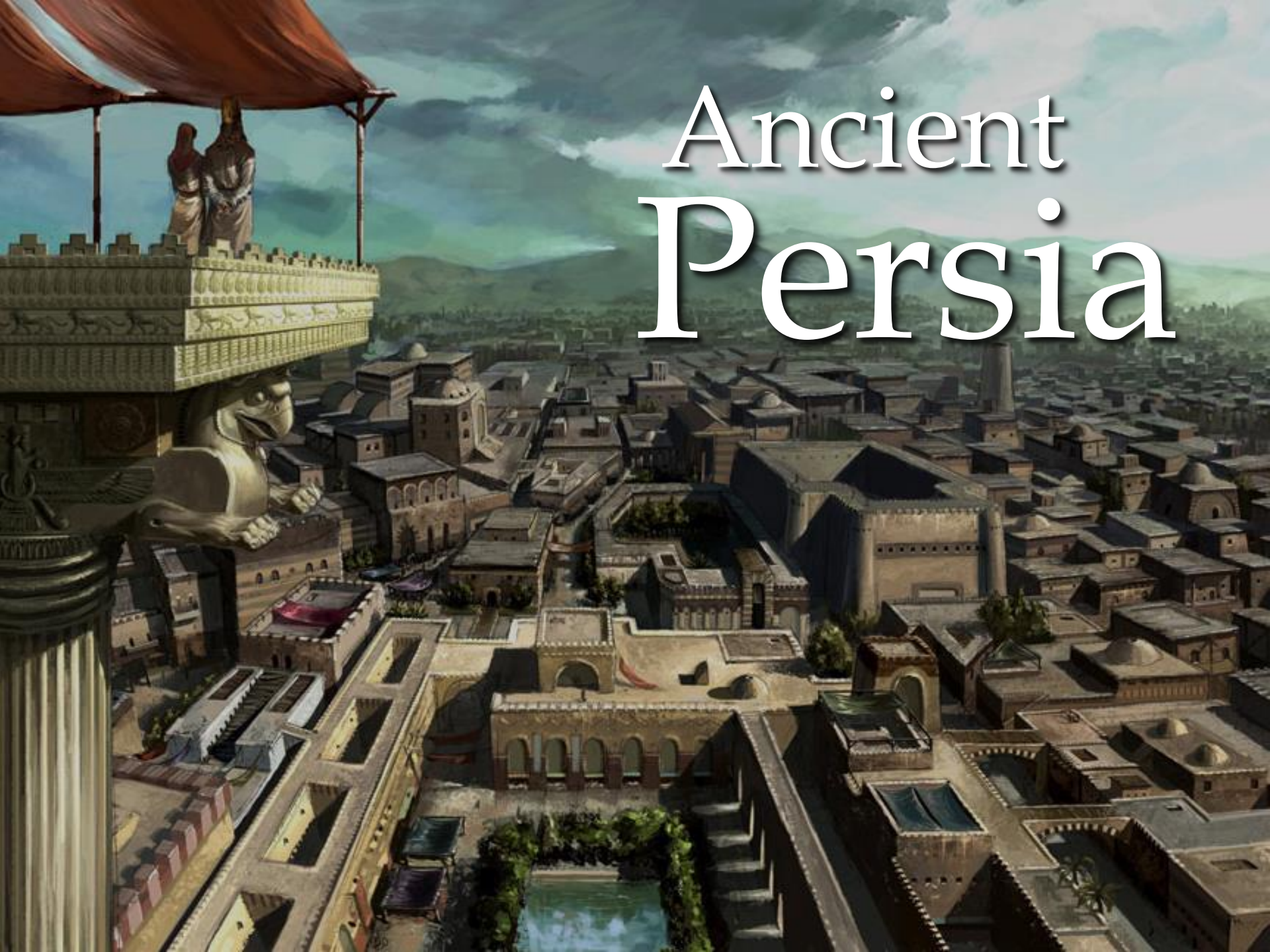


Ancient Persia





Location, Geography & Resources

MIDDLE EAST

CREATED BY

DR. WILLIAM A. BOWEN
CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY, 10777 JARDINES, SUITE 1000
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

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Scale: 1:1,000,000
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meters
File Name: [Filename]
Map Date: [Date]

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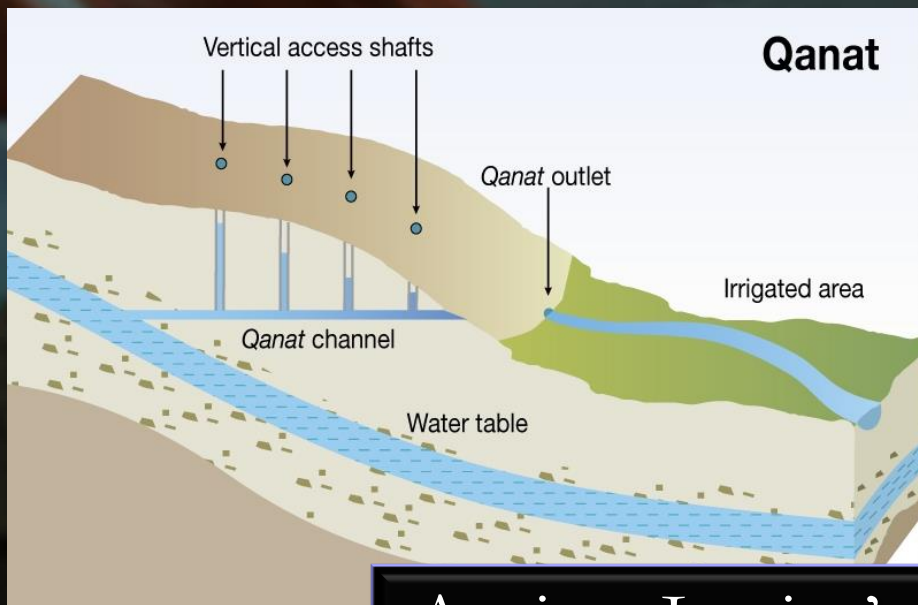
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Persia is in the Middle East in and around modern day Iran

Ancient Iran “the land of the Aryans” links western Asia with southern and Central Asia



Ancient Iranian's built underground
canals to water desert regions



MIDDLE EAST

CREATED BY
DR. WILLIAM A. BOWEN
CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY, 1977-78 (REVISED, 1981-82)
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

Map Scale: 1:1,000,000

500 miles

500 kilometers

• National Capitals

• Selected Major Cities

• Major Transportation Routes

Caucasus Mnts.
Zagros Mnts.

Baluchistan
Desert

North and west,
most watered and
populated, east and
south less watered
and populated

Iran's mineral
resources include
– copper, tin,
iron, gold, silver
and timber

Administrative Information

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Earth Surface Data - MODIS

This is a collection of satellite data from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on the Terra satellite. The data is used to monitor the Earth's surface and is available in a variety of formats. The data is used to monitor the Earth's surface and is available in a variety of formats. The data is used to monitor the Earth's surface and is available in a variety of formats.

Scale: 1:1,000,000

Projection: UTM

Units: Meters

Origin: 30°E, 30°N

False Easting: 500,000

False Northing: 1,000,000

Units: Meters

Projection: UTM

Units: Meters

Origin: 30°E, 30°N

False Easting: 500,000

False Northing: 1,000,000

MIDDLE EAST

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DR. WILLIAM A. BOWEN
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CREATED BY

DR. WILLIAM A. BOWEN
CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY, OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

Map Scale: 1:1,000,000

300 miles

300 kilometers

• National Capitals

• Selected Major Cities

• Major Transportation Routes

Administrative Information

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The California Geographical Survey (CGS) is a non-profit organization established by Dr. William A. Bowen, a professor of geography at California State University, Northridge. The CGS is dedicated to the study of the physical and human geography of California and the world. The CGS has produced a series of maps of California and the world, which are available for purchase or use under a Creative Commons license.

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Earth Surface Data - MODIS

Using a combination of satellite and ground-based data, the MODIS satellite provides a global view of the Earth's surface. The MODIS satellite is part of the Terra satellite mission, which is operated by NASA. The MODIS satellite provides a wide range of data, including information on the Earth's surface, atmosphere, and oceans. The MODIS satellite data is used for a variety of purposes, including climate research, environmental monitoring, and disaster response.

Created by the California Geographical Survey, this map is based on the MODIS satellite data. The map is a color-coded representation of the Earth's surface, showing the distribution of different types of land and water. The map is available for purchase or use under a Creative Commons license.

Scale: 1:1,000,000

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
1st Standard Parallel: 36°00' 2nd Standard Parallel: 48°00'
Central Meridian: 118°00' Origin Latitude: 31°30'
False Easting: 1000000 False Northing: 1000000
World Geodetic System 1984

Topographic Data: Shuttle Radar Topography Mission 2000
Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and Digital Surface Model (DSM) Data
Ground Cover and Water: MODIS satellite data
Digital Line Graphs: Digital Chart of the World
Map Projection: UTM
Computer system: Thomson Data 1.5 GHz PowerPC G5















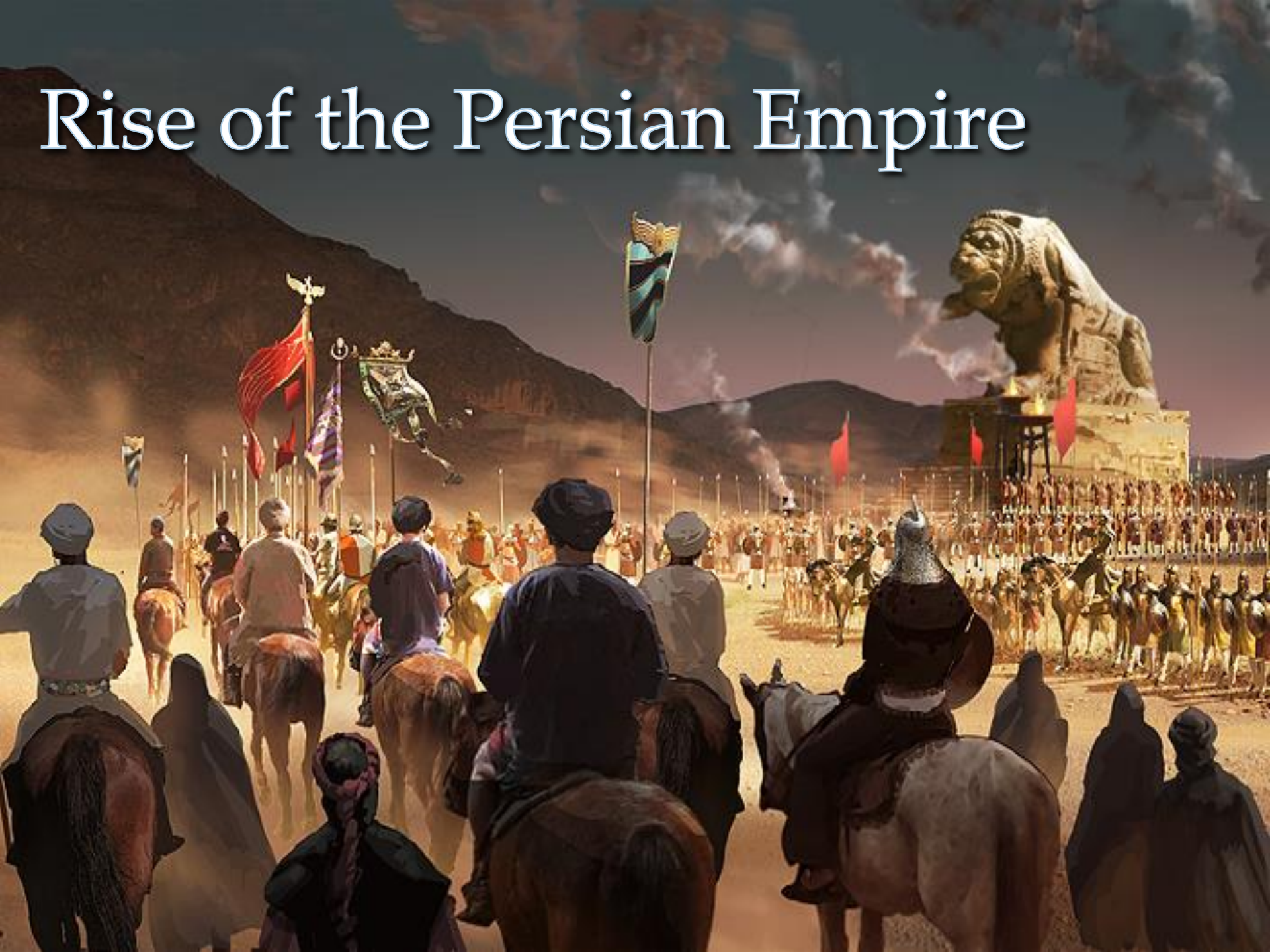








Rise of the Persian Empire





MEDES

Assyrian Empire

Persians

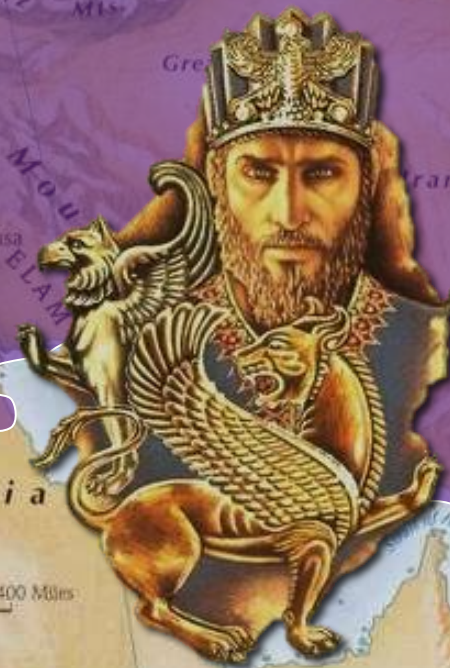
700s-600s B.C. Medes and Persians allied to fight against the Assyrians

THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak







THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak

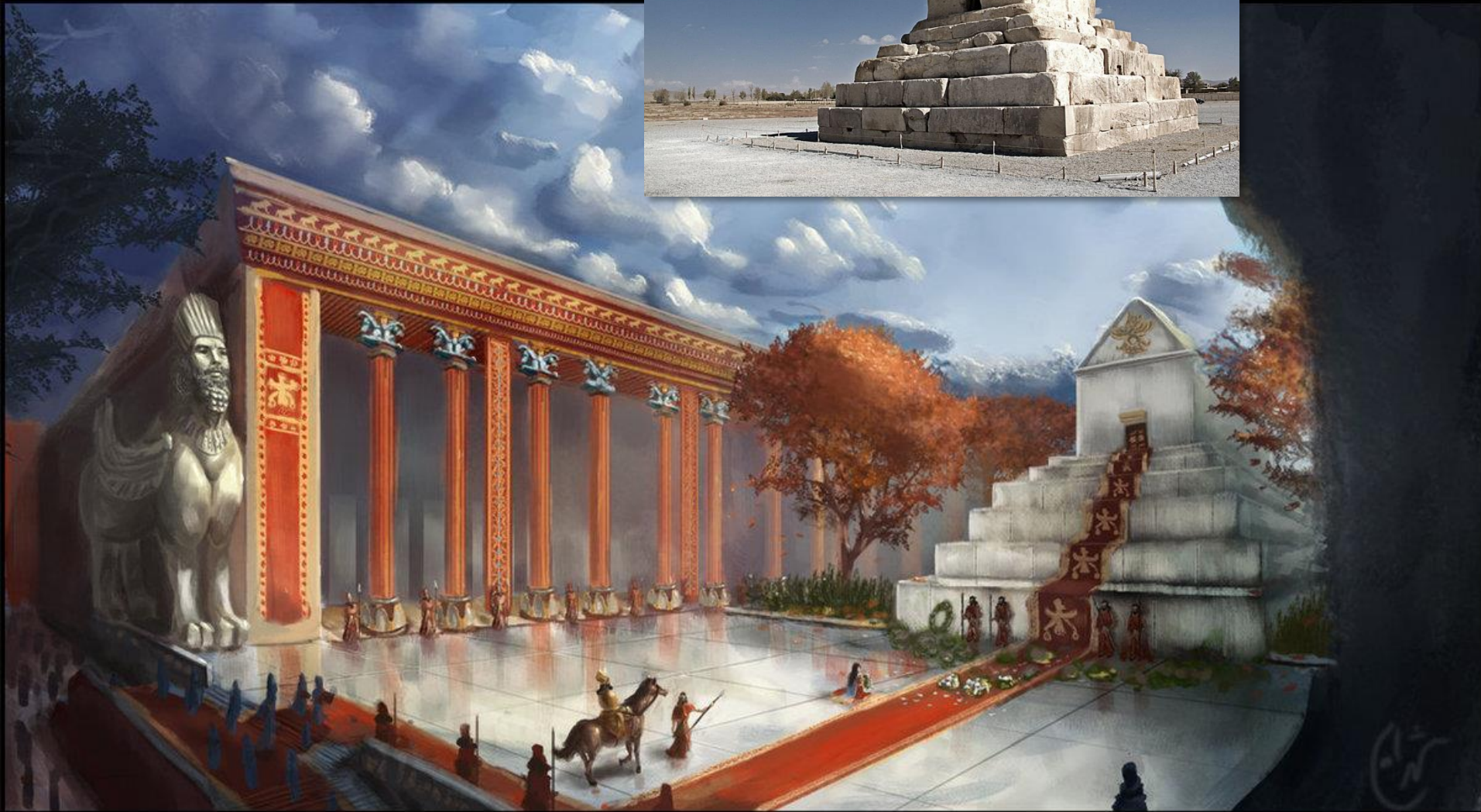
50 E

- Known as Cyrus “the Great” for his military skills and style of rule
- Built empire over 2,000 miles in 30 years
- Governed with tolerance toward conquered peoples



- Honored local customs, including religious ones
- Refused to institute slavery in the empire
- Allowed Jews to return to Israel to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem (530s B.C.)

Burial Site of Cyrus the Great





Cyrus's son, Cambyses (r. 530 B.C. – 522 B.C.), conquers Egypt but rules unwisely

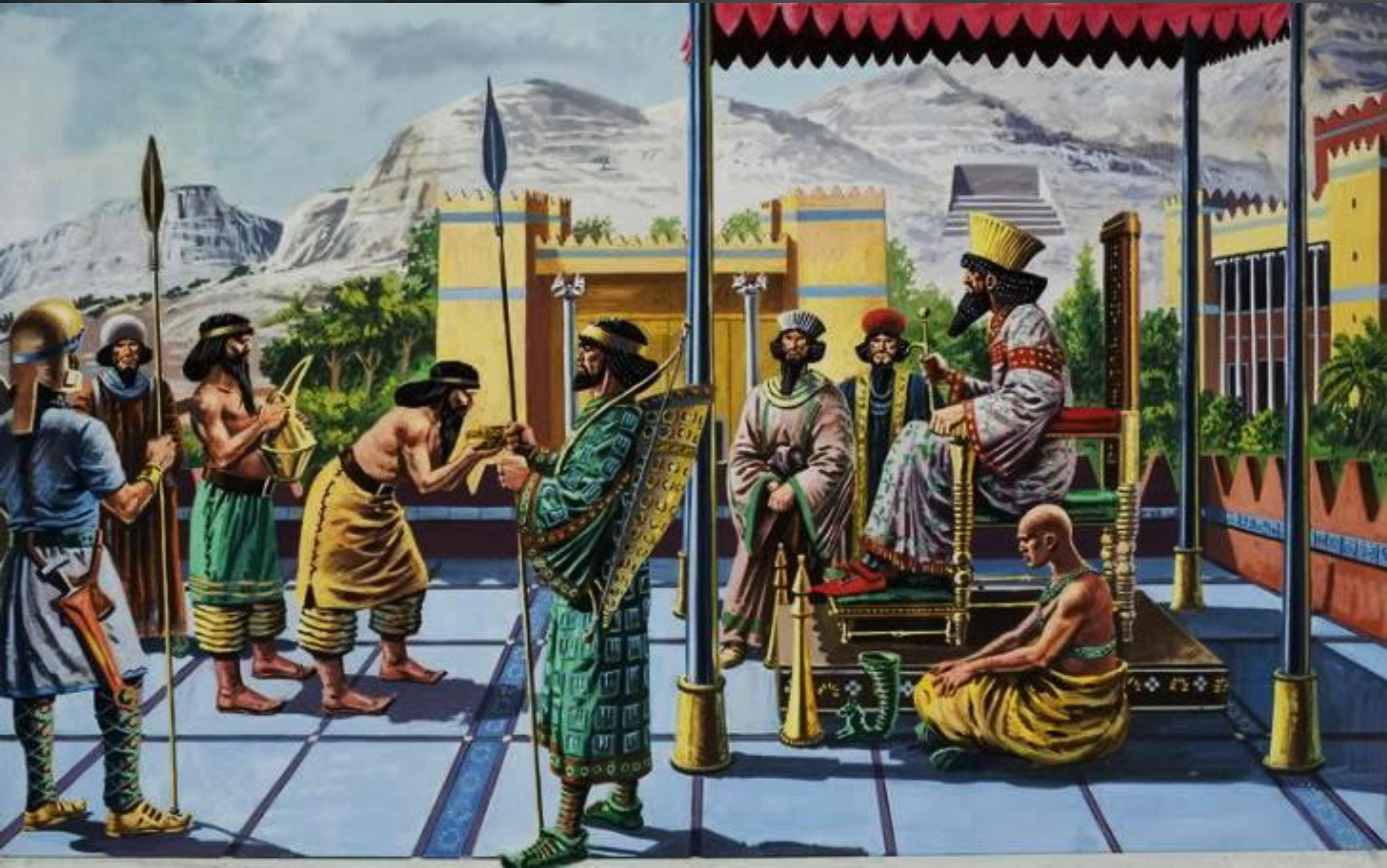


After Cambyses death
Darius, a Persian
nobleman (r. 522 – 486
B.C.) seized control with
his elite Immortals



- ❖ expanded empire to Danube River (west) and India (east)
- ❖ developed maritime (ocean) trade routes
- ❖ had fleets explore Indus Delta and Red Sea
- ❖ built canal linking Red Sea to the Nile

Imperial Organization & Rule



Darius the Great's Reorganization

490 BC

© Ian Mladjov



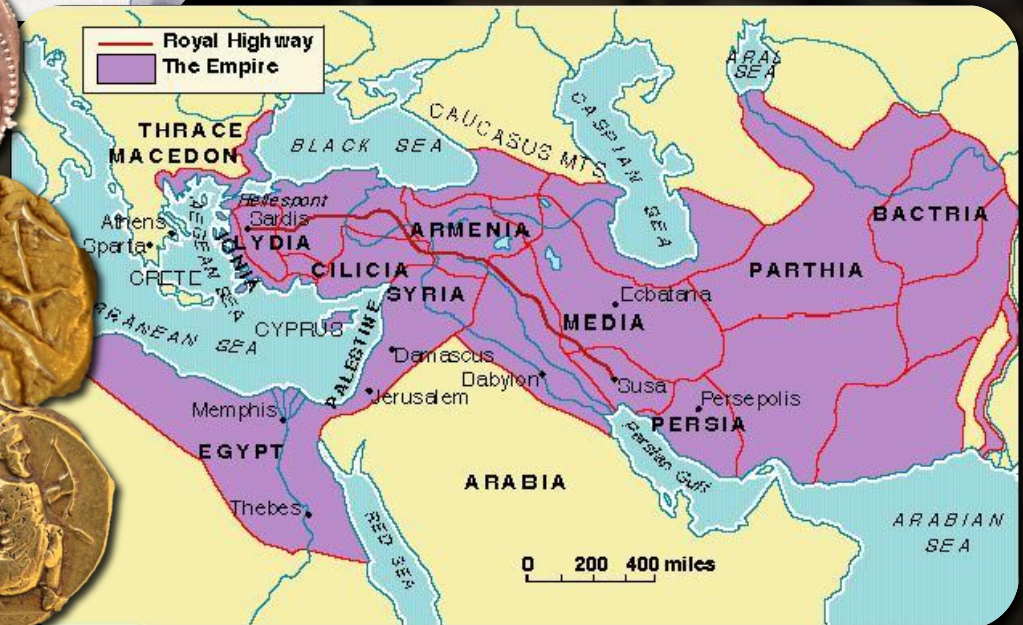
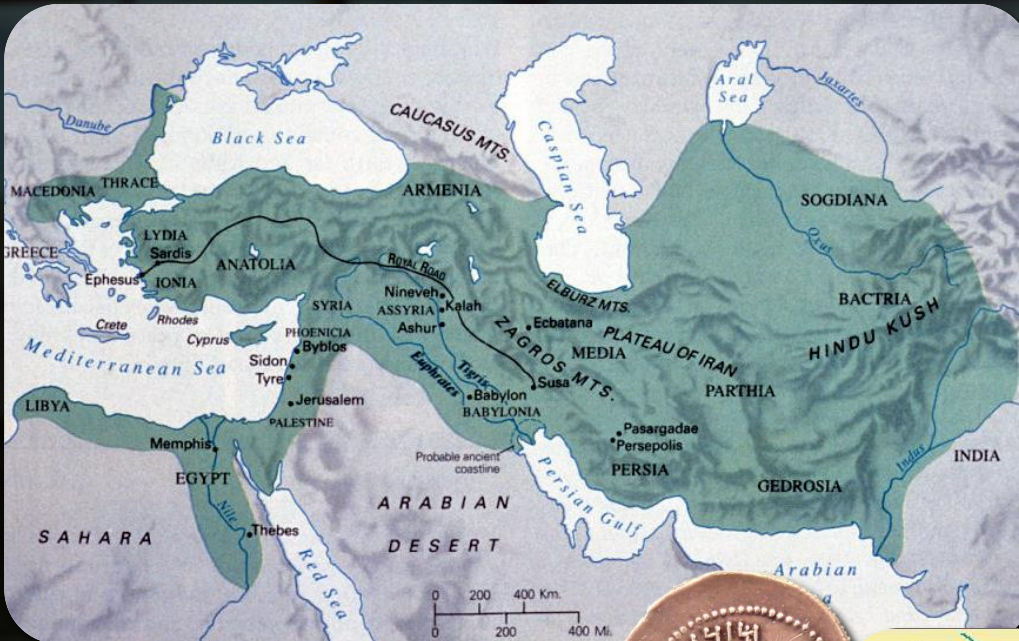
- Darius divided empire into 20 areas of local administration
- Appointed *satraps* (governors) to rule each geographic/cultural area. Each married into the royal family and handed power down hereditarily (mini royal court).

emenid Empire. The evidence has been d into "Minor Satrapies." The map lopaedia Iranica (2006). Since the not all labeled on the map), see the Key dicated through the color scheme.

Darius the Great's Reorganization

Built massive road networks to link distant lands together. The Royal Road to make communication within the empire easier

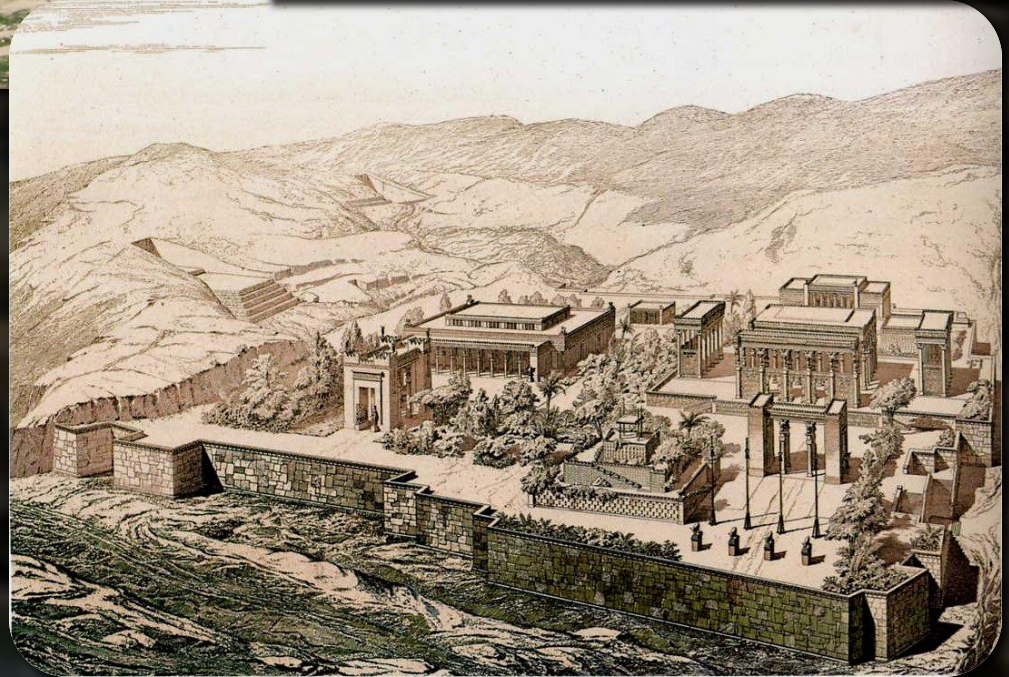
Issued a coinage system (money) that could be used throughout the empire



Darius the Great's Reorganization

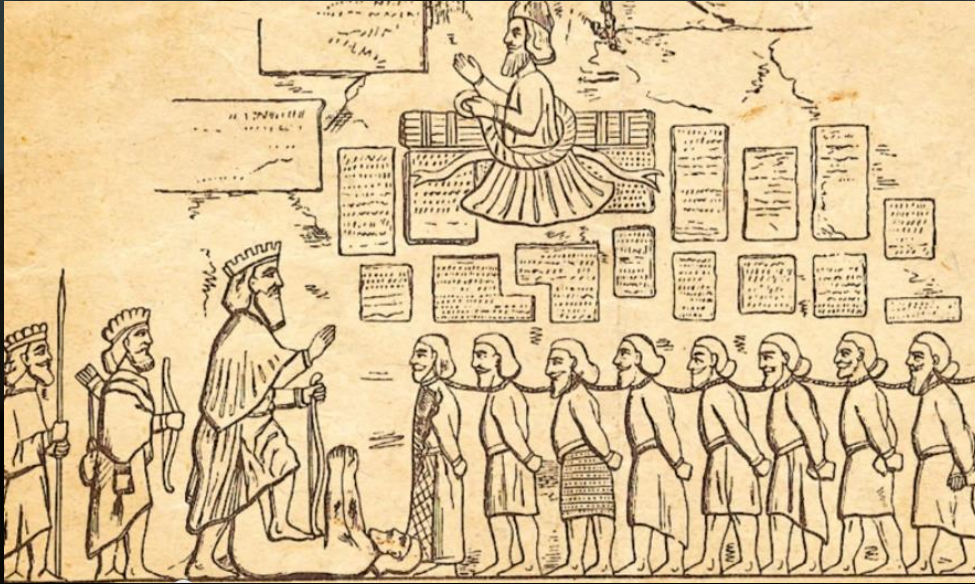


Built the city
of Persepolis
as the capital
of the empire





The Royal Court & Administration



- ❖ King had numerous wives, used as pawns to strengthen power (**marry to gain power**)
- ❖ King held sons of Persian aristocrats hostage for good behavior
- ❖ **Owned much land.** Could give land to those who supported him
- ❖ **Persian king titles:** “The Great King, King of Kings, King of Persia, King of countries”



Naqsh-e Rostam



Zoroastrianism

Founder: Zarathustra (Zoroaster)

When: 620s B.C.

KEY BELIEFS:

Sacred Texts: The main sacred text is the Avesta

- *Gathas* (17 hymns of Zoroaster)

Dualism: There is a great cosmic struggle between good and evil

- *Abura Mazda* (good/peaceful spirit)
- *Aura Mainyu* (evil/destructive spirit)



Zoroastrianism



KEY BELIEFS:

Human Choice: Humans must freely choose which side to join and this choice affects the cosmic struggle

Strong Ethics: “*Good Words, Good Thoughts and Good Deeds*” – live the morally upright life

Fire Temples: fire is a symbol of Ahur Mazda’s wisdom and light. Pray into the fire; enlighten mind



*Only about 200,000
Zoroastrians in the
world today*

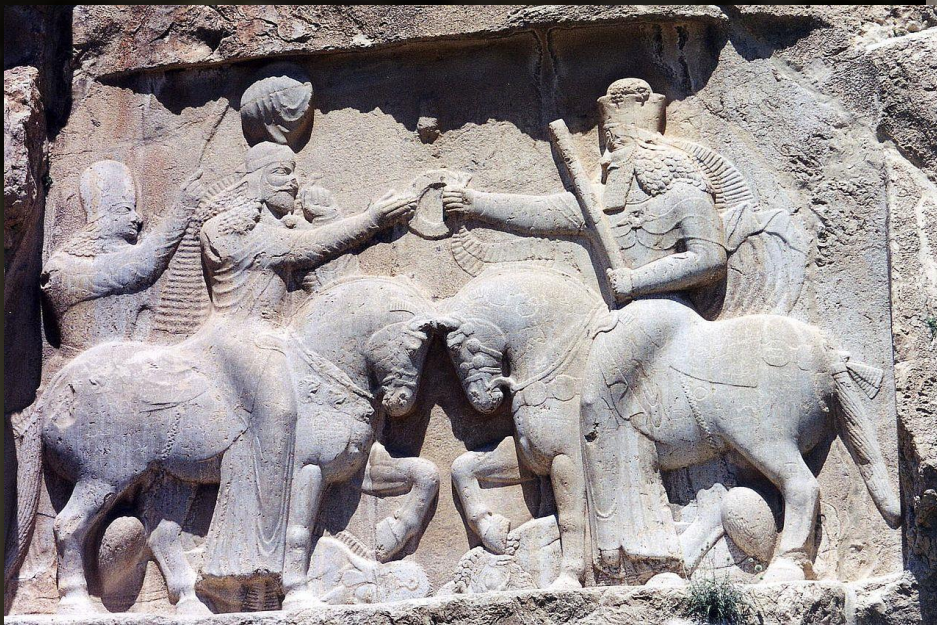




Zoroastrianism & Persia



Fravashi (guardian spirit)



Zoroastrianism & Persia

“Ahuramazda [the chief deity], when he saw this earth in commotion, thereafter bestowed it upon me, made me king.... By favor of Ahuramazda I put it down in its place.... I am of such a sort that I am a friend to right, I am not a friend to wrong. It is not my desire that the weak man should have wrong done to him by the mighty; nor is that my desire, that the mighty man should have wrong done to him by the weak.”

Darius the Great

