

Greece and Iran

Chapter 4

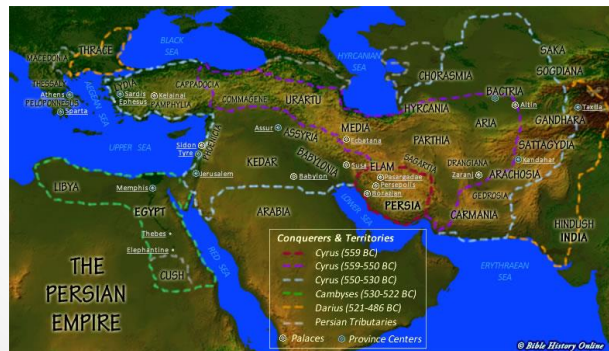


Ancient Iran (Persia)

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1000-500 BCE

Land of the Aryans

- **Iran**, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan
- Link between western Asia and central/southern Asia
- Majority of surviving historical accounts are Greek



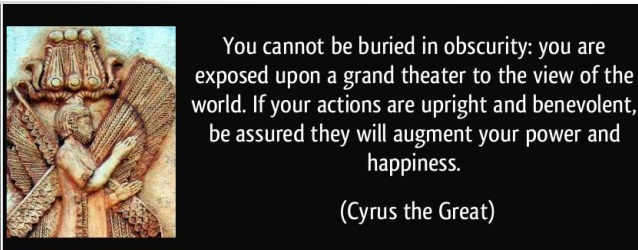
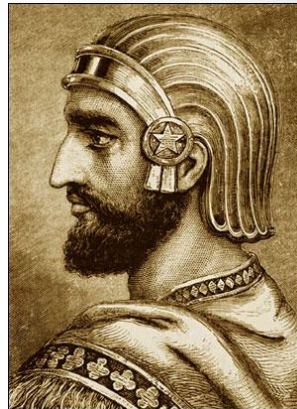
Persian Empire



- Medes
 - Western portion
 - First group to achieve complex political organization in the area
- Persians
 - Southeastern portion
 - Achaemenids
- **The two groups intermarried to create the empire**

Cyrus

- Persian father, Median mother
 - Article: http://www.ancient.eu/Cyrus_III/
- **United Persian tribes and overthrew Median monarch**
- Placed *both races in positions of authority*
- **Kept Median traditions/gov't structure**
- **Defeated Lydia, Anatolia, some Greek city-states, Neo-Babylonian dynasty**



You cannot be buried in obscurity; you are exposed upon a grand theater to the view of the world. If your actions are upright and benevolent, be assured they will augment your power and happiness.

(Cyrus the Great)

“9 Timeless Leadership Lessons from Cyrus the Great” – by Ryan Holiday, *Forbes Magazine*

“Behold: Cyrus the Great, the man that historians call “the most amiable of conquerors,” and the first king to found “his empire on generosity” instead of violence and tyranny. Consider Cyrus the antithesis to Machiavelli’s ideal *Prince*. The author, himself the opposite of Machiavelli, was Xenophon, a student of Socrates...

Be Self-Reliant

“Never be slow in replenishing your supplies. You’ll always be on better terms with your allies if you can secure your own provisions... Give them all they need and your troops will follow you to the end of the earth.”

Be Generous

“Success always calls for greater generosity—though most people, lost in the darkness of their own egos, treat it as an occasion for greater greed. Collecting boot [is] not an end itself, but only a means for building [an] empire. Riches would be of little use to us now—except as a means of winning new friends.”

Be Brief

“Brevity is the soul of command. Too much talking suggests desperation on the part of the leader. Speak shortly, decisively and to the point—and couch your desires in such natural logic that no one can raise objections. Then move on.”

Be a Force for Good

“Whenever you can, act as a liberator. Freedom, dignity, wealth—these three together constitute the greatest happiness of humanity. If you bequeath all three to your people, their love for you will never die.”

Be in Control

[After punishing some renegade commanders] "Here again, I would demonstrate the truth that, in my army, discipline always brings rewards."

Be Fun

"When I became rich, I realized that no kindness between man and man comes more naturally than sharing food and drink, especially food and drink of the ambrosial excellence that I could now provide. Accordingly, I arranged that my table be spread everyday for many invitees, all of whom would dine on the same excellent food as myself. After my guests and I were finished, I would send out any extra food to my absent friends, in token of my esteem."

Be Loyal

[When asked how he planned to dress for a celebration] "If I can only do well by my friends, I'll look glorious enough in whatever clothes I wear."

Be an Example

"In my experience, men who respond to good fortune with modesty and kindness are harder to find than those who face adversity with courage."

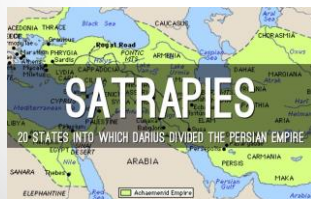
Be Courteous and Kind

"There is a deep—and usually frustrated—desire in the heart of everyone to act with benevolence rather than selfishness, and one fine instance of generosity can inspire dozens more. Thus I established a stately court where all my friends showed respect to each other and cultivated courtesy until it bloomed into perfect harmony."

There's a reason Cyrus found students and admirers in his own time as well as the ages that followed. From Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin to Julius Caesar and Alexander (and yes, even Machiavelli) great men have read his inspiring example and put it to use in the pursuit of their own endeavors."

Darius I

- Diminished the official role of the Medes
- Second founder of the Persian Empire
 - Stretched empire from eastern Europe to Libya and Russia
 - New organizational structure that would continue until the end of the empire



New Organizational Structure

- Divided empire
- **20 provinces**
- **Satrap**: Persian “governor” in charge of a province
 - Collect taxes
 - Local court system
 - Hereditary (eventually)



Darius I "the Great" (549-486 BCE) was a king of Persia who **ruled for 35 years**, from September 522 BCE to October 486 BCE. He was the **third Achaemenian king** and was **considered by many to be "the greatest of the Achaemenian kings."** During his reign, Darius completed the work of his predecessors, and not only did he **"hold together the empire," but he also extended it in all directions.** Thus, with Darius as Great King, Achaemenian Persia became the **largest empire in the world.**

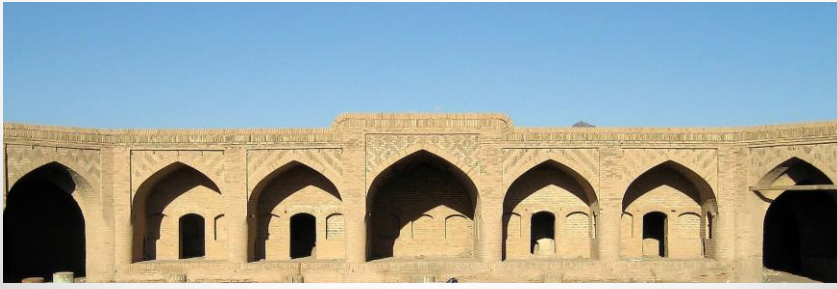
Darius was responsible for more than just the expansion of the empire. He also **centralized the administration of the empire, encouraged cultural and artistic pursuits, introduced legal reforms, and developed juridical systems.** In addition, many large building projects were started under Darius' rule, including the construction of a new capital city called **Persepolis.**

As much as Darius' reign can be characterized by these achievements, it can also be characterized by a **number of upheavals and battles, and general unrest among the citizens.** There were **two revolts in Babylonia** and **three in Susania.** The **Ionian Revolt** lasted from 499 to 493 BCE and was a large-scale rebellion by many regions of Asia Minor against Persian rule.

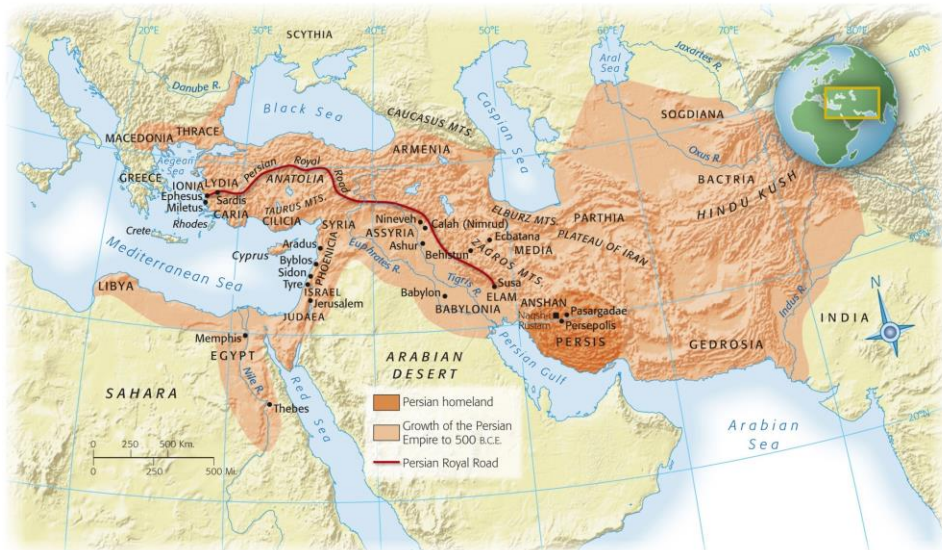
Darius planned an **expedition to Greece in order to punish the Greeks** for supporting the Ionian Revolt. His health, however, began to fail and he chose **Xerxes I**, his oldest son by Atossa, to be his successor. He never went to Greece, as he died in Persis in October 486 BCE.

Persian Royal Road

- 1600 miles
- Postal system
 - Royal messengers could travel across empire from modern Turkey to Iran within roughly a week
- 111 rest stops
 - Caravanserai
 - Guards at each stop

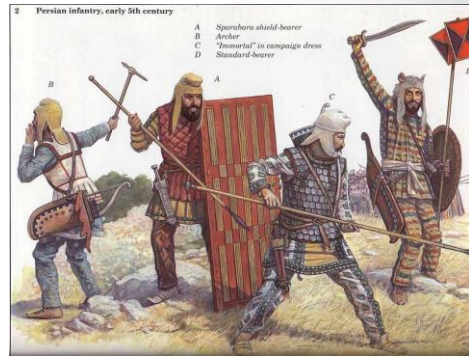


Persian Royal Road



*Society

- Patriarchal
- Warriors
 - King
 - Landowning aristocracy
 - Women had political influence, could own property
- Priests
 - AKA magi
- Peasants
 - Labor units divided by men, women, children, etc
 - Officials distributed food and other necessities
 - Pregnant women/women with babies received extra
 - Skilled laborers received more than unskilled



Capital(s)

Susa

- Administrative center of empire
- In geographical center
- Elam/Mesopotamia
- Near modern Iran/Iraq border
- Location of the tomb of the prophet Daniel (?)

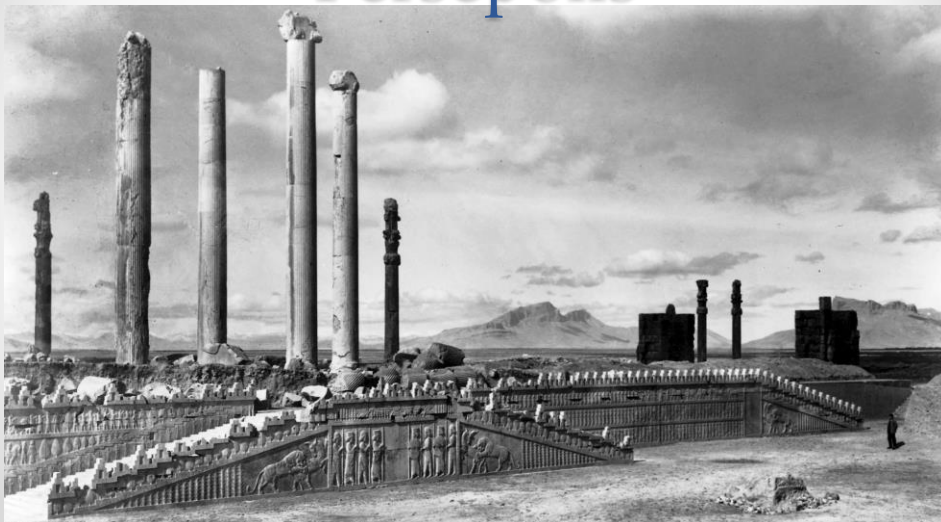
Persepolis

- Ceremonial capital
- Persian homeland
- **Symbol of power/wealth**
- **Marriages, coronations, burials**
- Propaganda relief sculptures
 - Images of all classes all willingly cooperating together

Susa



Persepolis



Decline of the Achaemenid Empire

- Policy of toleration under Cyrus, Darius
 - Rebuilding of temple in Jerusalem
- Xerxes (486-465 B.C.E.) **harshly represses rebellions in Mesopotamia and Egypt**
- **Increasing public discontent**



Decline: Ancient Encyclopedia

The empire Cyrus and Darius had built was strong enough to weather this slide into **decadence for 200 years, but gradually it took its toll. Satraps carved out their own islands of power. Inflation began to bite as taxes kept rising. Even the multiculturalism of the Empire, initially its great strength, had its drawbacks**; the huge army was a bewildering ragbag of troops all trained and equipped according to their **own traditions**, all speaking **different languages**.

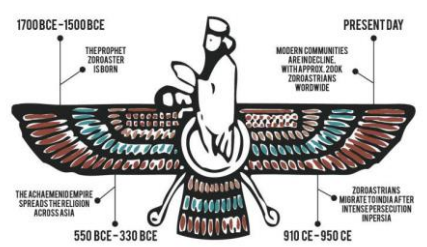
In 401 BCE, Cyrus the Younger, Satrap of Lydia, Phrygia, and Cappadocia, **staged a coup against his brother Artaxerxes II (404–358 BCE)** with the help of 10,000 Greek mercenaries who returned home when the coup failed. The information they brought back **paved the way for the triumphant arrival of Alexander the Great in 334 BCE.**

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.

When **Alexander came to replace the dying Persian Empire with a vision of his own, he held the example of Cyrus in the front of his mind.**

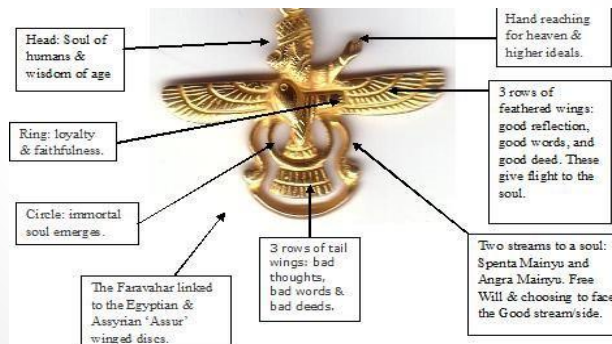
Zoroastrianism

- *The Gathas*: ancient Iranian hymn by Zoroaster
- **Ahuramazda** (like the car 😊) – **chief god**
 - Created the world
- World damaged by Angra Mainyu (hostile spirit)
- **Struggle between good and evil**
- **Afterlife** = reward/punishment depending on life lived
- **Darius tied his reign to religion by claiming to be appointed by Ahuramazda**
- Foundation for Monotheistic Religions?
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Zoroastrianism

- **Belief in one supreme deity**
- **High ethical/moral standard for humans**
- **Promised salvation**
- **Influenced Judaism (?)**





Ancient Greece

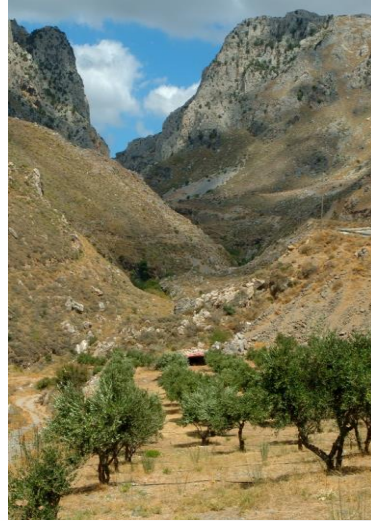
• • •
1000-500 BCE

Classical Greece, 800-350 B.C.E.



Geography/Resources

- Limited fertile/arable land
 - Rocky, mountainous landscape
 - Grains, olive trees, sheep/goats
- Dependence on the sea and trade
 - Geography made land transportation difficult
 - Could travel from Greece to Anatolia almost without losing sight of land



Dark Age

- 150-800 BCE
- Depopulation, poverty, disappearance from historical record
- Following the destruction of Mycenaean civilization
- Isolation from outer world

Archaic Period

- 800-480 BCE
- Dark Age ends with arrival of Phoenician ships to the Aegean
 - Writing system
 - Greeks added vowel sounds—the first true alphabet
 - Fewer symbols than cuneiform/hieroglyphics—easier for common people to learn
- Population explosion
 - Shift to farming and diet change
 - Caused urban centers and specialization to develop

Polis



- “City-state”
- Greece made up of hundreds of polis due to geography
 - Hard to be unified
- Acropolis: hilltop fortification
- Agora: Large, open area / marketplace

Hoplites and Colonization

- Hoplite: heavily armored infantrymen
- Army of private citizens
- Usually farmers during “off season”
- Excess population sent to colonies
 - Black Sea, North Africa, Italy
- Greek culture spread with colonists
- “Hellenes” described the Greek
- “Barbaroi” described “barbarians”
- Invention/use of coinage

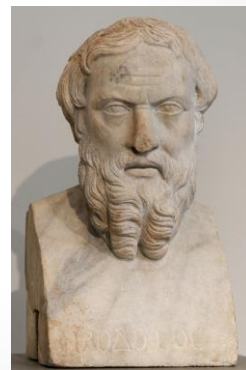


Politics

- Dark Ages: rule of kings
 - Eventually councils took the place of kings
 - Aristocracy
- Tyrant
 - 7th and 6th centuries BCE
 - Seizure of power and violation of traditional politics
 - Usually aristocrats supported by middle class
 - Eventually overthrown for either an oligarchy or democracy
- Oligarchy
 - Rule by a few wealthy families
- Democracy
 - Political power by all free adult males

Culture

- Religion
 - Zeus, Poseidon: gods that represented nature
 - Majority of gods were male
 - Epic poems (e.g. the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* by Homer) gave the gods anthropomorphic characteristics
 - Sacrifice
 - Oracles: Apollo at Delphi
- Intellect
 - Emphasis on the individual
 - Lyric poetry focusing on personal experience/ emotion
 - Rejection of traditional religious beliefs
 - Herodotus
 - First to write prose
 - Father of History



Athens vs. Sparta

...

This. Is. Sparta!!!



Sparta (No, really)

- 7th century BCE
 - Shortage of farm land
 - Population increase
- Invasion of Messenia (neighbor) INSTEAD of colonization
 - Native population became helots (state-owned serfs)
 - Spartans feared helot uprising
- Military state
 - Permanently prepared for war
 - Best army in Greece
 - Boys sent to military school at 7
- Peloponnesian League
 - System of alliances between Sparta and other neighbors
 - Maintained peace in the region (for a while)



Athens

- Larger in size and population than other polis
- Fertile land, olive trees
- Solon
 - Averted civil war in Athens
 - Divided Athens into 4 classes
 - Top 3 classes can hold office
 - Lowest class can still participate in meetings
 - Allowed for freedom of citizens
- Pisistratus
 - Tyrant that created an Athenian "identity"
 - Monumental building projects, festivals
- Pericles
 - 460/450 BCE
 - All power to body of government
 - The Assembly
 - The Council of 500
 - The People's Courts



WAR



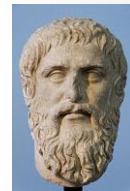
Persian Wars

- Ionian Revolt
 - Greeks in western Persia revolted against the Persians
 - Took the Persians 5 years to stop the rebellion
- 490 BCE
 - Darius sends troops to Eretria and Athens (both helped in the Ionian Revolt)
 - Eretria falls; survivors sent into exile in Iran
 - Athens: hoplites defeat Persians at the Battle of Marathon
- 480 BCE
 - Xerxes sends forces and takes over portions of southern Greece
 - Hellenic League (Sparta and allies)
 - 300 Spartans die at Thermopylae
 - Persians sack Athens, then navy is destroyed at Salamis
- Defeat of Persia leads to the creation of the Delian League
 - Alliance of city-states under the leadership of Athens
 - Athens eventually takes advantage of the League and becomes imperial power



Philosophy

- Socrates
 - Put on trial, convicted of "corrupting" Athenian youth
 - Forced suicide
 - Socratic method: questioning for deeper understanding
- Plato
 - Founder of "the Academy"
 - Refused to write down thoughts/training
- Aristotle
 - Student at the Academy
 - Founder of the Lyceum
 - Politics, philosophy, poetry, physics, psychology, etc
 - Tutor to Alexander the Great



Athenian “Equality”

- Trireme
 - Warship with 170 rowers
- Hoplites: now members of the middle/upper class
- Rowers: lower class
 - Could demand equal rights b/c they were the backbone of the power
- Only 10-15% of the population actually had a voice
 - Women, children, slaves excluded
- Women
 - Athens
 - Arranged marriage
 - Relegated to the home
 - Bear/raise children (males)
 - Sparta
 - Expected to raise strong soldiers
 - Encouraged to exercise
- Slavery rationalized
 - Most families owned 1 slave
 - Foreigners lacked the ability to reason/think for themselves

Peloponnesian War



- Sparta vs. Athens
- 30 years of fighting
- 404 BCE: Defeat of Athenian navy
- Sparta took over the Athenian “empire”
 - Same attitude toward others that Athens had
 - Internal fighting between other city states
- Allowed the Persians to conquer lost lands

The Macedonians

Philip II

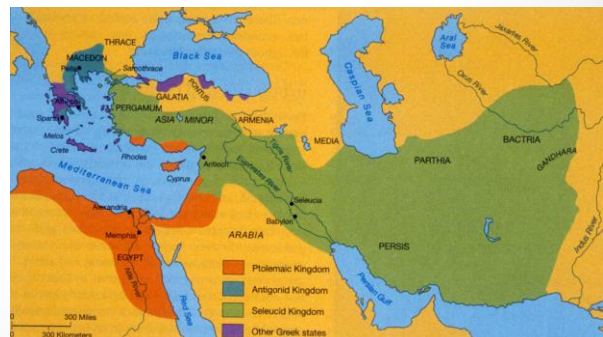
- King of Macedonia
- Created a military power in the Greek world
- Hoplites
 - Spears
 - Horses/cavalry
 - Catapults
- Corinth
 - Confederacy of states
 - Control of Greece

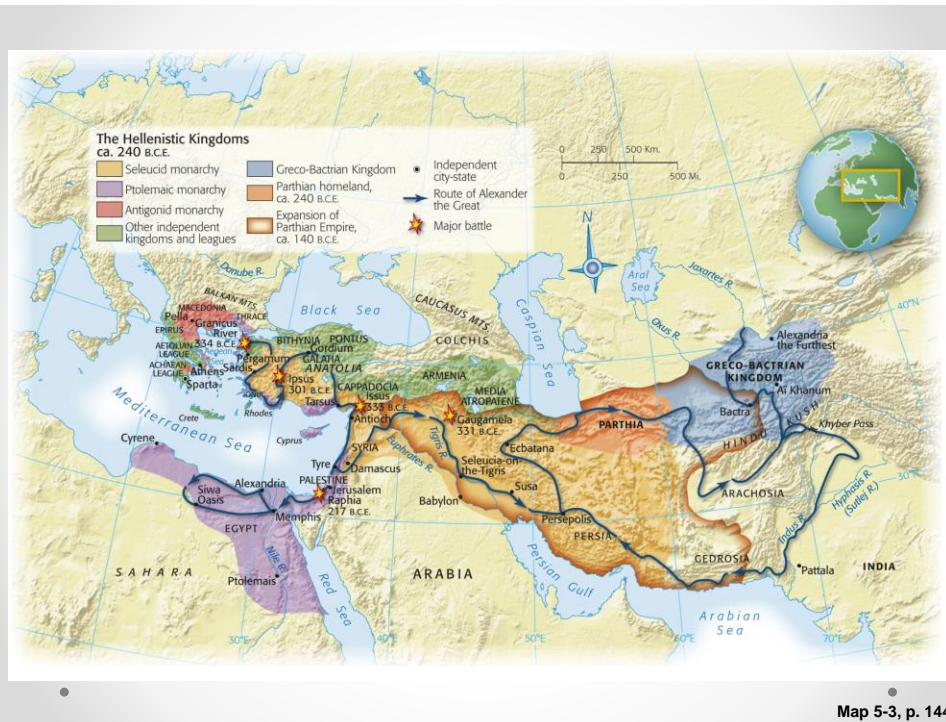
Alexander the Great

- Defeated the Persian king, Darius III
- Kept Persian style administration in conquered lands
 - Placed Macedonians in power
 - Eventually placed Persians in power/married Iranian women
- Alexandria, Egypt
- Died in 323 BCE

Hellenistic Age

- Hellenistic Age
 - Spread and influence of Greek culture spread by Alexander's empire
- No clear successor to Alexander's empire
 - 50 years of unrest
 - Empire divided into 3 Hellenistic kingdoms
 - Seleucid (Persia)
 - Ptolemaic (Egypt)
 - Antigonid (Greece/Macedonia)





Hellenistic Kingdoms

- Seleucids
 - Majority of Alexander's lands
 - Mesopotamia, Syria, Anatolia
 - Many ethnic groups within the kingdom
 - Hard to control
 - Many threats from invasion
 - Persian administration
- Antigonid
 - One main ethnic group
 - Macedonian homeland, northern Greece
 - Athens was a "museum" town
- Ptolemies
 - One ethnic group
 - Easy to control
 - Pharaoh
 - Linked Egypt to the Mediterranean
 - Encouraged Greek immigration
 - Rule from Alexandria
 - Greek style polis
- Alexandria
 - Body of Alexander "legitimized" the rule of the Ptolemies
 - Lighthouse of Alexandria
 - Library of Alexandria

Syncretism



- Diffusion
 - The spread of a culture, religion, idea WITHOUT changing the culture, religion, idea
 - EX: Spilled paint spreads out but doesn't change colors
- Syncretism
 - The spread of a culture, religion, idea and the changing of that culture, religion, idea into something new
 - EX: Two colors are spilled (blue and yellow) and make a new color (green)

