

Cyrus The Great



Asaran Publications

Compiled and edited by:

Abdollah Ghanbari

(Tehran University Instructor)

&

Arash Ghanbari

CONTENTS

Preface	4
Chapter 1 : Cyrus the Great	7
Chapter 2 : Dynastic history	10
Chapter 3 : Early life	13
Chapter 4 : Rise and military campaigns	19
Chapter 5 : Death and Burial	27
Chapter 6 : Cyrus the Great's Legacy	33
Chapter 7 : Cyrus cylinder and Sayings	42
Exercises	50
Glossary	52
Appendix 1: English Abbreviations	94
Appendix 2: Key to Phonetic Symbols	95
Reference	96

Cyrus the Great

Prelude

Cyrus the Great is considered to be the first significant king of Persia and the founder of the vast Persian empire. He established the Persian Empire in 550 B.C. Cyrus the Great had a concept of "One World" and the "Unification of All People around the known World." By accepting the practices and religions of the subject people they created the world's first religiously tolerant empire. They evolved an administrative system that was sufficiently flexible to cater for the multitude of different languages, races, religions and cultures while maintaining the fundamental unity of government necessary to maintain the empire which was the largest empire the world had known, stretched in two continents, east-west from borders of China to Greece and north-south from Central Russia to north Africa. From 2500 years ago Persia ruled the civilized world for at least 1130 years; Median Dynasty 728-550 B.C., Achaemenid Dynasty 559-330 B.C., Parthian Dynasty 250 B.C. - 226 A.D. and the mighty Sassanid Dynasty 226-651 A.D.



Cyrus the Great (Kourosh)

The Persian Empire was humane and equal in nature and was the first ever Federal system in the world. Each State had absolute internal autonomy to do as they pleased with their own internal affairs. It was a primitive form of Federalism in comparison to today's Federal systems, but imagine back then when everyone including China, Egypt, Greece and Rome practiced slavery and colonialism, Persia granted internal autonomy to all states. All states had control over their affairs, their education system, local languages and even their own military forces.

Cyrus was distinguished no less as statesman than as a soldier. His statesmanship came out particularly in his treatments of newly conquered people. By pursuing a policy of generosity, instead of repression, and by favoring the local religion, he was able to make his new subjects his enthusiastic supporters.

During his twenty-nine year reign, Cyrus fought against some of the greatest states of his time, including the Median Empire, the Lydian Empire, and the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Beyond his nation, Cyrus left a lasting legacy on Jewish religion (through his Edict of Restoration), politics, and military strategy, as well as on both Eastern and Western civilization.

Summary:

Cyrus the Great	King of Persia, King of Anshan, King of Media, King of Babylon, King of Sumer and Akkad, King of the four corners of the World
Reign	559 BC - 530 BC (30 years)
Coronation	Anshan, Persis
Born	600 BC or 576 BC
Birthplace	Anshan, Persis
Died	December, 530 BC
Place of death	Along the Syr Darya
Buried	Pasargadae
Predecessor	Cambyses I
Successor	Cambyses II
Consort	Cassandane of Persia
Offspring	Cambyses II, Bardiya, Artystone, Atossa
Royal House	Achaemenid
Father	Cambyses I
Mother	Mandane of Media or Argoste of Persia