

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

HANNIBAL OF CARTHAGE

Father of Military Strategy
(B.C. 247-183)

(First in a series of three articles on the great military leader of Negroid Ancestry whom Napoleon ranked first as the most daring of his selected list of the seven supreme military geniuses of the World. Ref.--J. A. Rogers' "Worlds Great Men of Color")

HANNIBAL WAS UNDOUBTEDLY one of the most courageous of military strategists. His reputation as one of the greatest military leaders and strategist of all time has been upheld and proclaimed by military giants of the past as well as by contemporary military tacticians. His military ingenuity resulting from daring, improvisation and doing the unexpected is still the theme of various subjects taught in military academies throughout the world.

Hannibal was born in 247 B.C. when Carthage, once the world's most potent sea power, was beginning to decline. The Carthaginians were descendants of a Negroid people known as Phoenicians who were great traders and founded Carthage as a central base for their commerce. Thus, Carthage became the focal point of trade routes into India and throughout the Mediterranean.

Like most traders, the Carthaginians were not warriors. Their immense wealth and luxurious manner of living gave them a heritage of complacency. Less than 100 miles across the Mediterranean a powerful neighbor, still in its youth and hungry for power, looked toward Carthage with an envious eye knowing that the latter would inevitably become their prey. This adolescent power with insatiable appetite for world conquest was Rome.

As an appetizer, power-hungry Rome demanded the island of Sicily from Carthage. When Carthage refused these demands, the first Punic War was fought and Carthage lost Corsica and Sardinia to Rome.

AS HISTORIAN J. A. ROGERS chronicled: Carthage forgot her defeat and continued her commerce. But there was one citizen to whom it was as gall: Hamilcar Barca--the Lightning. Determined on revenge he aroused his lethargic fellow citizens with his oratory and raised a large force. Attacking the Romans, he won a series of brilliant victories on land and sea.

Then he decided to extend Carthaginian power into Spain. About to leave, he sacrificed to the gods. Among those standing at the altar was his son, Hannibal, who, though only nine years old, had the spirit of a conqueror. For years past he had been imitating in play the battles in which his father had slain the Romans. Now he thought himself old enough to go to war. Throwing his arms about his father's neck he begged to be taken along. Hamilcar yielded and Hannibal, kneeling before his father, pledged undying hate to the Romans.

SEVENTEEN YEARS LATER, Hannibal succeeded to supreme command of the Carthaginian army in Spain. Setting out on the total conquest of the peninsula, he defeated all the tribes until only one remained--the Saguntum. The latter were allies of Rome and to attack them meant war with her. But Hannibal, true to his vow, did not hesitate and, after an eight months' siege and a bloody battle, defeated them.

Rome immediately sent her ablest general and foremost counsellor, Fabius the Great, to Carthage to demand the withdrawal of Hannibal. The Carthaginians, who had been receiving loads of plundered treasure from Spain, refused and the second Punic War began.

Rome felt sure of victory. She was impreg-

VOICE READERS COMPRISE a \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

"We Have Need For Partnership
Of Our Jewish Brother"

- Martin Luther King

Recently, I was saddened--as I am sure many other Americans were--to read that one of the leaders of a fine and militant civil rights group had made an anti-Semitic remark. In the heat of a controversy over school desegregation, this individual, who is a Negro, shouted to his audience, which included a number of Jewish people, a statement to the effect that Hitler had not killed enough Jews.

Actually, I do not view this horrible outburst as anti-Jewish. I see it as anti-man and anti-God. It would be a statement to harshly condemn, coming from anyone. It is singularly despicable, coming from the lips of a black man. For, black people, who have been tortuously burned in the crucible of hatred for centuries, should have become so purified of hate in those scorching flames as to be instinctively intolerant of intolerance.

In the struggle for human rights, as well as in the struggle for the upward march of our civilization, we have deep need for the partnership, fellowship and courage of our Jewish Brother. History will attest that the Hebrew prophets belong to all people. For, it has been their concepts of justice and equality which have become ideals for all races and civilizations.

TODAY, WE PARTICULARLY need the Hebrew prophets because they taught that to love God was to love justice; that each human being has an inescapable obligation to denounce evil where he sees it and to defy a ruler who commands him to break the covenant.

The Hebrew prophets are needed today because decent people must be imbued with the

nable. Her navy, stronger than that of Carthage, would prevent a landing anywhere on the Italian coast. As for the northern approaches, they were guarded by the frozen fortress of the Alps, the crossing of which with an army had long been pronounced impossible.

When the war opened, Hannibal, who was in the north-east of Spain, decided to attack the Roman outpost in Gaul, and marched toward the Pyrenees. He had 80,000 infantry, 12,000 cavalry and 40 elephants.

CROSSING THE PYRENEES, he marched eastward until he reached the River Rhone at what is now Avignon, France. The Rhone, at this point, is a deep, swift stream. The problem of crossing was heightened by the masses of the foe on the opposite bank.

With the craftiness of a born general, Hannibal laid his plans. Calling one of his most trusted aides, Hanno, he gave him 10,000 men and bade him cross the river several miles further up. When this was done he was to make it known by sending up a column of smoke.

Hannibal, in the meantime, had his rafts prepared and when he saw Hanno's signal he gave the order to cross. At that the yelling barbarians on the opposite bank pressed forward to repel him but Hanno attacked them in the rear, throwing them into such confusion that Hannibal crossed over and won an easy victory.

After this he marched south until he reached Massilia; now Marseilles, which he captured from the Romans. He was now on the sea-coast, and only a few days march from Italy. But Rome blocked him with her fleet. There was but one course: to retreat northward. When the Romans saw this they grew even more confident. Hannibal retraced his steps until he reached what is now Tarascon, France. From here he must either return to Spain or strike at Rome over the formidable, snow-capped peaks of the Alps. Unhesitatingly, he chose the latter.

Then began the most painful, arduous and terrifying march in the history of war. Hannibal, himself, had never seen the Alps before and knew nothing of its dangers.

courage to speak the truth, to realize that silence may temporarily preserve status or security but that to live with a lie is a gross affront to God. It is scarcely a secret that many congressmen, educators, clergymen and leaders of national affairs are gravely disturbed by our foreign policy.

A war in which children are incinerated by napalm, in which American soldiers die in mounting numbers while other American soldiers, according to press accounts, in unrestrained hatred shoot the wounded enemy as he lies upon the ground, is a war that mutilates the conscience.

YET, IMPORTANT LEADERS keep their silence. I know this to be true because so many have confided in me that they shared my opinions, but not my willingness to state them in public.

The Hebrew prophets are needed today because we need their flaming courage. We need them because the thunder of their fearless voices is the only sound stronger than the blasts of bombs and the clamour of war hysteria.

The Hebrew prophets are needed today because Amos said, in words that echo across the centuries: "Let justice roll down like the waters and righteousness as a mighty stream." We need them because Micah said, in words lifted to cosmic proportions, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

"Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war anymore." We need them because Isaiah said: "Yes, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. Wash you. Make you clean. Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes. Cease to do evil."

I THINK THE HEBREW prophets are among us today because, although there are many pulpits that are empty while ministers physically occupy them, there are others from which the passion for justice and compassion for man is still heard.

In the days to come, as the voices of sanity multiply, we will know that, across thousands of years of time, the prophet's message of truth and decency, brotherhood and peace, survives; that they are living in our time, to give hope to a tortured world that their promise of the Kingdom of God has not been lost to mankind. (ANP Feature)

Be A Selective Buyer

A SELECTIVE BUYER is one who spends his money with those firms which employ Negroes and which advertise their products in the Negro press--A selective Buyer is careful that his money continues to circulate in his community--Is Your Money going to be put back into your Community? A good check is: Does the Company advertise with the Negro Press?

LAS VEGAS
Voice

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE of the NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. - Publisher & Editor
ALICE KEY - Associate Editor * JOHN P. WEST - General Manager
DOROTHY WEST - Treasurer * CARITA HARBERT - Office Manager

SONDRA REID - Homemaking, Fashions * EDDY K. KIM, Society
REV. DONALD M. CLARK - Religion * DICK MILLER - Children's Books
RICHARD WILLIAMS, HENRY MILLER & ROBERT JOHNSON - Advertising
CLINTON WRIGHT - Photography * EARL PERKINS - Northern Nevada

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
958 West Owens Ave. (Golden West Shopping Center) Las Vegas, Nevada
Telephone: 642-5308

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Price per copy - 15¢ * One year - \$6 * Two years - \$10
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)