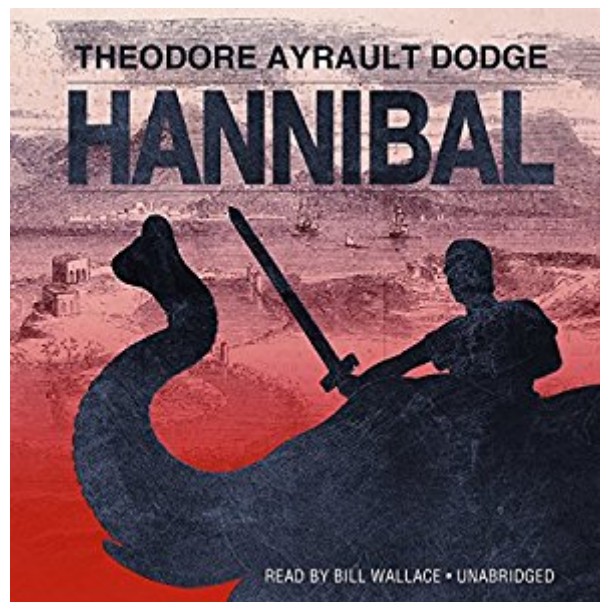




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Hannibal: A History Of The Art Of War Among The Carthaginians And Romans Down To The Battle Of Pydna, 168 BC, With A Detailed Account Of The Second Punic War



Synopsis

Hannibal is often considered the finest general the world has ever known. Setting out from Carthaginian-dominated Spain with a small army of select troops, he fought his way over the Pyrenees and crossed the Alps with elephants and a full baggage train. Descending into Italy, he destroyed the main Roman army at Lake Trasimeno and came close to conquering Rome itself. At Cannae, Hannibal's brilliant cavalry tactics enabled him to destroy a reassembled Roman army, and his subsequent defeats over a 15-year stay in Italy were due more to lack of sufficient support from home than to any failings of generalship. Theodore Ayrault Dodge's classic history, first published in 1891, is equally perceptive of Hannibal's military prowess and his visionary character. Dodge followed Hannibal's route from Carthage to Italy, paying particular attention to the famous crossing of the Alps, exploring every pass in order to determine Hannibal's route. In this book, he wrote an entire history of the art of war among these two mighty armies. Hannibal remains unequalled as the most comprehensive and readable study of history's greatest general.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 20 hours 18 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: June 28, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0058J2YFC

Best Sellers Rank: #138 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Ancient #680

in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Rome #905 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Military

Customer Reviews

I hate to down-rate a book based on the Kindle version, but buyers need to beware. The introduction talks glowingly about the research for the book, including the many detailed maps that were ascertained through exhaustive research, and there are dozens (over a hundred illustrations, many of which are beautiful detailed maps, carefully placed in context in the text, every couple of pages), ... but only in the print book. The Kindle book has no illustrations, no maps, ... absolutely nothing,

and the story is so intertwined with them. It is a totally disheartening realization, akin to reading a story in a printed book, only to find that someone had ripped out random pages. Maybe someday will include the illustrations and maps. Until then, it's too frustrating a read to recommend the Kindle version.

We are told that the author was a civil war soldier and that certainly seems to inform his writing, which is a clear and educational exposition of Hannibal's career or as much of it that could be retrieved from history. I learned much that I did not know from his book and I shall search for an edition of his work on Alexander. The last star would be his also if I would do something about the lack of maps. This is a persistent problem in Kindle books, and I do not understand it. More often than not the exclusion of maps from digital versions reduces the value of a book like this by half. Surely to make a bitmap from a printed page of graphics is child's play, and what we are purchasing is an electronic file, free to produce in infinite quantity. But the Kindle offerings are not what they used to be—an excellent source for out of print classics and the occasional gem from the classics of every genre. Now they consist largely of 's vanity press contributions, most of which are literary trash. Sorry, , I usually have nothing but good things to say, but Kindle has lost its bearings by abandoning its heritage as the people's e-reader.

Written in a classic, late 19th century style this history of Hannibal's invasion of Italy and decade-long domination of the southern provinces or the peninsula is eminently readable by modern readers. Dodge is clearly happy that the Roman's won the Second Punic War but as a Union Army field officer he has great esteem for and insight into the remarkable accomplishments of one of history's greatest and most successful commanders. This volume is an excellent choice for someone looking for a full description of the battles and characters of the Second Punic war in Italy. Further research since the time Dodge wrote this book have yielded more insight into the motives and accomplishments of some of the generals involved but for a good one volume study of the campaigns and strategy of Hannibal Barca I would recommend this book.

Well written and interesting but disappointing due to descriptions. There were no maps to follow along, so you are unable to appreciate the movements of the armies. The exotic territories, towns & cities, in comparison with each other, ie, Rome & Carthage among a few, one only could guess. Most terms were not defined, even by using the "word search" in my Kindle, I could not find a definition. It would have been more enjoyable to have some words or phrases defined, along with

pronunciations of names. The French in the book was not translated to English. I would have liked to know what exactly was said by Napoleon for example, referring to Hannibal's tactics. All in all it was a good read, but would have really enjoyed more information like I mentioned above.

Theodore Dodge knew war... he lost his leg in the civil war and went to Europe to study Hannibal, Alexander the Great, Caesar along with more recent Napoleon and Frederick the Great. So utterly dedicated to his work he visited almost every battle field. He has light sketches in all his volumes, EXTREMELY EASY to get the main picture of battle and topography allowing even the most elementary reader to learn advanced tactics and strategies. The 1st 100 pages consist of the classes, ranks and types of troops involved in the volume of his general as well as the enemies of his biographies general. Then siege equipment of the area, naval vessels, what separates Greek from Roman from phalanx to Carthaginian. In his Alexander volume he explains why the Macedonian phalanx conquered all the Greeks. He gets into how Hannibal was the son of the hired general from Carthage "Hamilcar" and his sons "the lions brood" and how he instilled the hatred for Romans into his bloodline. Hannibal was not at first a general, he was a cavalry officer, which is why ALL his victories included maneuvering of the Numidian cavalry. and much more from the fact he gives you all ancient historians' account of Hannibal and tells you the basics of why one is more reliable than the other. This book is what all interested Hannibal readers should be looking for, an AUTHOR AS GREAT AS HIS GENERALS.

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