

The ancient Berber kingdom of Numidia existed between 202 BC and 46 BC in what is now Algeria and part of modern-day Tunisia in North Africa. Following his death, the region changed hands numerous times until eventually being incorporated into Roman territory during the rule of the legendary Julius Caesar. In addition to Constantine (formerly Cirta), cities in modern Algeria that date back to the time of Numidia include the port of Skikda (formerly Rusicada), Annaba (formerly Hippo Regius), and Tebessa (formerly Theveste). With the sparkling Mediterranean Sea to its north and the unforgiving Sahara Desert to the south, Numidia had the Roman-ruled province of Mauretania on its western border and the province of Africa, which was also under Roman rule, to the east. Roman officials attempted to settle the dispute by dividing the territory in two, assigning the western section to Jugurtha and the remainder of Numidia to Adherbal. During the Second Punic War, also known as The War Against Hannibal (218 BC–201 BC), the Numidians were split by tribe in their allegiance with the opposing groups.