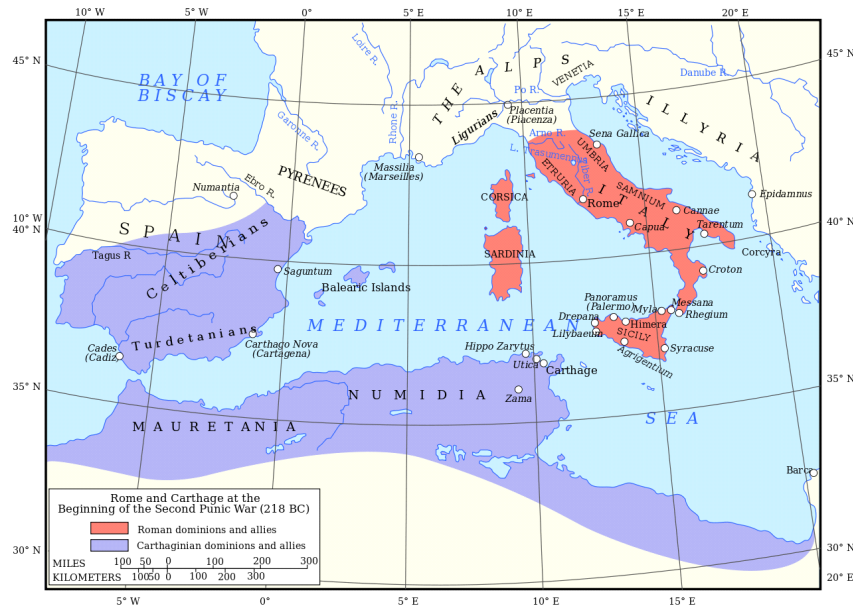
With a certain disadvantage Romans had managed to somehow come on top of this drastic war although they were short in naval strength they somehow managed to defeat the biggest naval force in the Mediterranean Sea. Romans achieving their main goal of conquering Sicily the situation in the Mediterranean (Carthage's losing a crucial trade route and the island being used as a Roman base) was one of the main reasons why there was a need for another warfare between two countries (Gnam, 2015).

The treaty after the war (Treaty of Lutatius) was a war declaration for the Carthaginians on its own (as a manner of speaking). The treaty after the war (which was signed in 241 BCE) was called; the Treaty of Lutatius. The treaty had many terms, but the most important ones were reparations (financial), leaving the entire Island of Sicily and its entirety to Romans, a non-aggression pact. War reparations significantly crippled the Carthage's economy and was one of the main reasons why they desired for another war. Leaving the Sicily Island, affected Carthage's trade functions and economy as well as their crop reserves which was of course a crucial aspect. Lastly, the non-aggression (no hostility towards Roman Republic) term, which gave the Carthaginians a hard time during the time period (17 years) between the Punic Wars as you can see from the image.



III. MECHANICS OF SENATUS ROMANUS

A. How Did the Senatus Romanus Work?



Well, although there are many traditions of the procedure of the Senate, most of its rules depended on their traditions. The Senate would be presided (chaired) by a Consul or in times of absence of Consuls, by a Praetor. This individual would set the agenda of the Senatus Romanus. Depending on how they would want to proceed they would take in further agendas and debates. As mentioned in the 6. Being a Senator in Senatus Romanus, the Senate did not have a specific rule for the order of speaking but, they always respected their elders, the wealthiest senators, their high ranked magistrates or magistrates that have served in the past. So, they usually let them speak first but it was not mandatory. So, a Senator would rise up, and deliver his speech. While interruptions and asking questions to a Senator while he speaks are in order, the act of doing it has to be respectful, relevant and not be frequent. So, there was no time yields or anything formal about the allocated time for Senator's speech time. They could take as long as they needed when it was necessary (Cicero, On Laws, Book 3, Chapter 10).

After the debate period ends, if the Senate did have to make a decision, they would call for a vote. The Magistrate or Senator responsible for the debate would call the vote when they deemed the debate was enough. Not all of the Senators necessarily

had to talk in order for a Magistrate to call for a vote, but it was crucial that all legitimate ideas would be discussed properly.

Voting:

One method of voting was called -Discession- and the Senators would divide into groups in order to make their vote clear and fasten the process. So, the majority would be clear by just looking at the Senate Hall. Another method was called -Viva Voce- which basically translates to; orally. Which was a much quicker method of voting, and this one was preferred often. All the Senators would shout their vote, yelling Ita (yes) or Non (no). Then, the Magistrate who was responsible for presiding would, and decide which side had the majority of votes. Yet, it was a less precise method of voting compared to Discession (Polybius, Histories Book 6, Chp 15).

Now some in committee information; the Consul, Praetor or the respected Senator who is responsible for managing the debate and setting the agenda would have a great influence over the Senate. Although military actions and strategies as well as other subjects were oftentimes decided by the senate, a Consul or etc.in play could alter the debate (informally) and try to persuade the Senate into his ideas and ideals. Since, oftentimes the Senate would be divided into groups (unofficially), by whether they are a plebian or a patrician etc. in debates they could talk with other Senators in order for the perfect response (Smith, 1857). So, in committee you could definitely consult your fellow Senators in order to come up with bright ideas. Yet of course you need to do this in a deliberate manner.

B. How Did the Romans Elect Magistrates?

This is where the fun begins, so you are a senator in the Senatus Romanus, and you are wondering if you can be a magistrate or not. The answer is a yes but not a simple one.

In order for you to understand this you first need to know different types of magistrates; this will also allow you to understand what a magistrate is. There are many types of magistrates, but we will focus on Praetors, Consuls, and Dictators in the committee.

Praetors: Praetors have considerable duties and authorities, including leading armies when necessary and acting as judges on legal cases. A man does not have to be a senator to become a praetor, but if elected, he immediately becomes a senator and gains the right to participate in the senate. Their terms of service last for a year (Lintott, 1999).

Consuls: Consuls are the ultimate form of a magistrate, similar to a head of state or executive in the modern times, and there were always two of them. This sometimes benefited the country but also created problems during crises due to disagreements between the consuls. Although consuls could operate separately, they usually needed to act together to achieve good results. While being a praetor before becoming a consul was not required, it was common as consuls were often chosen from those who had been praetors. Their terms of service last for a year, though the senate can approve extensions (Forsythe and Fronda, 2005).

Dictator: A Dictator is a single man in charge during extreme crises to restore and rescue the country. This role lasts for six months and is usually appointed by the consuls with the senate's approval. It is crucial to remember that this role is only nominated in times of absolute need and is not a regular occurrence. When a consul nominates a dictator, it has significant consequences and is not guaranteed approval by the *Senatus Romanus* (Boatwright et al., 2004).

The Romans elected these high-level magistrates through The *Comitia Centuriata*. The Roman Republic consisted of 193 Centuries, with senators making up approximately 80-90 centuries, most being in the first class. Senators did not directly vote for magistrates in the senate but could vote within their Century. Wealth centuries always voted first, influencing the rest of the centuries significantly. Therefore, the wealthiest Roman Centuries often decided who would be the magistrates. In both consul and praetor elections, every Century would cast votes for as many positions as available.

For instance, there would always be two consul candidates, so each Century would cast two votes for consulship. The candidates with the most votes from the centuries would become the next consuls or praetors. However, dictators were not chosen by *Comitia Centuriata* as it was not a constant event. Instead, a consul would nominate

a candidate for dictator, often consulting the Senate. In times of absolute need, a consul could fully appoint a dictator (Lintott, 1999; Boatwright et al., 2004).

Any other magistrates not mentioned will not be included in the committee to keep the flow of the committee.

IV. BEING A SENATOR IN SENATUS ROMANUS

So it begins, the Roman Senate; in this committee all of you will be impersonating a senator of the Roman Republic in the Roman Senate (Senatus Romanus). Each participant of the committee will have their own character. The character that you have may be real or may not be real so if you cannot find it on the internet do not panic. It will not matter much who your character is, though it is crucial to memorize your character's qualifications such as age, wealth, the general location of their wealth and their origin (whether he is a plebeian or a patrician etc). Since the Roman Senate had groups within it it's important that you know who to trust, who to agree and who to disagree but do not just disagree or agree based on the other senator's persona. Always remember the Romans nearly always followed their traditions so this is the case for the senate as well. They always respected their elders and oftentimes let them speak first since most of the time the senate is in an open debate structure. It's crucial to respect your fellow senators especially the elder ones because it will have consequences in the committee if you do not respect the traditions and show the proper respect to your fellow senators, it will also plug the flow of the committee's debates as well. As you act as a senator in this committee, always remember that you have a responsibility toward your country, your roots and of course yourself.

You as a human of course want to protect your wealth and life. While this may sound simple, there will be events and crises in the committee that will affect you in a way that you will be forced to make a choice between the good of the country and its people or yourself. While of course you are allowed to do and believe whatever you deem proper, remember that your duties, also remember that you are a senator and always stay in character. Now let's move on to the structure of the committee.

Now you may have guessed it, this is not your everyday Model United Nations committee so it will have major differences. Although this is a crisis committee it will not be your everyday crisis committee as well. If you are new to crisis committees you have to know a few things. As a delegate of course you will debate with your fellow delegates and chairs there is a mechanic called updates which will be provided to your committee by your crisis members (most times) which can vary on a lot of topics. It may change the date of the committee, the weather, information about your

enemies or betrayal within etc. This will allow the flow of the committee to progress and continue. While you will also make debates about these new updates, you can also write directives about it which I will mention how to write one briefly, it will be explained to you with details before the committee. There are a few types of directives, but they all have the same purpose which is taking action. For example, as a senator you have personal wealth and you want to make an expenditure by yourself, build something, send someone somewhere, kill someone, kidnap someone, hire someone etc. During this committee there will be times to make magistrate elections which will be explained with more details in the section III.B. of this guide. Elected Consuls and praetors will leave the committee and they will leave for battle. They will make plans and take actions toward Roman Republic's enemies (when necessary). They will also lead armies, make battle plans, govern certain parts of the country (if they deem fit). For a senator (a delegate) who wants to become a Magistrate in the next turn of service, there are a few steps they have to take. First of all, they will have to fit the requirements of the role. For example, in order for anyone to become a Consul they have to be at least 42 years old etc.

These requirements are explained with details in the section III.B. of this guide. Then the Senator has to apply for candidacy via Comitia Centuriata and afterward they should (if they want to get elected) campaign a lot about their candidacy which may include making public speeches,

visiting the wealthy and old people of the country and of course they have to persuade the country (at least the people who vote in the Comitia Centuriata) to see him as a proper candidate and vote for him. It is vital to keep in mind that Romans are a people of tradition. They were a nation that always sought glory and conquest. In order for you to understand, the Romans also note that they were a fierce nation. They did not tolerate the people who had crucial roles within the country that were cowardly and weak. They mostly faced their enemies (historically) head on but that does not mean that they lacked tactics and strategies. This may statistically indicate that they generally supported candidates who seek to solve problems head on (mostly enemies) though of course if you can convince the people otherwise it is possible enough to give it a try.

Well since all actions have certain consequences; the Magistrates who had served their term resulting in unsuccessful outcomes and causing significant casualties, losing crucial grounds or major cities etc. will have to answer to the *Senatus Romanus*. Depending on the magnitude of the losses, the Magistrates who were unsuccessful could face certain consequences which may even include exile and execution. Although this was not a common event a Magistrate (especially Consuls) could in fact face these results after their terms of service.

As I said before you always have to remember that you are a Senator of the *Senatus Romanus* since you will have to act and think like one as much as possible. In order for the Roman Senate committee to win the Second Punic War in our alternative history you will have to think like a Roman of the time. If you research and try to prevent certain events that occurred in history, other counter events will take place in our alternative history. It is called META and even though you could do it, since it would be out of the roleplay and our alternative history, it will have dire results for the committee and yourselves.

So, always try to improvise your plan rather than try to look it up on Google. That of course does not mean that you shouldn't research about the committee please, be my guest because if you do not know the conditions, strategies, technology and tactics of the time, you will have a hard time understanding the necessities of the committee.

REFERENCES

- Lintott, A. (1999). *The constitution of the Roman Republic*. OUP Oxford.
- Boatwright, M. T., Gargola, D. J., & Talbert, R. J. A. (2004). *The Romans: From Village to Empire*. Oxford University Press.
- Forsythe, G., & Fronda, M. P. (2005). A critical history of early Rome: from prehistory to the first Punic War. *Aestimatio: Sources and Studies in the History of Science*, 2, 94-103.
- Smith, W. (1857). *A dictionary of Greek and Roman antiquities*. Harper & brothers.
- McGing, B. C. (2010). *Polybius' Histories*. Oxford University Press.
- Cicero, M. T. (2017). *Cicero: On the commonwealth and on the laws*. Cambridge University Press.
- Siculus, D. (1868). *Bibliotheca historica* (Vol. 5). Teubner.
- Cartwright, M. (2014). Roman Naval Warfare. *Ancient History Encyclopedia*, 13.
- Farina, W. (2014). *Perpetua of Carthage: Portrait of a third-century Martyr*. McFarland.
- Hunt, P. (2017). *Hannibal*. Simon and Schuster.
- Goldsworthy, A. (2012). *The Fall of Carthage: The Punic Wars 265-146BC*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
- Elliott, A. M. (2018). The Role of the Roman Navy in the Second Punic War. *Studia Historica. Historia Antigua*, 36, 5-29.
- Albarède, F., Blichert-Toft, J., Rivoal, M., & Telouk, P. (2016). A glimpse into the Roman finances of the Second Punic War through silver isotopes. *Geochemical Perspectives Letters*, 2(2), 127-37.
- Wasson, D. L. (2013). Roman Daily Life. V *Ancient History Encyclopedia. Pridobljeno*, 29, 2016.
- Edmondson, J. (2016). mines and mining, Roman. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Classics*.
- Gnam, C. (2015, November 9). Hannibal and the Second Punic War. Retrieved May 9, 2024, from Warfare History Network website: <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/hannibal-and-the-second-punic-war/>