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World, Part I - Second Edition

Edited by F. W. Walbank, A. E. Astin, M. W. Frederiksen and R. M. Ogilvie
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THE CAMBRIDGE
ANCIENT HISTORY

VOLUME VII
PART 1

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SECOND EDITION

VOLUME VII

PART I

The Hellenistic World

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Frontmatter[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>List of maps</i>	page	x
<i>List of text-figures</i>		x
<i>Preface</i>		xi
1 Sources for the period		1
by F. W. WALBANK, <i>Emeritus Professor, formerly Professor of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, University of Liverpool</i>		
I Lost writers		2
II Surviving writers		4
III Other sources: (a) Inscriptions		10
(b) Papyri and ostraca		16
(c) Coins		18
(d) Archaeology		21
2 The succession to Alexander		23
by ÉDOUARD WILL, <i>Professor of Ancient History, University of Nancy II</i>		
I From the death of Alexander to Triparadisus (323–321)		23
II The period of Antigonus Monophthalmus (321–301)		39
(a) From Triparadisus to the death of Eumenes (321–316)		40
(b) The first phase of the struggle against Antigonus (316–311)		46
(c) The second phase of the struggle against Antigonus (311–301)		52
3 Monarchies and monarchic ideas		62
by F. W. WALBANK		
I The new political pattern		62
II The character of Hellenistic monarchy		64
III The machinery of monarchical government		68
IV Sources for the concept of the ideal king		75
V The Hellenistic picture of the king		81
VI Monarchy and religion		84
VII Ruler-cult		87
VIII Dynastic cult		96
IX Conclusion		99

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Edited by F. W. Walbank, A. E. Astin, M. W. Frederiksen and R. M. Ogilvie
Frontmatter[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS

4	The formation of the Hellenistic kingdoms	page 101
	by ÉDOUARD WILL	
	I The adventures of Demetrius Poliorcetes (301–286)	101
	II From the apogee of Lysimachus to the re-establishment of Antigonus Gonatas (286–276)	110
5	Ptolemaic Egypt	118
	by SIR ERIC TURNER, <i>formerly Emeritus Professor of Papyrology, University College London</i>	
	Preliminary note on the papyrus sources	118
	I Ptolemy I	119
	II Administration, economy and society under Philadelphus and Euergetes	133
	III From Euergetes I to Euergetes II	159
	IV Religion, literature, art	167
6	Syria and the East	175
	by DOMENICO MUSTI, <i>Professor of Greek History, University of Rome I (La Sapienza)</i>	
	I Organization, the monarchy, the court	175
	II Geographical description of the Seleucid kingdom	181
	III Administrative divisions and personnel	184
	IV Military and naval aspects	189
	V Tax system and economic life	193
	VI Relations with the Greek cities	204
	VII Relations with Iran. Retreat from further Asia. Growth of the Parthians. Greeks in Bactria and India	210
	VIII Conclusion	216
	Appendix: The date of the secession of Bactria and Parthia from the Seleucid kingdom	219
7	Macedonia and Greece	221
	by F. W. WALBANK	
	I Antigonus Gonatas and Pyrrhus	221
	II Antigonus and Macedonia	224
	III Macedonia and Greece in 272	229
	IV The rise of Aetolia	232
	V The Chremonidean War	236
	VI The results of the Chremonidean War	240
	VII Aratus of Sicyon and the Achaean League	243
	VIII Antigonus, Corinth and Aratus	246
	IX Agis IV of Sparta	252
	X Antigonus' last years	255

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-23445-0 - The Cambridge Ancient History: The Hellenistic World, Part I - Second Edition

Edited by F. W. Walbank, A. E. Astin, M. W. Frederiksen and R. M. Ogilvie
Frontmatter[More information](#)

CONTENTS

vii

8	Cultural, social and economic features of the Hellenistic world	page 257
	<i>by J. K. DAVIES, Rathbone Professor of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, University of Liverpool</i>	
	I Sources and approaches	257
	II Demographic problems	264
	III The degree of economic interplay: artefacts and institutions	270
	IV Piracy and its ramifications	285
	V Change and continuity	290
	VI Royal policies and regional diversities	296
	VII The <i>polis</i> transformed and revitalized	304
	VIII The limits of the <i>polis</i>	315
9	Hellenistic science: its application in peace and war	321
9a	Hellenistic science	321
	<i>by G. E. R. LLOYD, Fellow of King's College and Professor of Ancient Philosophy and Science, University of Cambridge</i>	
	Introduction	321
	I Physics	323
	II Mathematics and its applications	330
	III Geography and astronomy	337
	IV Medicine and the life sciences	347
9b	War and siegecraft	353
	<i>by YVON GARLAN, Professor of Ancient History, University of Haute-Bretagne, Rennes II</i>	
9c	Agriculture	363
	<i>by DOROTHY J. THOMPSON, Fellow of Girton College, University of Cambridge</i>	
9d	Building and townplanning	371
	<i>by F. E. WINTER, Professor of Fine Art, University of Toronto</i>	
	(a) Hellenistic townplanning	371
	(b) Hellenistic building materials and techniques	372
	(c) Hellenistic buildings	375
10	Agathocles	384
	<i>by K. MEISTER, Professor of Ancient History, Technische Universität, Berlin</i>	
	I Agathocles' rise and seizure of power	384
	II Developments in Sicily between 316/15 and 310	390
	III The African campaigns (310–307)	393
	IV Events in Sicily (310–304)	400
	V Agathocles' reign as king (304–289/8). His policies towards Italy in the East. His plan for a new Carthaginian war	405
	VI General assessment	409

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-23445-0 - The Cambridge Ancient History: The Hellenistic World, Part I - Second Edition

Edited by F. W. Walbank, A. E. Astin, M. W. Frederiksen and R. M. Ogilvie
Frontmatter[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS

11	The Syrian-Egyptian Wars and the new kingdoms of Asia Minor	<i>page</i> 412
	<i>by H. HEINEN, Professor of Ancient History, University of Trier</i>	
	I Introduction	412
	II Ptolemy II and the first Syrian Wars (282–246)	413
	III Ptolemy III and the Third Syrian War (246–241)	420
	IV The rise of the states of Asia Minor	421
	(a) The Celts	422
	(b) Bithynia	425
	(c) Pontus	426
	(d) Cappadocia	426
	(e) Pergamum	426
	(f) Rhodes	432
	V Antiochus III, Ptolemy IV and the Fourth Syrian War	433
	VI Ptolemaic rule in Coele-Syria	440
	VII The aims of Ptolemaic policy towards the Seleucid empire	442
12	Macedonia and the Greek leagues	446
	<i>by F. W. WALBANK</i>	
	I The reign of Demetrius II	446
	II Antigonus Doson: the first years	453
	III Cleomenes' revolution	458
	IV The Carian expedition	459
	V The Achaean approach to Macedonia	461
	VI The Achaean disintegration	463
	VII Cleomenes' defeat. The Hellenic League. The death of Antigonus Doson	467
	VIII The Social war	473
	Hellenistic dynasties	482
	Genealogical tables	484
	Chronological table (323–217 B.C.)	493

BIBLIOGRAPHY

<i>Abbreviations</i>	513
A General	519
B Sources	521
a. Ancient authors and works on these	521
b. Epigraphy	523
c. Excavation reports: descriptions of sites	528
d. Numismatic publications	530
e. Art, monuments, ceramics, jewellery and other objects	533
C The Diadochi and the establishment of the kingdoms	535
D Greece, Macedonia, the Balkans, Thrace and the Black Sea	538
a. Macedonia, Epirus and Illyria	538

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-23445-0 - The Cambridge Ancient History: The Hellenistic
World, Part I - Second Edition

Edited by F. W. Walbank, A. E. Astin, M. W. Frederiksen and R. M. Ogilvie

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS		ix
b. Greece and the wars with Macedonia	<i>page</i>	540
c. Thessaly, Boeotia and central Greece		541
d. Athens		541
e. Achaea and Aetolia		542
f. Sparta and Messenia		543
g. The Aegean, Crete and Cyprus		544
h. Thrace and the Black Sea		544
E The Seleucid kingdom, Asia Minor, the Middle East, the Far East, the wars of Syria and Egypt		545
a. General		545
b. Asia Minor		548
c. The Celts (Galatians)		549
d. Pergamum		550
e. Rhodes		551
f. Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, the Syrian-Egyptian Wars		551
g. Iran, Parthia, the Persian Gulf, Bactria, India		553
F Egypt		554
a. Bibliographies of Egyptologists		554
b. Papyri and ostraca		555
c. Inscriptions		562
d. General		563
e. Pre-Ptolemaic Egypt		563
f. Religion		564
g. Army and navy		565
h. Administration, society, economic structure		566
i. Law and the administration of justice		572
j. Art and literature		573
k. Coins		573
l. Chronology		574
G Agathocles		574
a. Sources		
i. Literary		574
ii. Coins		575
iii. Archaeological material		575
b. General		575
H Social, cultural and economic features		577
I Monarchy		587
J Hellenistic science, warfare, agriculture, building		591
a. Science		
i. Ancient authors and works on these		591
ii. Modern works		595
b. Warfare		598
c. Agriculture		599
d. Building and townplanning		599
Addenda		602
<i>Index</i>		603

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978-0-521-23445-0 - The Cambridge Ancient History: The Hellenistic
World, Part I - Second EditionEdited by F. W. Walbank, A. E. Astin, M. W. Frederiksen and R. M. Ogilvie
Frontmatter[More information](#)

MAPS

1	The Hellenistic world in the late fourth century	<i>page</i> 24
2	The eastern Mediterranean c. 275 B.C.	102
3	Egypt	120–1
4	Hellenistic Asia	176–7
5	The Greek mainland and the Aegean	222–3
6	South Italy, Sicily and North Africa	386
7	The Syrian-Egyptian Wars	414
8	Mainland Greece	448

TEXT-FIGURES

1	Eccentric motion	342
2	Epicyclic motion	342
3	The simplest case of the equivalence of eccentric and epicyclic motions	343
4	The inequalities of the seasons explained by the eccentric hypothesis	343
5	Hero's dioptra	344
6	The armillary astrolabe	345
7	Plan of the fort of Euryalus	360
8	Restoration of Philo's arsenal, Piraeus	374
9	Restoration of the Hieron, Samothrace	376
10	Restoration of the Bouleuterion, Miletus	378
11	Restoration of the interior of the Bouleuterion, Miletus	379

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

This volume opens at Babylon in the aftermath of Alexander's death in 323; it closes a little over a hundred years later in 217 with the Peace of Naupactus (between Philip V of Macedonia and his Greek allies and the Aetolian Confederation) and another Peace, in Asia, between Antiochus III and Ptolemy IV, following the latter's victory at the battle of Raphia. Both dates are significant. The first is a more realistic beginning to the new Hellenistic age than the battle of Ipsus in 301 (which was implied by opening Volume VII at that date in the first edition of this work), while the second is famous as the year which Polybius singled out as the beginning of a process of *symploke*, that interweaving of affairs throughout the whole civilized world which was (in his view) to culminate in its domination within a little over fifty years by Rome.

In the first edition, Volume VII covered not only Hellenistic history from 301 to 217 but also that of Rome from the earliest times down to the end of the First Punic War in 241. The vast amount of new material which has become available since 1928, both for Greece and the Hellenistic East (including the Far East) and for Italy, has made it necessary to divide the volume into two parts, with Roman history reserved for the second of these. Nor is that the only difference. The present volume lays less emphasis on military detail and more on social and economic problems than did its predecessor. But general surveys, whether of particular kingdoms or of the whole area of Hellenistic civilization do not provide a substitute for a chronological narrative of events, for without such a framework a general sketch may well fail to convey the sense of historical development. Accordingly, after a preliminary chapter surveying the sources available for the period by Professor F. W. Walbank, the volume opens with an account of the first twenty years from 323 down to 301 by Professor E. Will – a period dominated by the attempt of Antigonos I to uphold the principle of a single empire (under his control) and his failure to accomplish this in the face of rival generals who, even before they combined to destroy him at Ipsus, had themselves assumed the title of king. From this time onwards until the Roman conquest, monarchy was to be the dominant political

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Frontmatter[More information](#)

institution throughout the eastern Mediterranean (and to some extent in Sicily) and in Chapter 3 its antecedents, the political machinery which it devised and the ideology which supported it are discussed by Professor Walbank. Already before Ipsus, Ptolemy I and Seleucus I had established themselves firmly in Egypt and Asia respectively, where they founded dynasties which were to last into the first century; but the possession of Macedonia was still disputed. In Chapter 4 Professor Will carries the history of the struggle between the Diadochi down to the accession of Antigonus Gonatas to the throne of Macedonia in 276; in Chapter 7 Professor Walbank takes the history of Macedonia and Greece down to Gonatas' death, and discusses the growth of the Achaean and Aetolian Confederations and the character of the Macedonian state in the Hellenistic period. Two chapters, by Sir Eric Turner and Professor D. Musti, describe the Ptolemaic and Seleucid kingdoms respectively, and here no attempt has been made to restrict discussion to the third century: the development of Ptolemaic Egypt is traced down to the second century and beyond – though with particular emphasis on the reigns of Philadelphus and Euergetes I – and the Seleucid kingdom is treated as a single, evolving, political institution with special attention paid to social and economic factors, to the relationship between Greeks and non-Greeks, and to that between central government and the Greek cities. The problem of the secession of Bactria and Parthia and the chronology of these events is treated in an appendix. These separate studies of three of the main political units which went to make up the Hellenistic world are followed by a central chapter in which Professor J. K. Davies describes the main cultural, social and economic feature of the Hellenistic age as a whole, assesses the rôle of the *polis* in this period and examines the factors which worked for and against its continuing importance in the Hellenistic scene.

In a general history such as this it was not feasible to include a full critical account of the art, literature and philosophical speculations of the period. That is not because these activities and achievements do not stand very high indeed in any overall assessment of the Hellenistic age; indeed, relevant material from all these areas is integrated into the discussion throughout the volume. But limitations of space ruled out the kind of detailed treatment which a reader will more naturally seek in more specialized works.¹ One aspect in which Hellenistic thought proved especially creative has, however, been given special attention in Chapter 9: the rôle of science and its application in peace and war. Here Professor G. E. R. Lloyd discusses the impressive achievements of the Hellenistic age in physics, geography and astronomy, medicine and the

¹ See, for example, the *Cambridge History of Classical Literature 1: Greece* (forthcoming); M. Robertson, *A History of Greek Art* (2 vols., Cambridge, 1967); A. A. Long 1974: (H 132).

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Frontmatter[More information](#)

PREFACE

xiii

life sciences, and Professor Y. Garlan progress in the techniques of war and siegecraft, a field in which the application of scientific discoveries produced noteworthy changes in the way war was waged; given the preponderant rôle of warfare throughout the period, this was something that affected the lives of everybody. In the same chapter, Dr D. J. Thompson describes and assesses the technical level of agriculture in the various parts of the Hellenistic world and the changes introduced in the new environment of the kingdoms; she concludes that they were minimal. Professor F. E. Winter rounds off this chapter with an account of building and townplanning, in which he describes the methods and materials used during the period of three centuries which saw so many cities founded and built, and was outstanding for the originality of its innovations.

After these chapters devoted to particular areas and aspects of the Hellenistic world and life in it, chapters 10 to 12 revert mainly to narrative. In Chapter 10, Professor Meister describes Agathocles' career in Sicily, leaving subsequent events affecting Greeks and Carthaginians in the West (including Pyrrhus' Italian and Sicilian adventures) to the more suitable context of Volume VII.2. In a chapter (11) mainly concerned with the Syrian-Egyptian wars which run like a thread through the fabric of Seleucid and Ptolemaic relations during the whole of the third century, Professor H. Heinen also describes the growth of the smaller kingdoms of Asia Minor, the increasingly important rôle of Pergamum and Rhodes, and the invasions of the Celts, whose inroads and intrusive settlements brought panic to the peoples of Greece and Asia Minor a century after they had first terrified the Romans. The fortunes of the cities of the Black Sea have not been included here, since they receive discussion in an earlier volume (VI) and will be mentioned again in relation to Pompey's campaigns in Volume IX. Finally, in Chapter 12, Professor Walbank carries the history of Macedonia and Greece proper down to 217 with an account of the reigns of Demetrius II, Antigonus Doseon and Philip V as far as the conclusion of the so-called Social War.

A word on the bibliography seems in order. This is arranged in sections dealing with specific topics, which sometimes correspond to individual chapters but more often combine the contents of several chapters. References in the footnotes are to these sections (which are distinguished by capital letters) and within these sections each book or article has assigned to it a number which is quoted in the footnotes. In these, so as to provide a quick indication of the nature of the work referred to, the author's name and the date of publication are also included in each reference. Thus 'Tarn 1948, I.52: (A.58)' signifies 'W. Tarn, *Alexander the Great* (Cambridge, 1948), vol I, p. 52, to be

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv

PREFACE

found in section A of the bibliography as item 58'. The number of footnotes and the extent of documentation varies somewhat from chapter to chapter, since it has been left largely to each author to treat his subject as he thought best. The text was complete by the middle of 1982; though a few later publications are mentioned, work which appeared after that date could not normally be taken into account and only exceptionally does it figure in the bibliography.

Planned originally in 1977 in conjunction with Volumes VII.2 and VIII, the work has suffered two blows in the successive deaths of two of the three original editors, M. W. Frederiksen and R. M. Ogilvie; in place of the former the Syndics appointed Professor A. E. Astin. It is also with regret that we record the death of one of the contributors, Sir Eric Turner; the proofs of his chapter have been read by Dr Dorothy J. Thompson. Five chapters and one section of Chapter 9 were written in languages other than English. Chapters 2 and 4 have been translated from French by Francis McDonagh, chapter 6 has been translated from Italian by Dinah Livingstone, Chapter 9b from French by Mrs Janet Lloyd and Chapters 10 and 11 from German by John Powell. The index has been compiled by Jenny Morris.

Two volumes of plates are being published to accompany Volumes VII parts 1 and 2 and VIII, dealing with the Hellenistic World and Early Rome respectively. The first of these contains material relevant to the present volume and references to the plates in it will be found in several chapters.

From the earliest stages in the planning of this volume and throughout its production the editors, past and present, enjoyed the fullest collaboration and encouragement from the staff of the Cambridge University Press, who have been patient in accepting delays and quick to suggest or approve solutions to such problems as have arisen from time to time. We should like to record our gratitude both for this help and for the readiness with which it was always made available.

F.W.W.
A.E.A.