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978-0-521-71780-9 - Ancient Empires: From Mesopotamia to the Rise of Islam

Eric H. Cline and Mark W. Graham

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ANCIENT EMPIRES: *From Mesopotamia to the Rise of Islam*

Ancient Empires is a relatively brief yet comprehensive and evenhanded overview of the ancient Near East, the Mediterranean, and Europe, including the Greco-Roman world, Late Antiquity, and the early Muslim period. Taking a focused and thematic approach, it aims to provoke a discussion of an explicit set of themes supplemented by the reading of ancient sources. By focusing on empires and imperialism as well as on modes of response and resistance, it is relevant to current discussions about order, justice, and freedom. The book concludes that some of the ancient world's most enduring ideas, value systems, and institutions were formulated by peoples who were resisting the great empires. It analyzes the central, if problematic, connection between political and ideological power in both empire formation and resistance. The intricate interrelations among ideological, economic, military, and political power are explored for every empire and resisting group.

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Frontmatter

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Dedicated to our families; to our students, past, present, and
future; and to the whole IHUM gang.

CONTENTS

<i>Illustrations</i>	page xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xvii
Introduction: What Is an (Ancient) Empire?	1
<i>Definition of Empire</i>	3
<i>Empire, Response, and Resistance</i>	7
<i>Empires, Ancient and Modern</i>	8
<i>Questions, Questions, Questions</i>	9
1 Prelude to the Age of Ancient Empires	10
<i>The Dawn of Empire</i>	11
<i>Between Amarna and Qadesh: Realpolitik Bronze Age Style</i>	23
<i>Collapse of the International System</i>	29
2 The Rise of the Age of Ancient Empires	33
<i>The Levels of Historical Time and the Rise of the Age of Ancient Empires</i>	34
<i>Climate Change and the Birth of a New Age</i>	36
<i>The Neo-Assyrian Revival</i>	37
<i>The Logic of Assyrian Domination</i>	42
<i>The Demise of Assyrian Domination</i>	52
3 Dealing with Empires: Varieties of Responses	55
<i>Secondary State Formation: Urartu</i>	56
<i>Coalition and Collapse: Syria and Its Neighbors</i>	62
<i>Revival of East–West Trade: The Phoenicians/Canaanites</i>	66
<i>Conflict and Covenant: Israel and Judah</i>	72

Cambridge University Press

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Eric H. Cline and Mark W. Graham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS

4	Beyond the Near East: The Neo-Babylonian and Early Achaemenid Persian Empires	80
	<i>The Rise (and Fall) of the Neo-Babylonian Empire</i>	81
	<i>Looking Back and Looking Ahead: Neo-Babylonian Rulership in Action</i>	84
	<i>Interlude: The People of the Book</i>	89
	<i>The Enigmatic Nabonidus and the Persian Takeover</i>	90
	<i>The Rise of a Multiculturalist Empire: The Achaemenid Persians</i>	92
	<i>The Pragmatics of a Multicultural Empire</i>	98
	<i>Responding to Empire</i>	101
5	The Crucible of History: East Meets West	103
	<i>The Greek Expansion and the Birth of the Polis</i>	108
	<i>The Ionian Intellectual Revolution and the Limits of Persian Tolerance</i>	112
	<i>The Crucible of History</i>	116
	<i>The Greco-Persian War</i>	118
	<i>Postlude: East, West, and Orientalism</i>	124
6	Democracy and Empire between Athens and Alexander	126
	<i>A Golden Age (at Athens)</i>	128
	<i>Can a Democracy Run an Empire? The Peloponnesian War</i>	134
	<i>The Empire Strikes Back: Alexander the Great</i>	142
7	"Spear-Won" Empires: The Hellenistic Synthesis	149
	<i>Alexander's "Funeral Games"</i>	150
	<i>The Hellenistic IEMP Synthesis</i>	153
	<i>Empire and the City</i>	159
	<i>The Individual in the Hellenistic World</i>	162
	<i>Resistance and Revolt: Mauryans and Maccabees</i>	166
8	The Western Mediterranean and the Rise of Rome	173
	<i>The Western Mediterranean Setting</i>	176
	<i>Roman Beginnings: Inside and Outside</i>	181
	<i>The Roots of Roman Imperialism</i>	189
9	<i>Imperium Sine Fine</i> : Roman Imperialism and the End of the Old Order	199
	<i>Rome versus Carthage</i>	200
	<i>Symploké: Rome and the Hellenistic East</i>	204
	<i>The Late Republic and the End of the Old Order</i>	210

CONTENTS

ix

10	The New Political Order: The Foundations of the Principate	221
	<i>Mr. IEMP: Octavian/Augustus</i>	222
	<i>Pax Romana</i>	232
	<i>Into the Arena: A Microcosm of Imperial Society in the Principate</i>	235
	<i>"Barbarians" through Roman Eyes: The Romans Encounter "the Other"</i>	239
11	Ruling and Resisting the Roman Empire	244
	<i>Power and the Provinces</i>	246
	<i>The Imperial Cult and Roman Rule</i>	254
	<i>Resisting Roman Rule</i>	258
12	Imperial Crisis and Recovery	267
	<i>The "Third-Century Crisis"</i>	268
	<i>The Rise of Christianity</i>	277
	<i>The Dominate: Cosmos Restored</i>	283
13	Universal Empires and Their Peripheries in Late Antiquity	294
	<i>Roman Political and Religious Universalism</i>	295
	<i>Renovatio: Byzantium, the New Rome</i>	301
	<i>The Rise of the Sasanid Persian Empire</i>	306
	<i>Politics, Resistance, and Heterodoxies at the Peripheries of the Empires</i>	311
14	The Formation of the Islamic World Empire	319
	<i>The Clash of Empires and the End of the (Ancient) World</i>	322
	<i>The Arabs and the Rise of Islam</i>	326
	<i>The Umayyads: The First Islamic (and the Last Ancient) Empire</i>	332
	Notes	341
	Further Reading	347
	Index	357

ILLUSTRATIONS

1.1 Udjahorresne statue.	<i>page</i> 2
1.2 Chigi vase. Detail of hoplites, oenochoe (wine pitcher) from Corinth.	6
1.1 Map of the Bronze Age.	13
1.2 Temple ziggurat, Agargouf, Iraq.	15
1.3 Stele of the Victory of Naram-Sin.	18
1.4 Narmer Palette.	20
1.5 Step pyramid of Djoser/Zoser.	21
1.6 Bent pyramid of Sneferu at Dahshur.	21
1.7 Giza pyramids.	22
1.8 Funerary temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel.	25
1.9 Elamite complex.	27
1.10 Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and their children blessed by the Aten.	29
1.11 Warriors fighting on board ships: naval battle against the Sea Peoples.	31
2.1 Map of the Neo-Assyrian Empire.	39
2.2 Tiglath-pileser III attacking a city with a battering ram.	40
2.3 Tower with defenders. Assyrians attack the Jewish-fortified town of Lachish.	41
2.4 Assyrian warriors impaling Jewish prisoners after conquering the Jewish fortress of Lachish.	43
2.5 A harpist in Sennacherib's gardens.	44
2.6 Triumphal march of Ashurnasirpal, with Ashur above.	46
2.7 Assyrian soldiers.	46
2.8 Siege weapons.	47
2.9 Relief panels.	51
3.1 Urartu map.	57

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-71780-9 - Ancient Empires: From Mesopotamia to the Rise of Islam

Eric H. Cline and Mark W. Graham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

3.2	Bronze band from the gates of the palace of Shalmaneser III.	59
3.3	Bronze model of a city wall. From Turkey, Urartian.	61
3.4	Pointed bronze helmet, Urartian.	63
3.5	Orthostat showing an Aramaean horseman.	65
3.6	King Hazael of Damascus framed by a lotus flower.	67
3.7	Island of Arvad at the Lebanese coast.	70
3.8	The wooden gates of Shalmaneser III with bands of relief decoration in bronze.	71
3.9	Jehu, king of Israel, prostrating himself before King Shalmaneser III of Assyria.	75
3.10	The Taylor-Prism, Neo-Assyrian, from Nineveh.	77
4.1	Stela of King Nabonidus, Neo-Babylonian dynasty.	84
4.2	The Ishtar Gate, built during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II.	85
4.3	Cylinder of Nabonidus.	91
4.4	Map of Achaemenid Persian Empire.	94
4.5	Behistun inscription.	97
4.6	Tomb of Darius II.	98
4.7	Procession of tribute bearers.	100
4.8	Reception Hall "Apadana," relief of tribute bearers.	101
5.1	Greek mainland and Aegean map.	105
5.2	Bowl with a radiating petal design, Phrygian.	107
5.3	Kouros from Sounion.	109
5.4	Oltos Painter (fl. c. 525–500 B.C.) Hoplite.	111
5.5	Bust of Pythagoras.	115
5.6	Athenian mound (Soros), Marathon.	121
5.7	Leonidas monument, Thermopylae.	123
6.1	Euphiletos painter.	129
6.2	Parthenon.	131
6.3	Euripides bust.	133
6.4	Standing Bodisattva Maitreya (Buddha of the Future).	145
6.5	The Battle of Issus (Alexander Battle), Mosaic.	147
7.1	The Hellenistic World map.	154
7.2	Tetradrachm of Seleucus I.	155
7.3	Detail of Ptolemy III Euergetes I and goddess.	157
7.4	Bactrian coin.	160
7.5	Pharos of Alexandria (reconstruction after Adler).	161
7.6	Bust of philosopher Zeno of Citium.	165
7.7	A map of the Mauryan dynasty.	169
7.8	Antiochus IV Epiphanes.	171

ILLUSTRATIONS

xiii

8.1 Map of the Western Mediterranean.	174
8.2 Looking southward to Carthage from Sidi Bou Saïd.	178
8.3 Dougga monument with Near Eastern decoration.	179
8.4 Tiber River outlet, water conduit from Roman Forum; Cloaca Maxima.	182
8.5 Etruscan temple.	183
8.6 Bronze statue known as "Lupa Capitolina" representing a she-wolf nursing the Roman twins Romulus and Remus.	185
8.7 Lucius Cornelius Scipio tomb.	191
8.8 Map of growing Roman power in Italy.	195
8.9 Centuriation.	196
8.10 Roman road in Ostia.	197
8.11 Roman civic plan.	197
9.1 Rome's first silver coin.	201
9.2 Carthage harbor reconstruction.	203
9.3 Baal-Tanit.	205
9.4 Maison Carrée.	210
9.5 Tivoli general.	211
9.6 Roman man holding busts of his ancestors.	213
9.7 Julius Caesar, marble head.	219
10.1 The Roman world at the time of Augustus.	223
10.2 Ara Pacis of Emperor Augustus.	230
10.3 Ara Pacis – detail of procession of Augustus' family.	231
10.4 House of Cupid and Psyche.	234
10.5 Tricapitol of Sbeitla.	235
10.6 El Djem amphitheater.	236
10.7 Gladiator from Ephesus.	237
10.8 Amphitheater seating chart.	238
10.9 Gold Stater of "barbarian" leader Vercingetorix (obverse).	239
11.1 Bronze coin of the city of Alexandria, reign of Emperor Hadrian, A.D. 134/135.	250
11.2 Roman bath, Bath, England.	251
11.3 Antonine baths, Carthage.	252
11.4 Zaghouan aquaduct, Tunisia.	253
11.5 Funeral portraits of the children of Aline from Hawara, Fayum Oasis, Egypt.	254
11.6 Horse with twins mosaic, Carthage.	255
11.7 Bouddica statue, London.	259
11.8 Titus coin with Jewish captive.	261

11.9	Masada.	263
12.1	Roman emperors from A.D. 180 to 284.	271
12.2	Gravestone with funerary banquet, Palmyra, second or third century A.D.	272
12.3	Queen Zenobia with an attendant. Relief from Palmyra, third century A.D.	273
12.4	Shapur receiving the surrender of Valerian at Naqsh-I-Rustem.	275
12.5	Reclining Attis from Campus Magna Mater, Ostia.	279
12.6	Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicitas.	281
12.7	The Tetrarchs.	284
12.8	Map of the Roman provinces at the time of Diocletian.	285
12.9	Diocletian's Triumphal Arch at Sbeitla, Tunisia.	287
12.10	Christ monogram (Chi-Rho) in a wreath.	289
12.11	Medallion with the sun god on his chariot, east front of the Arch of Constantine.	290
12.12	The Christian basilicas of Constantinian Rome.	291
13.1	Aureus with bust of Carus.	298
13.2	Tetradrachm of Lysimachus with Alexander wearing the ram's horn of Amon.	299
13.3	Gold medallion of Constantine.	299
13.4	Theodosius and court, Istanbul.	301
13.5	Reconstructed Theodosian walls, fifth century A.D.	303
13.6	Vandal baptistery, Sbeitla, Tunisia.	304
13.7	Empress Theodora and attendants, Ravenna.	305
13.8	Hagia Sophia, Istanbul.	307
13.9	Investiture of Ardashīr I.	309
13.10	The Nine Saints.	313
13.11	Map of Arabian Peninsula showing Lakhmids and Ghassanids.	315
14.1	The Dome of the Rock.	320
14.2	The Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.	321
14.3	Combat between Emperor Heraclius and Khusraw (Chosroe/Khusrau) II.	325
14.4	Walls of Diyarbakir, near the Byzantine–Sassanid frontier.	325
14.5	Emperor Heraclius barefoot and wearing a shirt carrying the Holy Cross to Jerusalem.	327
14.6	Ahwal-i Qiyamat – Muhammed [sic] and the first three caliphs (<i>khalifas</i>).	331
14.7	Byzantine solidus, from Carthage, 610–613.	333

ILLUSTRATIONS

xv

14.8 Gold dinar with a standing caliph (<i>khalifa</i>), Umayyad dynasty, 695–696.	333
14.9 Gold dinar of Caliph (<i>khalifa</i>) Abd al-Malik.	334
14.10 Interior view of cupola of the Dome of the Rock.	335
14.11 Ilwan, hall of worship, Great Umayyad Mosque of Damascus.	337
14.12 The Muslim world up to c. 750.	339

Cambridge University Press

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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