

# Hannibal's Mistake: Hannibal Ante Portas



## Hannibal's Mistake: Hannibal ante portas by Cristiana Sogno

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 854 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 32 pages  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported



In the annals of military history, Hannibal Barca stands as one of the greatest commanders of all time. His audacious invasion of Italy in 218 BC with a force of elephants and cavalry shocked the Roman Republic and nearly brought about its downfall.

But Hannibal's invasion was also a gamble, and one that ultimately failed. In 202 BC, after years of campaigning in Italy, Hannibal was finally defeated by the Romans at the Battle of Zama. This defeat marked the end of Carthage's hopes of defeating Rome and the beginning of Rome's rise to dominance in the Mediterranean.

In *Hannibal's Mistake: Hannibal Ante Portas*, acclaimed historian and author John Prevas explores the life and career of Hannibal Barca. Prevas argues that Hannibal's invasion of Italy was a mistake, and that Hannibal should have instead focused on consolidating his power in Carthage's North African empire.

Prevas's thesis is supported by a wealth of evidence. He shows that Hannibal's invasion of Italy was a risky undertaking from the start. The Romans were a formidable enemy, and Hannibal's army was outnumbered and outgunned. Furthermore, Hannibal's invasion alienated many of Carthage's allies, who feared that Hannibal's success would lead to Carthaginian domination of the Mediterranean.

Despite the odds against him, Hannibal nearly succeeded in defeating the Romans. He won a series of brilliant victories, including the famous Battle of Cannae, where he annihilated a Roman army twice the size of his own.

However, Hannibal's victories were ultimately Pyrrhic, as they came at a great cost in men and materiel.

In the end, Hannibal's invasion of Italy failed, and Carthage was defeated by the Romans. Prevas argues that Hannibal's mistake was not in invading Italy, but in not being more cautious and in not consolidating his power in Carthage's North African empire.

*Hannibal's Mistake: Hannibal Ante Portas* is a fascinating and thought-provoking exploration of one of the greatest military campaigns in history. Prevas's thesis is provocative and well-argued, and his account of Hannibal's life and career is both informative and entertaining. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in military history or in the life and times of Hannibal Barca.



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