Eastern Expansion and its Consequences: A Lesson in Manners:

The Greek world in the eastern Mediterranean also experienced the power of the Roman Republics armies. After the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE, there were squabbles among the inheritors of his empire: the kingdoms of Antigonus (Greece and Macedonia), Seleucus (Asia Minor), and Ptolemy (Egypt and eastern Libya). Added to this explosive mixture were the pirates in the Adriatic Sea. All of this put Roman trading and maritime commerce at risk.

The Romans had no particular desire to become embroiled in the politics of the Greek world. The Roman state had its hands full with Carthage. Nevertheless, matters came to a head when a senatorial deputation that arrived in Corinth in 147 BCE was treated badly, and Rome could not tolerate the insults of the Greeks. In 146 BCE, an attack was mounted against Corinth. The city was raised and plundered. Romans would later equate the destruction of that wealthy city and the theft of its treasures in fine art and opulent furnishings with the beginnings of decadence and a love of luxury in their own city.

