Rome comes into this history, and into the affairs of the East, through Macedonia and Greece; and in order clearly to state this, we must return to the point where we left the history of Macedonia. It will be remembered that Pyrrhus, by the desertion of his army to Lysimachus, was obliged to resign all claims to Macedonia, and retire to his own country of Epirus. Shortly after he had returned thus to his own country, 281 B.C., there came to him ambassadors from Tarentum, and from all the Greeks in Italy, bearing to him the invitation to become their general and lead them in war against the Romans. They promised that the Tarentines, the Lucanians, the Samnites, and the Messapians would bring into the field three hundred and seventy thousand troops. (1898 ATJ, GEP 218.1)

(Thurri)

Either with Alexander of Epirus between 334 and 331 or with Cleonymus between 303 and 301, the Romans had agreed to a treaty in which they promised not to send ships into the Gulf of Tarentum. After the defeat of the Samnites in 290 BC, Rome's aristocratic leaders were less well disposed toward democratic Tarentum and its ambitions to be the leading southern Italian Greek city. For the Romans, it was convenient to think that the treaty was dead along with the man who had negotiated it on Tarentum’s behalf. For the Tarentines, there was good reason to fear the growing power of Rome and to claim that a treaty limiting it was still valid.

In 285 B.C., the southern Italian Greek city of Thurii, near the southwestern corner of the Gulf of Tarentum, was under attack by the Lucanians. Thurii appealed to Rome for help rather than to its strong but rival neighbour, Tarentum. The aristocratic leaders of Thurii probably felt more comfortable dealing with their Roman counterparts. Many Thurians also would have seen an alliance with Rome as a way of tipping the regional balance of power in their favour at the expense of their rival Tarentum. History of the Roman People – Allen M. Ward, Fritz M. Heichelheim, Cedric A. Yeo

By 280 BC, Rome dominated central and northern Italy. The only people left to conquer in Italy were the Greeks who lived in the South. Greek and Roman Civilizations, Grades 5 - 8,

By 282 BC Rome had defeated the Celts in Italy and they certainly had control over most of northern and central Italy, with just the south to concern them.

Thurii was founded in roughly 444, and it is situated on the western coast of the Gulf of Taranto. Inside this city, as in many of the Greek city-states, there were two rival factions.

1. Aristocrats – wish to align with Rome, thinking they have a better chance at power
2. Democrats - wish to stay aligned with Taranto and Greece, thinking they will have more independence.

The Aristocratic faction took power in Thurri, and when the city was threatened by the native Lucanian tribes in 285 BC, Thurri appealed to Rome for protection. The history is scarce here, so we don’t know what the Romans immediately did. But in 282 BC Thurri appeals again to Rome’s protection and Rome responds.

Thurrii’s appeal to the barbarian city on the Tiber is a clear indication that Rome had now emerged as the acknowledged hegemonic power of the entire peninsula, and that roman ‘fides’ could be counted on to provide security against external attacks. Rome accepted Thurri’s plea for assistance… the consul C. Fabricius led an army against the Lucanians and Bruttians, defeated them in battle, and left a garrison in Thurii. Fabricius’s military operations on land were...
apparently backed up by a small fleet of Roman warships. These vessels provoked Tarentum and thus formed the immediate cause of the Pyrrhic War. https://books.google.com.au/books?id=aEfVr1Ocd0gC&pg=PA350&lpg=PA350&dq=thurii+rome+285&source=bl&ots=UdMxWDjdDM&sig=zg5jLHv5ppOK9Q5CB5OPxTpcnP8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiRpuji08zbAhXHkZQKHFbGA8gQ6AEIJxAG#v=onepage&q=thurii%20rome%20285&f=false

Rome particularly wants Thurii because of its strategic location inside the gulf of Taranto, which would be a key location for a Roman fleet as the empire expands.

Thurii now sunk completely into the condition of a dependent ally of Rome, and was protected by a Roman garrison. No mention is found of its name during the wars with Pyrrhus…

(Sources)

- A Critical History of Early Rome: From Prehistory to the First Punic War – by Gary Forsythe
- The Navies of Rome – by Michael Pitassi
Shortly after he had returned thus to his own country, 281 B. C., there came to him ambassadors from Tarentum, and from all the Greeks in Italy, bearing to him the invitation to become their general and lead them in war against the Romans. They promised that the Tarentines, the Lucanians, the Samnites, and the Messapians would bring into the field three hundred and seventy thousand troops. {1898 ATJ, GEP 218.1}

**BATTLE OF HERACLEA 280BC**

The Tarentines then sent over ships to transport to Italy the rest of the army that he would take with him -- twenty-five thousand men. On account of a violent storm he was driven to the coast of the Messapians, where he was obliged to land. The troops of the Messapians at once joined him, and he marched to Tarentum, where was to be the rendezvous of his whole army. Before the promised troops of his allies had come to him, he learned that a powerful army of the Romans was marching against him. Pyrrhus sent a herald to ask the Romans whether they would accept him as arbiter between them and the Greeks in Italy. They replied: "The Romans neither take Pyrrhus as arbiter nor fear him as an enemy." A battle was fought, 280 B. C., near Heraclea in Italy, in which the Romans were defeated with the loss of fifteen thousand men, Pyrrhus himself losing thirteen thousand. {1898 ATJ, GEP 218.2}

On the right bank of the same river (Agri), and about 5 miles from the ruins of Heraclea, is Anglona, supposed to represent Pandosia, which we know was not too far distant from thence; as Plutarch, in his life of Pyrrhus, states that the first battle in which the monarch defeated the Romans was fought between Heraclea and Pandosia, and other writers affirm that the action took place near the former town. The bronze tablets of Heracles also distinctly mention Pandosia as being in its neighbourhood. *A Geographical and Historical Description of Ancient Italy; Volume 2*
Pyrrhus next sent an ambassador to Rome to offer peace; but the Romans refused to receive any communication from him, or to listen to any single proposition of his until he should have left Italy. A second battle was fought, 279 B. C., near Ausculum, in which Pyrrhus was again victorious, but with such great loss that when one of his officers congratulated him on the victory, Pyrrhus with grim humor replied: "If we gain such another, we are inevitably ruined."  
{1898 ATJ, GEP 218.3}

In 279 BC, Pyrrhus fought the second major battle of the war at Asculum. This one was of a much greater scale, taking two days in the hills of Apulia. The Roman general Publius Mus managed to use the terrain to reduce the effectiveness of the Greek cavalry and elephants. Thus the first day ended with a stalemate. The second day Pyrrhus made another attack with war elephants supported by infantry, which finally overwhelmed Mus’s position. The Romans lost about 6,000 men while Pyrrhus’ army suffered 3,500 casualties.

NEW MODE OF WARFARE

Romans first encountered the elephant in 280 BC. Pyrrhus had transported twenty of the beasts to Italy by ship and, at the Battle of Heraclea, the unfamiliar animals routed the Roman cavalry; "their horses, before they got near the animals, were terrified and ran away with their riders" (Plutarch, Life of Pyrrhus, XVII.3). The next year at Asculum, there was another Pyrrhic victory, "the greatest havoc was wrought by the furious strength of the elephants, since the valour of the Romans was of no avail in fighting them, but they felt that they must yield before them as before an onrushing billow or a crashing earthquake, and not stand their ground only to die in vain, or suffer all that is most grievous without doing any good at all"  {Plutarch, Life of Pyrrhus, XXI.7}

The Romans stood most in awe of the elephants, and they resorted to some peculiar and extraordinary means of resisting them. They prepared a great number of chariots, each of which was armed with a long pointed spear, projecting forward in such a manner that when the chariots should be driven on toward the elephants, these spears or beaks should pierce the bodies of the beasts and destroy them. The chariots, too, were filled with men, who were all provided with fire-brands, which they were to throw at the elephants, and frighten them, as they came on. These chariots were all carefully posted in front of that part of Pyrrhus's army where the elephants were stationed, and the charioteers were strictly ordered not to move until they should see the elephants advancing.  {Pyrrhus, Makers of History by Jacob Abbott}

ARMISTICE

After the battle and the armistice with the Romans, Pyrrhus sailed for Sicily promising he would return to Italy.  Appian, Samnite History. Horace White, Ed. Fragments of Greek and Roman Materials. From "The Embassies"

In the Greek world, two victories were usually sufficient to finish a war, but the Romans seemed incapable of realizing that they had lost. There were also complaints in Pyrrhus' own army, and his physician offered the Romans to kill the king. The consuls of 278, Gaius Fabricius Luscinus and Quintus Aemilius Papus, informed Pyrrhus about the man's intentions, adding the famous
joke that the king "seemed to be incapable of judging both his friends and enemies". Pyrrhus could appreciate the Roman chivalry, agreed to an exchange of POWs, and when the Romans said they would leave Tarentum alone for some time, Pyrrhus announced something like an armistice, essentially sacrificing his allies, the Samnites and Lucanians, to Roman reprisals. (Livius.org)

**SICILY - 279 TO 275 BC**

But while he was involved in such perplexities, new hopes once more inspired him, and projects which divided his purposes. For at one and the same time there came to him from Sicily men who offered to put into his hands the cities of Agrigentum, Syracuse, and Leontini, and begged him to help them to drive out the Carthaginians and rid the island of its tyrants; and from Greece, men with tidings that Ptolemy Ceraunus with his army had perished at the hands of the Gauls, and that now was the time of all times for him to be in Macedonia, where they wanted a king. Pyrrhus rated Fortune soundly because occasions for two great undertakings had come to him at one time, and thinking that the presence of both meant the loss of one, he wavered in his calculations for a long time. Then Sicily appeared to offer opportunities for greater achievements, since Libya was felt to be near, and he turned in this direction, and forthwith sent out Cineas to hold preliminary conferences with the cities, as was his wont, while he himself threw a garrison into Tarentum.

He was determined on carrying into effect his design of a descent upon the coast of Africa. He accordingly pressed forward his preparations in a more arbitrary and reckless spirit than ever. He became austere, imperious, and tyrannical in his measures. (Jacob Abbott, Life of Pyrrhus)

Pyrrhus crossed for the second time into Italy, since matters were not going to his liking in Sicily, inasmuch as it had become evident to the chief cities that his leadership was not that of a king but of a despot. For after he had been brought into Syracuse by Sosistratus, the ruler of the city at that time, and by Thoenon, the commander of the garrison, and had received from them the money in the treasury and some two hundred bronze-beaked ships, and after he had brought under his power all Sicily with the exception of the city of Lilybaeum, the one city which the Carthaginians still held, he assumed the arrogance of a tyrant.

For Pyrrhus took away the estates of Agathocles' relatives and friends from those who had received them at that ruler's hands and presented them to his own friends, and he assigned the chief magistracies in the cities to his own shield-bearers and captains, not in accordance with the local laws of each city nor for the customary period, but as was pleasing to him. 2 Lawsuits and controversies and all the other matters of civil administration he would in some cases decide himself and in other cases would refer them either for reversal or for determination to those who hung about the court, men who had an eye for nothing except making gains and squandering wealth in the pursuit of luxury. Because of all this he was burdensome to the cities which had received him and was hated by them. 3 Perceiving that many people were already secretly hostile to him, he introduced garrisons into the cities, taking as an excuse the war threatening from the Carthaginians; and arresting the most prominent men in each city, he put them to death, falsely alleging that he had discovered plots and treasonable acts. Among these was Thoenon, the commander of the garrison, who was admitted by all to have shown the greatest ardour and zeal in aiding him to cross over and take possession of the island; for he had gone to meet him at the head of a naval squadron and had turned over to him the Island of Syracuse, of which he himself had the command. 4 When, however, Pyrrhus attempted to arrest Sosistratus also, he was disappointed; for the man had become aware of his intention and had fled from the city. Furthermore, when matters had begun to be unsettled, the city of Carthage also, believing it had found an opportunity suitable for the recovery of places it had lost, sent an army against the island.
Observing that Pyrrhus was embarrassed and was seeking funds from every possible source, the worst and most depraved of his friends, Euegorus, the son of Theodorus, Balacrus, the son of Nicander, and Deinarchus, the son of Nicias, followers of godless and accursed doctrines, suggested an impious source for the raising of funds, namely, to open up the sacred treasures of Persephonê. For there was a holy temple in this city that contained much wealth, guarded and untouched from the earliest times; included in this there was an unfathomed quantity of gold, buried in the earth out of sight of the multitude. Pyrrhus, misled by these flatterers and because of his necessity that was stronger than any scruples, employed as his agents in the sacrilege the men who had made the proposal; and placing the gold plundered from the temple in ships, he sent it along with his other funds to Tarentum, having now become filled with great cheer.

But a just Providence showed its power. For, though the ships, upon putting out from the harbour, found a land breeze and made progress, an adverse wind sprang up, and holding through the entire night, sank some of them, drove others into the Sicilian strait, and, in the case of those in which the offerings and the gold yielded by the offerings was being transported, drove them ashore on the beaches of Locri. The men on board the ships were submerged and perished in the backwash of the waves, and the sacred moneys, when the ships broke up, were cast ashore on the sand-banks nearest to Locri. The king, terror-stricken, restored all the ornaments and treasures to the goddess, hoping thereby to appease her wrath.  

Pyrrhus accepted the offer of the Sicilians, and at once embarked his army and sailed to Sicily. The Sicilians delivered to him the promised cities as soon as he landed; and he soon so gained the hearts of the people, and made himself so powerful, that the Carthaginians asked for peace upon the condition that they might be allowed to retain in Sicily only the one city of Lilybaeum. Pyrrhus felt himself so secure that he not only refused to grant this request for peace, but even proposed to make an expedition against Carthage. He had a sufficient fleet to do this, but not enough sailors. To secure the necessary sailors he levied a draft of men on all the cities of Sicily, and punished the cities that would not furnish their quota. This caused great dissatisfaction to the people of Sicily; and as Pyrrhus pushed his exactions, he finally drove the Sicilians into a league with the Carthaginians and the Mamertines against him. However, just at this juncture, the Tarentines and Samnites sent word to him that they were shut up in their cities, and were surely lost unless he came to the rescue. He started immediately. He was obliged to fight the Carthaginians as he was leaving the harbor of Syracuse; and the Mamertines as soon as he landed in Italy.  

It was under the excuse of fighting the Carthaginians that he was able to take dictatorial control of Sicily.

We also see a temple desecration, albeit a pagan one, but he was not strengthened by it.

A terrible hatred arose against him in the cities, some of which joined the Carthaginians, while others called in the Mamertines. And now, as he saw everywhere secessions and revolutionary designs and a strong faction opposed to him, he received letters from the Samnites and Tarentines, who had been excluded from all their territories, could with difficulty maintain the war even in their cities, and begged for his assistance. This gave him a fair pretext for his sailing away, without its being called a flight or despair of his cause in the island; but in truth it was because he could not master Sicily, which was like a storm-tossed ship, but desired to get out of her, that he once more threw himself into Italy. And it is said that at the time of his departure looked back at the island and said to those about him: “My friends, what a wrestling ground for Carthaginians and Romans we are leaving behind us!” And this conjecture of his was soon afterwards confirmed. (Plutarch, Life of Pyrrhus)

These realities of power would be tested again, 60 years later, on a far grander scale. For Rome, now unchallenged mistress of Italy, was poised for her first overseas adventure, one that would bring her into immediate conflict with the ancient mercantile empire of Carthage – a
conflict that would eventually spawn an Italian war far more terrible than that against Pyrrhus.  
*Rome - Empire of the Eagles*, by Neil Falkner

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**ROME’S TREATY WITH CARThAGE**

*It is believed that in 279 BC Rome and Carthage entered into an alliance against Pyrrhus. While the patriotic Roman historians say that Rome rejected Carthage’s offer of an alliance, other historians, such as Polybius say that they formed an alliance with the following clause:*

“If they make an alliance with Pyrrhus, both shall make it an express condition that they may go to the help of each other in whichever country is attacked. No matter which require help, the Carthaginians are to provide the ships for transport and hostilities, but each country shall provide the pay for its own men. The Carthaginians, if necessary, shall come to the help of the Romans by sea too, but no one shall compel the crews to land against their will.” (Polybius 3.25)

*Further evidence of this alliance is the following history. Particularly in 278, when Carthage sent their admiral Mago with 120 ships to Ostia to help Rome against Pyrrhus. Although this was futile as he had already left for Sicily. The Carthaginians also transported 500 Roman soldiers to reinforce the garrison at Rhegium. In a joint mission, they also attacked a port of Sicily, burning a large stockpile of wood that Pyrrhus had collected to build his navy. This instances of cooperation seem to show that there was some type of agreement between the two powers.*

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**BATTLE OF BENEVENTUM  -  275BC**

So he accomplished the rest of his march unmolested and came to Tarentum, bringing twenty thousand foot and three thousand horse. Then, adding to his force the best troops of the Tarentines, he forthwith led them against the Romans, who were encamped in the country of the Samnites. But the power of the Samnites had been shattered, and their spirits were broken, in consequence of many defeats at the hands of the Romans. They also cherished considerable resentment against Pyrrhus because of his expedition to Sicily; hence not many of them came to join him. *(Plutarch, life of Pyrrhus)*

Manius, however, since the sacrifices were propitious and the crisis forced action upon him, led his forces out and attacked the foremost of the enemy, and after routing these, put their whole army to flight, so that many of them fell and some of their elephants were left behind and captured. 4 This victory brought Manius down into the plain to give battle; here, after an engagement in the open, he routed the enemy at some points, but at one was overwhelmed by the elephants and driven back upon his camp, where he was obliged to call upon the guards, who were standing on the parapets in great numbers, all in arms, and full of fresh vigour. 5 Down they came from their strong places, and hurling their javelins at the elephants compelled them to wheel about and run back through the ranks of their own men, thus causing disorder and confusion there. This gave the victory to the Romans, and at the same time the advantage also in the struggle for supremacy. For having acquired high courage and power and a reputation for invincibility from their valour in these struggles, they at once got control of Italy, and soon afterwards of Sicily.

But that what he won by his exploits he lost by indulging in vain hopes, since through passionate desire for what he had not he always failed to establish securely what he had. *(Plutarch, life of Pyrrhus)*
It wasn’t named Beneventum until six years after the battle, when the Romans changed the name from Maleventum, as it was a word they associated with evil superstition.

A key communications center, Beneventum has always been a large town. Roman roads radiated from it in all directions: N, via Bovianum to Aesernia (the Via Minucia?); S, via Abellinum to Salernum; E, via Venusia to Brundisium, and W, via Capua to Rome (the Via Appia). The emperor Trajan (98-117) built another road to Brundisium by way of Aequum Tuticum, and this Via Traiana replaced the Appia as the main highway to the E. Repeated devastation by war, earthquake, and flood and repeated rebuilding have effaced all traces of the original town plan. The Princeton Encyclopedia of Classical Sites

It was certainly in the power of the Romans in B.C. 274, when Pyrrhus was defeated in a great battle, fought in its immediate neighbourhood, by the consul M'. C urius. Six years later (B.C. 268) they sought farther to secure its possession by establishing there a Roman colony with Latin rights. It was at this time that it first assumed the name of Beneventum, having previously been called Maleventum, a name which the Romans regarded as of evil augury, and changed into one of a more fortunate signification. (Plin. Nat. 3.11. s. 16; Liv. 9.27 Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography, William Smith, LLD, Ed.

The city of Benevento sits at a fork of the Appian Way, where two rivers, the Sabato and Calore come together.

It is told that, among their rites, the witches had the custom to meet, in the nights between Saturday and Sunday, around a big walnut tree to give birth to their demoniac Sabbath. The arrival to the place was rigorously flying on horseback of a broom after having spread themselves with a miraculous unguent that gave them not only the ability to fly, but also to become invisible to indiscreet eyes. Insolita Italia, The Witches of Benevento and the magic walnut tree

A large body of scholarship has developed over the years dealing with the obvious syncretism—that is, the mixing of snake worship (possibly from the cult of Isis, particularly strong in Benevento under the Romans) and various forms of tree worship from northern Europe (which has given us the Christmas tree, for example). Northern influence penetrated into Italy with the Lombard invasions after the fall of the Western Roman Empire; thus, it is plausible that northern lore mixed with local, earlier lore come together to give us the “witches” of Benevento. Locally, the witches are often referred to as janara, possibly from dianara, a priestess of Diana. Naples: Life, Death & Miracles by Jeff Matthews

273 BC

“The reputation of the Romans beginning now to spread through foreign nations by the war they had maintained for six years against Pyrrhus, whom at length they compelled to retire from Italy, and return ignominiously to Epirus, Ptolemy Philadelphus sent ambassadors to desire their friendship; and the Romans were charmed to find it solicited by so great a king.” {1898 ATJ, GEP

The world now knew that Rome was a superpower in the making, and the Egyptian king Ptolemy II Philadelphus was willing to conclude a treaty of friendship. {Livius.org

This takes us back to where we began…
This time the Romans were successful, and Pyrrhus was compelled to return to Epirus, which left all Italy subject to Rome (B. C. 274). (1898 ATJ, GEP 219.2)

"The reputation of the Romans beginning now to spread through foreign nations by the war they had maintained for six years against Pyrrhus, whom at length they compelled to retire from Italy, and return ignominiously to Epirus, Ptolemy Philadelphus sent ambassadors to desire their friendship; and the Romans were charmed to find it solicited by so great a king." -- Rollin.

4 The following year the Romans sent to Egypt four ambassadors in return for this courtesy from Philadelphus. (1898 ATJ, GEP 220.1)

Rome’s defeat of Pyrrhus was a clear declaration to the rest of the ancient Mediterranean world that the Romans had arrived on the world scene of warfare and power politics, and recognition of this fact was no long time in coming. In 273BC King Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt sent ambassadors to Rome to open up friendly diplomatic relations with the victor of Italy. The Romans reciprocated by sending their own ambassadors to Egypt... been headed by Fabius Maximus Gurges, who had been twice consul, censor, triumphator, and was perhaps the princeps senatus at the time of the embassy. A Critical History of Early Rome: From Prehistory to the First Punic War by Gary Forsythe

An Embassy was also sent from Rome to Egypt the following year in return to the civilities of Ptolemy... Ptolemy gave them a splendid entertainment, and took that opportunity to present each of them with a crown of gold... The Ancient History of the Egyptians, Carthaginians, Assyrians Volume 2 Section VII by Charles Rollin

Fabius Maximus Gurges: Maximus = 'Maximum' and Gurges = 'Whirlpool' 'raging torrent' 'flood'

Pyrrhus dies - 46 years old.

In 272 BC, he was approached by Cleonymus, who was a Spartan of royal blood and one that was not popular among his peers. He asked for Pyrrhus’ help in taking Sparta and placing himself on the throne. Pyrrhus agreed, hoping to take Sparta for himself, but resistance was strong and it stopped his assault. Tragically, while in retreat, he lost his first-born son, who had been in charge of the rear guard.

With no time for mourning, he moved onto his next objective, which was intervening in a civil dispute in Argos. He had to race to the city because his old foe, Antigonus Gonatas was approaching. Unfortunately, when he tried to enter the city by stealth, he found it was already full of hostile troops. Having to battle street by street, he became trapped. He was soon fighting an Argive soldier and, unknown to either of them, the mother of the soldier was watching her son from a nearby rooftop. To help protect her son, she threw down a roof tile that knocked Pyrrhus from his horse – he broke his back and became paralyzed. It is unknown whether or not the fall would have killed him, but a Macedonian soldier called Zopyrus made sure once and for all by beheading him. Antigonus had his body cremated with all military honors. Soon after Pyrrhus’ death, the Tarentinians surrendered to Rome. The Vintage News - Pyrrhus of Epirus; Mar 21, 2017 Ian Harvey

Argos = ‘glistening’ ‘bright’ ‘white’

The name of the city is very ancient and several etymological theories have been proposed as an explanation to its meaning. The most popular one maintains that the name of the city is a remainder from the Pelasgian language, i.e. the one used by the people who first settled in the area, in which Argos meant "plain". Alternatively, the name is associated with Argos, the third
king of the city in ancient times, who renamed it after himself, thus replacing its older name Phoronikon Astu (Φορωνικόν Άστυ, "city of Phoroneus"). It is also believed that "Argos" is linked to the word "αργός" (argós), which meant "white"; possibly, this had to do with the visual impression given of the argolic plain during harvest time. According to Strabo, the name could have even originated from the word "αγρός" (=field) by antimetathesis of the consonants.

It is unnecessary here to repeat the history of the campaigns of that monarch: (Pyrrhus) but when he at length, after his final defeat by Curius, withdrew from Italy (B.C. 274), it was evident that the full weight of the Roman arms would fall upon Tarentum. Pyrrhus, indeed, left Milo with a garrison to defend the city, but the Tarentines themselves were divided into two parties, the one of which was disposed to submit to Rome, while the other applied for assistance to Carthage. A Carthaginian fleet was actually sent to Tarentum, but it arrived too late, for Milo had already capitulated and surrendered the citadel into the hands of the Roman consul Papirius, B.C. 272. From this time Tarentum continued subject to Rome.

Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography (1854) William Smith, LLD, Ed.

For the first time Italy was now united into one state under the sovereignty of the Roman Community. The History of Rome, Volume 1 p. 534 Theodor Mommsen