

## 154-138 Lusitanian War

The Lusitanian War was in parallel to the Celtiberian and Numantine Wars (153-151, 143-133 )  
The Lusitanian leader Viriathus won several victories over five Roman commanders and even survived the massacre of three groups by governor Galba after they had surrendered their arms.

The wealthy Galba distributed some of the plunder to his soldiers and kept the rest for himself; he was eventually prosecuted but avoided punishment by an emotional plea for mercy.

In 155 BC, the Lusitanians revolted, under Punicus. He captured a lot of Roman Spain, but was killed in a siege and replaced by Caesarus. Caesarus attacked the Roman Mummius. He feigned retreat and killed 9000 Romans. Mummius then defeated the rebels at Ocilis, and was awarded a triumph.

He was replaced by Atilius, who invaded Lusitania and captured Oxthrakai. They surrendered, but revolted again in winter.

154 Lusitani raided Roman territory for plunder and had some success. The Celtiberians joined but gave over with favorable treaties (see below)

152 M. Atilius had some success but while Macedon and Carthage were being defeated for good, the Spanish tribes remained stubbornly defiant. Atilius was replaced by Galba. Galba defeated the rebels in battle, but again was deceived by a false retreat. 7000 Romans were killed, and Galba retreated to Carmone. Harsh blows were dealt them by the consuls Lucullus and Galba in 151 and 150 BC and yet they could not be broken.

151 Lucullus was wintering at Turdentania in Nearer Spain. Both he and Praetor Ser. Sulpicius Galba invaded Lusitania, and the Lusitanians surrendered.

Galba offered to give the Lusitanians a new home; Lusitanians disarmed, split up to be led to settlements

but then he massacred them. A few escaped, among them Viriathus. Galba then kept most of the

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plunder himself, and avoided prosecution by bribery. Galba was put on trial, attacked by Cato but got off and was consul again in 144

In 149 BC the tribune L. Calpurnius Piso proposed establishing a permanent court of senators for cases of extortion (*quaestio de rebus repetundis*), and its judgments could not be appealed to the people or the tribunes.

In 148 BC, the survivors of Galba's massacre revolted again, and captured the territory of Turdetania. They chose Viriathus as leader. Viriathus was born in Lorica, actual Loriga, Serra da Estrela, in the central Portugal. Many tribes sent him rebel fighters, who used guerilla tactics. Thus began the revolt of Viriathus, which lasted eight years and cost the Romans many casualties.

Viriathus ambushed and killed Vetilius. He then overran Carpetania. He defeated the replacement for Vetilius, Plautius, in two battles. He was driven off by Plautius' successor Maximus, though not without a great number of ambushes against the Roman.

147 Lusitanians regrouped under Viriathus; had much success against Romans

146 The extortions and perfidy of Servius Galba placed Viriathus, a brilliant leader, at the head of his nation.

145-144 Fabius Maximus (Aemilianus) with 2 legions made some progress

143-142 Roman failures encouraged Celtiberians. Viriathus decided that he had underestimated the Romans, and in 143 BC, he told the tribes of the Arevaci, Titthi and Belli to revolt separately. This was the Numantine War.

Aulus was too poor a general to defeat Viriathus, though he sent out a Spanish subordinate, Gaius Marcius, against him. (28)

Aulus was succeeded in 142 BC by Fabius Maximus Servilianus, bringing elephant allies from Numidia. In a big battle, he too was tricked by a false retreat, and 3000 Romans were killed. He was forced back to Itucca.

In 142 BC Viriathus finally retreated when he was short of supplies, and went back to Lusitania. Many rebels were captured by Servilianus when he followed up Viriathus' withdrawal. However, Viriathus attacked the Romans near Erisana, and chased them until they were trapped against cliffs. Viriathus was able to dictate terms so reasonable that they were even accepted by the senate. He made peace, and the Romans declared that Viriathus could keep the land he had captured. Viriathus was even recognized as a friend and ally of Rome.

141 Senate ratified treaty (!) Viriathus, who considered self-sufficiency his greatest wealth, freedom his country, and eminence won by bravery his securest possession, made a treaty with Fabius Servilianus and the senate. This was broken by his brother Caepio, pleaded with the Senate to be allowed to attack Viriathus because he felt the treaty was humiliating. Finally they agreed. Caepio attacked Viriathus, who escaped successfully.

Many Lusitanian tribes then rose up in rebellion. S. Junius Brutus was sent against them. He decided not to face the rebels directly, as their guerilla tactics would make this too difficult. He decided to capture their home towns. Many Spanish towns were captured by Brutus, and he subdued the rebels, and returned to Rome.

140 Nevertheless two years later the new consul, Servilius Caepio renewed war on his own initiative attacking the 'friend and ally'.

138 Caepio bribed three friends of Viriathus to kill him. Though Viriathus had been declared a friend of the Romans, he was assassinated while sleeping. Viriathus was replaced by Tantalus, who was immediately defeated by Caepio. - it was a blow from which the Lusitanians did not recover. Thus ended the revolt of Viriathus, which had lasted eight years.

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137 D. Junius Brutus had more success vs. Collaici (N of Lusitania)

The Lucitani tribe revolted again in 61 BC. This revolt was put down by Julius Caesar. There was no provincial status for a long time; in 49 the territory became a 'military annex'. This was a hard mountain country with thousands of tiny communities - much worse than Samnium.

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