1. Introduction:

![Figure 1: Location of Numantia in Central Spain (near Garray, Soria)](image)

2. Boudicca in the Ancient World:

**Tacitus’ (approx. AD 55–120) *Annals* 14.31-37 (before pitched battle vs Romans):**

Boudicca, mounted in a chariot with her daughters before her, rode up to clan after clan and delivered her protest: "It was customary, she knew, with Britons to fight under female captaincy; but now she was avenging, not, as a queen of glorious ancestry, her ravished realm and power, but, as a woman of the people, her liberty lost, her body tortured by the lash, the tarnished honour of her daughters. Roman cupidity had progressed so far that not their very persons, not age itself, nor maidenhood, were left unpolluted. Yet Heaven was on the side of their just revenge... If they considered in their own hearts the forces under arms and the motives of the war, on that field they must conquer or fall. Such was the settled purpose of a woman — the men might live and be slaves!"

**Cassius Dio 62.1-12 (late 2nd – early 3rd centuries AD):**

But the person who was chiefly instrumental in rousing the natives and persuading them to fight the Romans, the person who was thought worthy to be their leader and who directed the conduct of the entire war, was Boudicca, a Briton woman of the royal family and
possessed of greater intelligence than often belongs to women.... In stature she was very tall, in appearance most terrifying, in the glance of her eye most fierce, and her voice was harsh; a great mass of the tawniest hair fell to her hips; around her neck was a large golden necklace; and she wore a tunic of divers colours over which a thick mantle was fastened with a brooch. This was her invariable attire.

She now grasped a spear to aid her in terrifying all beholders and spoke as follows: “You have learned by actual experience how different freedom is from slavery. Hence, although some among you may previously, through ignorance of which was better, have been deceived by the alluring promises of the Romans, yet now that you have tried both, you have learned how great a mistake you made in preferring an imported despotism to your ancestral mode of life, and you have come to realize how much better is poverty with no master than wealth with slavery... However, even at this late day, though we have not done so before, let us, my countrymen and friends and kinsmen, — for I consider you all kinsmen, seeing that you inhabit a single island and are called by one common name, — let us, I say, do our duty while we still remember what freedom is, that we may leave to our children not only its appellation but also its reality... Have no fear whatever of the Romans; for they are superior to us neither in numbers nor in bravery...

3. The Legacy of Boudicca:

![Figure 2: Boudicca haranguing the Britons in a painting by John Opie, 1793(?)](image)
Figure 3: Bronze sculpture of Boudicca by Thomas Thornycroft in Westminster

Figure 3: Inscription from Boudicca statue above.
Figure 4: HMS *Boadicea* by Henry J Morgan (1892–1894)

Figure 5: HMS *Boadicea* (1908)

Figure 6: Alex Kingston as Boudicca in the film *Warrior Queen* (2003)
4. Numantia in the Ancient World:

Appian, Wars of the Romans in Iberia, 95.412-424:

(412) The Numantines were being worn out by hunger and sent five men to Scipio, who were instructed to discover whether he would treat them moderately if they surrendered. Their leader, Avarus, produced a long and verbose speech about the policy and bravery of the Numantines and added that even now they had done nothing wrong and were suffering to such an extent because they were defending their children and women and their ancestral freedom. (413) “For this reason, Scipio,” he said, “it is particularly appropriate for you, a man full of so much virtue, to spare a people who are courageous and brave, and to offer us terms more humane than our present evils, which we shall be able to bear, tested as we are by change of fortune. It is now your choice, not ours, either to receive the surrender of the city, if your demands are moderate, or to watch its destruction as it resists you.” (414) So spoke Avarus, but Scipio, who knew of the situation inside the city from the men he had captured, said that they must hand themselves and their property over to him and surrender their city and their weapons.

... (417) There was no limit to the evils they suffered, growing savage in their souls as a result of the food they ate, and becoming like animals in their bodies as a result of hunger, disease, their long hair and the duration of the siege. In this state, they handed themselves over to Scipio.

(419) Such was the love of liberty and of bravery in a city that was both barbarian and tiny. Although they were only about eight thousand strong in time of peace, they inflicted so many and such great defeats on the Romans, concluded such treaties on terms of absolute equality, even though the Romans never consented to make sure treaties with anyone, such was the quality of the last general sent against them, who surrounded them with 60,000 men, while they frequently challenged him to fight. (420) He was, to be sure, a greater general than they were, a man who refused to engage with wild animals, but wore them down with hunger, an evil that requires no fighting, through which alone it was possible to capture the Numantines and through which alone they were captured.

(421) This then is what I want to say about the Numantines, concerning their small numbers, their endurance, their many deeds and the length of time they held out. (422) First of all, all those who wished to killed themselves, each in his own way; the rest came out on the third day to the place that had been appointed, an appalling spectacle and looking altogether inhuman, with their bodies unwashed and just as stinking. (423) To their enemies they seemed pitiable because of this; but their faces made them seem terrifying, for they looked at the Romans, in a way which expressed their pride and grief, what they had endured and the consciousness of their cannibalism. Scipio chose 50 of them for his triumph, sold the remainder and destroyed the city, this one Roman general thus having captured the two cities that had given the most trouble in war.
5. The Legacy of Numantia:

Figure 7: *El último día de Numancia* by Alejo Vera (1880)

Figure 8: Reconstruction of the city walls at Numantia based on archaeological evidence.
**Figure 9:** Numancia, the Ironclad, in the 1900s-1910s.

**Figure 10:** (above) the Numancia frigate on a stamp!

**Figures 11 & 12:** SPS Numancia (F83)

**Figure 13 & 14:** Football match postage stamp depicting Rome vs Numantines. Crest of CD Numancia de Soria to the right.
For a separate discussion on notions of ‘identity’ and ‘place’, see forthcoming article to be published in March 2017: