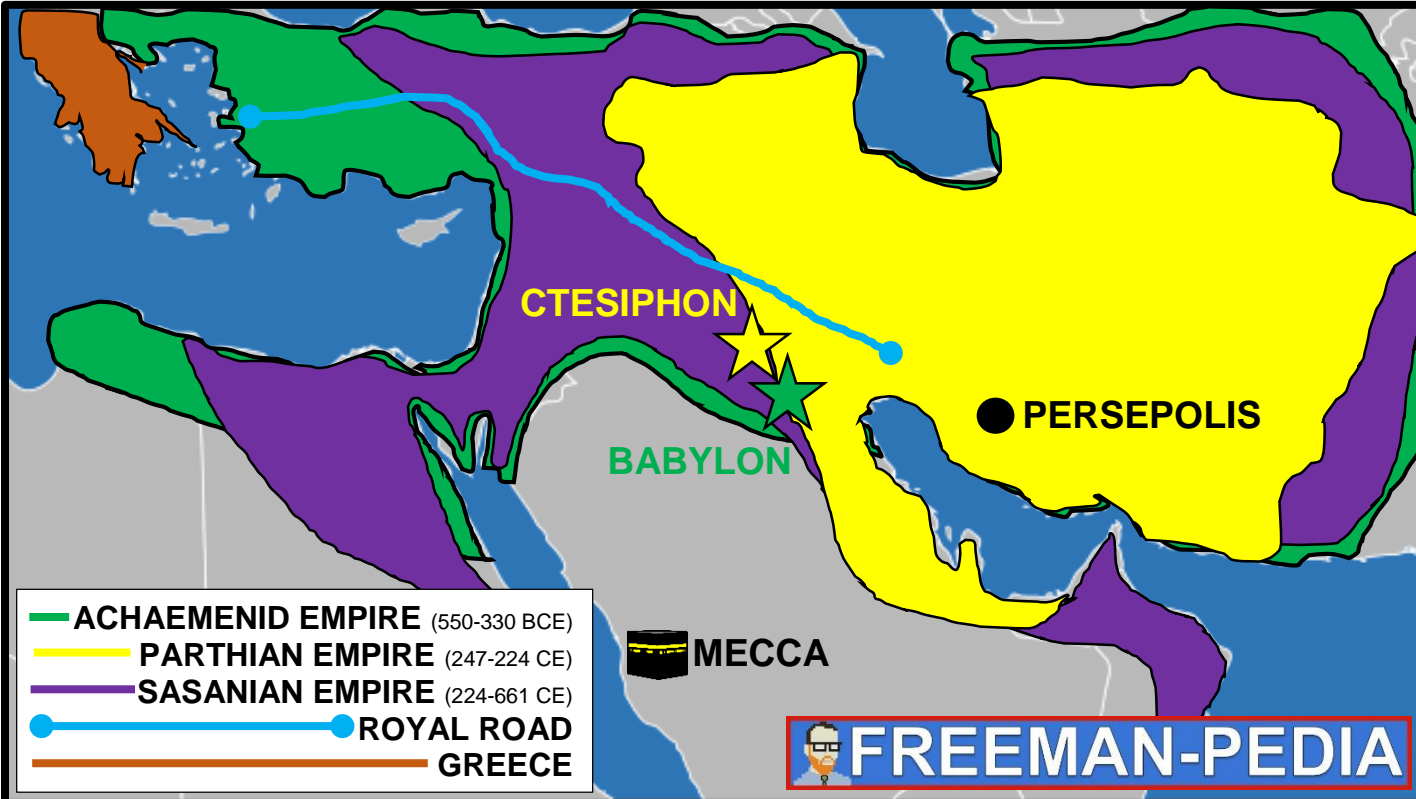




PERSIAN EMPIRES



CLASSICAL
(600 BCE-600 CE)
ORGANIZATION & REORGANIZATION OF HUMAN SOCIETIES

APPEARANCES IN THE AP CURRICULUM

- The number and size of **key states and empires** grew dramatically by imposing political unity on areas where previously there had been competing states. (*Persian empires*)
 - Required examples:
 - Achaemenid, Parthian, Sasanian
- In order to organize their subjects, the rulers created **administrative institutions** in many regions (Persia)
- Much of the success of the empires rested on their promotion of trade economic integration by building and maintaining **roads** and **issuing currencies**
- Cities served as centers of trade, public performance of religious rituals, & political administrations for states and empires (Persepolis)
- The Roman, Han, **Persian**, Mauryan, and Gupta empires created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage, which eventually led to their decline, collapse, and transformation into successor empires or states.
- Land and water routes became the basis for trans-regional trade, communication, and exchange networks in the Eastern Hemisphere (Silk Road)
- The spread of crops, including rice and cotton from South Asia to the Middle East, encouraged changes in farming and irrigation techniques (**Qanat System**)

553 BCE
CYRUS DEFEATS MEDES TO FOUND THE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE

492 BCE
DARIUS I INVADERS GREECE

480 BCE
XERXES INVADERS GREECE, PERSIANS WIN BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE

53 BCE
PARTHIANS DEFEAT AND EXECUTE ROMAN CONSUL CRASSUS

TIMELINE

539 BCE
CYRUS CONQUERS BABYLON. JEWS ALLOWED TO RETURN

490 BCE
PERSIANS DEFEATED BY THE GREEKS AT THE BATTLE OF MARATHON

333 BCE
DARIUS III DEFEATED BY ALEXANDER THE GREAT

224 CE
SASANIANS OVERTHROW THE PARTHIANS

PEOPLE TO KNOW

CYRUS THE GREAT
600-530 BCE
FOUNDER OF THE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE, THE GREATEST EMPIRE THE EARTH HAD SEEN. RESPECTED THE CULTURES HE CONQUERED.

ZOROASTER
628-551 BCE
FOUNDER OF THE ZOROASTRIAN BELIEF SYSTEM THAT DOMINATED PERSIA IN THIS ERA UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF ISLAM.

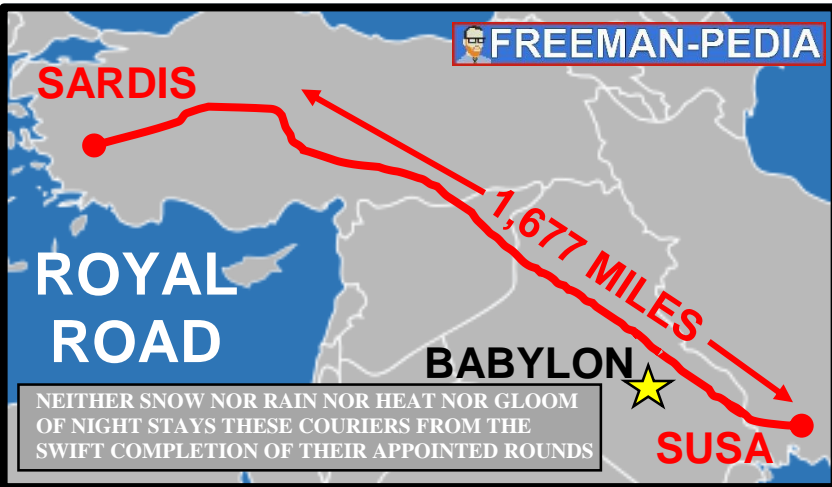
DARIUS THE GREAT
550-486 BCE
RULED THE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE AT ITS PEAK. EXPANDED INTO GREECE BEFORE ULTIMATELY LOSING AT THE BATTLE OF MARATHON.

WHAT IS ACHAEMENID?

- THE 'PERSIANS' ARE THE LATIN/GREEK PRONUNCIATION OF PARSUA (FROM PARSIS)
- THE ACHAEMENIDS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE THREE TO KNOW
- PRONOUNCED "UH-KEY-MUH-NID", THE NAME DERIVES FROM AN EARLY RULER NAMED ACHAEMENES (WHO MAY NOT HAVE EXISTED)
 - EX. OTTOMANS=OSMAN

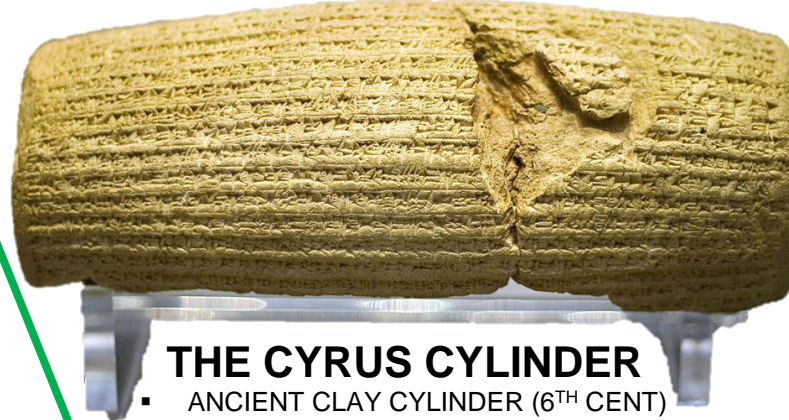
LIFE AFTER CYRUS

- CYRUS DIED IN BATTLE IN 530 BCE TRYING TO EXPAND HIS EMPIRE INTO UZBEKISTAN
- CAMBYSES II (SON) TOOK POWER NEXT:
 - CONQUERED EGYPT, DIED AFTER 7 YEARS
 - NEXT SON, DIED AFTER 7 MONTHS
- EMPIRE EXPANDED TO THE LARGEST IN HISTORY
 - (% OF POPULATION: 44% OF EARTH'S POP IN 480 BCE)



LET'S START WITH THE FOUNDER, AND THE GREATEST... CYRUS THE GREAT

- NOT THE FIRST ACHAEMENID RULER, HE IS REMEMBERED AS THE FOUNDER FOR BRINGING THE ACHAEMENIDS TO PROMINENCE
- ROSE IN REBELLION AGAINST LARGER NEIGHBOR: MEDES
- DEFEATED & INCORPORATED SURROUNDING EMPIRES INTO THE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE
 - LYDIAN, NEO-BABYLONIAN, MEDIAN, EGYPT
- FIRST TRULY MULTI-ETHNIC EMPIRE
 - RULED ALL EQUALLY
 - AS LONG AS YOU 1. PAID TAXES 2. KEPT PEACE
 - DID NOT INTERFERE WITH LOCAL CUSTOMS, RELIGION
 - **EX.** AFTER CONQUERING JUDEA & BABYLON, HE FREED THE JEWS IN BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY
 - ONLY GENTILE TO BE REFERRED TO AS "SAVIOR"
 - MENTIONED IN BIBLE BY NAME 23 TIMES!

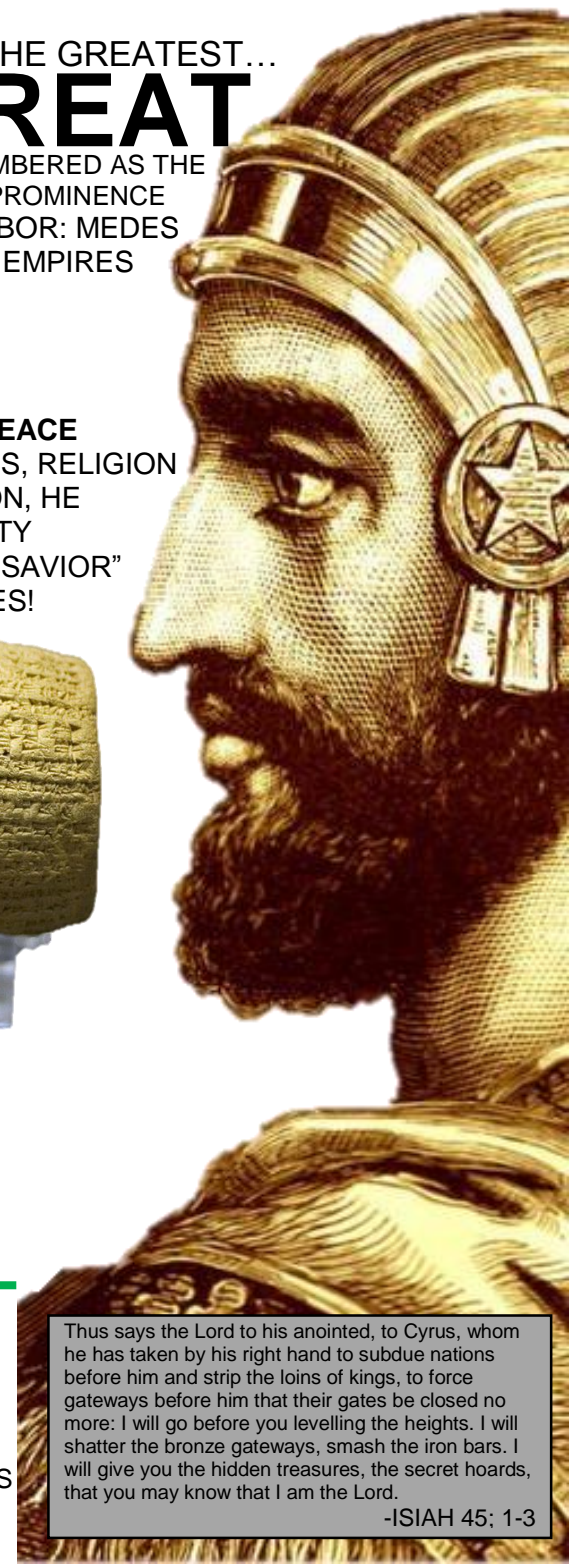


THE CYRUS CYLINDER

- ANCIENT CLAY CYLINDER (6TH CENT)
- TEXT PORTRAYS HIM AS GREAT CONQUEROR OF BABYLON
- PROCLAIMS HE RESTORED TEMPLES, REPATRIATED DISPLACED PEOPLES
- HISTORY'S FIRST ATTEMPT OF A RULER RULING MULTIPLE ETHNICITIES AT ONE TIME

← THE ROYAL ROAD

- COLLECTION OF NEW/ANCIENT ROADS
- REORGANIZED/BUILT BY DARIUS I
- MOUNTED COURIERS COULD GO SUSAN TO SARDIS IN 7 DAYS (111 RELAY STATIONS)
 - CARAVAN COULD TAKE OVER 3 MONTHS
 - "NOTHING IN THE WORLD TRAVELS FASTER THAN PERSIAN COURIERS." -HERODOTUS



Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: I will go before you levelling the heights. I will shatter the bronze gateways, smash the iron bars. I will give you the hidden treasures, the secret hoards, that you may know that I am the Lord.

-ISAIAH 45: 1-3

- EXISTED BEFORE THE ACHAEMENIDS
- SPREAD BY PROPHET ZOROASTER
 - TAUGHT MONOTHEISTIC Z. OVER POLYTHEISM OF REGION
- AFTER CYRUS UNIFIED THE REGION, HE MADE Z. THE STATE RELIGION OF PERSIAN EMPIRE (PARTHIANS, SASANIDS DID TOO)
- COEXISTED WITH OTHER BELIEF SYSTEMS (JUDAISM, Etc.)
- REMAINED MAIN RELIGION OF REGION UNTIL ISLAM (7TH CENT)
- MANY SACRED TEXTS WERE LOST WHEN ALEXANDER THE GREAT BURED THE LIRARY IN PERSPOLIS 330 BCE
- ONCE CONQUERED BY Umayyads, Z=DHIMMI
- 2.6 MILLION TODAY (MOSTLY IN IRAN & INDIA)



BELIEFS OF ZOROASTRIANISM

- CREATOR, SOLE GOD=AHURA MAZDA
- CREATOR OF ONLY THE GOOD (ASHA) NOT BAD (DRUJ)
- **DAENA**-ETERNAL LAW; SIMILAR TO HINDU/BUD. DHARMA
- ALL PHYSICAL BEINGS RUN ACCORDING TO MASTER PLAN
- DRUJ-VIOLATIONS TO MASTER PLAN & AHURA MAZDA
- **GOAL:** DEFEND ASHA AND AVOID DRUJ (GOOD V. EVIL)

FARAVAHAR (SYMBOL OF ZOROASTRIANISM)- HAS HAD MANY MEANINGS THROUGH HISTORY BUT IS COMMONLY BELIEVED TODAY TO REPRESENT A GUARDIAN ANGEL.

ZOROASTRIANISM

ENTER THE GREEKS...

 FREEMAN-PEDIA

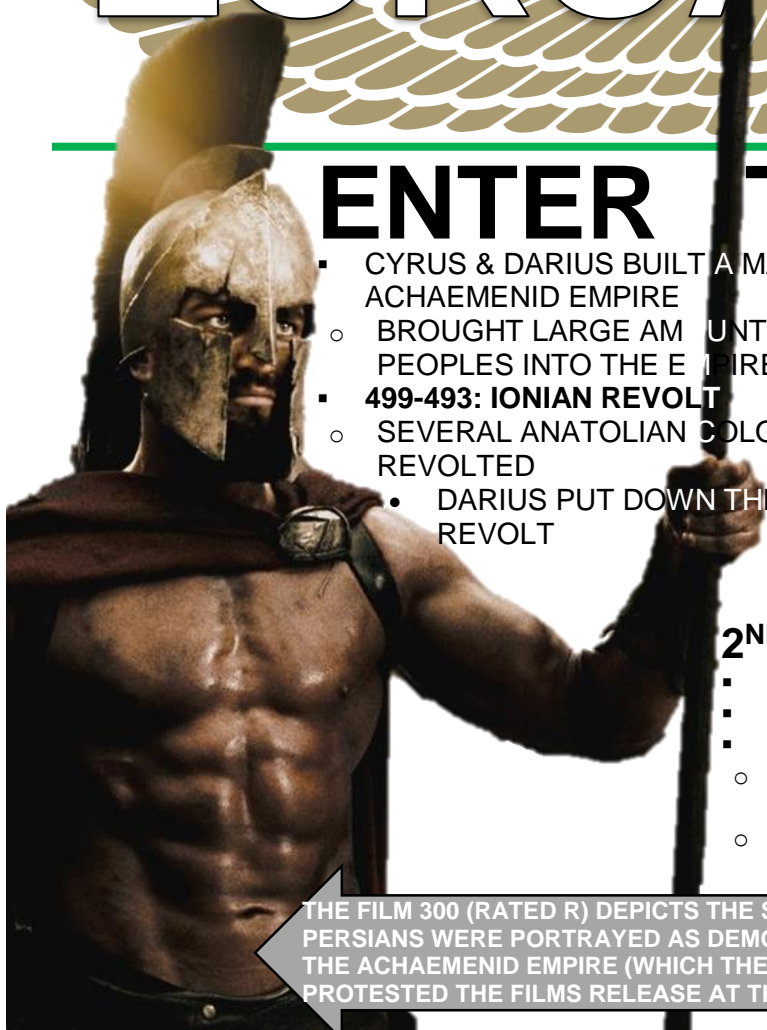
BATTLE OF MARATHON (490 BCE)

- CYRUS & DARIUS BUILT A MASSIVE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE
 - BROUGHT LARGE AMOUNTS OF PEOPLES INTO THE EMPIRE
- **499-493: IONIAN REVOLT**
 - SEVERAL ANATOLIAN COLONIES REVOLTED
 - DARIUS PUT DOWN THE REVOLT
- MAINLAND GREEK CITY-STATES HAD SUPPORTED THE IONIAN REVOLTS
 - DARIUS SWORE REVENGE FOR ATHENIANS TAKING OF SARDIS (SEE ROYAL ROAD MAP)
 - (DARIUS MADE EACH OF HIS SERVANTS REMIND HIM THREE TIMES EACH DAY, "REMEMBER THE ATHENIANS!")
- DARIUS' FORCES ARRIVED AND BEGAN ATTACKING THE ATHENIANS
- PERSIANS WERE DEFEATED; FLED
- DARIUS IMMEDIATELY PLOTTED REVENGE
 - REBELLION IN EGYPT DELAYED RETURN

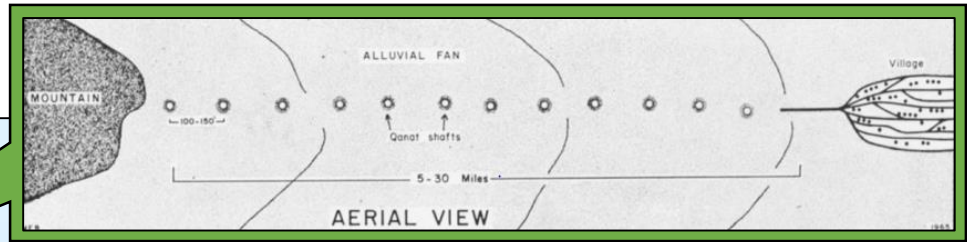
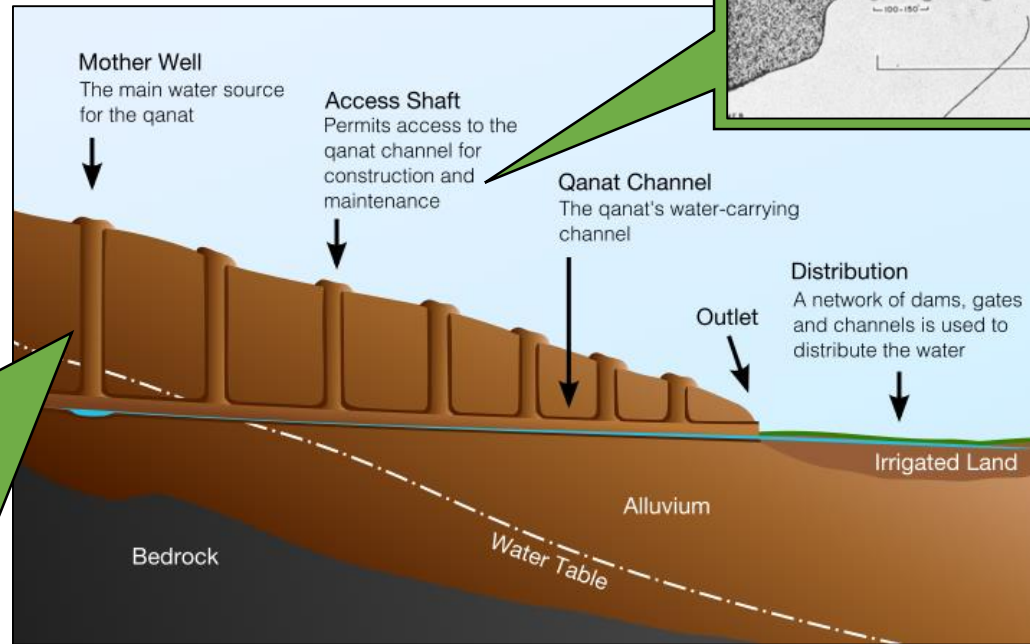
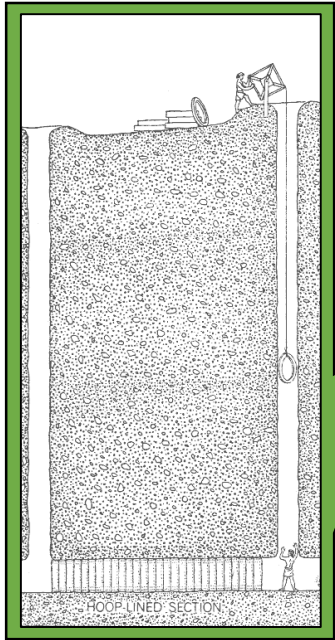
2ND INVASION OF GREECE (480 BCE)

- DARIUS DIED; SON, XERXES TOOK UP THE FIGHT
- CONQUERED MACEDONIA, THESSALY...
- BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE
 - BRIEFLY HELD UP BY THE SPARTANS BEFORE ULTIMATELY DEFEATING THE GREEKS
 - SACKED ATHENS, BUT LOST AT THE BATTLE OF MYCALE... ENDED PERSIAN EXPANSION INTO EUROPE

THE FILM 300 (RATED R) DEPICTS THE SPARTANS AND PERSIANS DURING THE BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE. THE PERSIANS WERE PORTRAYED AS DEMONS OR MONSTERS. OFFICIALS IN IRAN WERE OUTRAGED AT THE DEPICTION OF THE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE (WHICH THEY VIEW AS A NOBLE, TOLERANT, CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION). IRANIAN OFFICIALS PROTESTED THE FILMS RELEASE AT THE UN AND BANNED THE FILM IN IRAN AS "AMERICAN PROPAGANDA"



THE QANAT SYSTEM



- QANATS ARE A MEANS OF GETTING WATER FROM HOT, ARRID CLIMATES
- DEVELOPED BY THE PERSIANS IN THE 1ST CENTURY BCE
- MUCH OF PERSIA DEPENDED ON QANATS TO PROVIDE WATER
- USED FROM CHINA TO MOROCCO
- BUILD YOUR OWN QANAT:
 - 1. FIND A MOUNTAIN
 - WATERTABLE IS CLOSE TO SURFACE
 - 2. DIG SERIES OF VERTICAL SHAFTS
 - 3. CONNECT SHAFTS VIA GENTLY SLOPING TUNNELS
- ALSO, PROVIDES COOLING VIA SHAFTS
- LONGEST= 58 MILES (ROMAN JORDAN)

HOW DO YOU RULE THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF HUMANS EVER ASSEMBLED INTO ONE EMPIRE?

SATRAPIES



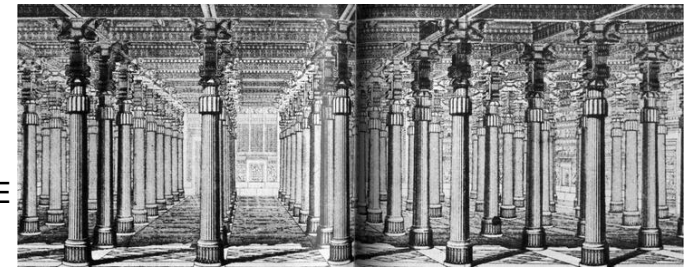
- **SATRAPY**-TERRITORY RULED BY SATRAP ON BEHALF OF THE PERSIAN KING (PROVINCE)
- **SATRAP**- GOVERNOR OF A SATRAPY
 - CENTRALLY APPOINTED BY KING
 - BEGAN UNDER CYRUS THE GREAT
 - CONQUERED TERRITORY
 - KINGS THERE COULDN'T BE KINGS
 - KINGS=DIVINE
 - INSTEAD, SATRAPS RULED AS VICEROYS (IN THE KING'S PLACE)
- COLLECTED TAXES
- SUPREME JUDGE OF SATRAPY

PERSEPOLIS “CITY OF PERSIANS”



RELIEF OF THE IMMORTALS

- SITE CHOSEN BY CYRUS
- DARIUS I BUILT TERRACE & GREAT PALACES
- CEREMONIAL CAPITAL OF ACHAEMENIDS
- BASES WERE MADE OF STONE WHILE BUILDINGS MAINLY USED WOODEN COLUMNS
- AFTER FALL OF ACHAEMENIDS, CITY FELL TO RUIN
 - SATRAP MOVED NORTH 5 MILES
- DARIUS & XERXES ARE BOTH ENTOMBED HERE (RAIDED BY ALEXANDER)
- NOT THE TRUE CAPITAL (BAD LOCATION)
 - GREEKS HAD NOT HEARD OF IT UNTIL ALEXANDER
- ALEXANDER BURNED THE WHOLE CITY DOWN
 - PERHAPS REVENGE FOR XERXES BURNING OF ATHENS



HALL OF 100 COLUMNS

FREEMAN-PEDIA



RUINS OF APADANA PALACE

THE PARTHIANS

247 BCE-224 CE



DARIUS III

FALL OF THE ACHAEMENID

- ALEXANDER THE GREAT INVADES
 - CONQUERED EVERYTHING
 - UPSET ABOUT STATE OF CYRUS' TOMB
 - PUT *MAGI* (ZOR CLERGY) ON TRIAL
 - KING DARIUS III CAPTURED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE (SATRAP OF BACTRIA)
 - KILLED DARIUS III & LEFT HIS BODY IN THE STREET (ALEX. BURIED IN PERSEPOLIS)
 - ALEX EXECUTED THE SATRAP
 - TIED TO 2 RECOILED TREES & THEN THE TREES WERE CUT LOOSE... OUCH
 - ACHAEMENID EMPIRE DIVIDED BETWEEN ALEXANDER'S GENERALS
 - HELLENISTIC KINGDOMS: SELEUCIDS

RISE OF THE PARTHIANS

- HELLENISTIC SELEUCID EMPIRE (GREEK DOMINATED) BEGAN TO CRUMBLE AS PTOLEMAIC EGYPT INVADED
- THEN, SELEUCID EMPIRE HAD TO DEAL WITH ROMAN REPUBLIC
- PARTHIANS TOOK ADVANTAGE
- TOOK REST OF SELEUCID LANDS

ENTER THE ROMANS...

- ROMAN CONSUL CRASSUS INVADED PARTHIA
 - AIDING ARMENIAN ALLIES
 - SEEKING GLORY LIKE CAESAR AND POMPEY ALREADY HAD
 - HIS 7 LEGIONS LOST TO THE PARTHIAN CAVALRY
 - CRASSUS CAPTURED & EXECUTED



THE SASANIANS

224 CE-651 CE

RISE OF THE SASANIANS

- LAST PERSIAN EMPIRE BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF ISLAM
- BEGAN AS A REVOLT AGAINST THE PARTHIANS
 - PARTHIANS WEAKENED BY WARS WITH ROME

EXPANSION OF EMPIRE

- BRIEFLY RECONQUERED ACHAEMENID BORDERS
- CONTINUED NEARLY CONSTANT WAR WITH ROME
 - ABOUT 400 YEARS
- BYZANTINE-SASANIAN WARS KEPT BOTH STATES IN A WEAKENED STATE
- DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH KUSHANS AND LATER THE GUPTANS LIMITED WARFARE

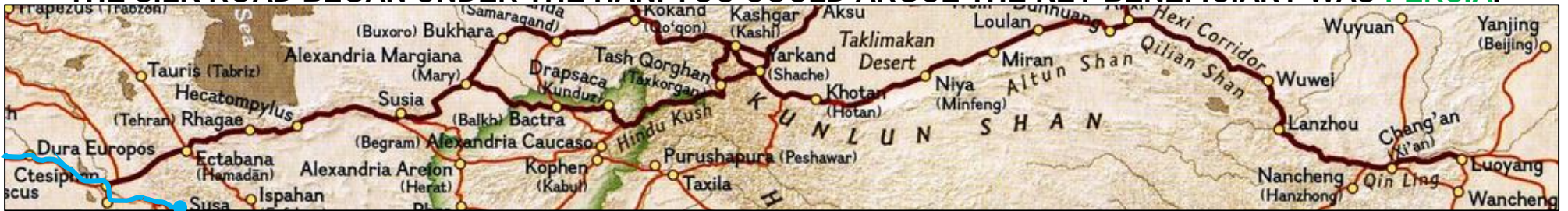
ENTER THE ARABS...



THIS IS A MAP OF THE RASHIDUN CALIPHATE AT ITS PEAK. NOT MUCH ROOM LEFT FOR THE PERSIANS...

- WEAKENED BY CENTURIES OF WAR WITH BYZANTINES
- NEW ARAB ARMIES QUICKLY CONQUERED THE SASANIANS
- NEXT TIME PERSIA IS RULED BY PERSIANS:
 - SAFAVIDS IN 1000 YRS (1501)

THE SILK ROAD BEGAN UNDER THE HAN. YOU COULD ARGUE THE KEY BENEFICIARY WAS PERSIA.



ROYAL ROAD=SILK ROAD WAS A COLLECTION OF ROADS... ONE OF WHICH WAS OUR PERSIAN ROYAL ROAD

FREEMAN-PEDIA



EMPIRE: ACHAEMENID
RELIGION: ZOROASTRIAN

NEIGHBORS: GREEK CITY-STATES; ARABIA
WARS: GREECE; ALEXANDER

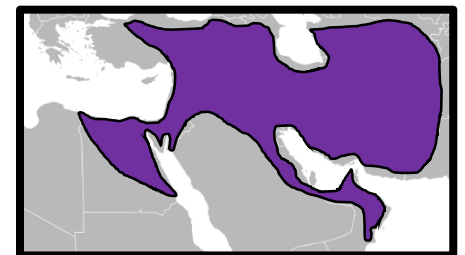
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EMPIRE: PARTHIAN
RELIGION: ZOROASTRIAN

NEIGHBORS: ROME; ARMENIA; KUSHANS
WARS: SELEUCID; ROME, SASANIAN

3



EMPIRE: SASANIAN
RELIGION: ZOROASTRIAN

NEIGHBORS: BYZANTINES; GUPTAN
WARS: BYZANTINES; UMAYYAD

2