

## GREAT AFRICAN MILITARY LEADERS

# HANNIBAL BARCA

The Kingdom of Carthage was a north African Berber nation first established in around 814 BC. The central city of Carthage was located in the one of the most northern parts of Africa in the area which is modern-day Tunisia. The location of the city of Carthage was on the coast of northern Africa which borders the Mediterranean Sea and made the city only 350 miles from the island of Sicily in Europe. Hannibal Barca was a legendary military commander of Carthage and the Barca family were north Africans from the region of Libya. The father of Hannibal was Hamilcar Barca who was a general and statesman involved in the First Punic War between the African state of Carthage and the European state of Rome which began in 264 BC. In his early years Hannibal was first focused on increasing the wealth of his family but at the age of 26 he was made commander of the Carthaginian army. In addition, Hannibal Barca was also related to the North African King of the neighboring Kingdom of Numidia. Well recognized as one of the most effective military strategists in history Hannibal Barca is known to have told his father at the age of nine the following:



**“I SWEAR AS SOON AS AGE WILL PERMIT I WILL USE FIRE AND STEEL TO ARREST THE DESTINY OF ROME”.**

Hannibal Barca is well known in history for leading Carthage in war against Rome and marching his military of 100,000 men and an army of African elephants along south-western Spain, across the Pyrenees mountains of France and directly into Italy and defeating the Roman Empire in the second Punic War. Hannibal is also credited with seizing the second largest city in Rome named Capua. Eventually a peace treaty was signed between Carthage and Rome.