

# DOWNLOAD PDF THE DYNAMICS OF EMPIRE: PERSIA OF THE ACHAEMENIDS, 485

## Chapter 1 : Achaemenid Empire | CourseNotes

*TWO. THE DYNAMICS OF EMPIRE: PERSIA OF THE ACHAEMENIDS, Among these countries there was a place where previously demons had been worshipped. Afterwards there I worshipped Ahura Mazda in accordance with Truth reverently.*

A summary with some historical comments can be found here. This is the first part of an article in eight pieces. Prologue Herodotus of Halicarnassus hereby publishes the results of his inquiries, hoping to do two things: Preserving the memory of the past by putting on record certain astonishing achievements was not unusual, but the bards who had been singing legendary tales had been less pretentious. Even the great poet Homer had started his Iliad in a more modest way: Many brave men did it send down to the Underworld, and many heroes did it yield a prey to dogs and vultures. In this way, the counsels of Zeus were fulfilled, from the day on which Agamemnon -king of men- and great Achilles first fell out with one another. And which of the gods was it that set them on to quarrel? The similarity between these two prologues is obvious: The difference is striking, too: Homer invites a goddess to relate the story; Herodotus does not need divine aid. Who was this man, who so proudly gave his personal opinion about the past? As its prologue shows, Herodotus was born in a town called Halicarnassus: The same argument applies to Athens: Herodotus may have spent some time in the leading Greek city of his age. Unfortunately, there are many ancient historians who were forced to spend part of their lives abroad after a political failure e. Probably, it is safer to ignore this piece of scholarly speculation. In his book on Rhetorics, he quotes its first line: It is imaginable that the Thurians have invented theirs after reading Aristotle. Therefore, Herodotus was still alive and writing in Since it is also known that in the summer of many Athenians were killed by the plague, it may be conjectured that Herodotus was one of the victims of this disease. However this may be, he must have died before , because he tells Book Nine, section 73 that a certain village in the neighborhood of Athens, Decelea, was never plundered by the Spartans, something that did in fact happen in , as Thucydides tells us 6. Perhaps we can be a little bit more precise: Therefore, his date of birth can be estimated in the eighties of the fifth century BC. The author of The Histories seems to have been a real globetrotter. If we are to believe him, he was no stranger in Babylon, where he interviewed the priests; he claims to have gone north to the Crimea and south along the Nile; he visited Sicily and knows the details of North-African topography. However, some doubts are possible: On the other hand, in his description of the Crimea, he mentions a king known to have lived around , which makes it likely that he really visited that part of the world. That he was able to write, is a fact easily ignored. However, it tells us that his parents could afford a teacher and were well to do. Herodotus must have been a rich man, possibly a member of the old aristocracy. We may speculate that he fought as a heavy armored infantryman a hoplite , like all Greek men of his class and age. He was a soldier, not a general. This is all we know about the Father of History: Yet, there are only a few ancient writers that we know as well as Herodotus. Other authors wrote longer texts, were greater historians, or reached greater intellectual heights, but none of them is able to convey the same feeling of intimate friendship that we experience when we read Herodotus. We meet him when he is in a dark mood, share his surprise, know his religious opinions, hear him chattering, joking and babbling. There is no ancient author whose character we know so well as the man about whose life we know so little. The solution to this paradox lies in The Histories. This idea corroborates an ancient story that he used to recite his work. On one occasion, a boy started to cry: It is likely that at one point Herodotus decided to collect his logoi in one continuous text. But now he faced a serious problem. His logoi were about very dissimilar subjects -e. Herodotus has recognized this problem, and decided to group everything around one single theme: Lectures on topography and ethnography now became integrated chapters of a historical chronicle. Homer Glyptothek, Munich Stories about the past were something that the Greeks primarily knew from the beautiful epic poems of Homer, who had sung about the valiant deeds of past heroes in the Iliad and the Odyssey. Herodotus was heavily influenced by this example. Sometimes he quotes the legendary bard; or

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he uses words that any Greek would have recognized as homeric. Sometimes, Herodotus copies scenes from Homer. In his description of the Battle of Thermopylae, he tells how the Spartans and Persians fought about the body of Leonidas. This is impossible in a hoplite-battle the type of warfare Herodotus describes but echoes a scene from the Iliad in which the Greeks and Trojans fight about the body of the hero Patroclus. A very important borrowing from Homer is the circular composition. More than a hundred times, Herodotus interrupts his narrative to digress on a subject. The longest digression is Book Two: Herodotus announces that the Persian king Cambyses wanted to conquer Egypt, and then begins to talk about the geography, the customs and the history of the ancient country along the Nile. Finally, at the beginning of Book Three, Herodotus resumes his narrative and describes the Persian invasion. The digressions belong to the most entertaining parts of the Histories. For example, we read an interview with an employee of an Egyptian mummy factory, an astonishing anecdote about the first circumnavigation of Africa, a hilarious tale about Indian goldmining, a report about the sources of the Nile and the Danube see below , a reconstruction of the language of the prehistoric Greeks, a cautionary tale about deposits, and lots more. Modern bust of Herodotus, Bodrum Turkey. Modern bust of Herodotus, near the Museum of Bodrum A final point of similarity between Herodotus and Homer is the impartiality of the narrative: It is interesting to compare this with the historiographical texts from the oriental monarchies: But Herodotus is more than just a pupil of Homer who added geographical and ethnographical bits and pieces to his unbiased epic tale. A first difference is that Homer was a poet using a complex meter, whereas Herodotus composed his logoi in prose. But the greatest difference is the fact that Herodotus was a real researcher, an empiricist. He traveled a lot in order to investigate the cities and opinions of man. Where Homer claimed to be speaking the truth depended on his inspiration from the muses, Herodotus based his narrative on research. Homer had told about distant, legendary antiquities; Herodotus was interested in events that were in living memory and could be verified. For example, he seems to have interviewed the survivors of the Battle of Marathon. Admittedly, interviews are an unreliable source, but it must be said that Herodotus did a remarkable job: Even though Herodotus makes some serious mistakes, he managed to give a pretty accurate description of the century before his birth. As it turned out, Herodotus invented a new literary genre: He did so by integrating the results of empiricist ethnographic and topographic research into epic, and writing this in prose. This combination was revolutionary. People admired his entertaining way of telling stories, but they did not believe them. In later times, nobody dared to believe what Herodotus told about strange customs. For almost two thousand years, people considered him just a teller of excellent tales and thought that all these strange customs were merely inventions. His never ending stream of tall, short and winding tales earned him -as Salman Rushdie would say- not one but two nicknames: Only when, after the discovery of the Americas, the Europeans learned to know the customs of hitherto unknown people, the reappraisal of Herodotus started. But even today, many of his claims are the subject of debate.

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## Chapter 2 : Talk:Achaemenid Empire/Archive 3 - Wikipedia

*The Achaemenid Empire* (/ ɛˈtʃiː m iːˈm ɛˈtʃiː n ɛˈɑː d /; 𐎧𐎱𐎠𐎿𐎫𐎡𐎴, XÂjassa (Old Persian) "The Empire" c. BC), also called the First Persian Empire, was an empire based in Western Asia founded by Cyrus the Great.

A well preserved Persian column showing the details of the capital of the columns in Persepolis Map of the expansion process of Achaemenid territories Further information: The empire ended up conquering and enlarging the Median Empire to include in addition many more territories, for example in Europe , the Caucasus , Asia Minor , Egypt , and Central Asia. Cyrus is considered to be the first true king of the Persian Empire, as his predecessors were subservient to the Medes. Cyrus the Great conquered Media, Lydia, and Babylon. Cyrus was politically shrewd, modeling himself as the "savior" of conquered nations, often allowing displaced people to return, and giving his subjects freedom to practice local customs. To reinforce this image, he instituted policies of religious freedom, and restored temples and other infrastructure in the newly acquired cities Most notably the Jewish inhabitants of Babylon, as recorded in the Cyrus Cylinder and the Tanakh. As a result of his tolerant policies he came to be known by those of the Jewish faith as "the anointed of the Lord. The cause of his death remains uncertain, although it may have been the result of an accident. Owing to the strict rule of Cambyses II, especially his stance on taxation, [36] and his long absence in Egypt, "the whole people, Perses, Medes and all the other nations," acknowledged the usurper, especially as he granted a remission of taxes for three years. The claim that Gaumata had impersonated Bardiya Smerdis , is derived from Darius the Great and the records at the Behistun Inscription. Historians are divided over the possibility that the story of the impostor was invented by Darius as justification for his coup. The coup, though initially successful, failed. It was agreed that an oligarchy would divide them against one another, and democracy would bring about mob rule resulting in a charismatic leader resuming the monarchy. Therefore, they decided a new monarch was in order, particularly since they were in a position to choose him. Darius I was chosen monarch from among the leaders. The Achaemenids thereafter consolidated areas firmly under their control. It was Cyrus the Great and Darius the Great who, by sound and farsighted administrative planning, brilliant military maneuvering, and a humanistic world view, established the greatness of the Achaemenids and, in less than thirty years, raised them from an obscure tribe to a world power. It was during the reign of Darius the Great Darius I that Persepolis was built ̂€" BC and which would serve as capital for several generations of Achaemenid kings. Hamadan in Media was greatly expanded during this period and served as the summer capital. Ever since the Macedonian king Amyntas I surrendered his country to the Persians in about , Macedonians and Persians were strangers no more as well. The Balkans provided many soldiers for the multi-ethnic Achaemenid army. All in all, the Macedonians were "willing and useful Persian allies. At the heart of the rebellion was the dissatisfaction of the Greek cities of Asia Minor with the tyrants appointed by Persia to rule them, along with the individual actions of two Milesian tyrants, Histiaeus and Aristagoras. In BC, the then tyrant of Miletus , Aristagoras, launched a joint expedition with the Persian satrap Artaphernes to conquer Naxos , in an attempt to bolster his position in Miletus both financially and in terms of prestige. The mission was a debacle, and sensing his imminent removal as tyrant, Aristagoras chose to incite the whole of Ionia into rebellion against the Persian king Darius the Great. The Persians continued to reduce the cities along the west coast that still held out against them, before finally imposing a peace settlement in BC on Ionia that was generally considered to be both just and fair. The Ionian Revolt constituted the first major conflict between Greece and the Achaemenid Empire, and as such represents the first phase of the Greco-Persian Wars. Asia Minor had been brought back into the Persian fold, but Darius had vowed to punish Athens and Eretria for their support of the revolt. The first campaign of the invasion was to bring the territories in the Balkan peninsula back within the empire.

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## Chapter 3 : Achaemenid Empire - WikiVisually

*The Achaemenid Empire, or Achaemenid Persian Empire, ( BC) was the first of the Persian Empires to rule over significant portions of Greater Persia (or Iran). It followed the Median Empire as the second great empire of the Iranian peoples.*

A replica of a Persian column from Persepolis currently located in Kholde Barin Park, in Shiraz Map of the expansion process of Achaemenid territories Further information: The empire ended up conquering and enlarging the Median Empire to include many more territories, for example in Europe , the Caucasus , Asia Minor , Egypt , and Central Asia. Cyrus is considered to be the first true king of the Persian Empire, as his predecessors were subservient to the Medes. Cyrus the Great conquered Media, Lydia, and Babylon. Cyrus was politically shrewd, modelling himself as the "saviour" of conquered nations, often allowing displaced people to return, and giving his subjects freedom to practice local customs. To reinforce this image, he instituted policies of religious freedom, and restored temples and other infrastructure in the newly acquired cities Most notably the Jewish inhabitants of Babylon, as recorded in the Cyrus Cylinder and the Tanakh. As a result of his tolerant policies he came to be known by those of the Jewish faith as "the anointed of the Lord. The cause of his death remains uncertain, although it may have been the result of an accident. Owing to the strict rule of Cambyses II, especially his stance on taxation, [35] and his long absence in Egypt, "the whole people, Perses, Medes and all the other nations," acknowledged the usurper, especially as he granted a remission of taxes for three years. Historians are divided over the possibility that the story of the impostor was invented by Darius as justification for his coup. The coup, though initially successful, failed. It was agreed that an oligarchy would divide them against one another, and democracy would bring about mob rule resulting in a charismatic leader resuming the monarchy. Therefore, they decided a new monarch was in order, particularly since they were in a position to choose him. Darius I was chosen monarch from among the leaders. It was Cyrus the Great and Darius the Great who, by sound and far-sighted administrative planning, brilliant military manoeuvring, and a humanistic world view, established the greatness of the Achaemenids and, in less than thirty years, raised them from an obscure tribe to a world power. It was during the reign of Darius the Great Darius I that Persepolis was built " BC and which would serve as capital for several generations of Achaemenid kings. Hamadan in Media was greatly expanded during this period and served as the summer capital. Subjugation of Macedonia was part of Persian military operations initiated by Darius the Great " in " after immense preparations " a huge Achaemenid army invaded the Balkans and tried to defeat the European Scythians roaming to the north of the Danube river. The Balkans provided many soldiers for the multi-ethnic Achaemenid army. All in all, the Macedonians were "willing and useful Persian allies.

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## Chapter 4 : History of Iran: Achaemenid Empire

*Persia had been the first real empire, an empire with an organizational structure developed from a realistic idea of how to govern different subject peoples. It defined the role of an emperor and set a template for future empires from the Romans to the British.*

In my opinion it is way better than the current leading pic in the article: Not only it is vector based, but it is an identical version of a sourced, authoritative map, and in my opinion should replace the current lead image in the article. Yeah that looks sweet! In my opinion, if Ali Zifan could re-add the Black Sea territories which Darius had definitely subjugated and we even have an article about , Paeonia , Macedon , all of Thrace , further parts of mainland Greece, etc; basically the same territories in Europe which were already added on the previous map, then it would be complete. Science does not stand still in time, and 70 years is a really long time. The problem with the previous maps on these articles was that they were almost entirely unsourced. I can cite all the sources here that are needed for those particlar territories, and Ali Zifan can add them to the source description on Wikimedia, if he agrees with it. The rest of the territories are all correct namely, even today in Basically re-adding the territories in Europe alike these maps. Bests - LouisAragon talk That would be a lot of interpretation, and would introduce factual errors such as where exactly was the border , as well as subjective claims does areas occupied DURING a war count as actual territory? It should be one way or another; either everything, or nothing. It can be used as a reference a good one that is , but by no means as a source to disregard the modern-day knowledge and facts about it. My problem is with drawing homemade maps based on interpretations. Finally is this map ready to used? Thanks for you good work! We should avoid interpretations, though most empire maps on Wikipedia are made this way; an amalgamation of sourced info that has been put together into an image. Its not an issue to have such a map as I described, as long as every inch is reliably sourced so to say. OR too, though exceptions exist. Can we use or deduct info from them for our new map? This map is sourced "enough", and also provides some historical context, showing the empire at different stages. Do you want a vector verison of it? I also updated the map based on territories that gained by Darius I in Europe. I changed the description and the source in the image. This map is of good usage and I just already asked Ali Zifan to update it regarding it. I have a better map! I made this long ago if this were to ever arise again! Please take this map into consideration! Godly Achaemenid Empire ca. I will gladly put this one up in the infobox! I will add more cities and Satrap names as time goes on! Never ever did it have such an extent. Furthermore, the colouring red is not good. Maka is one of the examples. The borders on the north east of the caspian sea are indicated incorrectly. Vector maps are more preferable than other types of images in Wikipedia. Putting the names on a map in infobox is not that necessary. Also we already had a long discussion about choosing a map so you can read those if you are not convinced yet. Thank you Ali Zifan Durant was a writer and Levi a poet. AND they all base their accounts on Diodorus who is often considered unreliable. Add to this that Diodorus himself lived more than years after Alexander. The claims about the extent and population of the empire also need references. The Roman Empire I believe was far bigger and wealthier. Can somebody confirm these? For now just removed the map with the false borders, but the article could use some further work. There are also a variety of private websites still being used as sources. Aside from removing obviously questionable stuff many of "good" sources need to be properly cited and formatted currently they are sometimes only links with no visible information about the source and at some point the article might need a content review by expert editors who have greater familiarity with the topic and access to relevant scholarly literature. After that there is also the question, whether anything "smart" can be done to reign in the constant deterioration over time somewhat. There must be much more on Encyclopedia Iranica that can be used. Note also this edit , by a copyvio sockpuppet, though judging by the style of the language wherever it was lifted from is likely to be out of copyright by now. Durant is I think only used for the puffing wind-up quote at the end of the article, next to Hegel. Note that the sockpuppet History of Persia is very active on Commons and

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some of his maps are appearing in articles here. Doug Weller talk It seems doubtful that such an important region such as Egypt would only be connected to the Asian portion of the empire by little more than the coast. Such a thin strip would be subjected to Arab raids constantly. You get the idea. For example, the Achaemenid Arabia article mentions talents of frankincense being given by "Arabia" to the Achaemenids, but paints it as more of a gift than actual tribute. It even makes a point of stating that the Arabs were still autonomous, which very well may be true. If a "vassal" is still essentially autonomous aside from annual "gifts", is it still part of the empire? These are all things we need to talk about when dealing with the dynamics of the relationships between the Achaemenids and their distant provinces and neighbours. We probably need a dual-colour map indicating "vassals". What particularly surprised me was the claim that there is no consensus on it, or that sources disagree about it. We have our own article on the wiki, List of largest empires , unambiguously giving a tremendous But more importantly, what notable sources disagree here? I even notice that Guinness World Records has now marked it as the largest, seemingly untroubled by any controversy around it. Bataaf van Oranje talk We should not be using another WP article as source and feel free to add the template. The previous number comes from Encyclopedia Iranica citing another source, while the new one a range comes from here. Issue appears to be settled and moot now anyway. Please do not modify it. I want to include this map in this article. If you editors are watching, please tell me what do you think about that? Arman ad60 talk I do not support your move to revert to this old map. STOP trying to push it via edit warring. This is an encyclopedia and people of the world will see this. It is hard to read and is an image of poor quality. This map is obviously better than the previous one. Because it is made with better graphics and is more detailed. And you cannot read any text of any other maps at this size. You can read them all when you zoom in on the map. What do the other editors think about that? Most non-local readers are not at all familiar with Near Eastern geography, and will find maps without labels hard to relate to. I think it should be included, but certainly not in the infobox. What do you think about them: All three maps are substantially different. You gotta figure out the actual borders. Can you tell me which part of the border you have problem with? No confusing text, simple and high quality vector graphics. The entries on this page go so far as to claim that cities were actually called by their Greek names, without qualifying that it was the strictly the Greeks who were doing the calling by that name. Persepolis is an example. I think this is misleading as a person of Persian descent I actually find it offensive and, unless someone beats me to it or raises a proper and persuasive objection, I will edit the page to clarify this issue, and include the Persian name as well as the Greek. The capital and "opulent city" were not "named" Pasargadae and Persepolis by their owners, the Persians as you might be lead to believe , but by the Greeks€”and only the Greeks. Please take a moment to review my edit. If you have any questions, or need the bot to ignore the links, or the page altogether, please visit this simple FaQ for additional information. I made the following changes:

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## Chapter 5 : Achaemenid Empire

*Thermopylae The Battle That Changed the World. The Dynamics of Empire: Persia of the Achaemenids, 29 Hellas: The Hellenic World in*

The pharaoh Ahmose II of the 26th dynasty sought to shore up his defences by hiring Greek mercenaries, but as a medium was betrayed by the Greeks. The Egyptians lost and retired to Memphis; the city fell to the Iranian control and the Pharaoh was carried off in captivity to Susa in mainland Iran. Three subsidiary campaigns were then mounted, all of which are reported as failures: This latter effort was partly successful, but the army suffered badly from a lack of proper provisions on the return march. Egypt was then garrisoned at three major points: Daphnae in the east delta, Memphis, and Elephantine, where Jewish mercenaries formed the main body of troops. Several provinces of the empire accepted the new ruler, who bribed his subjects with a remission of taxes for three years. Hastening home to regain control, Cambyses died--possibly by his own hand, more probably from infection following an accidental sword wound. Cambyses is reported to have ruled the Egyptians harshly and to have desecrated their religious ceremonies and shrines. His military campaigns out of Egypt were all reported as failures. He was accused of suicide in the face of revolt at home. It was even suggested that he was mad. There is, however, little solid contemporary evidence to support these charges.

Darius the Great - Bistun Click to enlarge Darius the Great Darius I, the Great, tells the story of the overthrow of Bardiya and of the first year of his own rule in detail in his famous royal inscription cut on a rock face at the base of Bisitun mountain, a few miles east of modern Bakhtaran. Six leading Achaemenid nobles assisted in slaying the false Bardiya and together proclaimed Darius the rightful heir of Cambyses. Darius was a member of the Achaemenid royal house. His great-grandfather had been Ariaramnes, son of Teispes, who had shared power in Persia with his brother Cyrus I. Hystaspes was, however, an important prince of the blood, who at the time of revolt of the false Bardiya had apparently been the governor of Parthia. Darius himself was in the mold of Cyrus the Great--a powerful personality and a dynamic ruler. Almost every province of the empire was involved in the conflict, including Persia and, most particularly, Media. A balanced policy of clemency backed by the swift and thorough punishment of any captured rebel leader, in combination with a well-co-ordinated and carefully timed distribution of loyal forces, eventually brought peace to the empire and undisputed power to Darius. He then turned his attention to the organization and consolidation of his inheritance, and it was for this role--that of lawgiver and organizer--that he himself, to judge from his inscriptions, most wished to be remembered. Such activities, however, did not prevent Darius from following an active expansionist policy. Campaigns to the east confirmed gains probably made by Cyrus the Great and added large sections of the northern Indian subcontinent to the list of Iranian-controlled provinces. Expansion in the west began about BCE when Darius moved against the Hellespont as a first step toward an attack on the Scythians along the western and northern shores of the Black Sea. The real strategic purpose behind this move probably was to disrupt and if possible to interrupt Greek trade with the Black Sea area, which supplied much grain to Greece. Crossing into Europe for the first time, Darius campaigned with comparatively little success to the north of the Danube. He retreated in good order, however, with only limited losses, and a bridgehead across the Hellespont was established. Perhaps in part in response to these developments, perhaps for more purely internal reasons, the Ionian Greek cities on the west coast of Asia Minor revolted against Iranian rule in BC. The Iranian were apparently taken by surprise, and at first the rebellion prospered. The Ionians received some limited assistance from the Athenians and in BCE felt strong enough to take the offensive. With one hand Darius negotiated; with the other he assembled a counterattack. The first Iranian military efforts proved only partially successful, however, and the Ionians enjoyed another respite in the years BC. A renewed Iranian offensive in BCE was successful. The Greek fleet was badly beaten off Miletus, and the Iranian land army began a systematic reduction of the rebel cities. He suppressed local tyrants and returned democratic government to many cities. Thus began preparations for an invasion of Greece on a grand, co-ordinated scale.

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These plans were interrupted in BCE by two events: The new king quickly suppressed the revolt in Egypt in a single campaign in BC. Xerxes then broke with the policy followed by Cyrus and Darius of ruling foreign lands with a fairly light hand and, in a manner compatible with local traditions, ruthlessly ignored Egyptian forms of rule and imposed his will on the rebellious province in a thoroughly Iranian style. Plans for the invasion of Greece begun under Darius were then still further delayed by a major revolt in Babylonia about BC, which also was suppressed with a heavy hand. Xerxes then turned his attention westward to Greece. Northern Greece fell to the invaders in the summer of , the Greek stand at Thermopylae in August of came to nought, and the Iranian land forces marched on Athens, taking and burning the Acropolis. But the Iranian fleet lost the Battle of Salamis, and the impetus of the invasion was blunted. Xerxes, who had by then been away from Asia rather long for a king with such widespread responsibilities, returned home and left Mardonius in charge of further operations. The real end of the invasion came with the Battle of Plataea, the fall of Thebes a stronghold of pro-Iranian forces , and the Iranian naval loss at Mycale in BC. Of the three, the Iranian loss at Plataea was perhaps the most decisive. Up until Mardonius was killed, the issue of the battle was probably still in doubt, but, once leaderless, the less organized and less disciplined Iranian forces collapsed. Time and again in later years this was to be the pattern in such encounters, for the Iranian never solved the military problem posed by the disciplined Greek hoplites. Xerxes probably lost interest in the proceedings and sank deeper and deeper into the comforts of life in his capital cities of Susa, Ecbatana, and Persepolis. Treasury intrigues, which were steadily to sap the strength and vitality of the Achaemenid Empire, led to the assassination of the Great King in BC. It is a tribute to Cyrus, Cambyses, and Darius that the empire they constructed was as resilient as it proved to be after Xerxes. The three kings that followed Xerxes on the throne-- Artaxerxes I BC , Xerxes II BC , and Darius II Ochus BC --were all comparatively weak individuals and kings, and such successes as the empire enjoyed during their reigns were mainly the result of the efforts of subordinates or of the troubles faced by their adversaries. Artaxerxes I faced several rebellions, the most important of which was that of Egypt in BC, not fully suppressed until BC. Athens broke the peace in BCE in an attack on Samos, and in its aftermath the Iranians made some military gains in the west. The assassin was himself killed by Darius II, who rose to the throne through palace intrigue. Several revolts marred his reign, including one in Media, which was rather close to home. The major event of these three reigns was the Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens that lasted, with occasional pauses, from to BC. The situation was ripe for exploitation by the famous "Persian archers," the gold coins of the Achaemenids that depicted an archer on their obverse and that were used with considerable skill by the Iranian in bribing first one Greek state and then another. Initially, the Iranian encouraged Athens against Sparta and from this gained the treaty of Callias. By the treaty of Miletus in BC, Iran recovered complete freedom in western Asia Minor in return for agreeing to pay for seamen to man the Peloponnesian fleet. Despite the fact that the Iranian played the two sides against each other to much advantage, they should have done better. One observes a certain lack of control from Susa by the king in these proceedings, and the two principal governors in Asia Minor who were involved, Tissaphernes of Sardis and Pharnabazus of Hellespontine Phrygia, seemed to have permitted a personal power rivalry to stand in the way of a really co-ordinated Iranian intervention in the Greek war. The main events of his long rule were the war with Sparta that ended with a peace favourable to the Iranian; the revolt and loss to the empire of Egypt; the rebellion of Cyrus the Younger, brother of the king; and the uprising known as the revolt of the satraps. Sparta, triumphant over Athens, built a small empire of its own and was soon involved in a war against the Iranian, the principal issue again being the Greek cities of Asia Minor. The Iranian rebuilt their fleet and placed a competent Athenian admiral, Conon, in command. The contest continued from to , with Sparta forced to act on an ever-shrinking front. Once again the Greeks gave up any claim to Asia Minor and further agreed to maintain the status quo in Greece itself. When Egypt revolted in BC, Iran was unable to do much about it, and from this point forward Egypt remained essentially an independent state. But he revolted again in BCE and, supported by 10,000 Greek mercenaries, marched eastward to contest the throne. He was defeated and killed at the Battle of Cunaxa in Mesopotamia in the summer of . The Greek mercenaries,



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however, were not broken and, though harried, left the field in good order and began their famous march, recorded in the *Anabasis* of Xenophon, north to the Black Sea and home. Since BCE Greek mercenaries had been gathered together in order to mount a campaign against Egypt. An attack in failed against the native 30th dynasty. On the heels of this failure came the revolt of the satraps. Several satraps, or provincial governors, rose against the central power, and one, Aroandas, a late satrap of Armenia, went so far as to stamp his own gold coinage as a direct challenge to Artaxerxes. The general plan of the rebels appears to have been for a combined attack. The rebel satraps were to co-ordinate their march eastward through Syria with an Egyptian attack, under the pharaoh Tachos Zedhor , supported by Greek mercenaries. How different would have been the wrath of Darius! Several of the satraps, including Aroandas, were actually forgiven and returned to their governorships. In general the impression is that, in the end, rather than fight the central authority, the satraps were willing to return to their own provinces and plunder there in the name of the Great King. Perhaps they saw that they actually had more authority and more control over real events in their own provincial territories than Artaxerxes had in his empire. He promptly exterminated many of his relatives who might have challenged his rule--all to no avail, for revolts continued to rock the empire. A fresh attempt to win back Egypt was thrown back in This setback encouraged revolt in Sidon and eventually in all of Palestine and Phoenicia. Parts of Cilicia joined the rebellion but the revolt was crushed the same year it had begun, BC. Peace was achieved only temporarily; mercenaries from Thebes and the Argives, as well as from the Greek cities of Asia Minor, gathered for a new attempt on Egypt, which, led by Artaxerxes III himself, succeeded in BC. But the local dynasty fled south to Nubia, where it maintained an independent kingdom that kept alive the hopes of a national revival. In BCE Iranian troops were fighting alone in Thrace against the Macedonians, and in the following year, at the Battle of Chaeronea, Philip extended his hegemony over all of Greece--a united Greece that was to prove impervious to Persian gold. Artaxerxes was poisoned by his physician at the order of the eunuch Bagoas. He attempted to poison the kingmaker but was himself killed in retaliation. So many members of the royal house had been murdered in the court intrigue that Darius probably held the closest blood claim to the throne by virtue of being the grandnephew of Artaxerxes II. Darius was able to put down yet another rebellion in Egypt under Khababash in BC, but the beginning of the end came soon afterward, in May , with the loss of the Battle of Granicus to Alexander the Great. Persepolis fell to the invader in April , and Darius, the last Achaemenid, was murdered in the summer of the same year while fleeing the conqueror. His unfinished tomb at Persepolis bears witness to his lack of preparation. Alexander did not win his victories easily, however, and the catalog of troubles that marked the latter part of the Achaemenid Empire--rebellions, murders, weak kings trapped in the harem, missed chances, and foolish policies--cannot be the whole story. The sources, mostly Greek, are often prejudiced against the Iranian and tend to view events from but a single point of view. No government could have lasted so long, found its way somehow through so many difficulties, and in the end actually have fought so hard against the conqueror without having much virtue with which to balance its vices. Achaemenid society and culture Achaemenid society and culture was in reality the collective societies and cultures of the many subject peoples of the empire.

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## Chapter 6 : Hakhamaneshian: Empire of Achaemenid Dynasty (CAIS)

*The Perspolis, Capital of Achaemenid Empire The language in greatest use in the empire was Aramaic. Old Persian was the "official language" of the empire but was used only for inscriptions and royal proclamations.*

Moving east, he took Parthia land of the Arsacids, not to be confused with Parsa, which was to the southwest, Chorasmi, and Bactria. He besieged and captured Babylon in and released the Jews who had been held captive there, thus earning his immortalization in the Book of Isaiah. His successors were less successful. Darius attacked the Greek mainland, which had supported rebellious Greek colonies under his aegis, but as a result of his defeat at the Battle of Marathon in was forced to retract the limits of the empire to Asia Minor. The Achaemenids thereafter consolidated areas firmly under their control. It was Cyrus and Darius who, by sound and farsighted administrative planning, brilliant military maneuvering, and a humanistic worldview, established the greatness of the Achaemenids and in less than thirty years raised them from an obscure tribe to a world power. His son and successor, Xerxes, was chiefly occupied with suppressing revolts in Egypt and Babylonia. He also attempted to conquer the Greek Peloponnesus, but encouraged by a victory at Thermopylae, he overextended his forces and suffered overwhelming defeats at Salamis and Plataea. By the time his successor, Artaxerxes I, died in BCE, the imperial court was beset by factionalism among the lateral family branches, a condition that persisted until the death in of the last of the Achaemenids, Darius III, at the hands of his own subjects. The Achaemenids were enlightened despots who allowed a certain amount of regional autonomy in the form of the satrapy system. A satrapy was an administrative unit, usually organized on a geographical basis. A satrap governor administered the region, a general supervised military recruitment and ensured order, and a state secretary kept official records. The general and the state secretary reported directly to the central government. The twenty satrapies were linked by a 2, kilometer highway, the most impressive stretch being the royal road from Susa to Sardis, built by command of Darius. Relays of mounted couriers could reach the most remote areas in fifteen days. Despite the relative local independence afforded by the satrapy system however, royal inspectors, the "eyes and ears of the king," toured the empire and reported on local conditions, and the king maintained a personal bodyguard of 10, men, called the Immortals. Old Persian was the "official language" of the empire but was used only for inscriptions and royal proclamations. Darius revolutionized the economy by placing it on a silver and gold coinage system. Trade was extensive, and under the Achaemenids there was an efficient infrastructure that facilitated the exchange of commodities among the far reaches of the empire. As a result of this commercial activity, Persian words for typical items of trade became prevalent throughout the Middle East and eventually entered the English language; examples are, bazaar, shawl, sash, turquoise, tiara, orange, lemon, melon, peach, spinach, and asparagus. The Achaemenid art and architecture found there is at once distinctive and also highly eclectic. The Achaemenids took the art forms and the cultural and religious traditions of many of the ancient Middle Eastern peoples and combined them into a single form. This Achaemenid artistic style is evident in the iconography of Persepolis, which celebrates the king and the office of the monarch.

## Chapter 7 : Achaemenid Empire - Wikipedia

*Darios I to Xerxes II. Circa BC. AR Siglos (16mm, g). Lydo-Milesian standard. Sardes mint. Persian king or hero, wearing. We will respond as quickly as possible to any inquiries.*

## Chapter 8 : Achaemenid Empire Facts for Kids

*BCE: The Persian satrapy of Armenia briefly cedes from the Achaemenid Empire but is brought under control by Darius I. BCE - CE: Achaemenid rule in the Gandhara region. BCE: Darius I of Persia fights the Scythians (not very*

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successfully).

Chapter 9 : Achaemenid Empire. Darios I to Xerxes II. Circa BC. AR Siglos | eBay

*The Persian Empire. Mr. Mable Aim: How did the Persians build and maintain a tremendous empire? Who were the important leaders? What were their contributions to history?*