

*CONRAD-DEMAREST
AND HOWARD SPODEK
MODEL OF EMPIRES*

During the Classical Period 500BCE – 600CE

According to Geoffrey Conrad, Arthur Demarest and Howard Spodek

What is an Empire?

- An Empire is a politically unified state in which one people dominate their neighbors through the use of various forces (military, trade, religion, etc.)

According to Geoffrey Conrad and Arthur Demarest

What Pre-Conditions needed to exist ?

- ❖ State-Level Government (Centralized & Bureaucratic)
- ❖ High Agricultural Potential (To Support a Large Population)
- ❖ An Environmental Mosaic (Diverse landscape and resources)
- ❖ Power Vacuum of Several Smaller and Weaker States
- ❖ Mutual Antagonism among the Small States
- ❖ Adequate Military Resources (Technological Advantage)

Case Study: Achaemenid or Persian Empire

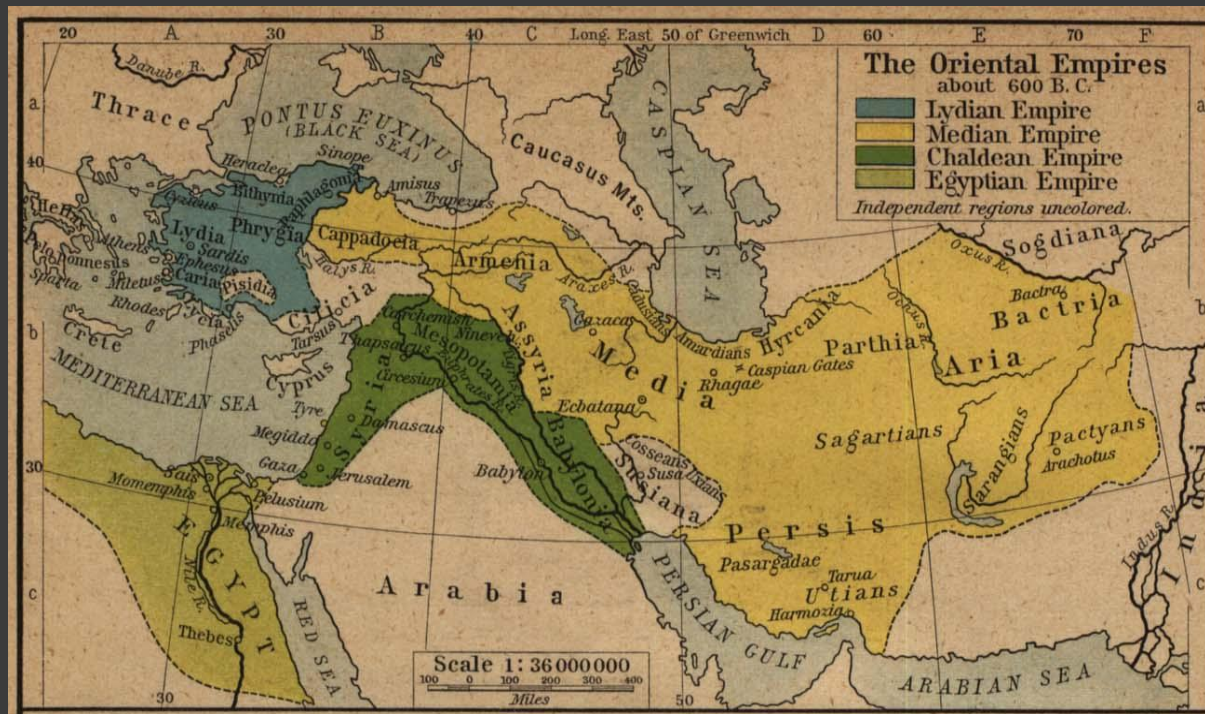


550 – 330 B.C.E.

Case Study: Existing Pre-Conditions

- Diverse Environmental Mosaic
Mountains, Valley Plateaus,
Deserts, Thick Forests,
Arable Lands, surrounded by
various bodies of water

- Region ruled by four kingdoms in decline
Median Kingdom (612 – 549 BCE)
Lydian Kingdom (687 – 546 BCE)
Chaldean Kingdom (626 – 539 BCE)
Egyptian Kingdom (685 – 525 BCE)



- Weak rulers and conflicts between existing kingdoms
- Many groups with horses and Equestrian skills
- Plenty of arable lands to feed both people and animals

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What State Ideologies needed to exist ?

- ❖ Empire building succeeds if the State has an ideology that promotes personal identification with the Empire, Ruler, Military, and Conquest

Case Study: Persian State Ideologies

- The Rise of a Military Genius known as Cyrus II or Cyrus the Great
- He demonstrated benevolence and kindness to all the people he conquered
- He believed in honoring local customs and religious practices
- He adopted and adapted local bureaucratic systems, standardized laws, and taxes



Case Study: Persian State Ideologies



- Cyrus the Great established an elite military force called the Ten Thousand Immortals
- Soldiers from all conquered areas were offered the opportunity to enter the ranks of the Persian Army



- The ideology of *Militarism* became the foundation of the Persian Empires continual expansion and success under Kings Cambyses, Darius and Xerxes
- According to the Behistun Text (522-486 BCE) the support of Zoroastrianism and other faiths promoted local acceptance of Persian rulers
- In 539 BCE, Cyrus the Great freed the Jews in Egypt & allowed them to return to Babylon
- Darius II promoted to co-existence of religions within the Persian Empire

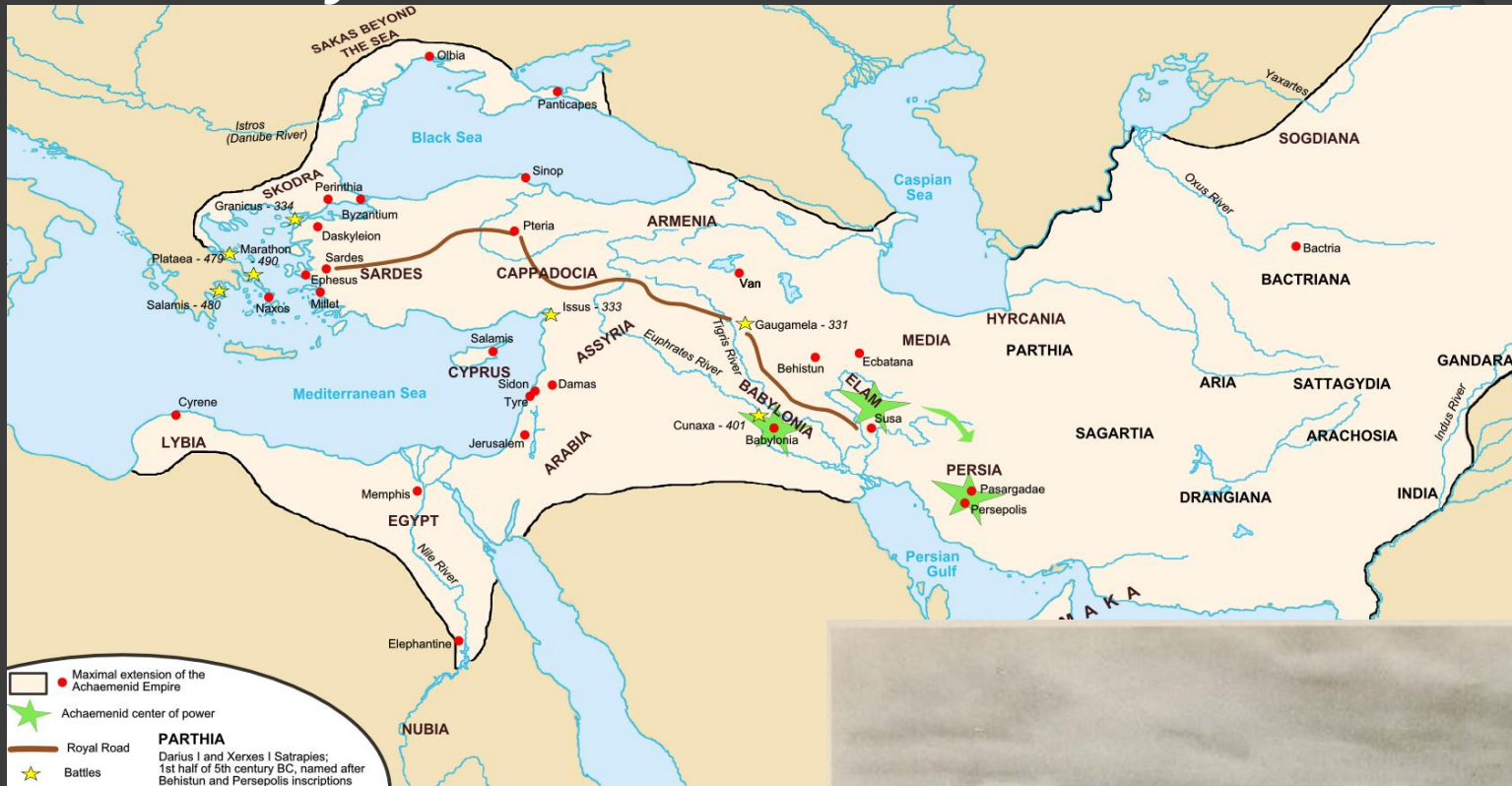


According to Howard Spodek

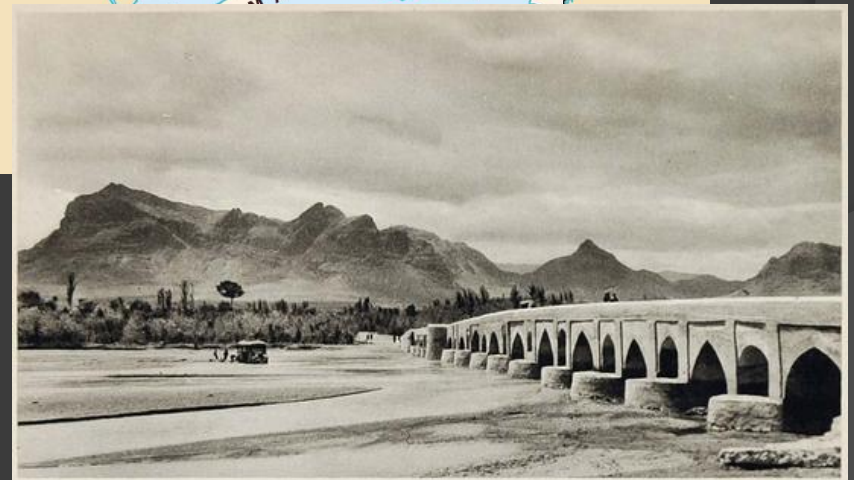
What were the Characteristics of well-run Empires?

- ❖ Empires required a massive bureaucracy to govern over diverse people within a single region
- ❖ Empires needed extensive transportation and communications networks
- ❖ Empires needed to regulate trade and establish a common currency for use throughout the region
- ❖ Empires needed to establish a unified legal system and method for collecting taxes
- ❖ Empires needed to maintain a strong military to protect trade, enforce laws, and defend the empire from both external and internal enemies

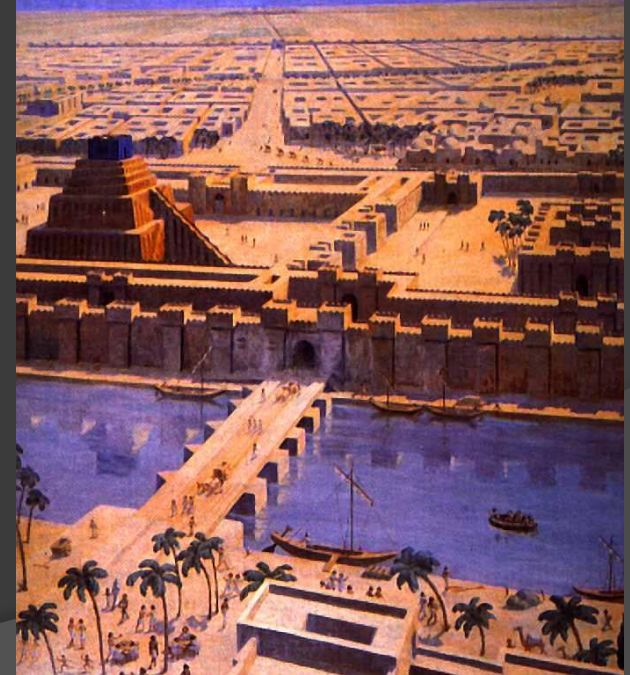
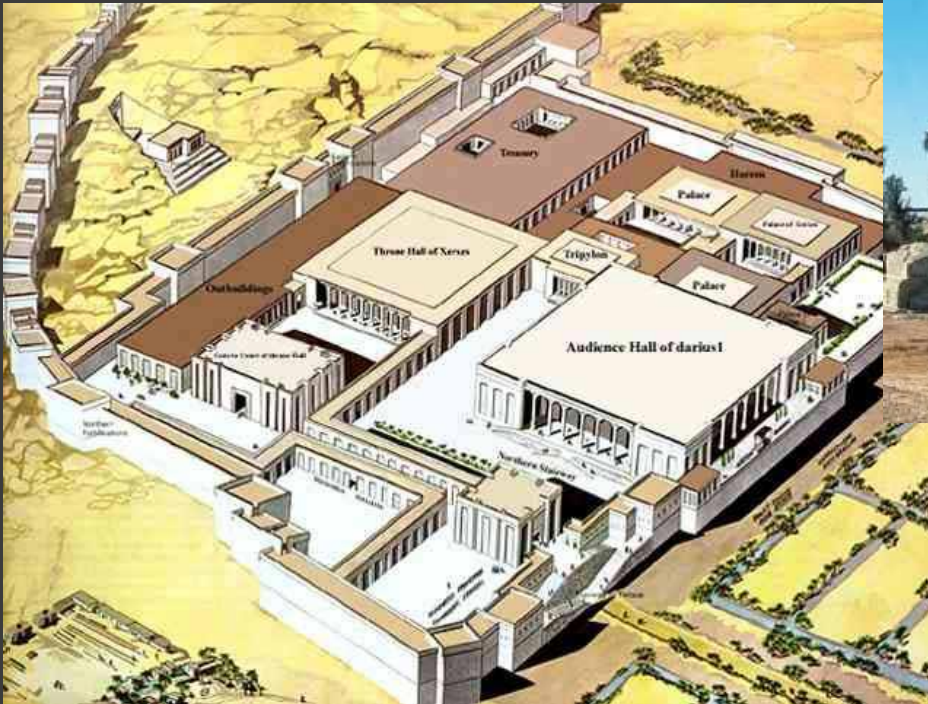
Case Study: Characteristics of Persian Empire



- The Royal Road was a major highway updated by Darius I to facilitate communication, trade, and military movements within the empire (5th Century BCE)



Case Study: Characteristics of Persian Empire



- The Royal Road also connected the Persian Empires three Major Centers of Power
 - Persepolis
 - Babylon
 - Susa

Case Study: Characteristics of Persian Empire



- Persian rulers used gold & silver coins with their likeness on them to represent their power and authority to rule over their subjects

- Standardized currency was also used to highlight successful military troops and campaigns



- Persian elites considered trade to be a profession of lies and deceit
- Most Persian communities and estates were self-sufficient
- Local merchants and traders continued to deal with trade along key routes:
 - Silk Road (East)
 - Trans-Arabian (West)
 - Red Sea Maritime Trade (West)
 - Mediterranean Coastal Trade (Northwest)

Case Study: Characteristics of Persian Empire



- Persian rulers continued to use the standardized laws of Hammurabi's Code that had been adopted by most kingdoms throughout the region
- 23 regional Satraps (Governors) were appointed to continue collecting taxes and enforcing laws
- Military Officers and Government Officials traveled from town to town to conduct periodic audits
- Adoption of the Aramaic language as the official language of the Empire helped to unify the majority of native people

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What were the Major Results of Empires?

- ❖ Economic Rewards granted to elites (Trickle Down effect)
- ❖ Relative Stability and Prosperity Occurs
- ❖ Population Increases

Case Study: Results in the Persian Empire

- Increased economic and political rewards to local leaders who promoted tolerance and maintained law & order
- Economic stability due to standardized coinage, taxes, and trade
- Successfully governed over 35 million subjects for 300 years

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Why did Empires Fall?

- ❖ Failures of Leadership (Greed, Tyranny, Loss of Focus)
- ❖ Overextension (Excessive conquests beyond state's capabilities)
- ❖ Lack of Conquests (Inactivity erodes military base & faith in Ideologies)
- ❖ Rebellions or Invasions (Internal or External Challenges to Power)


Case Study: The Fall of the Persian Empire

- Greco-Persian Wars (499 – 449 BCE) extended the Persian Empire into the Greek City-States creating a long standing rivalry between Persia & Greece
- Artaxerxes came to the throne (358 BCE) through various plots that resulted in assassinations and suicide (2 brothers and 8 half-brothers died)

Case Study: The Fall of the Persian Empire

- Internal Rebellions occurred in 343 BCE when Phoenicia, Asia Minor and Cyprus declared themselves independent
- Extreme punishments and persecutions were imposed on Egypt for supporting various rebellions of neighboring kingdoms
- The Conquests of Alexander the Great against King Darius III at the Battles of Granicus (334 BC), Issus (332 BC) and Gaugamela (331 BC)



 The Empire of Alexander the Great. Alexander's conquests united Eurasia from Greece to India into a cultural and, briefly, a political unity.