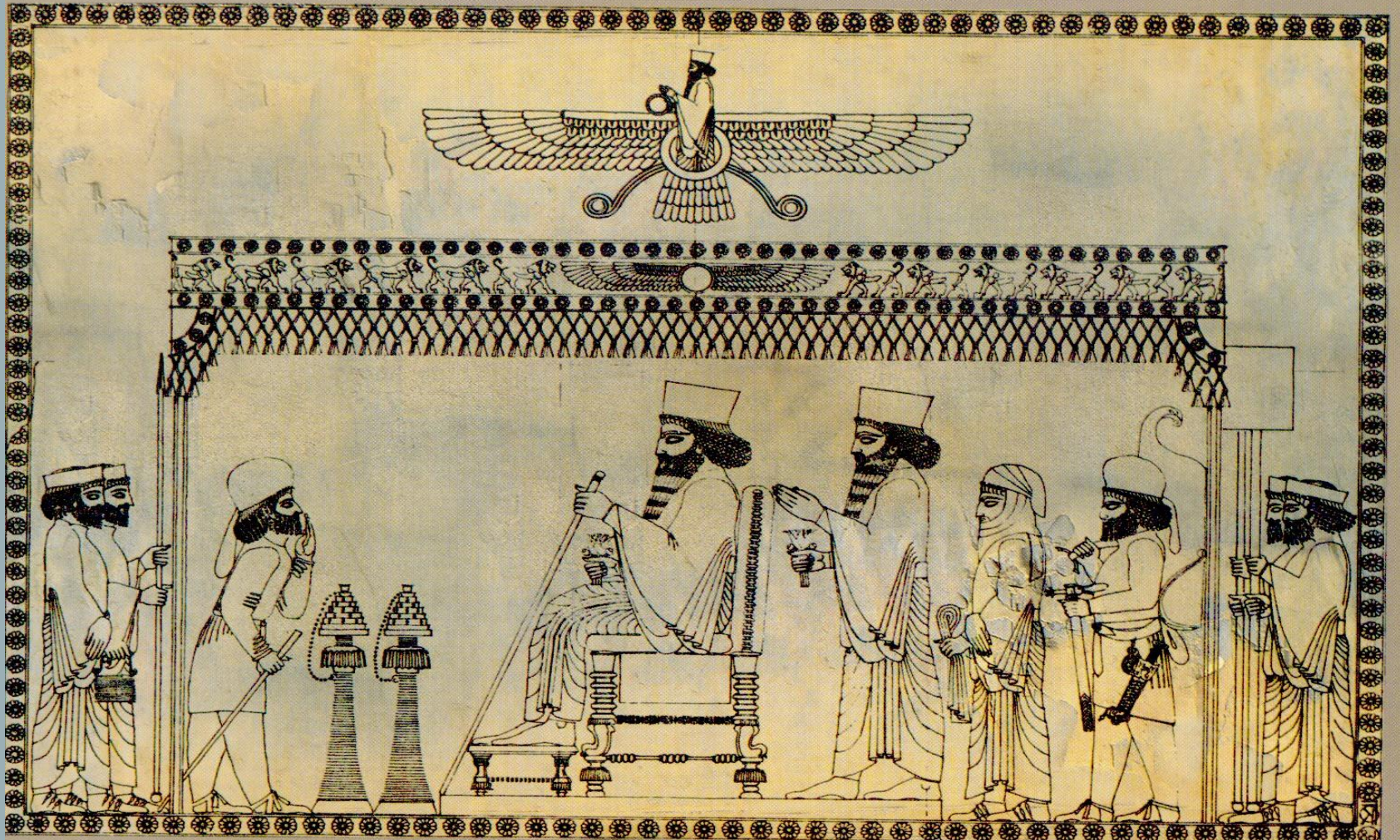


## AGENDA – 9/17

- Share about our weekends
- Sub Friday – talk about it
- To what extent was Athens a Democracy?
  - Let's share
- Today: Rise of Persia, and how to govern the largest empire the world had ever seen
- Homework: reading and notes! I'll check your Greece notes during the next quiz (Persia/Macedon – 9/25)

# THE RISE OF PERSIA



# PERSIAN EMPIRE (AKA ACHAEMENID EMPIRE)

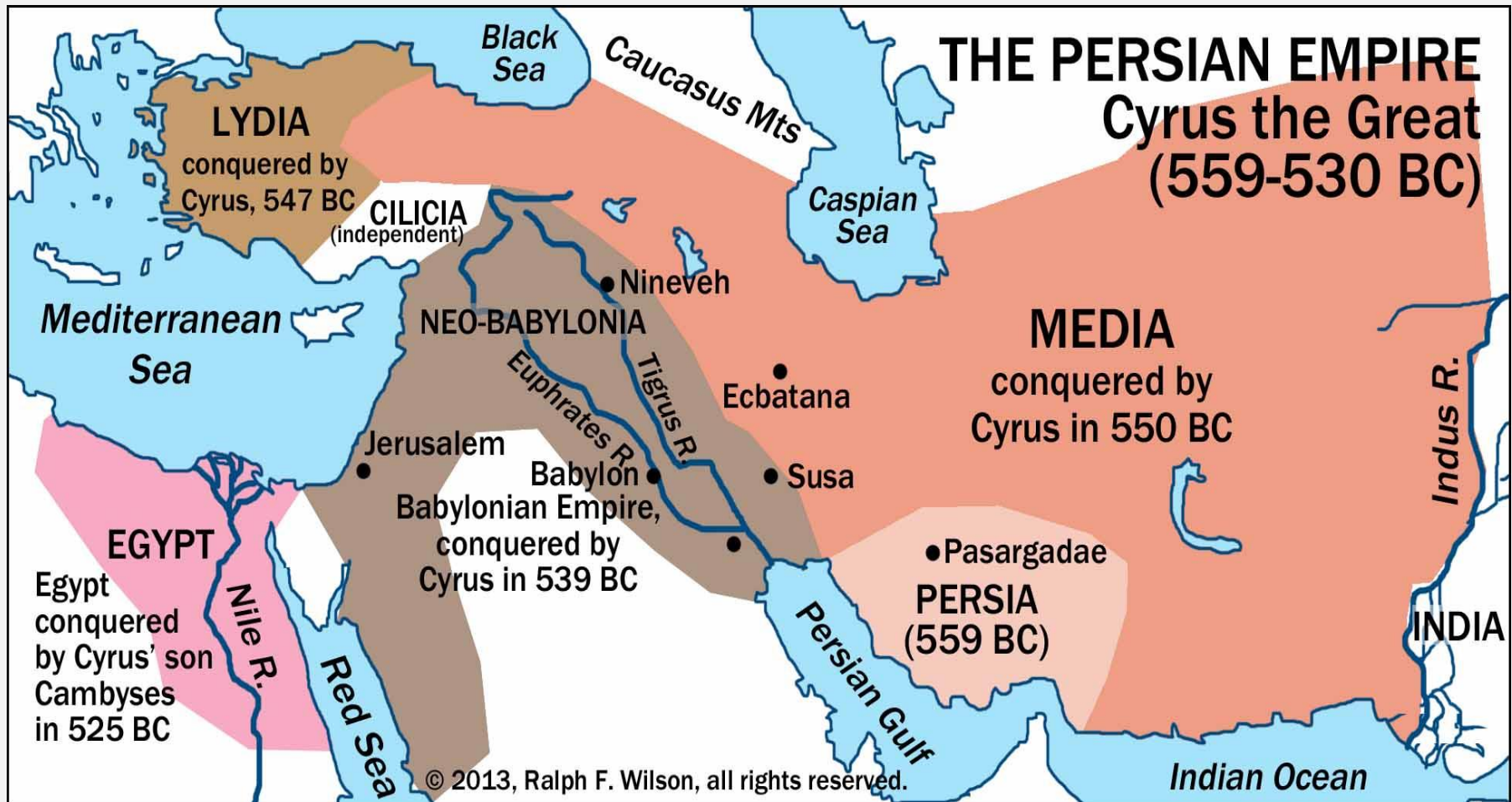


## PERSIAN EMPIRE (BASIC TIMELINE)

- Beginnings
  - **Cyrus the Great** conquers the Medes, then Babylon
- Golden Age
  - **Darius I** expands the empire
- Decline
  - **Xerxes** and the loss to Greece in the **Greco-Persian Wars**

# BEGINNINGS: THE PERSIAN (ACHAEMENID) EMPIRE

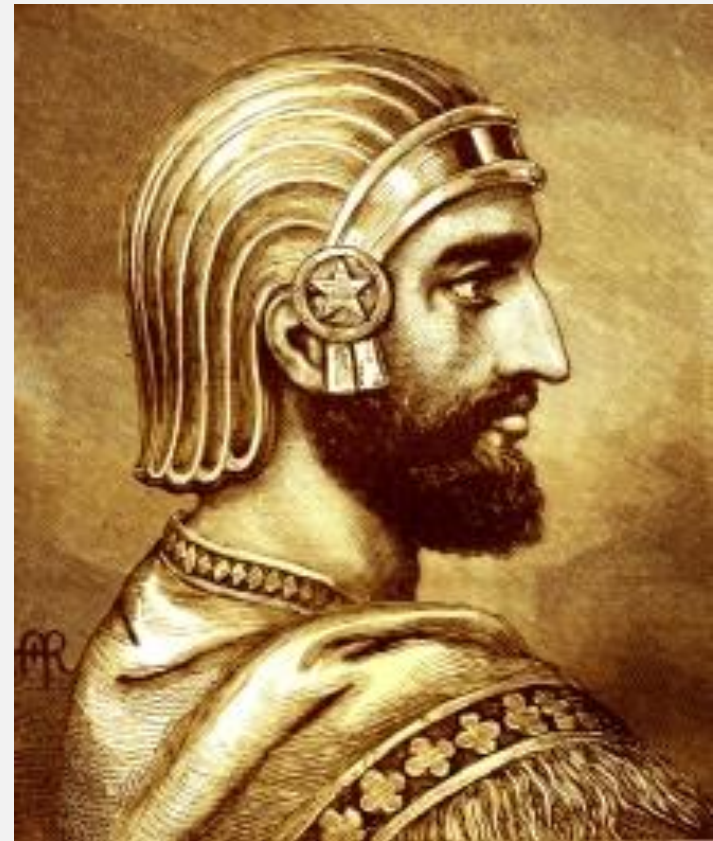
Skilled horsemen – bows and arrows



# BEGINNINGS: CYRUS THE GREAT

Reign: 558-530 BCE

- The *George Washington of Persia* – uniter of tribes and general good guy
- Established vast empire stretching from India to Mediterranean
  - Looting and burning not allowed!
  - Honored local traditions and customs



When you think of Cyrus and Persia, think **TOLERANCE.**

# THE DOWNSIDE OF MONARCHY

It's hereditary --- Cambyses II (530-522 BCE)



# THE DOWNSIDE OF MONARCHY

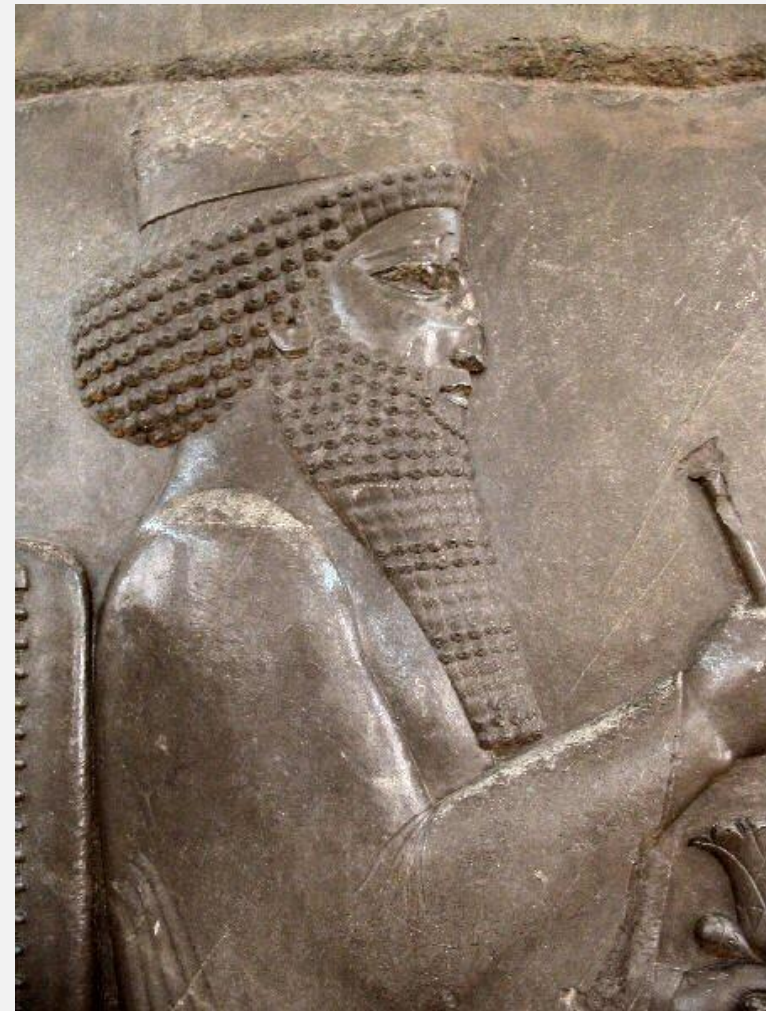
- It's hereditary
- Cambyses II (530-522 BCE)
- Conquered Egypt in 525 BCE
- Looted, burned, pillaged, destroyed temples, ridiculed Egyptian polytheism, ordered images of their gods to be burned
- But... is this true?





# GOLDEN AGE: DARIUS I

- Reign: 521-486 BCE
- A young kinsman of Cyrus... or was he?
- Built the **largest empire in world history up until that point**
  - 2500 miles – Northwest Turkey to the Indus Valley
  - Incredible army
- Ruled more than 70 ethnic groups
- Built new capital at **Persepolis** (in modern-day Iran), 520 B.C.E.



# THE PERSIAN EMPIRE UNDER DARIUS I



## DISCUSS WITH A PARTNER

- You have just conquered the largest empire the world has ever seen.
- What steps would you take to control and maintain such an empire?
  - Be specific! Formulate at least 5 means of controlling a large, diverse area.
  - Think of the US – how do we do it here? How might they have done it more than 2000 years ago?

# HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

## **Social**

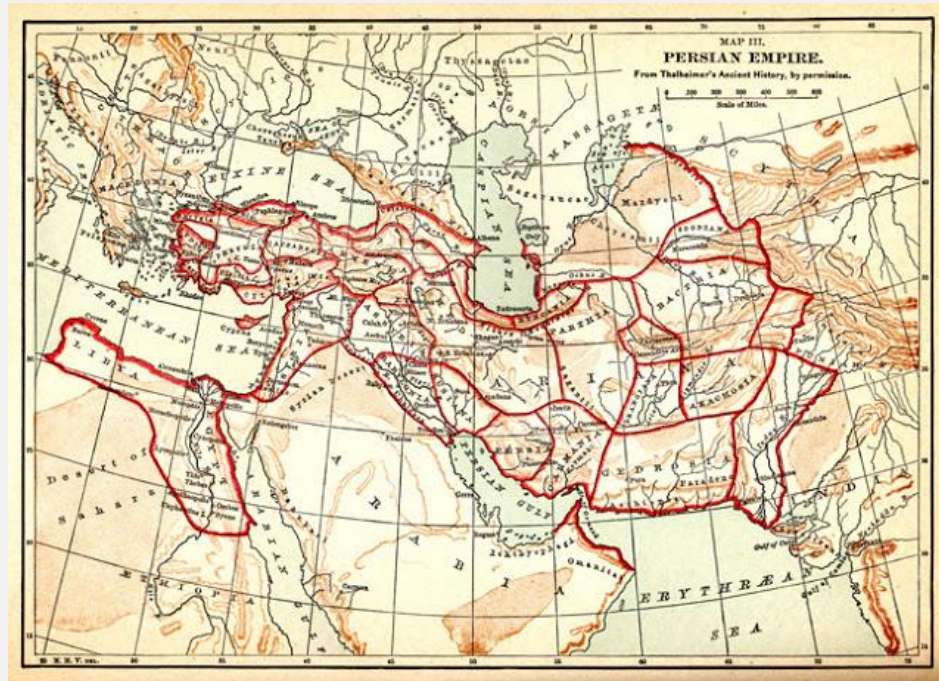
- Limited slavery
  - Prisoners of war
- Women treated with more social and legal freedoms than in other areas at the time



# HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

## Politics

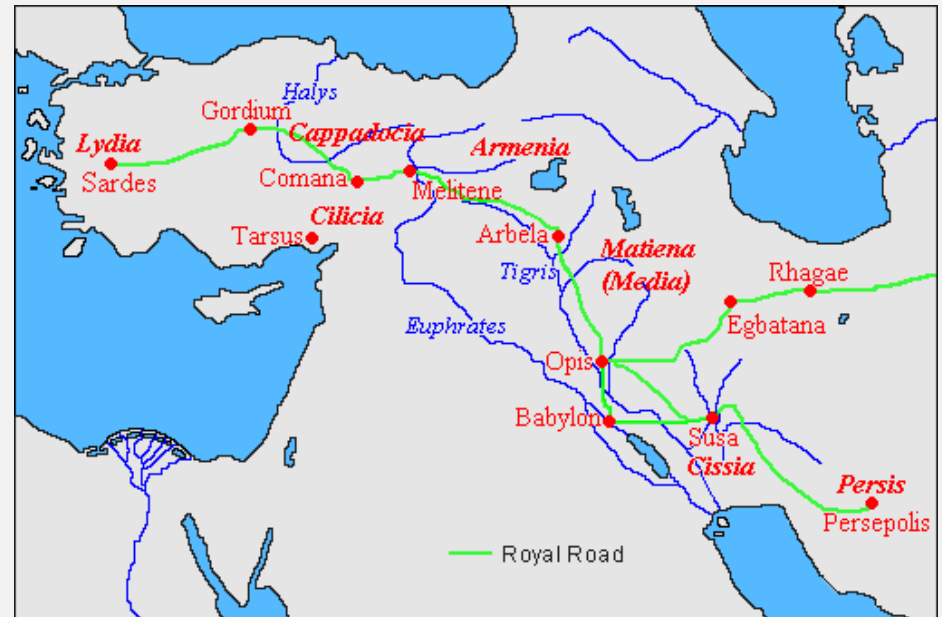
- **Satraps**: governors to rule provinces for the central government
  - Ruled over **satrapies**
  - Represented emperor, maintained defense, collected taxes
  - Checked on by “**King’s Eyes and Ears**”
  - Local people still made up local governance



# HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

## Politics

- Standardized **laws**
- Communication systems
  - **Royal Road // pony express**
- Created largest military in history (until the Romans came along)
  - And they were **AWESOME**



# HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

## Culture

- Persian religion:  
**Zoroastrianism**
- Monotheistic
  - A good god:  
Ahuramazda
    - A lesser, evil god:  
Ahriman
- Could be practiced alongside other religions



# HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

## Culture

- **Tolerance, tolerance, tolerance**
- Conquered peoples allowed to practice their local customs and traditions
- HUGE melting pot
- Spread and mix of art, religion, architecture, food, races, and ethnic groups





# HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

## Economics

- Formalized **taxes** instead of a tribute system
- Standardized **coins** and laws
  - What's the benefit?
  - Gold *darics* and silver *siglos*
- Political stability encouraged the growth of trade



# THE PERSIAN EMPIRE UNDER DARIUS I



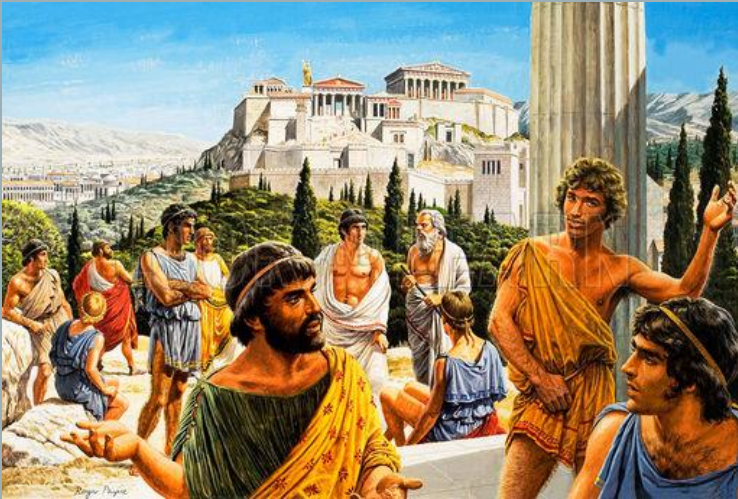
## PERSIAN MUSEUM EXHIBIT

- Which artifact does the best job representing the Persian Empire?

## AGENDA - 9/18

- Turn in your homework to the front table
- *How do we recount and record history?:* the Greco-Persian Wars from two perspectives
- Homework: quiz/notes due next TUESDAY.

# THE PERSIAN WARS



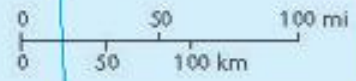
VS



# The Persian War 500 B.C. - 479 B.C.



- Persian Empire
- Rebellious Ionian city-states
- Greek city-states allied against the Persians
- Neutral and pro-Persian city-states
- Greek victory
- Persian victory



# GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: WHY DID THEY START?

- Ethnic Greeks living in **Ionia** (coast of Turkey) rebelled against the Persians, with the help of some city-states (especially **Athens**)
- Persian rulers put down the rebellion and invaded Greece as punishment
- Two major invasions – 490BCE (Darius) and 480BCE (Xerxes)



# GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: WHY DID THEY START?

**Some Greek poleis were  
in support of the  
Persian Empire.**

**Why?**





# GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: WHY DID THEY START?

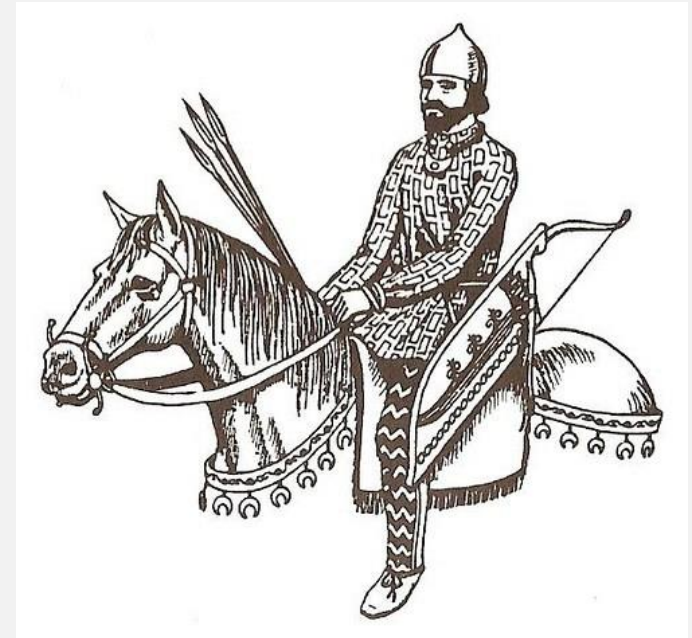
**Athens and Sparta,  
most notably, were not.  
Why?**



# GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: FIGHTING STYLE



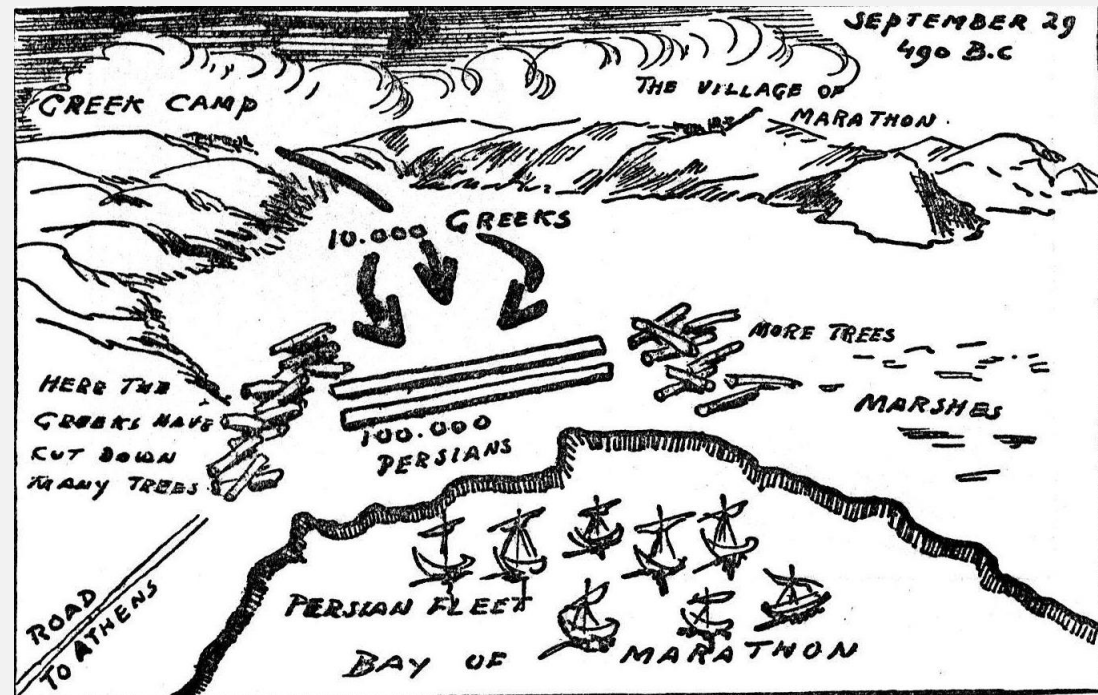
VS



# GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

- **Battle of Marathon  
490 BCE**

- 10,000 vs somewhere between 15,000 and 600,000
- Athenians defeat Darius's troops



## GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

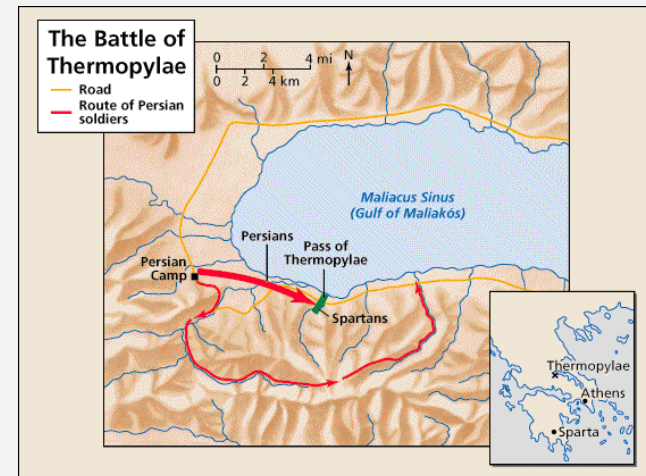
- **Quick discussion:**
- **What does this mean for Persia?**

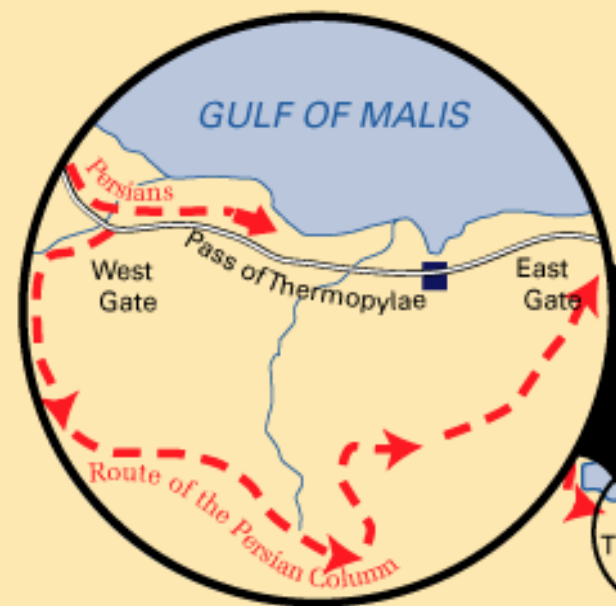
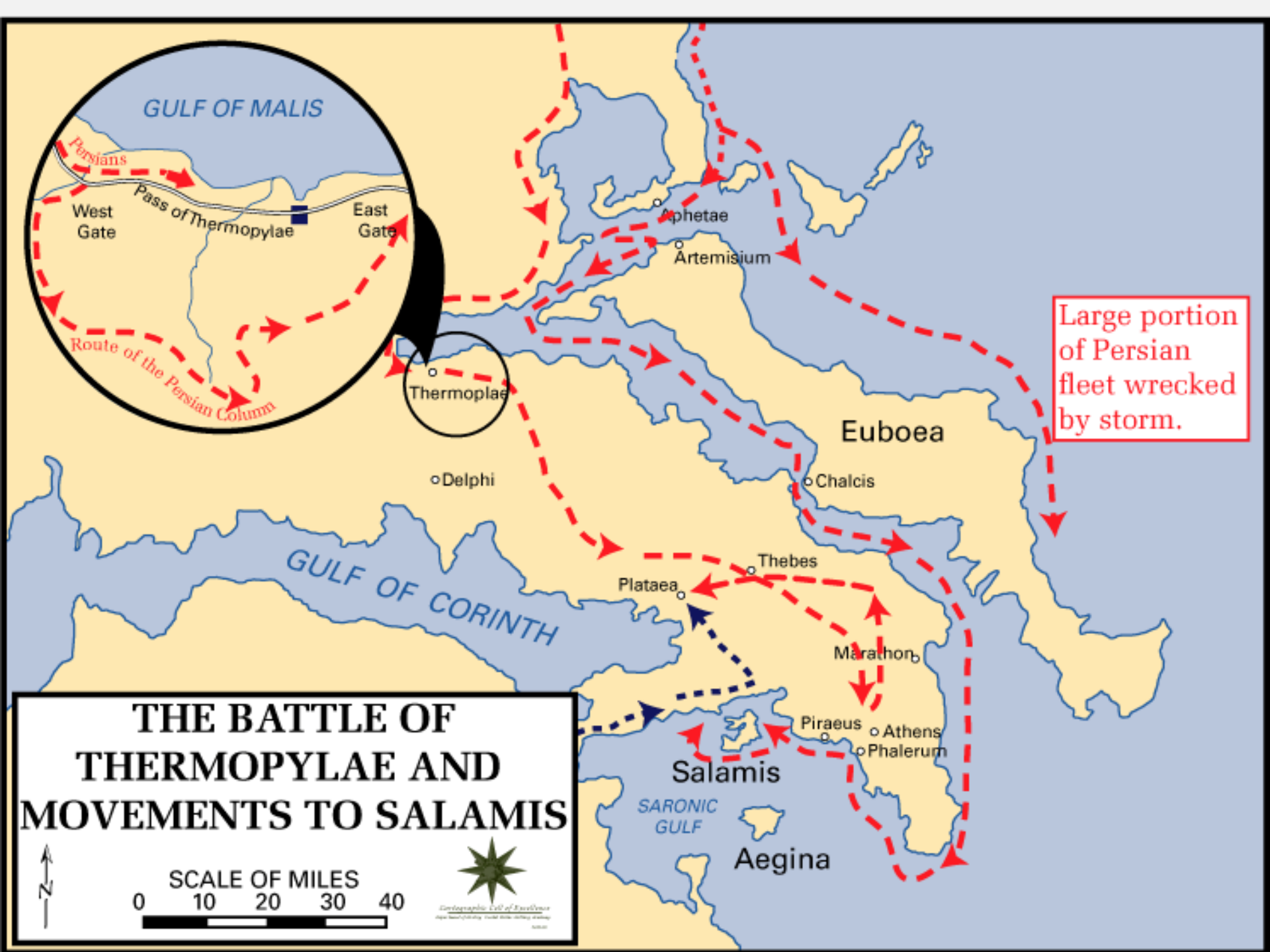
## GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

- **Quick discussion:**
- **What does this mean for the Greek poleis?**

# GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

- **Battle of Thermopylae  
480BCE**  
(aka, the 'Hot Gates')
- Xerxes invades and defeats Spartans (think: the movie *300*)
- Offered peace a ton of times; Leonidas says no
- "*Molon labe*" : "*Come and take them*"





Large portion of Persian fleet wrecked by storm.

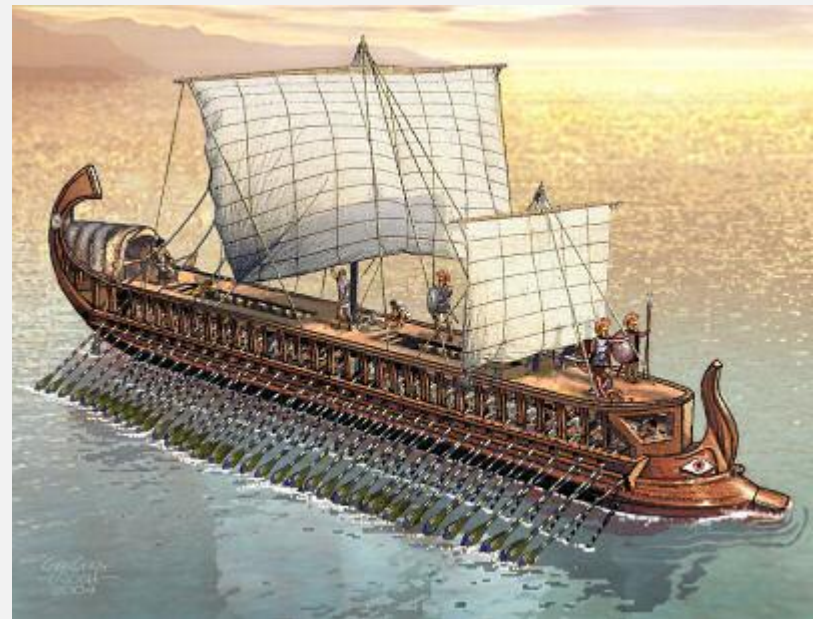
# THE BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE AND MOVEMENTS TO SALAMIS

SCALE OF MILES  
0 10 20 30 40

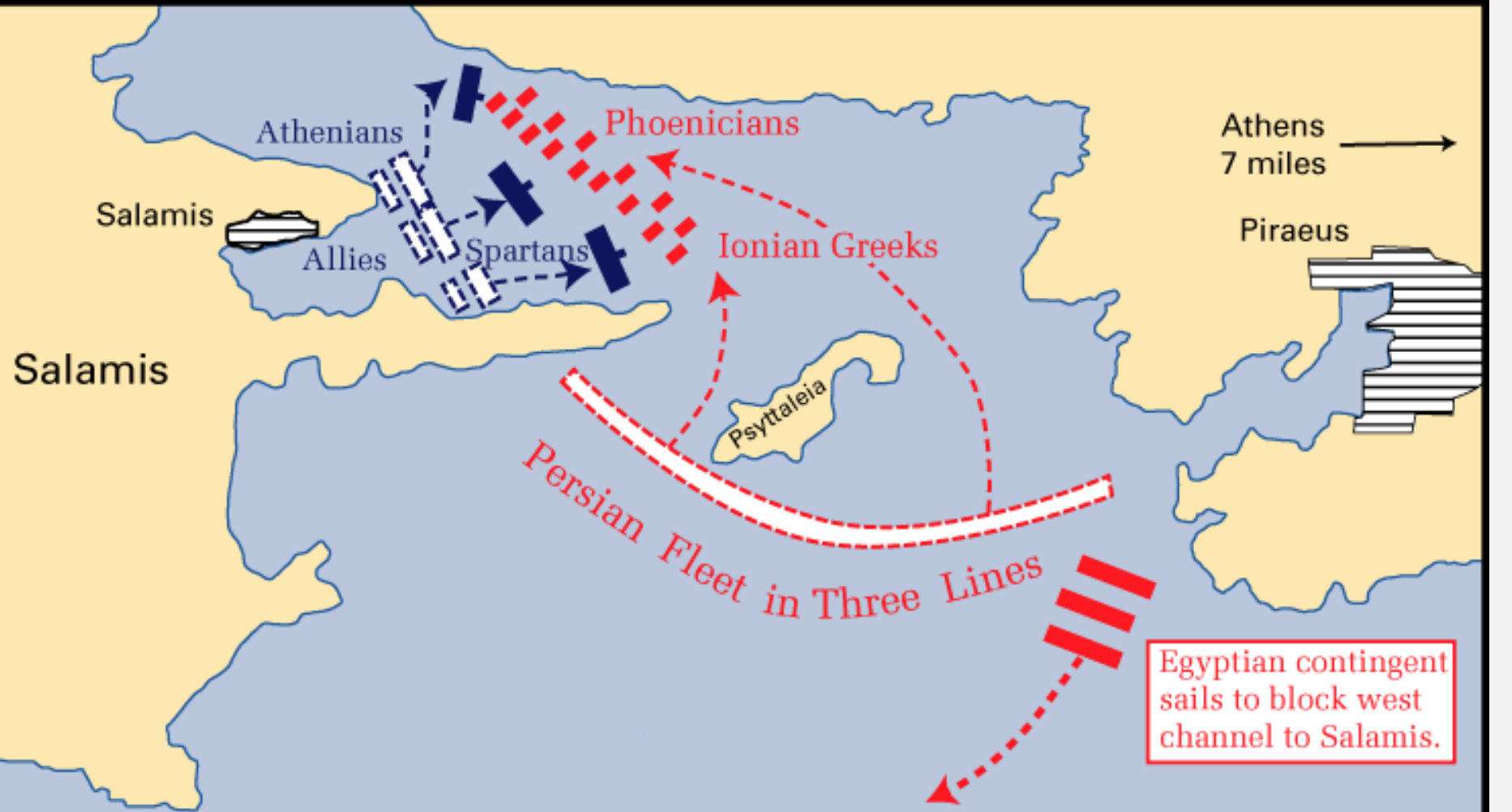
Geographic Cell of Excellence  
Map Source: National Geographic Society

# GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

- **Battle of Salamis 480BCE**
  - Athenian naval victory over Xerxes's forces (decisive battle of the war)
  - According to some historians, the most important battle in all of world history







Egyptian contingent sails to block west channel to Salamis.

**THE BATTLE OF SALAMIS,**  
480 B.C.

SCALE OF MILES

0 1 2 3

Cartographic Cell of Excellence  
dedicated to history, nature and safety education

SARONIC GULF

# GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE WARS?

- Greeks win and remain independent
  - Start to view themselves as a united Greece and not only independent poleis
    - **Delian League**
- Persia does not collapse – it just doesn't conquer Greece
- Leads to the **Golden Age of Greece** and the height of Athenian power

(and then Alexander the Great conquers everyone, but we'll get there next time)

## ACTIVITY

- In your groups, you will read through two different accounts of the Battle of Salamis.
- **Herodotus** was a Greek historian born in 485BCE who wrote an athology called *The Histories* in 440 BCE.
- **Waterfield** is a British classical historian who translated many Greek works into English in the 1980s and 1990s. He now writes children's books.

## STEP ONE: INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

- Read the **first paragraph** silently and highlight the one sentence or phrase that you think is the **main idea** of that paragraph.
- Circle or underline any details that you think are necessary to understand the main idea.

## STEP TWO: COMPARE

- In your group, have everyone share the sentence they highlighted and why they thought that was the main idea.
- If there are differences, discuss and try to come up with a single answer as a group.

## STEP THREE: READ AS A GROUP

- Read the **second paragraph** as a group (one person reads aloud or you popcorn read). Afterwards, decide as a group which sentence or phrase should be highlighted as the main idea.
- Also as a group, decide which details should be circled/underlined as necessary to understanding the main idea.

## STEP FOUR: INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

- Read the **last paragraph** on your own again and highlight the main idea and circle/underline the important details.
- After you're done, GIST your three-paragraph reading and compare your GIST with the rest of your group.

# HERODOTUS ALSO SAID HE SAW GIANT ANTS THAT MINED GOLD. FATHER. OF. LIES.





# AWESOME WOMAN ALERT

- **ATOSSA**
  - Daughter of Cyrus
  - Wife of Cambyses
    - Yes, her brother
  - Wife of Darius
    - He married into the royal family to legitimize his rule
  - Mother of Xerxes



"Atossa was of great authority, and during the Greek war initially recommended by her, Darius made use of her advice. She was even interested in accompanying her husband in the process of war."

- Herodotus