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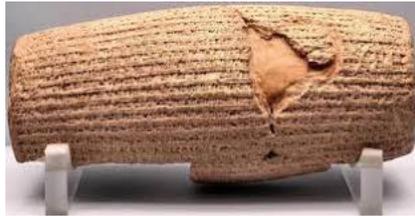
THE PERSIAN EMPIRE 559-465BC

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

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OCR ANCIENT HISTORY - COMPONENT 1
PERIOD STUDY: THE PERSIAN EMPIRE,
559 - 465BC KNOWLEDGE
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CYRUS THE GREAT

Character:

He was an excellent military commander.
 He was kind towards conquered peoples.
 He showed religious tolerance to conquered people, which was unusual for the time.
 Keeping religious tolerance meant that the subjects of the empire were considerably less likely to rebel against his rule.



CYRUS' YOUTH AND UPBRINGING

-Cyrus' childhood has many features that are similar to a **fairy story**:
 - It is said that Cyrus' grandfather had had troubling dreams that led him to believe that one day **Cyrus would overthrow him**. Herodotus says **Cyrus' grandfather, Astyages, king of the Medes, then ordered for him to be sent away and killed as a baby**. The man responsible for killing him, **Harpagus**, could not kill the child and so hands him to a **local shepherd to raise instead**.
 After **beating up a noble family's child** for not obeying his instructions, Cyrus is summoned with his adoptive father to the **Persian palace** to explain himself. The shepherd eventually **confesses** the whole story and Cyrus is sent **back to Persia** to live with his birth parents.

CYRUS BECOMES KING

While Astyages does not seem particularly phased by this, he murders the son of the man who was supposed to kill Cyrus, Harpagus. He then chops the son into pieces, cooks him, and then tricks Harpagus into eating his own son at a banquet.
Harpagus kept in touch with Cyrus, and while still working for Astyages, secretly campaigns for noble Medians to side with Cyrus in a rebellion. Astyages senses war is coming, and appoints Harpagus as the general for his armies. Before the battle, most of the Medians switch sides or run away. Cyrus then becomes king of the Medes, but allows Astyages to live on in retirement.

KEY FACTS

Cyrus conquered several neighbouring kingdom and assimilated them into the Persian empire. They were: The Medes, the Lydians and the Babylonians.
 His empire spanned 2,000 miles.
 He **honoured** and **celebrated** local **religions** and **customs**, and was very **tolerant** of them. He allowed anyone in conquered lands to practise their own religions with no punishments.
 In **538BC**, he allowed the **Jews** that had been enslaved by the **Babylonians** to return to **Jerusalem**. The **Jews** hailed him as a **liberator** after this.
 He was considered by the **Jews** to be one of God's '**chosen ones**' - a '**messiah**'.
 The **Cyrus Cylinder (539BC)**, written in **Akkadian**, tells us about the decrees (laws) that Cyrus made. The Cylinder gives the impression of **Cyrus as a tolerant and kind ruler**, and acts as a piece of **propaganda** that would likely help him to remain in charge.
 The **Cylinder** was paid for by **Cyrus**, so it would likely be **heavily biased in his favour**.

THE CONQUEST OF LYDIA

Cyrus sent messengers to the **Ionian Greeks** in the **West of Turkey** and asked them to join hm. They refused.
 Both sides fought and suffered heavy losses, but the battle was inconclusive.
 Croesus retreats. It was normal for armies not to fight in the winter and so Croesus intends to use the winter months to reach out to allies such as **the Babylonians, the Egyptians, and the Spartan** for help and assumed he had time on his side.
 However, Cyrus conterattacks. Croesus did not expect this and was caught off guard, but the Lydian cavalry (horse soldiers) are famous for their skill in battle...

CROESUS AND THE KINGDOM OF LYDIA

Lydia was a country that spanned most of Western Turkey. Their king was a man called **Croesus**. He was king from 560-547BC.
 Lydia had huge wealth in the form of gold, which came down the **River Pactolus**. The Lydians are said to be the first civilisation to mint gold and silver coins. King Croesus had captured many **Greek** cities and force them to pay him tax money.

MOTIVATIONS TO ATTACK CYRUS:

- Avenge Astyages
- The oracles (people who spoke to the Gods) said it would go well
- Is intimidated by Cyrus' recent conquering of the Medes
- Expanding his own power

Harpagus (remember him?!) puts camels on the front line of **Cyrus' army**.
The Lydian horses are unfamiliar with camels in warfare and are scared off

Croesus retreats back into his main city, **Sardis**, and prepares for a long **seige**.

The Spartans, the most powerful Greeks at this time, receive **Croesus' message** and prepare to move to assist him.

Shortly after, they receive another message saying that **Croesus** and the city of **Sardis** have fallen.

Croesus is put in chains and dragged before **Cyrus**, where he is to be executed for having the nerve to attack **Cyrus**.

Croesus is placed on top of a pile of wood that is then set on fire. **Croesus** calls out for the god, **Apollo**, who sends a thunderstorm and puts out the fire.

Cyrus pulls **Croesus** off the fire. **Croesus** then explains that all of this had been predicted by a man called **Solon**, who said he would meet a horrible end.

Cyrus realises he does not want to meet the same (almost) fate as **Croesus**, and decides **not to be arrogant**, as **Croesus** had been, and spares his life. (See character of **Cyrus**)

KINGDOM OF BABYLONIA

Babylonia was a kingdom situated in modern Iraq, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. There were about 10-15 cities in the confines of Babylonia.
 Population is projected to have been around 50,000, but no-one knows for sure.
 Babylon was very wealthy - famous for its furniture and pottery, and fine architecture and had a large trade network.

CONQUEST OF BABYLON

There are some Babylonian sources about this campaign, but they are very one-sided in favour of **Cyrus**, as he was good at **propaganda**.
 The account of the conquest of **Babylon** is not very detailed:

The **Babylonians** prepared themselves for a **seige**.

The **Persians** diverted (re-routed) the river **Euphrates**.

The **Persians** then **waded up what remained of the river**, to the point where it entered the city.

With the **lower water level**, they were easily able to get to the gate and break through.

However, some **scholars** say how **unlikely** this may be, and state that there may have been **someone working for the Persians inside the city**. It was an inside job!

It is after this that **Cyrus** has the **Cylinder** written. He tries to **link himself to old kings of Babylon to give himself credibility**, while slagging off the previous king, **Nabonidus**. He also **frees the Jews**, and allows them to return back to **Jerusalem**.

TREATMENT OF THE JEWS

- Babylon was a key site to conquer for the Persians, as this now allowed them access to the whole of the Levant.
- We are unsure of HOW exactly Cyrus claimed all this land, but it seems relatively peaceful, with the people living there not particularly upset about Cyrus' coming.
- The people welcomed Cyrus as an alternative to the unpopular Babylonian rule.
- Babylonians sources portray the Babylonian king, Nabonidus as a wicked king who disrespected the Babylonian Gods.
- Cyrus uses the Cyrus Cylinder as propaganda to link himself to the main Persian god, Marduk, saying he was chosen by Marduk to be King.
- On another part of the cylinder, Cyrus insults the previous King, Nabonidus, while praising himself as liberator of the people, especially the enslaved Jews.



THE LEVANT

Allows people to keep their own traditions and religion in typical tolerant style.

Liberates the enslaved Jews, and allows them to return to their heartland, earning a mention in the Old Testament.

Establishes himself as connected to the old Babylonian Kings, and being chosen by Marduk

IMPACT OF THE CONQUEST OF BABYLON

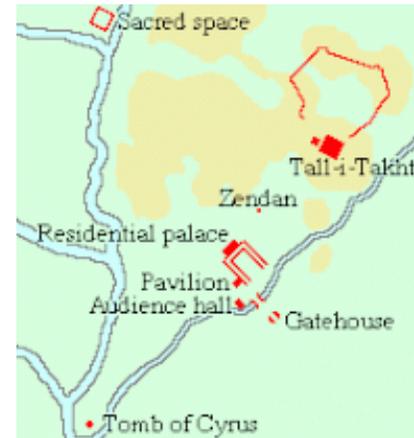
Getting rid of unpopular king, Nabonidus, gaining favour with the people.

THE DEATH OF CYRUS

- After conquering Babylon, it is said that Cyrus continued campaigning in Central Asia, namely against a tribe of people called the **Massagetae**.
- The Massagetae** were led by a Queen, called **Tomyris**.
- She suggested that the Persians and **Massagetae** leave each other alone, but Cyrus refuses.
- All **Persian** advisors says that Cylus should fight on the Persians side of the river, except for Croesus, the Lydian king whose life Cyrus spared. He warns Cyrus that his good fortune cannot continue for much long, as good luck always runs out! This is a typical theme in Herodotus' writing.

THE CITY OF PASARGADAE

- After having defeated his father, Astyages, Cyrus build a grand capital city on the site of the battle, called Pasargadae, at the centre of the Persian heartland, Pars.
- Before this, the Persians used to pay tribute to the Medians, Astyages' people, but now Persia was able to stand by itself!
- The city was quite simply decorated, with the main buildings spread out over a wide area.



FEATURES OF PASARGADAE

- A 'zendan' - fire temple, where the Persian religion Zoroastrianism, was practiced.
- 'Tall-i-takht' - 'throne hill' this was the citadel.
- The Tomb of Cyrus was on a flat piece of land on a 6-step step pyramid.

INVASION OF EGYPT

Polycrates of the island of Samos was a significant threat to Persia, and was an ally of Egypt.

Desire for more power.

OR...Cyrus dies peacefully at his new capital city, Pasargadae

CAMBYSSES



KEY FACTS

King of Persia from 529 - 522BC. Conquered Egypt in 525BC at the Battle of Pelusium. Had planned other campaigns into Ethiopia, Carthage and the Oasis of Amon. Herodotus accuses Cambyses of many atrocities in Egypt, and of being a madman. At the beginning of his reign at least, he had used a policy of tolerance.

Cyrus is advised to ask for the daughter of the Egyptian King, Amasis, in marriage. The king sends the daughter of a previous king. She owns up immediately after arriving to Cambyses.

MOTIVATIONS

Greater access to trade routes in the Mediterranean

Egypt had long desired the Levant which Persia conquered under Cyrus.

The Egyptian king, Amasis, chose to ally with Croesus when Cyrus was conquering Lydia.

Cyrus does not follow Croesus' advice. He send his son, Camyses, back to Persia. He had named Cambyses heir of the Empire.

In the first fight, Persia captures **Tomyris**' son, **Spargapises**, who kills himself once taken prisoner.

Tomyris, enraged, fights a second battle and wins. Cyrus is among the dead.

Tomyris beheads Cyrus' corpse and puts his head in a bag filled with blood, remarking "perhaps that will satisfy his blood lust."

PREPARATION FOR INVASION

- Polycrates switched sides to the Persians in about 535 BC, bringing with him a large navy. Perhaps because **King Amasis** had died, and **Polycrates** recognised that the Persians were more likely to win in the upcoming conflict.
- Phanes**, a Greek mercenary, who had been **King Amasis**' advisor, also switched to the Persian side and helped **Cambyses**.

On Phanes' advice, **Cambyses** makes friends with the **desert Arabs**, who help him to set up **water supply tanks** to supply his army.

EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN

- On the first meeting at **Pelusium**, the Persians scored a victory against the **Egyptians**. It is said that the Persians knew that **cats** were sacred to the Egyptians, and so covered themselves in cats as armour so that they **Egyptians** would not dare harm them.
- The **Persians** moved south to **Memphis**, where they **beseiged** the city and the **Egyptians** surrender. Beyond this, **Herodotus** gives us few details of the war with **Egypt**.



CAMBYES AS RULER OF EGYPT

- After taking control of Egypt, Herodotus present Cambyses as behaving more of a madman than a King who is respectful of his subjects' traditions and religions.

Disrespected the corpse of the old Egyptians King, Amasis. This is in contract to this predecessor, Cyrus, who often showed mercy and respect to conquered Kings.

Has the locals' 'sacred bull' (**Apis Bull**) brought before him, and slices its thigh with a dagger and laughs.

He refused to believe local leaders' explanation and had them executed.

THE APIS BULL

- The **Egyptians** believed that their god of the **Sky, Ptah**, would take the shape of a **bull** and live among them.
- When the **Apis Bull** died, the **Egyptians** would wait for another to be born with specific markings.
- Once they found one, they would name it the **Apis Bull**.
- When **Cambyses** had returned to **Memphis**, they had just named a new **Apis Bull**.

FALSE SMERDIS

- It wasn't long after all of his sacrilegious acts that **Cambyses** meets his end.
- There were two brothers who were **Magi**, members of a class of **priests**. It was their job to perform **religious rituals**, advise rulers and guarding royal tombs. **This may be why the took issue with Cambyses.**
- One brother was called **Patizeithes** and was in charge of the royal household. The other was (ironically) called **Smerdis** and resembles **Cambyses'** murdered brother.
- **Patizeithes** convinced his brother to pretend to be the **real Smerdis** and take control of the empire. He send an announcement to the army that they now took orders from him.

EGYPTIAN MARRIAGE CUSTOMS

- It was not tradition for **Persians** to marry their sister, but it was an **Egyptian** tradition.
- **Cambyses** likely married his sister to **gain support** from the **Egyptians** for following their customs, **not due to any sort of incestuous relationship**



DEATH OF CAMBYES

- **Cambyses** had worked out that it was the two **Magi brothers** playing a trick.
- He realised his dream didn't tell him which **Smerdis** would dethrone him, and **felt bitter regret** for murdering his brother.
- He mounted his horse, but the sword fell out of its sheath, and **pierced him in the thigh, exactly where he had wounded the Apis Bull.**
- **Cambyses** died of a **gangrene infection**, after **7 and a half years on the throne**. His advisors did not believe his story about false **Smerdis** and ended up doing nothing.
- When he died, **Cambyses'** empire was in disarray.



HERODOTUS CONCLUDES

Herodotus concludes by saying Cambyses had totally lost the plot, as he used to break open old tombs and examine the bodies.

Launched an expedition against Ethiopia with no planning.

Organised the murder of his brother, Smerdis, after dreaming Smerdis would overthrow him.

MADMAN?

When he returned to Memphis, he thought that a religious festival was the locals celebrating his army's failure.

Has his sister, to whom he was married, murdered for referring to the murder of Smerdis.

In one version of the story, he kicks her to death while she was pregnant.

DARIUS



KEY FACTS

- Born: 521BC.
- **Expanded** the empire **greatly**, which would now include: **Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Iran and Western India.**
 - Generally the empire did well under Darius because he gained the support of conquered peoples by **encouraging cultural, artistic and religious tolerance.**
 - Darius also established a complex **postal service** and a **complex network of roads, as well as spies, which were called 'The eyes and ears of the Kings'.**
 - Also **encouraged trade** by introducing expeditions to the Indian Ocean from the mouth of the **Indus river, bringing back many expensive goods.**

DARIUS' ACCESSION TO THE THRONE

There are a few different accounts of Darius accession to the throne:

DARIUS' VERSION (Bisitun inscription)

Darius looks down upon the peoples who had challenged his rule after he took power:

A **tenth figure** is being trodden on by **Darius**. This is **Gaumata**.

According to the inscription, he is the **Magus** who tried to take power by pretending to be **Cambyses' brother**. This makes him equivalent to **Smerdis** in Herodotus' story.

It says that **Cambyses** killed his brother in **secret** and then went to Egypt. When the people became restless, **Gaumata the Magus** led a rebellion.

It then says that Darius challenges Gaumata with the help of the Persian God, Ahuramazda and kills him on 29th September with 6 allies. Darius then comes to the throne.

HERODOTUS' VERSION

False Smerdis reigned for several months after Cambyses' death. However, he never left the royal palace and his wives had never seen each other:

Otanes, a Persian noble, asks his daughter, and one-time wife of Cambyses to find out who he was. She would be able to tell, as Cyrus had once ordered false Smerdis have his ears cut off.

Sure enough, she finds out that he did not have ears. Otanes and 6 Persian nobles conspire to overthrow him. One was Darius.

The conspirators kill the two Magi brothers and show their heads to the people.

After a discussion, they decide monarchy is still the best way to rule.

The first man's horse to neigh after dawn would be king. The new king becomes Darius.

REVOLTS FACED BY DARIUS DURING HIS REIGN

Uprisings and rebellions soon broke out in Elam and Babylonia, as support for False Smerdis was strong

While in Babylonia, Darius hears of an uprising in Bactria, an area that had always been loyal to Darius.

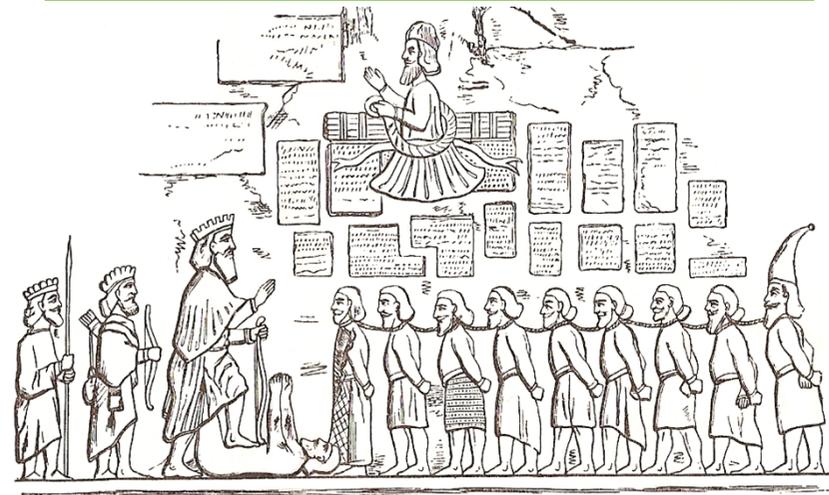
- Media
- Parthia
- Assyria
- Egypt

A revolt broke out in Persis, right in the Persian heartland.

Elam and Babylonia - again!

- Although he may not have had the favour of the people, Darius had an army that was loyal to him. His generals were made up of his close personal friends, including those that had helped him to oust False Smerdis.

THE BISITUN INSCRIPTION



Darius' guards subtly threaten violence.

Darius stands tall over the 'false kings' whose rebellions he has crushed.

The 'false kings' are bound to one another as a statement of their failure individually and as a group to defeat him.

The Zoroastrian god, Ahura Mazda, looks down with praise on Darius.

Darius presents himself as 'morally good' as he has the blessings of Ahura Mazda. This means, then, that all of those who oppose him are inherently 'bad'. This creates the sense of a battle between good and evil, with Darius as the 'good' and any enemies as the 'evil'.

IMPERIAL EXPANSION

WHY?

Herodotus tells the story of Darius being goaded into expanding the Empire by Atossa, his wife.

"although you have so much power, you are idle"

"The right thing... to be seen bettering himself, so that the Persians know that they are ruled by a man"

DARIUS: "Woman, what you have said is exactly what I had in mind to do. I have planned to make a bridge from this continent to the other."

Originally begun by an earlier Egyptian King, yet Darius claims credit.

500-mile canal linking Egypt to the Red Sea to promote trade.

REORGANISING THE EMPIRE

Darius now divides up the empire into **satrapies**. These are regional areas, which governors (**satrap**) are put in control of.

The job of the **satrap** was to:

The governors are chosen from Darius' court and are often close family members, so he can be sure that they will remain loyal.

1. Collect taxes from the area

2. Offer up soldiers to the King's army in times of need

The **King's Scribes** were employed to keep an eye on the satraps, and make sure that they were doing as the King ordered. They could be considered spies and were also named '**The King's Eyes**'

A network of well-built roads that helped to get messages to far away areas of the Empire and also to promote trade.

Building the Royal Roads

BUILDING PROJECTS OF DARIUS

The Darius Canal

1) Rebuilt the city on 3 mounds - apdana mound in the North, Royal City mound on the East and the Acropolis on the South.

Developing the city of Susa

The foundation Charter - Darius stakes his claim as King, with the blessing of Ahura Mazda. He wants to present himself as King of all of the peoples under the empire. He uses a range of materials and skills in the inscription to emphasise this point.

25 miles outside Pasargadae. Construction began in 518BC.

Monumental raised terrace, covering nearly 34 acres. This contained relief sculptures of peoples from 23 different nations bringing tribute to the King.

The Royal capital city of Persepolis

The subjects are not kneeling or bowing, suggesting they are willingly bringing presents to the King. This gives the impression of unity.

THRACE AND SCYTHIAN EXPEDITION

Darius launches a full invasion into Europe, centered around Scythia (modern Ukraine) and Thrace (modern Bulgaria)

Leads a force to the Bosphorus, a body of water that separates Asia with Europe, whic they crossed in boats and rafts.

Herodotus claims the army was about 700, 000 men. They marched through Thrace to the river Danube and make another bridge.

The Scythians made it difficult by splitting up as much as possible. When the Persians try to engage them in battle, skilled Scythian horseback arches often made short work of Persian forces.

Persians forced to retreat but became lost. The Scythians beat them back to the bridge and argues with the Greeks guarding it, telling the Greeks that they should rebel against the Persians.

IMPERIAL EXPANSION UNDER DARIUS (CONTD.)

THE INDUS VALLEY

Darius sends out a reconaissance party to the Indus Valley.

Darius subdues the peoples int he Indus Valley (Indians)

Indians are brought into the Empire. They are not mentioned on the Bisitun inscription, but are included in the sculptures at Persepolis and are shown bringing gold as tribute to Darius.

Herodotus presents the expedition as a disaster.

Established a firm border at the river **Ister (Danube)** with the Scythians.

The importance of this region to the Empire is shown in the names of the local peoples being included in Empire documents by their Persian name: **skudra**

MACEDONIA

Thrace was linked with a large number of Greek cities on the coast. The Persians sent ambassadors to **Macedonia** to demand earth and water (a symbol of submission to Persia)

The Macedonians me the demands. They were not formally admitted into the Empire until 492BC.

Conquest of the whole of Thrace.

Thrace is rich in resources: precious metals, gold, silver, timber.

The timber could be used to build ships.

Persia now had control of the North Aegean coastline, controlling and dominating trade.

SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

THE IONIAN REVOLT

The Greeks under the Persian Empire had largely been cooperative with Darius when he came to power in 522BC

However, a major revolt breaks out in 499 and takes 5 years to put down.

Aristagoras, a man in charge of the Greek city in Asia called Miletus, falls out with the local satrap (regional governor) after attempting a joint military conquest of an island called Naxos.

Aristagoras argues with the Persian generals, and looks like he will lose his power. He chooses to resign and convince his city, Miletus, and others like it, to rebel against the Persians.

The Greeks do this happily, and set up democracies in place of having one ruler.

Aristagoras goes to mainland Greece, looking for help. The Spartans refuse, but the Athenians happily offer 20 ships, setting up a long feud between the Athenians and Persians.

The Persian fleet of 600 was able to defeat the Greek fleet of 353 by bribing some of the Samian fleet who deserted the navy at the sart of the battle. Persia brought the whole region back under control.

Many stands firm, and battle ensues.

Persians try to bribe their enemy instead of fighting them.

A final showdown takes place at Lade, near Miletus.

Greeks return to the coast, but many are killed by skilled Persian cavalry. Athenians withdraw form the rebellion.

In the first assault, the Greeks take and burn Sardis to the ground.

The city of Eretria also offers 5 ships.

FURTHER MEDDLING IN MAINLAND GREECE

492BC

ERETRIA

To attack and punish Athen and Eretria

Seize more land in the Aegean Sea

Herodotus presents this as a total failure as the Persian fleet was wrecked and Persia had to withdraw.

However, Persia did acquire wealthy island of Thasos

Darius wanted to send another army, but a rebellion in Egypt delayed them. Darius dies in 486BC

Herodotus relates that 6,400 Persians were killed compared with only 192 Greeks as they used **phalanx** tactics.

Captured and besieged with the help of Eretrian traitors. Temples were burnt as revenge.

Fleet moves to Attica, landing at Marathon.

The forces meet at the plain of Marathon.

491BC

490BC

Darius sends messengers into Greece, demanding earth and water:

Most city-states agree

Athens reacts with violence - throwing messengers into a pit for criminals.

Free city-states look down on those who agree to work with the Persians.

Sparta throws Persian messengers into a well.

No Persian records, but Herodotus recounts the story.

This sends a clear message: co-operate and be rewarded, fight back and be destroyed.

Darius sends a fleet of 600 ships to Naxos, which it takes easily and burns its temples to the ground in revenge for Sardis (see Ionian revolt)

Fleet moves to holy island of Delos, a religious centre for all Greece. Islanders flee, but Persians cause no trouble. Instead, they offer lavish gifts to the temple.

XERXES

INVASION OF GREECE

SUCCESSION OF XERXES

Xerxes was not Darius' oldest son, but managed to make sure he was the next King.

He got the help of Demaratus, a Greek advisor.

Demaratus recommends the Spartan system - the son born immediately after becoming king is the next heir.

TO INVADE OR NOT TO INVADE?

YES	NO
Get revenge on Athens	Scythian expeditions was a disaster
Live up to predecessors	Battle of Marathon still vividly in Persian memory
Acquire new territory	

PREPARATIONS

Xerxes recruits soldiers from all over the empire.

Herodotus numbers Xerxes' army at 2.6million, drawn from 47 nations.

Took 4 years.

Setting up supply lines and bases along the route in Thrace and Macedonia

Feats of engineering needed to be built

A canal cut through Greece to avoid choppy waters.

2 bridges of boats set up across the Hellespont (area between Asia and Europe)

REVOLTS AFTER DARIUS' DEATH

EGYPT

May have resented having to pay tribute to Persia and contributing to a large fleet that Darius had been preparing for another expedition in Greece.

BABYLON

Perhaps inspired by Greek victory at Marathon

Rebellions were common when the ruling King died.

Two revolts in year 484BC

Little information in the sources.

Brought about by administrative changes that made Persian control easier.

THE PERSIAN ARMY

Smallest unit made up of 10 men.

which belonged to a larger unit of 100 men.

which went into a unit of 1,000 men

which could be incorporated into the largest unit of 10,000 men

PERSIAN TACTICS

Front line created a shield wall (most Persians had wicker shields)

Army drew up 10 lines of men deep.

Archers behind the front line fired arrows at the enemy. Persian archers could reach up to 170 metres.

Many Persian battles would be won using archers and ranged attacks, in contrast to the Greek **phalanx** and **hoplite** strategy.

Persia had a long tradition of cavalry, and excellent horse breeders.

It was required for Persian nobles to be able to ride.

Persian cavalry could fight in close quarters, or at distance with bows and arrows and javelins.

BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE

The Greeks who wanted to resist the Persians formed the Hellenic League, made up of 30 or so city, with Sparta as leader.

The Greeks send an advance party to Thermopylae to block Persians

On the first day, the Persians suffered heavy losses. Their equipment and skill did not match that of the hoplite tactics of the Greeks, and the narrow fighting space levelled the playing field. Even the immortals were unsuccessful.

On the second day, there was still little Persian success, but a local Greek, names Ephialtes came to Xerxes looking for reward. He knew a mountain pass that would lead the Persians around the Greeks so they could be attacked from behind.

As dawn broke on the 3rd day, the Greeks learned that scouts had led the Persians around their blockade.

The Spartans knew they would die that day, but they did not fear death as they believed a heroic end would get them a place in heaven and fought on until the bitter end.

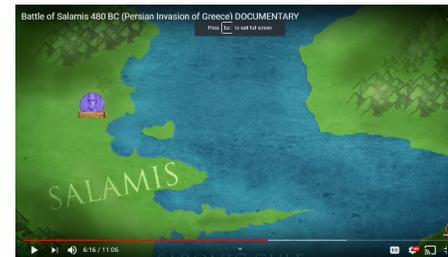
Normally, the Persians respect the bodies of the dead, but it is said that Xerxes had Leonidas' body decapitated in his fury.

The only account we have is from Herodotus, who wrote decades after, once the story had passed into legend, and so we are presented with an unbalanced view.

Herodotus says that the group of Greek soldiers numbered about 7,000, led by 300 Spartans. The Greeks rebuilt an old wall to funnel the Persians into a narrow pass.



YOUTUBE VIDEO, BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/4JWBXXGYCAW](https://youtu.be/4jwbxxgycaw)



YOUTUBE VIDEO, BATTLE OF SALAMIS
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/7UHODZTA9PQ](https://youtu.be/7UHODZTA9PQ)

The superior number of Persian worked against it - the Persian ships all crowded up to one another, making it far more difficult to be successful.

BATTLE OF SALAMIS

The Persians marched south through Central Greece, destroying the cities that refused to come over to their side.

The Persians especially wanted to sack Athens as revenge for its temples and the Greek sacking of the city of Sardis and the Battle of Marathon.

As the Persians approached, the Athenian general Themostocles ordered that the city be abandoned, and all battle-ready men sail to Salamis.

Herodotus states that Athens and its allies had around 380 ships, from a total of 21 allied Greek city-states.

The mistocles tricks the Persians into fighting in the bay at Salamis by sending a false message to Xerxes.

Themoistocles understood the currents of the bay, and the Persians were not reknowned for thier sailing skills.

Many Persian ships turned sideways, leaving them open to being rammed by Greek ships, which had a battering ram on the front. It could breach the hull of an enemy ship, leaving it to sink.

BATTLE OF EURYMEDON

Many Greek cities combined to create a defensive alliance called the Delian League.

At some point in the 460s, a joint land and sea operation started and was fought between the forces of the Delian League and the Persian Army at Eurymedon.

Athens was at the head of the Delian League, which was led by Cimon. The Greeks won a decisive victory, although ancient sources on this topic are very limited.

Thucydides, writing at the end of the 5th Century BC simply says that: "In both battles, the Athenians won victory on the same day under the command of Cimon...they captured or destroyed the entire Phoenician fleet of 200 triremes."

Diodorus Siculus is also of questionable reliability. For example, in his account the land and sea battle happen 100 miles apart, but on the same day with the same soldiers.

Plutarch gives a more plausible account, but keep in mind that he was a biographer, and was far more interested in the personalities of those involved than the events themselves. He also forms this biography on Cimon, whom he praises uncritically.

However, Plutarch clearly thinks that the battle was of significance, and tells us that the Persians were so utterly beaten, and Xerxes so thoroughly humiliated that he agreed a peace with the Greeks.

SOURCES ON EURYMEDON

REVISION TASKS:

1) CREATE A MINDMAP OF EACH KING

2) LOOK AT THE CAREER OF EACH KING: CREATE A LIVING GRAPH TO SHOW THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THAT KING'S CAREER IN CHARGE.

3) CREATE A GLOSSARY OF KEY WORDS/PEOPLE/FACTS/ STATISTICS. ADD THESE ONTO FLASHCARDS

4) CREATE CORNELL NOTES OF EACH KING