

Contents

Abbreviations		xiii
Maps		xv
Prologue		1
I. Before 264		5
1. The Romans and the Carthaginians	5	
2. Two treaties, and one fake	7	
3. Pyrrhus' war	11	
II. Preparations for War?		17
1. Post-Pyrrhic consolidations	17	
2. Plans for a war?	19	
3. The Romans and Sicily	28	
III. The Mamertine Appeal		33
1. Difficulties with dates	33	
2. The ungrateful Mamertines	40	
IV. Debating the Appeal		47
1. The Mamertines' <i>deditio</i>	47	
2. The Romans' debates	51	
3. The Roman war-aims in 264	53	
4. Course of the debates	57	
5. Time-span of the debates	64	
V. The Punic-Syracusan Alliance		67
1. Messina vacated	67	
2. Alliance of old foes	73	
VI. An Unwanted War		82
1. Appius at the straits: discrepant sources	82	
2. Appius' offer of talks	86	
3. The sea-fight and aftermath	88	
4. Crossing to Messina	91	
5. Appius in battle	93	

VII.	Escalation		100
	1. Ap. Claudius against Syracuse	100	
	2. Valerius and Otacilius against Syracuse	104	
	3. Valerius in the west	108	
VIII.	From Enmity to Goodwill		116
	1. Wartime talks	116	
	2. The peace of Lutatius	118	
	3. A season of goodwill	123	
	4. Family politics in the 230s and 220s?	127	
IX.	The Rape of Sardinia		132
	1. How it was done	132	
	2. Why it was done	140	
X.	Imaginary Confrontations in the 230s		144
	1. Fictional clashes	144	
	2. Envoys to Hamilcar?	147	
XI.	Hasdrubal's Accord		150
	1. The Barcid ascendancy	150	
	2. The accord with Hasdrubal: date	154	
	3. The accord: arguments about content	158	
	4. The aim of the accord: competing views	166	
XII.	Saguntum		174
	1. Friendship or alliance?	175	
	2. The Saguntine connexion: date	178	
	3. Saguntines in crisis	184	
	4. The Saguntines' neighbours	187	
	5. Saguntines request arbitration	191	
	6. The Romans arbitrate	193	
XIII.	Hannibal and the Ambassadors		196
	1. The embassy of 220: aims	196	
	2. Disputed datings	202	
	3. The Roman démarche	204	
	4. The ambassadors at Carthage	212	
XIV.	Saguntum Besieged		219
	1. The Saguntines on their own	219	
	2. The Romans in debate	226	

Contents

xi

XV.	War to Save Face		233
	1. The ultimatum	233	
	2. Could the embassy declare war?	240	
	3. Roman envoys to Punic senate	244	
	4. Punic senate to Roman envoys	248	
	5. War declared	254	
	6. From diplomacy to warfare, 218 B.C.	255	
XVI.	Conclusions		260
	1. A Roman expansionist war?	260	
	2. Punic plans and prospects	265	
	3. Punic wars and Roman imperialism	270	
	4. Avoidable wars?	274	
XVII.	The Major Sources		280
	1. Lost accounts	280	
	2. Surviving sources	282	
	3. Bias and inaccuracies the problem of Polybius	284	
	4. Problems with the later sources	291	
	Bibliography		297
	Index I. Names and Topics		315
	Index II. Passages Cited		321

