

Saints & Sinners Going for Gold

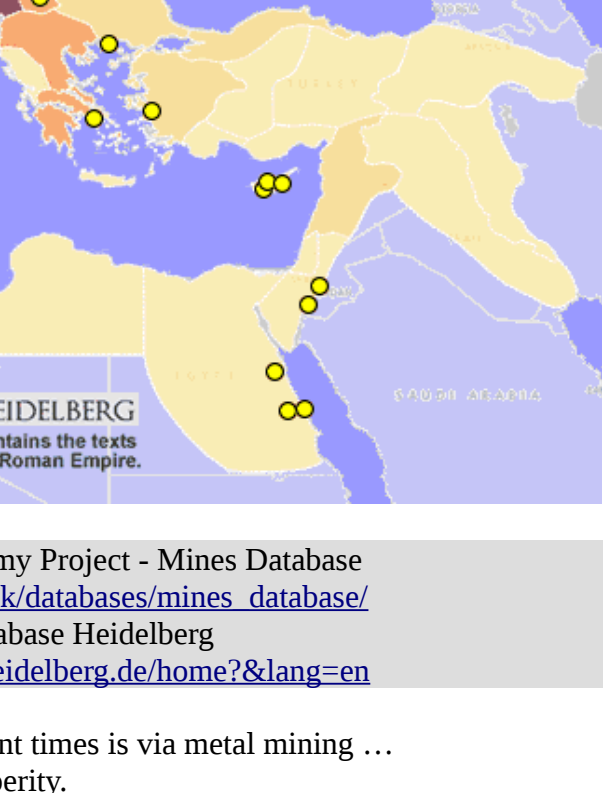


Las Médulas Gold
Museo del Bierzo, Ponferrada, Castile and León, Spain

8th July 2023

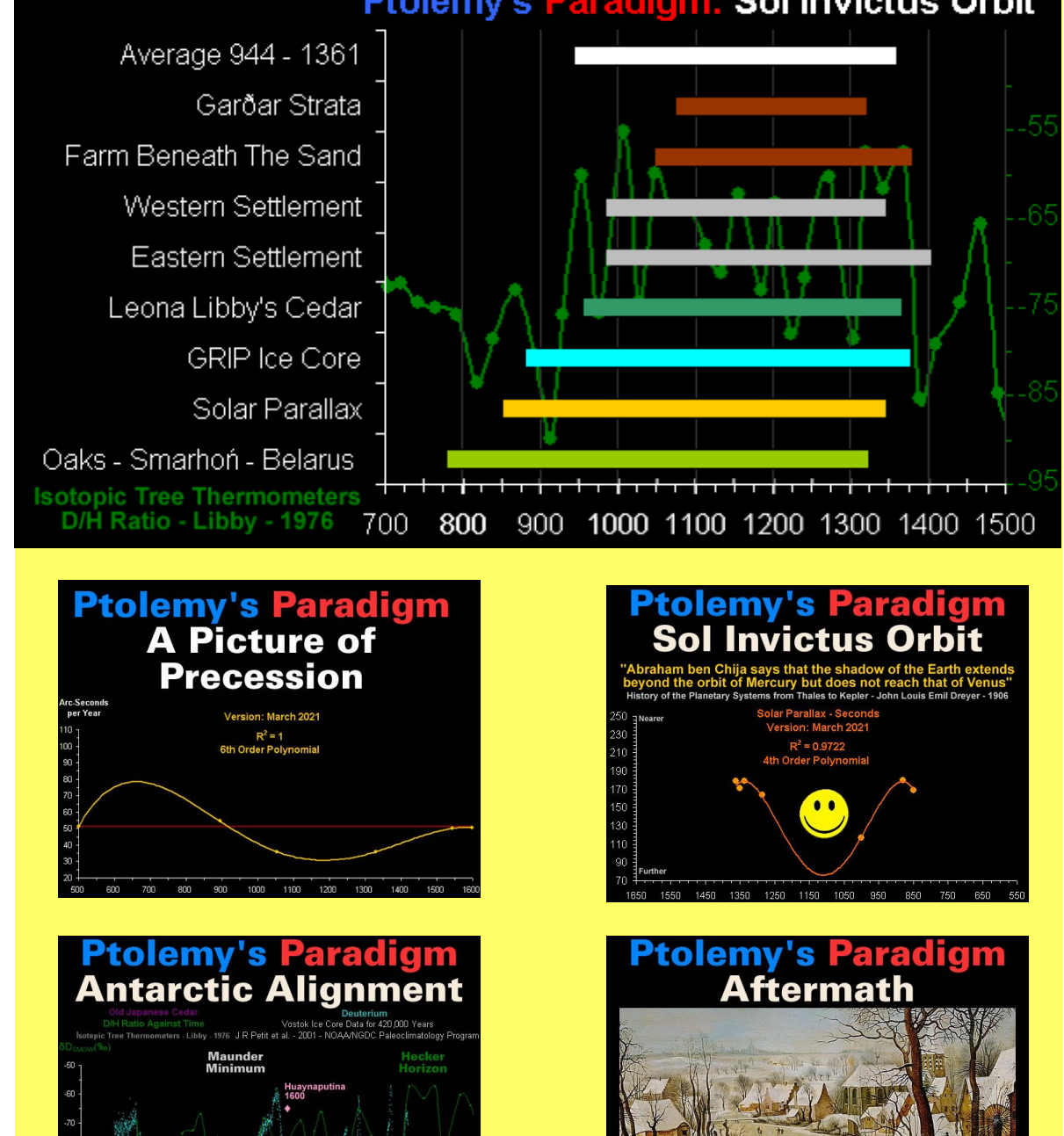
This is the *follow the money* narrative of an obscure and impoverished Italian city around which the West has established a foundational *moral mirage* that's maintained by a *grubby academic grift*.

The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
Edward Emily Gibbon
Six Volumes
1776 - 1788



Edward Gibbon - 1779 - Joshua Reynolds

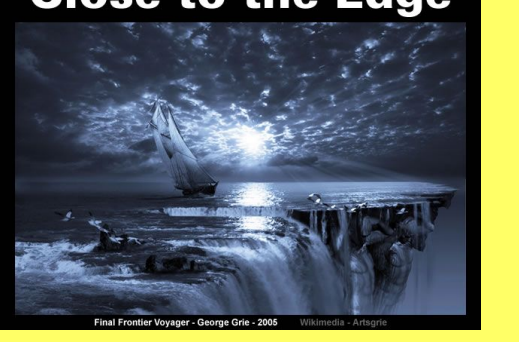
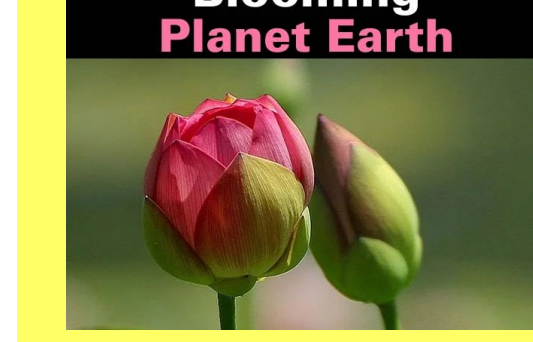
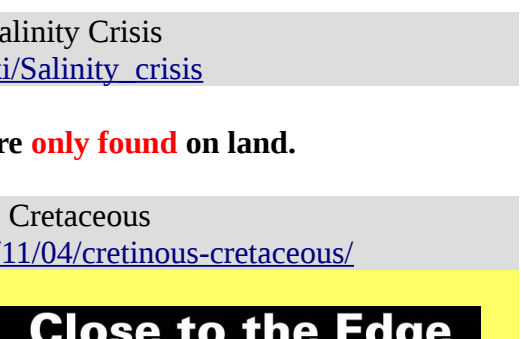
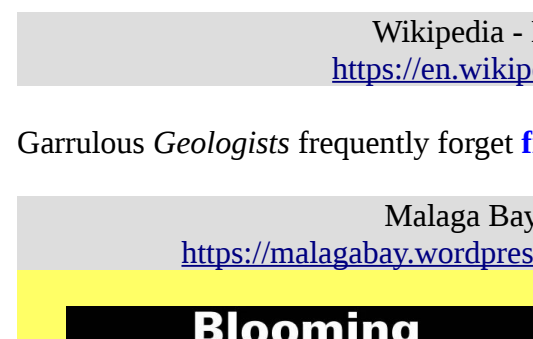
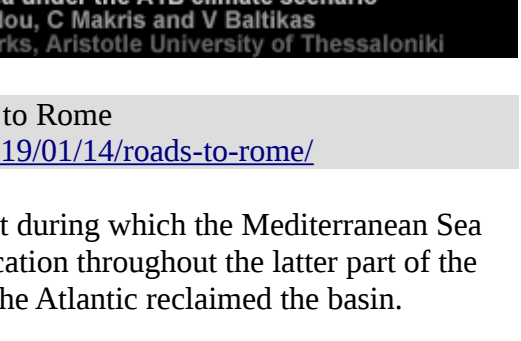
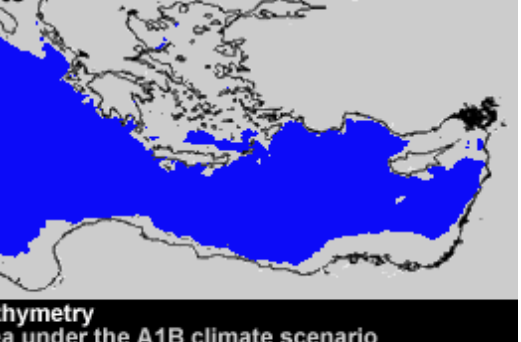
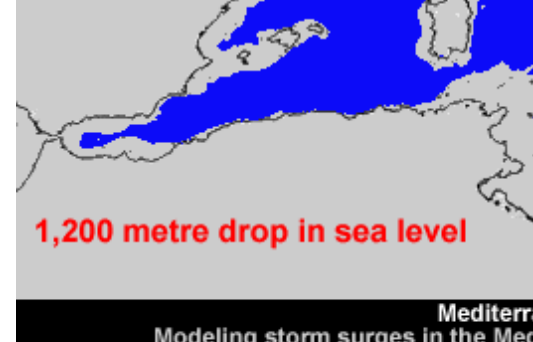
Wikipedia - Edward Gibbon
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Gibbon



An alternate way to *follow the money* in ancient times is via metal mining ... and **Italy possessed very little** (natural) prosperity.

Malaga Bay - The Great Splice
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2018/09/28/the-great-splice/>

This *follow the money* narrative covers the 500 year long *Southern Hemisphere Summer* between ~900 and ~1400 CE that's called *The Roman Warm Period* and/or *The Medieval Warm Period*.



This *follow the money* narrative also bridges the gap between the *Old World of shallow inland seas* and the *New World of deep ocean basins*.



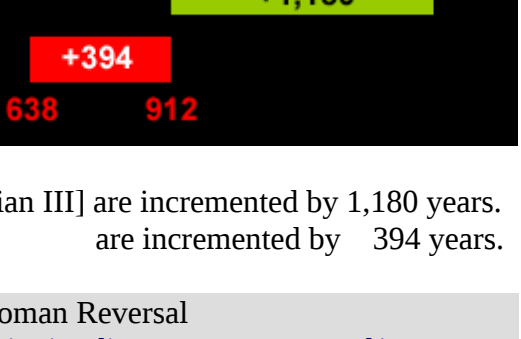
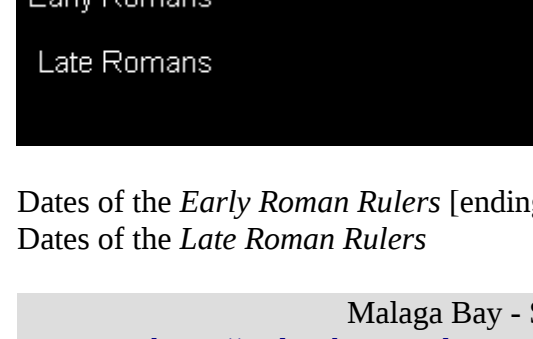
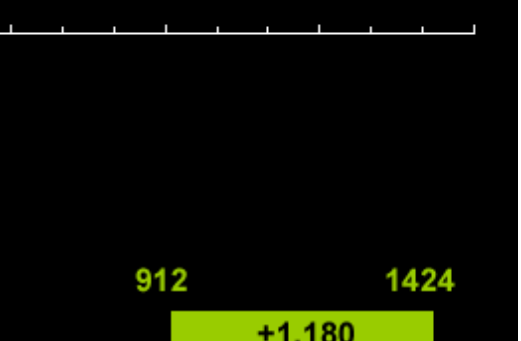
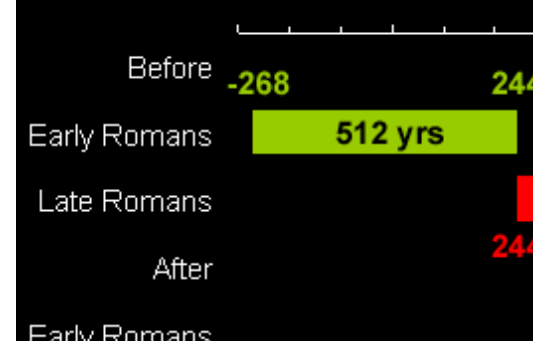
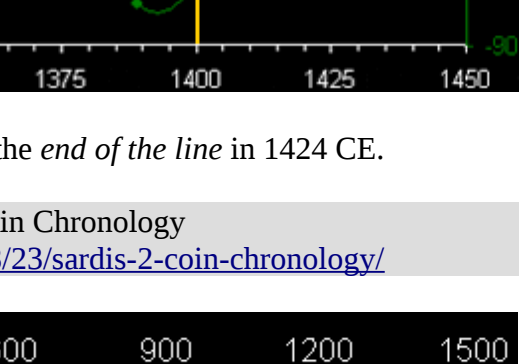
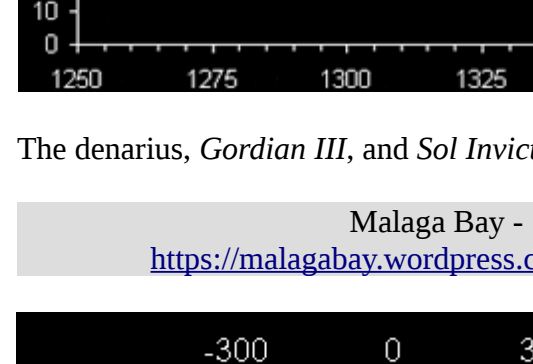
Malaga Bay - Roads to Rome
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2019/01/14/roads-to-rome/>

The **Messinian salinity crisis** was a geological event during which the Mediterranean Sea went into a cycle of partial or nearly complete desiccation throughout the latter part of the Messinian age of the Miocene ... It ended ... when the Atlantic reclaimed the basin.

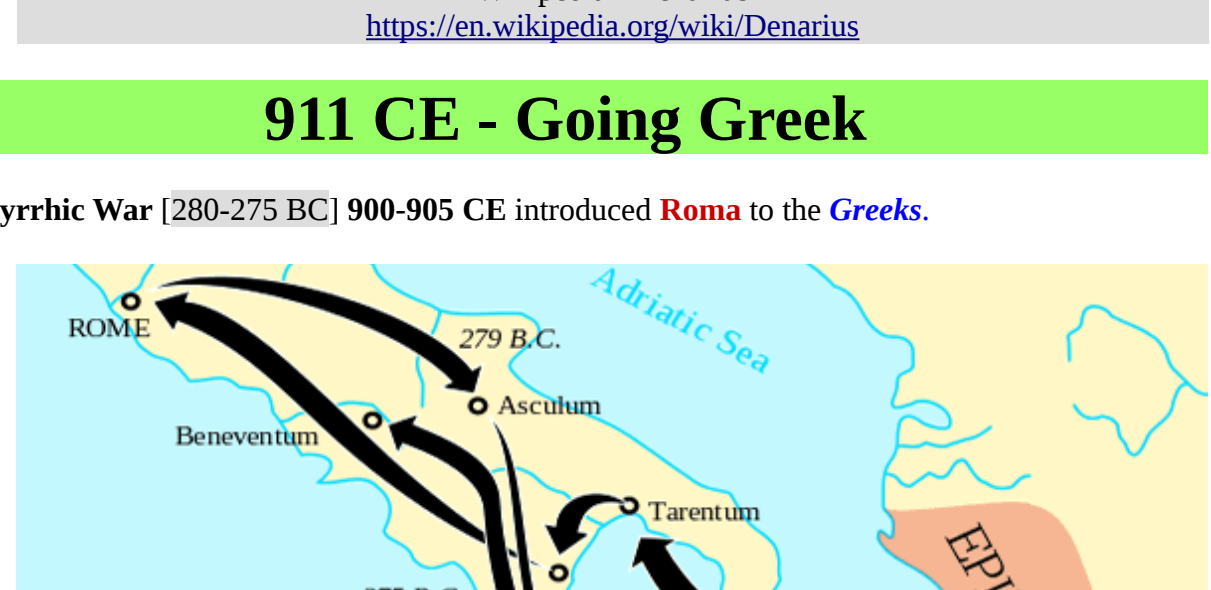
Wikipedia - Messinian Salinity Crisis
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messinian_Salinity_Crisis

Garrulous Geologists frequently forget **fish fossils are only found on land**.

Malaga Bay - Cretinuous Cretaceous
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2019/11/04/cretinuous-cretaceous/>

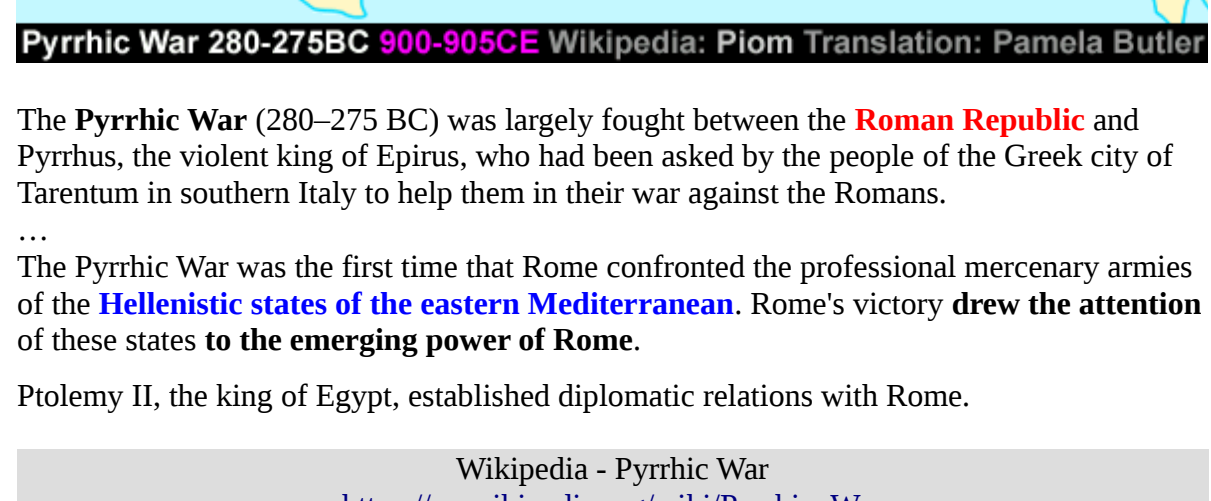


Unscrambling the mainstream storyline involves adjusting the dates up to 244 AD by +1180 years. These date adjustments are formatted in the following manner: [220 AD] 1400 CE.



The denarius, Gordian III, and Sol Invictus came to the end of the line in 1424 CE.

Malaga Bay - Sardis 2: Coin Chronology
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2021/10/25/sardis-2-coin-chronology/>



Dates of the **Early Roman Rulers** [ending with Gordian III] are incremented by 1,180 years. Dates of the **Late Roman Rulers** are incremented by 394 years.

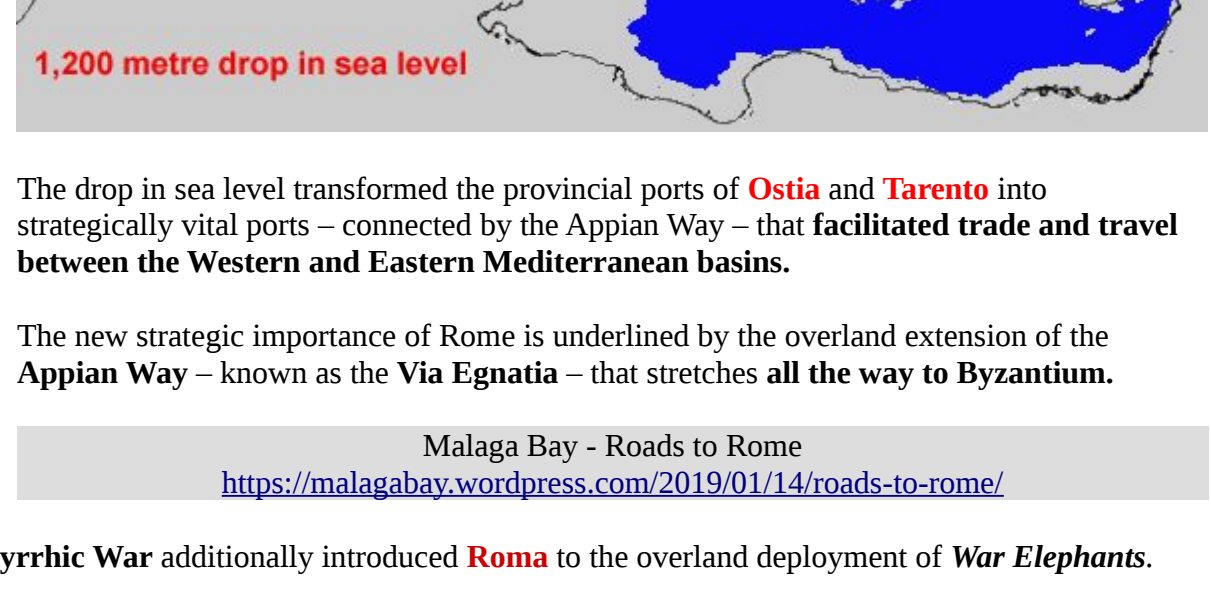
Malaga Bay - Sardis 12: Roman Reversal
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2021/10/25/sardis-12-roman-reversal/>

A predecessor of the denarius was first struck in 269 or 268 BC, five years before the First Punic War, with an average weight of 6.81 grams ...

Wikipedia - Denarius
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denarius>

911 CE - Going Greek

The Pyrrhic War [280-275 BC] 900-905 CE introduced **Roma** to the **Greeks**.



Pyrrhic War 280-275 BC 900-905 CE Wikipedia: Plom Translation: Pamela Butler

The **Pyrrhic War** (280–275 BC) was largely fought between the **Roman Republic** and Pyrrhus, the violent king of Epirus, who had been asked by the people of the Greek city of Tarentum in southern Italy to help them in their war against the Romans.

... The Pyrrhic War was the first time that Rome confronted the professional mercenary armies of the **Hellenistic states of the eastern Mediterranean**. Rome's victory **drew the attention** of these states to the **emerging power of Rome**.

Ptolemy II, the king of Egypt, established diplomatic relations with Rome.

Wikipedia - Pyrrhic War
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrrhic_War

It was, of course, Rome's war against that infamous Hellenistic condottiere king Pyrrhus of Epirus in 280 **to 275 that finally brought Rome fully into the purview of Hellenistic international relations**.

Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Warfare - Volume 1 - 2008
Edited by Philip Sabin, Hans Van Wees And Michael Whitby
<https://archive.org/details/CambridgeHistoryOfGreekAndRomanWarfareV1/page/n346/mode/1up>

The **Pyrrhic War** also introduced **Roma** to her newly acquired strategic importance.



The drop in sea level transformed the provincial ports of **Ostia** and **Tarento** into strategically vital ports – connected by the Apennian Way – that facilitated trade and travel between the Western and Eastern Mediterranean basins.

The new strategic importance of Rome is underlined by the overland extension of the **Apennian Way** – known as the **Via Egnatia** – that stretches all the way to Byzantium.

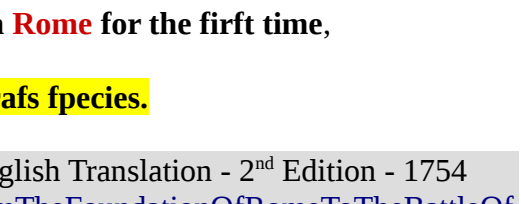
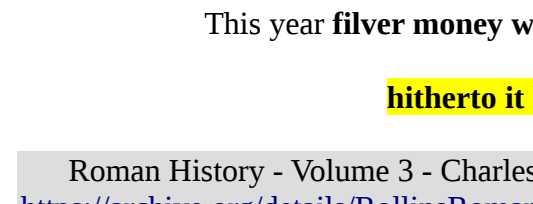
Malaga Bay - Sardis 2019 to Rome
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2019/01/14/roads-to-rome/>

The **Pyrrhic War** additionally introduced **Roma** to the overland deployment of **War Elephants**.



King Pyrrhus of Epirus brought **twenty elephants** to attack Roman Italy at the battle of Heraclaea in 280 BC, leaving some fifty additional animals, on loan from Ptolemaic Pharaoh Ptolemy II, on the mainland. The Romans were unprepared for fighting elephants, and the Epirot forces routed the Romans.

Wikipedia - War Elephant
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_elephant



Roma was so taken with the **Greeks** she minted silver **didrachms** from about [269 BC] 911 CE.



Roman Republic - AR Didrachm 7.29g - c.280-276 BC - Metapontum mint
Hd. of Mars I. wearing Corinthian helmet, oak-spray behind
Rv. ROMANO. Horse hd. r., corn-ear behind
WildWinds - RSC 3 - GR 13/r - BMCRR, Romano-Campanian, 1

WildWinds - Roman Republican Coinage - Pre-Denarius.html
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/rsc/pre-denarius.html>

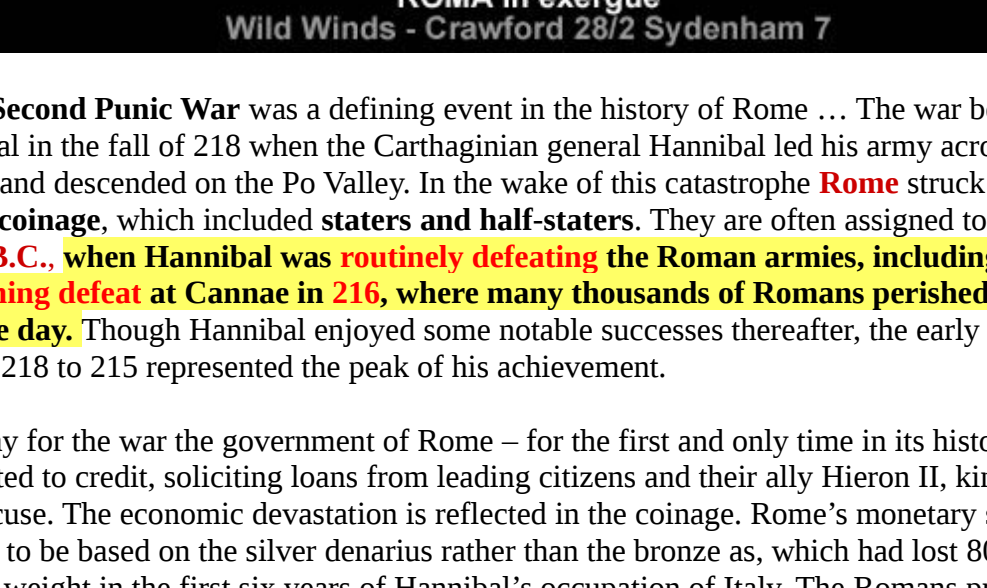
In setting out from the established date of 269 for the first Roman silver we shall have the inestimable advantage of a firm foundation on fact, not theory.

We shall have to part - at times, reluctantly - with some time-honoured views, with that of **Eckhel**, for example, about a 'Romano-Campanian' coinage. That is great scholar **thought**, very strangely, that **all the early Roman didrachms were struck in south Italy** and were hardly strictly Roman at all; 'were it not for the name, no one would take them for Roman coins.'

Roman Coins - Harold Mattingly - 1928
<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.282729/page/n15/mode/1up>

The **Ancient Drachm** was an ancient currency unit issued by many **Greek city states** during a period of ten centuries, from the Archaic period through the Classical period, the Hellenistic period up to the Roman period under Greek Imperialism. ... The drachma was **unique to each city state** that minted them, and were sometimes circulated all over the Mediterranean. ... The **Arabic** unit of currency known as **the dirham**, known from pre-Islamic times and afterwards, **inherited its name from the drachma or didrachm**; the dirham is still the name of the official currencies of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.

Wikipedia - Ancient Drachma
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drachm>



Anonymous - AR Didrachm - Roman Republic - Circa 275-270 BC
ROMANO, laureate head of Apollo left / horse galloping right; star of sixteen rays above
WildWinds - Crawford 44/2 Bahrfeldt 4a Sydenham 226

A predecessor of the denarius was first struck in 269 or 268 BC ...

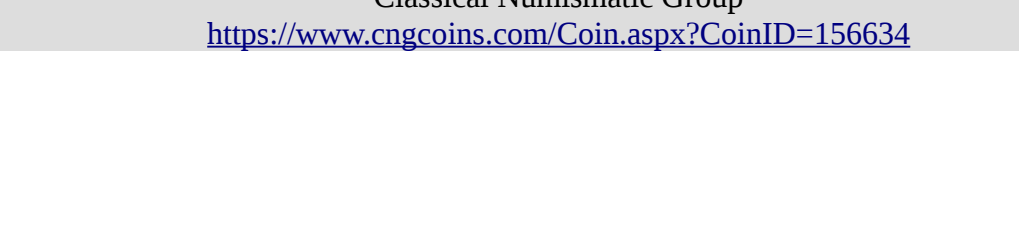
Wikipedia - Denarius
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denarius>

Q. Ogulnius Gallus. A.R. 269
C. Fabius Pictor. A.R.C. 483

This year **silver money** was coined in **Rome** for the first time, whereas **hitherto it had only brass pieces**.

Roman History - Volume 3 - Charles Rollin - English Translation - 2nd Edition - 1754
[https://archive.org/details/RollinsRomanHistoryFromTheFoundationOfRomeToTheBattleOfActium-Vol.3/page/n403/mode/1up](https://archive.org/details/RollinsRomanHistoryFromTheFoundationOfRomeToTheBattleOfActium/RollinsRomanHistoryFromTheFoundationOfRomeToTheBattleOfActium-Vol.3/page/n403/mode/1up)

Officially, **Roma** was so enamoured with the **Greeks** she minted her very first gold coins in the form of **Greek** stater and half-staters between [218 and 208 BC] 962 and 972 CE.



Roman Republic - AV Half Stater equal to 60 asses - c.211-208 BC - 3.37 gm
Bearded Mars right with Corinthian helmet; behind mark of value LX (= 60)
Eagle right on thunderbolt, wings open. ROMA below.
Wild Winds - Crawford 44/2 Bahrfeldt 4a Sydenham 226

Wild Winds - Sear Roman Coins Number 3
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/sear/s0003.html>

The **stater** was an ancient coin used in various regions of **Greece** ... as a Greek silver currency, first as ingots, and later as coins, circulated from the 8th century BC to AD 50 ... According to Robin Lane Fox, the **stater** as a **weight unit** was **borrowed** by the Euboean stater weighing 16.8 grams (0.54 oz) **from the Phoenician shekel**, which had about the same weight as a stater (7.0 g, 0.23 oz) and was also one-fifth of a mina.

Wikipedia - Stater
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stater>

The as ... bronze, and later copper, coin ... during the Roman Republic and Roman Empire.

Wikipedia - As
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As_\(Roman_coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As_(Roman_coin))

Circa 225-212 BC - AV Half-Stater - 15mm 3.44 g 5h - Rome mint
Laureate, janiform head of Dioscuri / Oath-taking scene: youth kneeling left, head right, holding a pig between two warriors, one Roman and the other representing the Italian allies, standing facing each other, holding spears and touching with their swords a sacrificial pig held by a youth kneeling left; ROMA in exergue
Wild Winds - Crawford 28/2 Sydenham 7

The **Second Punic War** was a defining event in the history of Rome ... The war became critical in the fall of 218 when the Carthaginian general Hannibal led his army across the Alps and descended on the Po Valley. In the wake of this catastrophe **Rome** struck its first gold coinage, which included **staters** and **half-staters**. They are often assigned to c. 218-216 B.C., when **Hannibal was routinely defeating the Roman armies**, including a **crushing defeat at Cannae in 216**, where many thousands of Romans perished in a single day. Though Hannibal enjoyed some notable successes thereafter, the early period from 218 to 215 represented the peak of his achievement.

To pay for the war the government of Rome – for the first and only time in its history – resorted to credit, soliciting loans from leading citizens and their ally Hieron II, king of Syracuse. The economic devastation is reflected in the coinage. Rome's monetary system came to be based on the silver denarius rather than the bronze as, which had lost 80 percent of its weight in the first six years of Hannibal's occupation of Italy. The Romans produced a gold coinage twice during this war: the early series, to which this coin belongs, and the Mars head-standing eagle gold coins of 60, 40 and 20 asses struck c. 211-208 B.C.

Beyond these, the Romans struck no other gold until the Imperial period, beginning with aurei for Sulla in the late 80s B.C.

Classical Numismatic Group, LLC (CNG)
<https://www.cngcoins.com/Coin.aspx?CoinID=79712>

However, given:

- The very characteristic **Carthaginian** grid of dots embossed on the coins
- The minting of the very first gold coins during the **Carthaginian** invasion
- The routine and crushing defeats experienced at the hands of the **Carthaginians**
- The remarkably ambiguous [aka subject to interpretation] **oath taking** scene coins

It seems far more likely these coins are **Carthaginian**.

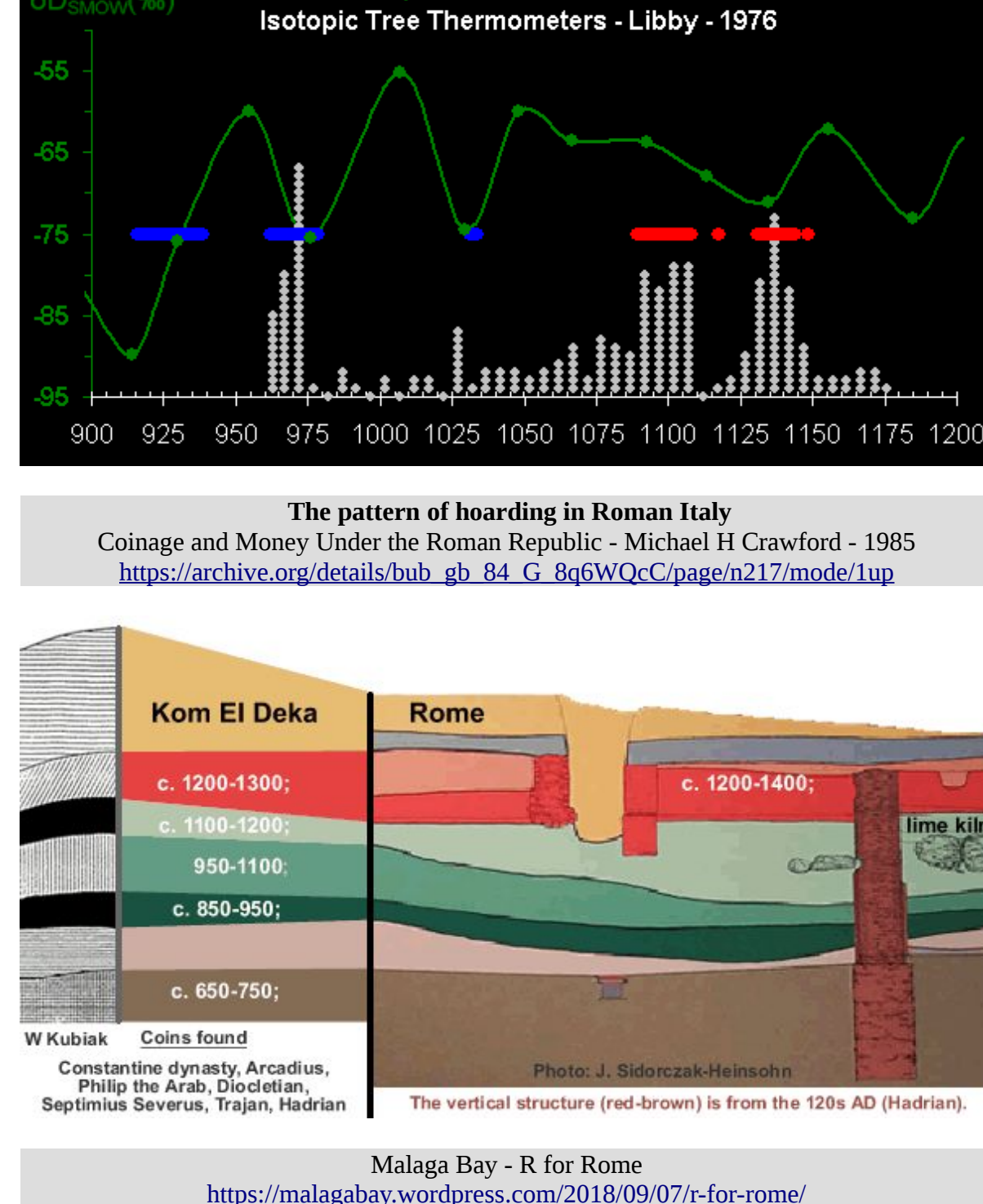
CARTHAGE - Circa 310-290 BC - Electrum Stater - 17mm 7.41g 12h
Wreathed head of Tanit left
Horse standing right on double ground line; pellet to right
Jenkins & Lewis group V; MAA 12; SNG Copenhagen
Classical Numismatic Group
<https://www.cngcoins.com/Coin.aspx?CoinID=156634>

Classical Numismatic Group
<https://www.cngcoins.com/Coin.aspx?CoinID=156634>

969 CE - Going Carthaginian

Either way:

It appears **Mother Nature** was involved in the **Punic Wars** between **Roma** and **Carthage**.



The pattern of hoarding in Roman Italy
Coinage and Money Under the Roman Republic - Michael H Crawford - 1985
https://archive.org/details/pub_gb_84_C_8q6WQc/page/n217/mode/lup



Malaga Bay - R for Rome
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2018/09/07/r-for-rome/>

The **Punic Wars** ... between **264** and **146 BC** fought between Rome and Carthage ...

The **First Punic War** broke out on the Mediterranean island of Sicily in **264 BC** ...

The **Second Punic War** began in **218 BC** and witnessed the **Carthaginian** general Hannibal's crossing of the Alps and **invasion of mainland Italy**...

The **Third Punic War** ... In **146 BC** the Romans stormed the city of **Carthage**, sacked it, slaughtered or enslaved most of its population, and **completely demolished** the city.

Wikipedia - Punic Wars
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punic_wars

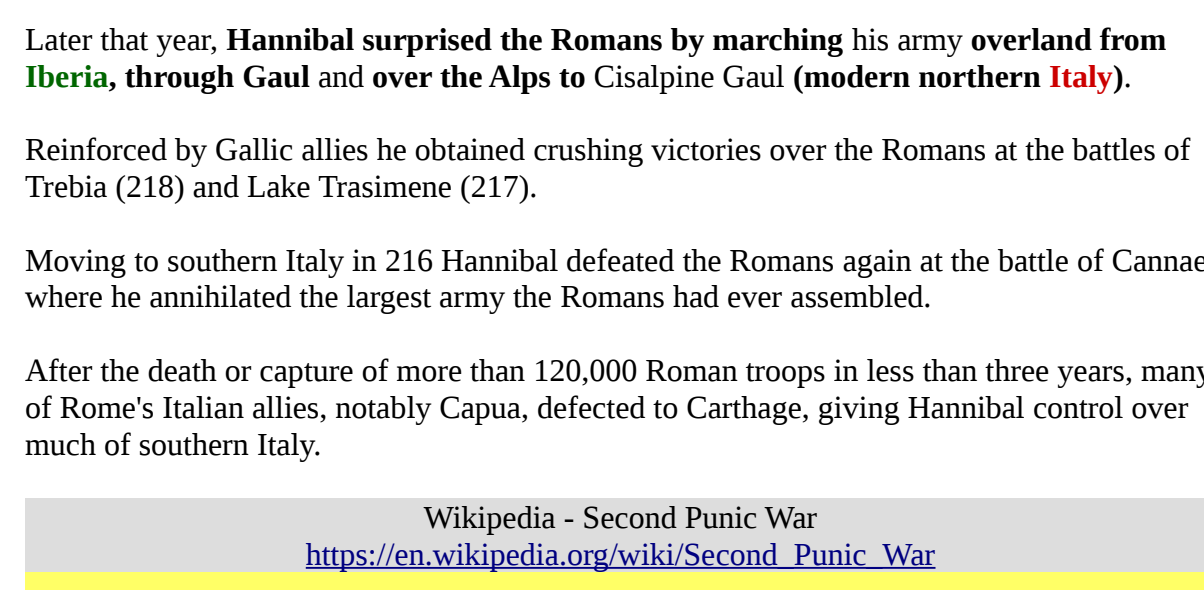
Firstly, the desiccation of Saharan settlements from about [230 BC] **950 CE** provided a strong impetus for the **Carthaginians** to migrate Northwards into Europe.



If the **Lake Meiris** narrative [and chronology] accurately reflects events in Egypt then the draining of surface water and the dropping of ground water levels since [around] **230 BC** will have left many **settlements stranded** [literally] **high and dry**.

Malaga Bay - Enigmatic Egypt: Roman Ruination - Desert
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2018/05/07/enigmatic-egypt-roman-ruination-desert/>

Secondly, it's likely **Mother Nature** **completely demolished Carthage** even though mainstream **historians** proclaim a victory for the **completely defeated Roma**.

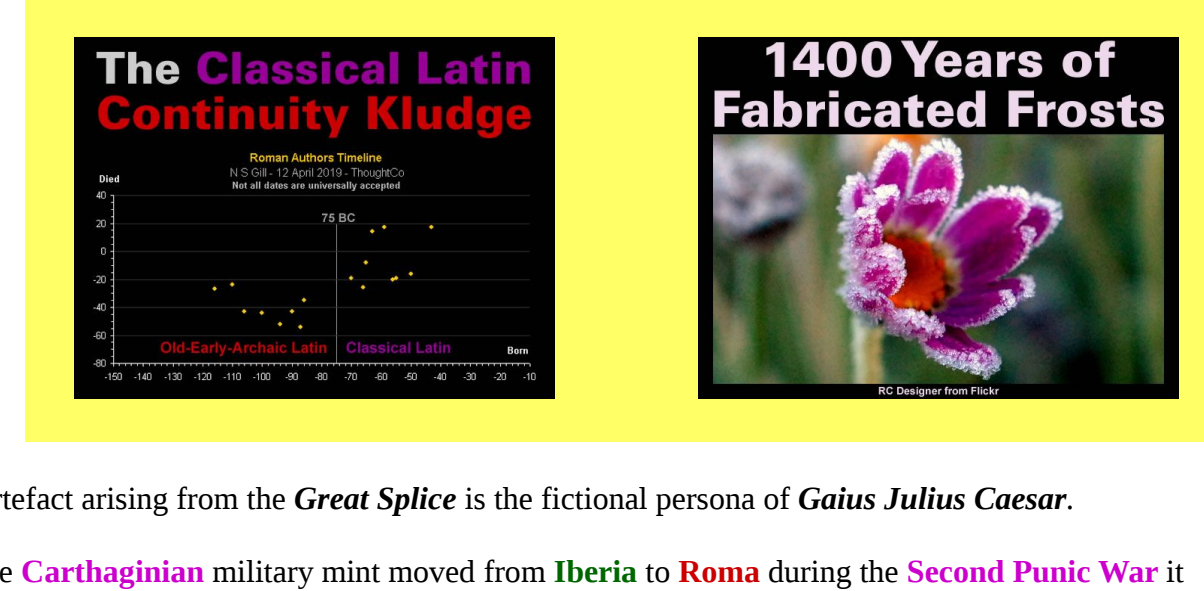


The **Third Punic War** ... was fought entirely on Carthage's territories ... and centred on the siege of Carthage. In **146 BC** the Romans stormed the city of **Carthage**, sacked it, slaughtered or enslaved most of its population, and **completely demolished** the city.

Wikipedia - Punic Wars
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punic_wars

In other words:

The **Second Punic War** [218-201 BC] **962-979 CE** represents the **Great Splice** where Western **academics** reversed the roles of **Roma** and **Carthage** so that the **completely defeated Roma** could emerge as the great imperial power that founded the fictional **Roman Empire** in **history books**.



The **Second Punic War** (218 to 201 BC) was the second of three wars fought between **Carthage** and **Rome** ...

In early 218 BC Rome declared war on Carthage, beginning the Second Punic War.

Later that year, **Hannibal surprised the Romans** by marching his army overland from **Iberia**, through **Gaul** and over the **Alps** to Cisalpine Gaul (**modern northern Italy**).

Reinforced by Gallic allies he obtained crushing victories over the Romans at the battles of Trebia (218) and Lake Trasimene (217).

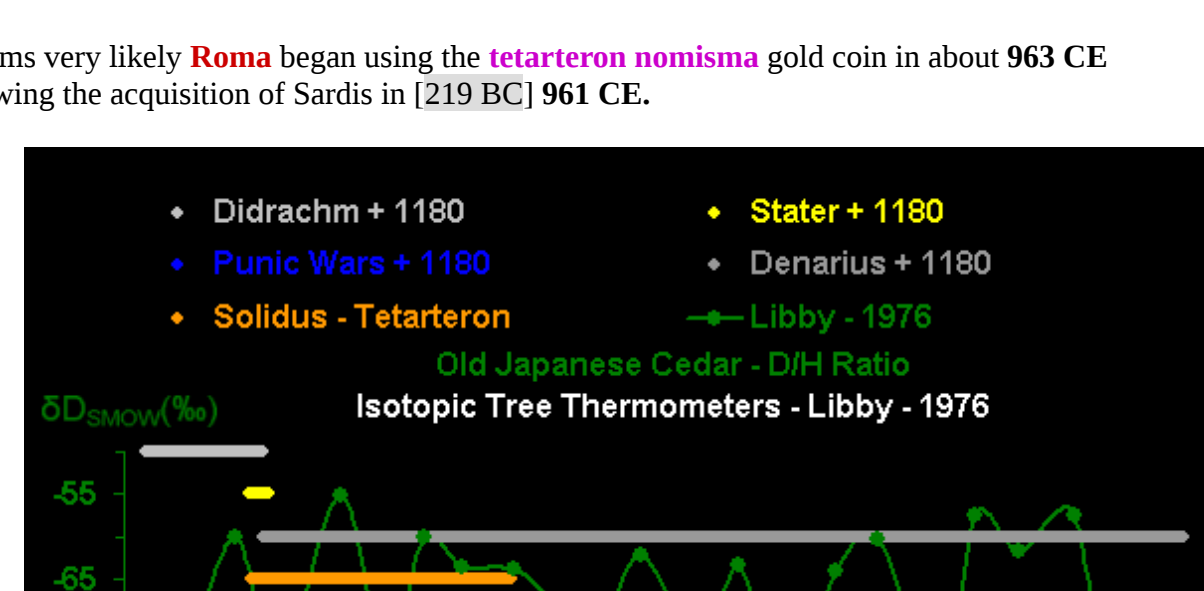
Moving to southern Italy in 216 Hannibal defeated the Romans again at the battle of Cannae, where he annihilated the largest army the Romans had ever assembled.

After the death or capture of more than 120,000 Roman troops in less than three years, many of Rome's Italian allies, notably Capua, defected to Carthage, giving Hannibal control over much of southern Italy.

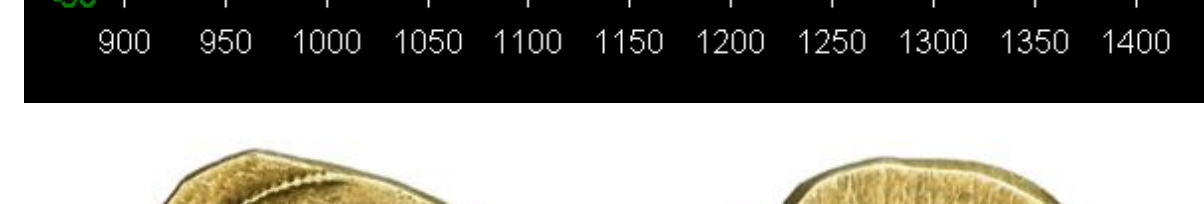
Wikipedia - Second Punic War
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Punic_War

An artefact arising from the **Great Splice** is the fictional persona of **Gaius Julius Caesar**.

As the **Carthaginian** military mint moved from **Iberia** to **Roma** during the **Second Punic War** it produced **CAESAR** embossed coins and these have been **misattributed, misdated, and misused** in the fabrication of the fictional **Roman Empire** narrative.



170 Julius Caesar, 46-45 B.C. AR Denarius.
Military mint traveling with Caesar in Spain.
Diademed head of Venus right; behind shoulder, Cupid, Rv. Trophy with Gallic arms between female and male seated captives. 4.03 grams.



169 Julius Caesar, 49-48 B.C. AR Denarius.
Mint traveling with Caesar in Gaul.
Elephant walking right, trampling serpent. Rv. Priestly implements. 3.71 grams.



Carthaginian or Punic currency refers to the coins of ancient **Carthage**, a Phoenician city-state located near present-day Tunis, Tunisia. ...

During the **Second Punic War**, the **Carthaginians minted coinage** in electrum, silver, bronze and billon in several different theatres.

In North Africa, coinage was minted throughout the war.

Coinage was minted in **Spain** until it was lost to the Romans in 205 BC.

Special coinages were minted for the Carthaginian forces in **southern Italy** under Hannibal from 215 to 210 BC and for the Carthaginian expedition to **Sicily** in 213-210 BC.

Wikipedia - Carthaginian Coinage
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthaginian_coinage

The **Carthaginian** conquest of the previously **Greek Roma** is demonstrated by the design of the **denarius** silver coin in [211 BC] **969 CE**.



AR Denarius - Roman Republic - After 211 BC
Helmsted head of Roma right, with triple earring, spike above visor, X behind the Dioscuri riding right, ROMA in linear frame below WildWinds - Syd 168, CR532

Wild Winds - Sear Roman Coins Number 39
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/sear5/s0039.html>

The 455 year **denarius** chronology officially underpins the **Roman Debasement** narrative and when the **denarius** chronology adjustment of 1180 years is applied to the **denarius** chronology it's official date of introduction in **211 BC** moves forward to **969 CE** ...

Malaga Bay - Synchronicity
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2023/06/23/synchronicity/>

The **denarius**, which became the main silver coin of Rome for over four centuries, was introduced in **211 BC** or a few years earlier ...

Wikipedia - Roman Republican Currency
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Republican_coinage

The **denarius** was the standard Roman silver coin from its **introduction in the Second Punic War c. 211 BC** to the reign of Gordian III (**AD 238-244**) ...

Wikipedia - Denarius
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denarius>

At this point the mainstream assert **Roma stopped** minting gold coins until the late [80s BC] **1090s**.

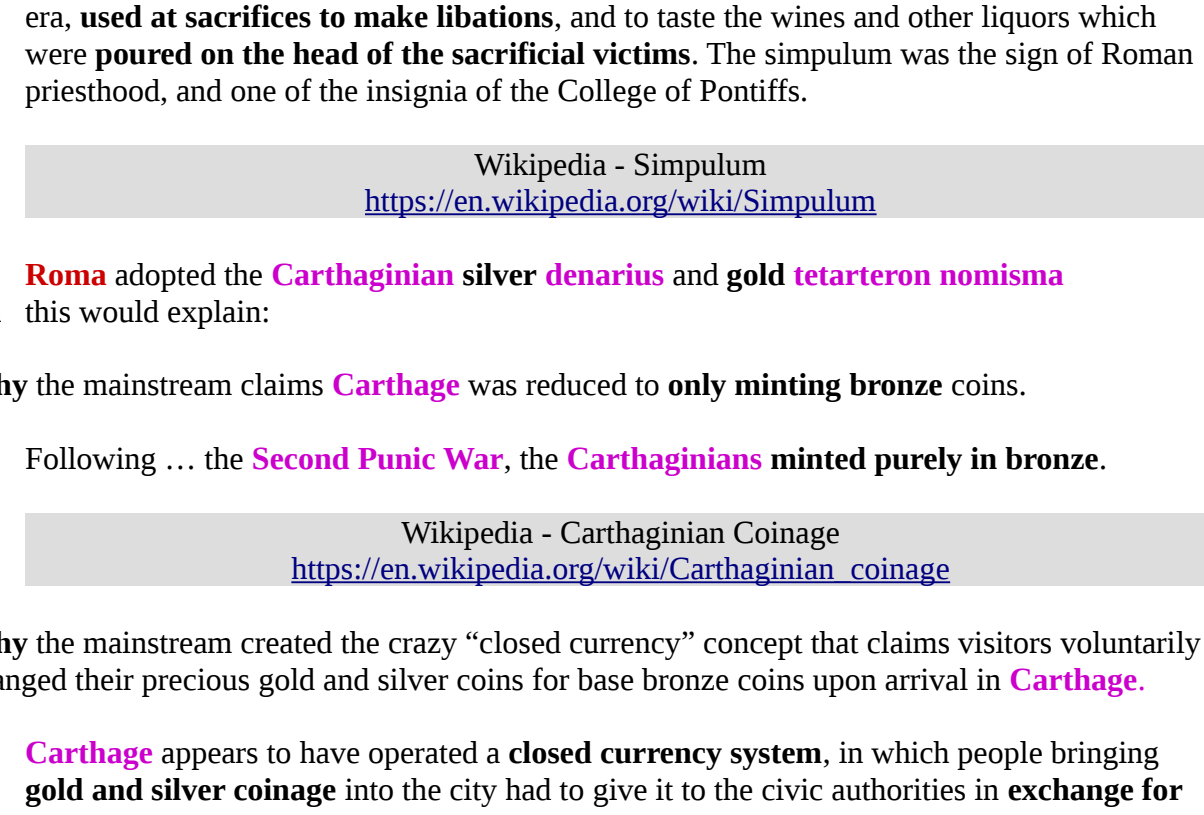
... **Rome** struck its **first gold coinage**, which included **staters** and **half-staters**. They are often assigned to c. **218-216 B.C.** ... the Mars head/standing eagle gold coins of 60, 40, and 20 asses struck c. **211-208 B.C.** ...

Beyond these, the Romans struck **no other gold until** the Imperial period, beginning with aurei for Sulla in the **late 80s B.C.**

Classical Numismatic Group, LLC (CNG)
<https://www.cngcoins.com/Coins.aspx?CoinID=79712>

Alternatively:

It follows very likely **Roma** was using the **tetarteron nomisma** gold coin in about **963 CE** following the acquisition of Sardinia in [219 BC] **961 CE**.



AV Tetarteron Nomisma
Romanus IV - Diogenes - 1068-1071 AD - Constantinople - 4.00 g
+QKE ROHV, Bust of Mary facing, holding before her the nimbate infant Christ whose head is facing, MP-QV to left and right.
+RWMAN S EVDK, facing, half-length busts of Romanus, bearded, on left, wearing loros, and Eudokia on right, wearing jewelled robe with broad collar, both crowned and holding between them a tall cross on globe. WildWinds - DOC 3; Sear 1862

Wild Winds - Byzantine Empire Coinage of Romanus IV
https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/byz/romanus_IV/t.html

In the reign of Nicephorus II (963-9) the **solidus** was divided into **two distinct forms**. One, known as the **histanomen nomisma**, preserved the ancient standards, although it became broader and thinner in shape and from the 1040s was distinctly concave.

The other, the **tetarteron nomisma**, was lighter in weight but remained smaller and thicker, preserving the appearance of the original coin.

Byzantine Coinage - Barrie Cook and Jonathan Williams
Treasures of Byzantine Art and Culture - Editor: David Buckton - 1994
Published for the Trustees of the British Museum by British Museum Press
<https://archive.org/details/1994-buckton-byzantine-treasures-of-byzantine-art-and-culture-compressed/page/12/mode/lup>

Histanomenon was the name given to the gold Byzantine solidus when the slightly lighter **tetarteron** was introduced in the 960s.

Wikipedia - Histanomenon
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Histanomenon>



Isaac I Comnenus - 1057-1059 - 20mm - 3.97 g - Constantinople
+IΔS XIS REX REGNANTIM, facing, nimbate bust of Christ facing, dot in arms of cross.
+ICAAKIOC RA-CILEVC RM, Isaac standing facing, crowned and in military uniform, holding cross on globe and sheathed sword set on ground; cross on globe composed of four pellets. WildWinds - DOC 3; SB 1845; VF, toned Classical Numismatic Group Auction - cngcoins.com

Wild Winds - Byzantine Coinage of Isaac Comnenus
https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/byz/isaac_comnenus1/t.html

The **tetarteron** was a Byzantine term applied to ... gold [coins] circulating from the 960s to **1092** in parallel to the histanomenon ...

Wikipedia - Tetarteron
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetarteron>

Pactolus River
The river rises from Mount Tmolus, flows through the ruins of the ancient city of Sardis, and empties into the Gediz River, the ancient Hermus.
The Pactolus once contained electrum which is the naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver.
Source: Wikipedia
Wikimedia: Spiridon Ion Cepleanu

In **219 BC**, **Sardis** passed to the **Romans**, under whom it continued its prosperity and political importance as part of the province of Asia.

Wikipedia - Sardis
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardis>

Note:

The interpretation of **tetarteron nomisma** iconography is a **very** subjective art.

AV Tetarteron Nomisma
Isaac I Comnenus - 1057-1059
Nimbate bust of Christ facing, dot in arms of cross cngcoins.com

AV Tetarteron Nomisma
Romanus IV - 1068-1071 AD
Bust of Mary facing, holding before her the nimbate infant Christ whose head is facing

P Galba AR Denarius, 69 BC.
Veiled head of Vesta right - Knife, simpulum & ornamented axe.

Wild Winds - Sear Roman Coins Number 345
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/sear5/s0345.html>

Vesta is the virgin goddess of the hearth, home, and family in Roman religion.

Wikipedia - Vesta (mythology)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesta_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesta_(mythology))

A **simpulum**, or simpivium, was a small vessel or ladle with a long handle from the Roman era, used at sacrifices to make libations, and to taste the wines and other liquors which were poured on the head of the sacrificial victims. The simpulum was the sign of Roman priesthood, and one of the insignia of the College of Pontiffs.

Wikipedia - Simpulum
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simpulum>

If **Roma** adopted the **Carthaginian** silver **denarius** and gold **tetarteron nomisma** Then this would explain:

► Why the mainstream claims **Carthage** was reduced to **only minting bronze** coins.

Following ... the **Second Punic War**, the **Carthaginians minted purely in bronze**.

Wikipedia - Carthaginian Coinage
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthaginian_coinage

► Why the mainstream created the crazy "closed currency" concept that claims visitors voluntarily exchanged their precious gold and silver coins for base bronze coins upon arrival in **Carthage**.

Carthage appears to have operated a **closed currency system**, in which people bringing **gold and silver** coinage into the city had to give it to the civic authorities in exchange for **local bronze** coinage. Ptolemaic Egypt operated a similar system in this period.

In textual sources, the period after the **Second Punic War** is presented as a **period of economic recovery for the Carthaginians** ...

Wikipedia - Carthage
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthage>

► Why the modern mainstream is so **tight lipped** about the **tetarteron nomisma**.

Theodora 1055-56 AV Tetarteron Nomisma 19mm 4.00g Constantinople mint
Facing bust of Christ Pantokrator; barred IC XC across field I Facing bust of Theodora, wearing crown with pendilia, saccos, and loros, and holding jeweled scepter and globus cruciger - DOC 2; Fieg 1.2.; SB 1838 Classical Numismatic Group - CNG 106 Lot: 893 Estimate \$2000 Sold \$3000

The modern mainstream is **strangely reticent** when it comes to the **tetarteron nomisma**.

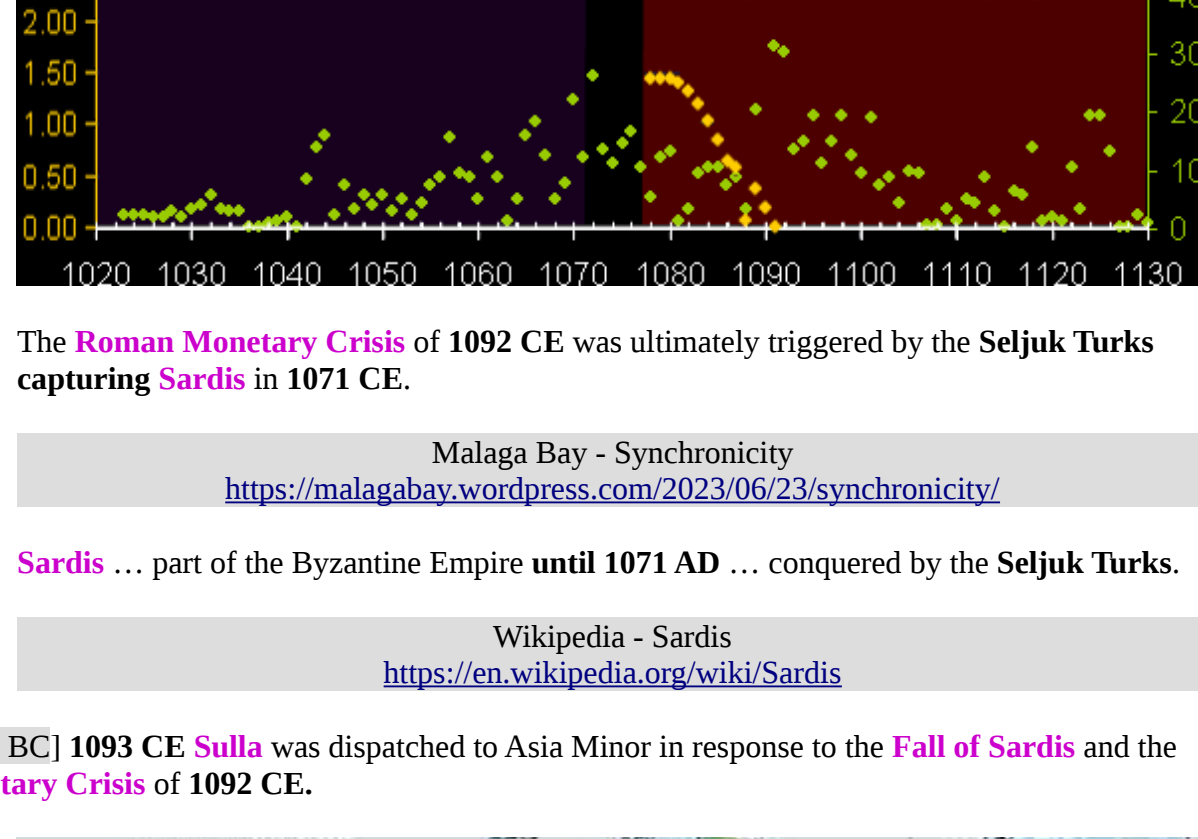
Malaga Bay - Synchronicity
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2023/06/23/synchronicity/>

► Why **Lucius Cornelius Sulla** began minting gold coins in the late [80s BC] **1090s**.

AV Aureus - Mint moving with Sulla - 82 BC - 10.78 g
L Cornelius Sulla Imperator with L Manlius Torquatus Proquestor L MANLI PRO Q. Helmeted head of Roma right Triumphant, crowned by flying Victory in quadriga right, holding reins and caduceus. L SVLLA IM in exergue Wild Winds - Sydenham 756 Crawford 367/4

Wild Winds - Roman Republic Coinage of the family Manlia
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/rsc/manlia/t.html>

Unravelling the **Sulla Saga** begins by understanding the **Fall of Sardis** to Seljuk Turks in **1071 CE** triggered the **Monetary Crisis** of 1092 CE.



The **Roman Monetary Crisis** of 1092 CE was ultimately triggered by the Seljuk Turks capturing **Sardis** in 1071 CE.

Malaga Bay - Synchronicity
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2023/06/23/synchronicity/>

Sardis ... part of the Byzantine Empire until 1071 AD ... conquered by the Seljuk Turks.
 Wikipedia - Sardis
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardis>

In [87 BC] **1093 CE Sulla** was dispatched to Asia Minor in response to the **Fall of Sardis** and the **Monetary Crisis** of 1092 CE.



90 BC - Asia Minor before the outbreak of the Mithradatic Wars
 Historical Atlas - William Robert Shepherd - 1956
<https://archive.org/details/historicalatlas00shep/page/n48/mode/lup>

Lucius Cornelius **Sulla** Felix (138-78 BC) ... was a Roman general and statesman.
 ...
 Early in 87 BC, **Sulla** transited the Adriatic for Thessaly with his five legions.

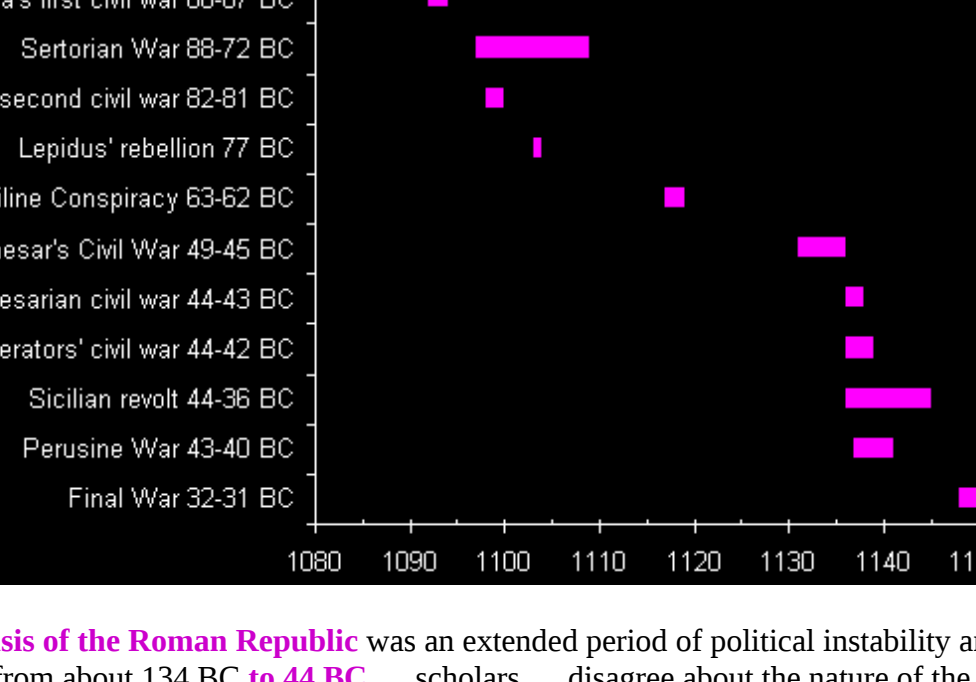
Wikipedia - Sulla
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sulla>

The **First Mithradatic War (89-85 BC)** was a war challenging the Roman Republic's expanding empire and rule over the Greek world.

In this conflict, the Kingdom of Pontus and many Greek cities rebelling against Roman rule were led by Mithridates VI of Pontus against Rome and the allied Kingdom of Bithynia.

Wikipedia - First Mithradatic War
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Mithradatic_War

Upon his return to Italy in [83 BC] **1097 CE Sulla** began minting the very **last Roman** coins from [presumably plundered] **Sardis** gold.



AV Aureus - 82 BC - 23 mm - 10.76 g
L Sulla and **L Manlius Torquatus** - Military mint moving with **Sulla**
PRO Q to left, **L MANLI** to right of helmeted head of Roma right.
L SVLLA IMP beneath Sulla, holding branch and reins, driving
 triumphal quadriga right and being crowned by Victory flying left
Wild Winds - Crawford 367/2 Sydenham 758

Wild Winds - Roman Republic Coinage of the family Manlia
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/rsc/manlia.html>

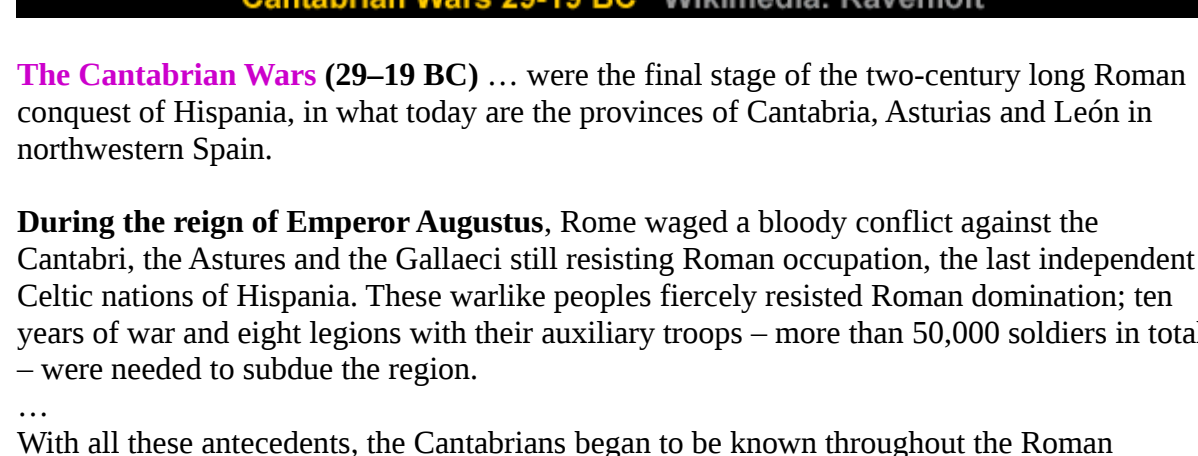
After **crossing the Hellespont**, Flaccus was killed in a mutiny led by Flavius Fimbricia, who went on to defeat Mithridates and recapture Pergamum. ...
 Following this and realizing that he could not face Sulla, Fimbricia fell on his sword.
This left Sulla to settle Asia, which he did by imposing a huge indemnity on the Greek cities there, along with **demands for five years of back taxes** ...

Wikipedia - First Mithradatic War
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Mithradatic_War

83 BC ... Lucius Cornelius **Sulla** returns to Italy with his campaign ...

Wikipedia - 83 BC
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/83_BC

And it's arguable the **failure of Sulla** to re-establish a secure source of gold [by recapturing **Sardis**] was responsible for plunging **Roma** [aka **Carthage**] deeper into crisis and plundering civil war.



The **crisis of the Roman Republic** was an extended period of political instability and social unrest from about 134 BC to 44 BC ... scholars ... disagree about the nature of the crisis.

Wikipedia - Crisis of the Roman Republic
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crisis_of_the_Roman_Republic

The **Sertorian War** was a civil war fought from **80 to 72 BC** between a faction of Roman rebels (Sertorian) and the government in Rome (Sullans).

The war was **fought on the Iberian Peninsula** (called Hispania by the Romans) and was one of the Roman civil wars of the first century BC.

The **Sertorian**, a coalition of Celts, Aquitanians, Iberians and Italic rebels, **fought against** the representatives of the regime established by **Sulla**.

Wikipedia - Sertorian War
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sertorian_War

The most immediate consequence of the **financial stringency** of the period, **worsened** of course by **Mithridates' invasion of the province of Asia in 88**, was that Rome took the first steps towards the takeover of Cyrene, willed to her by Ptolemy Apion in 96; an embassy was sent in 86 to collect what was available in ready cash, with the result that the purity of the denarius was restored almost to its original level in 86.

Coinage and Money Under the Roman Republic - Michael H Crawford - 1985
https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_84_G_8q6W0cC/page/n212/mode/lup

1155 CE - Going For Gold

After the Civil War the *follow the money* narrative continues with the [25 BC] **1155 CE** wartime acquisition of the Spanish **Las Médulas** gold mine by Augustus during the **Cantabrian Wars**.



Cantabrian Wars 29-19 BC Wikimedia: Ravenloft

The **Cantabrian Wars (29-19 BC)** ... were the final stage of the two-century long Roman conquest of Hispania, in what today are the provinces of Cantabria, Asturias and León in northwestern Spain.

During the **reign of Emperor Augustus**, Rome waged a bloody conflict against the Cantabri, the Astures and the Gallaeci still resisting Roman occupation, the last independent Celtic nations of Hispania. These warlike peoples fiercely resisted Roman domination; ten years of war and eight legions with their auxiliary troops – more than 50,000 soldiers in total – were needed to subdue the region.

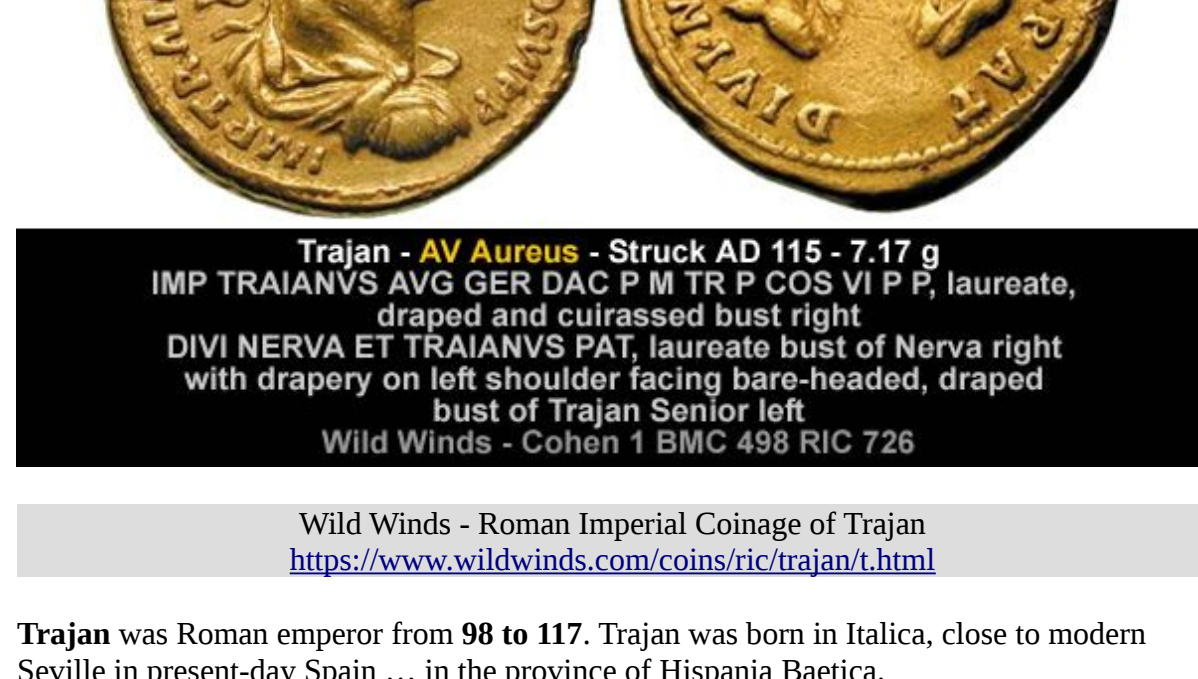
...
 With all these antecedents, the Cantabrians began to be known throughout the Roman Empire. Roman troops even lost one of their standards to them, an extremely grave event.

Such were the disasters and the embarrassments that, although the Roman historians justified the campaigns as retribution for Cantabrian incursions into the Roman-controlled Meseta Central, **there must have been a certain lust after Asturian gold** ...

Wikipedia - Cantabrian Wars
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantabrian_Wars



Las Médulas, León, Spain Wikimedia: Rafael Ibáñez Fernández



Las Médulas Wikimedia: Håkan Svensson (Xauxa) **Rock-cut aqueduct in La Cabrera** Wikimedia: Karkelxa

Las Médulas ... was the most important **gold mine**, as well as the largest open-pit gold mine in the entire Roman Empire. ... What became the Roman province of **Hispania Tarraconensis** was **conquered in 25 BC** by the emperor Augustus.

Wikipedia - Las Médulas
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Médulas

Polybius recorded that **silver mines** near **New Carthage** in **Spain** provided 25,000 drachmae (denarii) for the state each day in about 140 BC ...

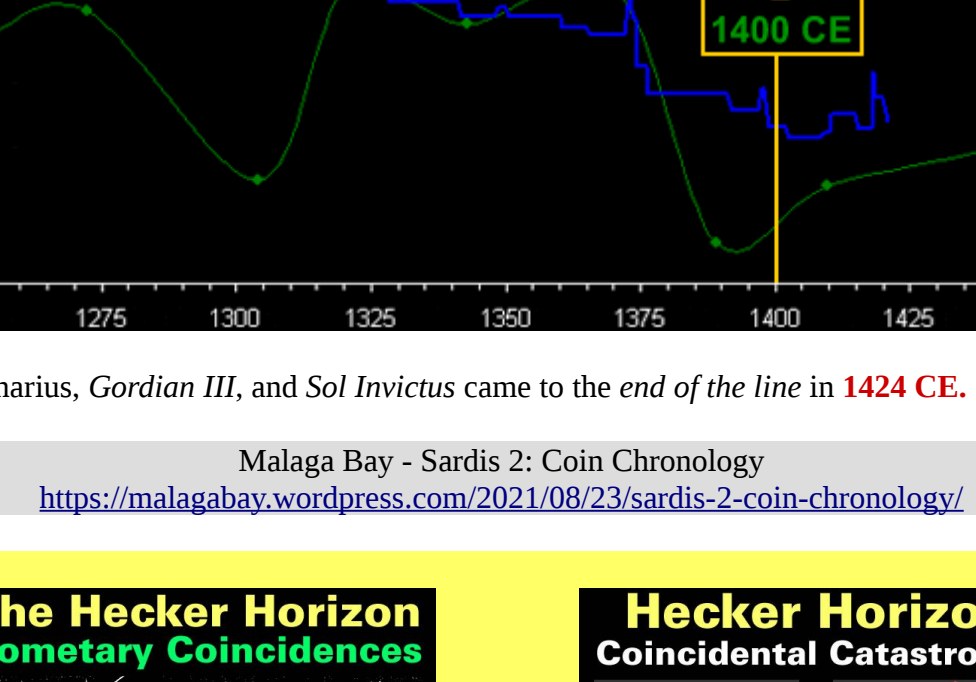
Pliny notes that in the **north of Spain** the gold mines in Galicia, Lusitania, and Asturias, of which the last was the most important, **produced 20,000 pounds** [6.58 metric tons] of **gold each year** under the early Principate.

The Supply and Use of Money in the Roman World 200 BC to AD 300
 Christopher Howgego - The Journal of Roman Studies - Volume 82 - November 1992
<https://doi.org/10.2307/301282>

Roman pound libra	328.9 g	11.60 oz	0.725 lb
-------------------	---------	----------	----------

Wikipedia - Ancient Roman Units of Measurement
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_pound

The minting of the **gold aureus** began shortly afterwards in about [23 BC] **1157 CE**.



Augustus - AR Aureus - Emerita Mint - 19-18 BC - 7.86 g
CAESAR AVGVS TVS AVG, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right
DIVI NERVA ET TRAIANVS PAT, laureate bust of Nerva right with drapery on left shoulder facing bare-headed, draped bust of Trajan Senior left
Wild Winds - BMCRE 317 Cohen 206 Calico 249

Wild Winds - Roman Imperial Coinage of Augustus
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/ric/augustus1.html>

Augusta **Emerita** ... was a Roman colonia **founded in 25 BC** in present day Mérida, Spain.

Wikipedia - Augusta Emerita
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusta_Emerita

Emperor	Year	Gold content
Julius Caesar	82 BCE	10.75 grams
Augustus	64 BCE	7.75 grams
Nero	23 CE	7.27 grams
Caracalla	213 CE	6.55 grams
Severus Alexander	235 CE	6.08 grams
Gordian III	240 CE	4.96 grams

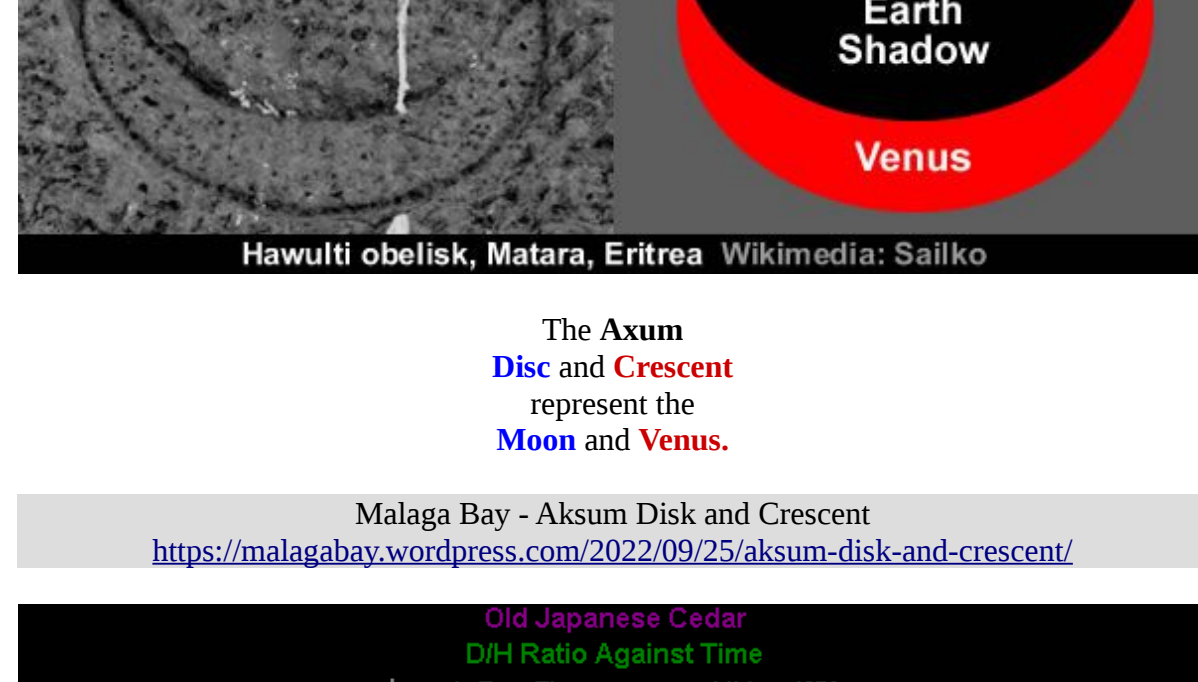
Aureus Gold Content Source: Wikipedia

Wikipedia - Aureus
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aureus>

Caesar **Augustus** ... also known as Octavian ... was the founder of the Roman Empire; he reigned as the first Roman emperor from 27 BC until his death in AD 14.

Wikipedia - Augustus
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus>

Trajan augmented the gold supply by establishing **Rosia Montană** around [106 AD] **1286 CE**.



Rosia Montană Roman Gold Mines Wikimedia: Codrinb

Rosia Montană ... in the Apuseni Mountains of western Transylvania, Romania ... then known as Alburnus Maior, was **founded by the Romans** during the rule of **Trajan** as a mining town, with Italian colonists from South Dalmatia.

Wikipedia - Rosia Montană
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosia_Montană



Trajan - AV Aureus - Struck AD 115 - 7.17 g
IMP TRAIANVS AVG GER DAC OPTIMO PRINCEPS COS VI P P, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right
DIVI NERVA ET TRAIANVS PAT, laureate bust of Nerva right with drapery on left shoulder facing bare-headed, draped bust of Trajan Senior left
Wild Winds - Cohen 1 BMC 498 RIC 726

Wild Winds - Roman Imperial Coinage of Trajan
<https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/ric/trajan1.html>

Trajan was Roman emperor from **98 to 117**. Trajan was born in Italia, close to modern Seville in present-day Spain ... in the province of Hispania Baetica.

Wikipedia - Trajan
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan>

The **Dacian Wars (101-102, 105-106)** were two military campaigns fought between the Roman Empire and Dacia during Emperor Trajan's rule.

...
 Dacia's rich gold mines were secured and it is estimated that Dacia then contributed 700 million Denarii per annum to the Roman economy ...

Wikipedia - Trajan's Dacian Wars
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan%27s_Dacian_Wars

1424 CE - Going Gone

But **Mother Nature** once again intervened and finally ended with the **Hecker Horizon** (1300-1400 CE) the minting of the **denarius** and **aureus** coins soon ended along with **Gordian III** in **1424 CE**.

Gordian III - AV Aureus - Rome - AD 240
IMP CAES GORDIANVS PIVS AVG, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right
LIBERALITAS AVG II, Liberalitas standing left, holding abacus and cornucopiae
Wild Winds - RIC IV-3 58

Wild Winds - Roman Imperial Coinage of Gordian III
https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/ric/gordian_III1.html

Gordian III was Roman emperor from 238 to 244.

At the age of 13 he became the youngest sole emperor of the united Roman Empire.

Wikipedia - Gordian III
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_III

The denarius, **Gordian III**, and **Sol Invictus** came to the **end of the line** in **1424 CE**.

Malaga Bay - Sardis 2: Coin Chronology
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2021/08/23/sardis-2-coin-chronology/>

The Hecker Horizon
Cometary Coincidences

Hecker Horizon
Coincidental Catastrophe

Hecker Horizon
The Ten Calamities

Hecker Horizon
Triple Conjunction

Hecker Horizon
Eclipse Canon

Hecker Horizon
Enter The Dragon

Hecker Horizon
Chasing The Dragon

Hecker Horizon
Ho Ho Ho History

Hecker Horizon Konrad von Megenberg

Puch der Natur - Konrad von Megenberg - 1476

Moon
Earth Shadow
Venus
 The **Axum** **Disc** and **Crescent** represent the **Moon** and **Venus**.

Malaga Bay - Aksum Disk and Crescent
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2022/09/25/aksum-disk-and-crescent/>

Daytime observations of Venus were impossible until it moved to its **inside** **trailing orbit**.

Malaga Bay - Comet Venus: The Shrinking Violet
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2020/07/14/comet-venus-the-shrinking-violet/>

Overall:

The *follow the money* narrative for **Roma** can be summarised in one simple graphic.

The only narrative caveat being the change from **Greek** to **Carthaginian** control around 962 CE.

As always:

Review the evidence and draw your own conclusions.

