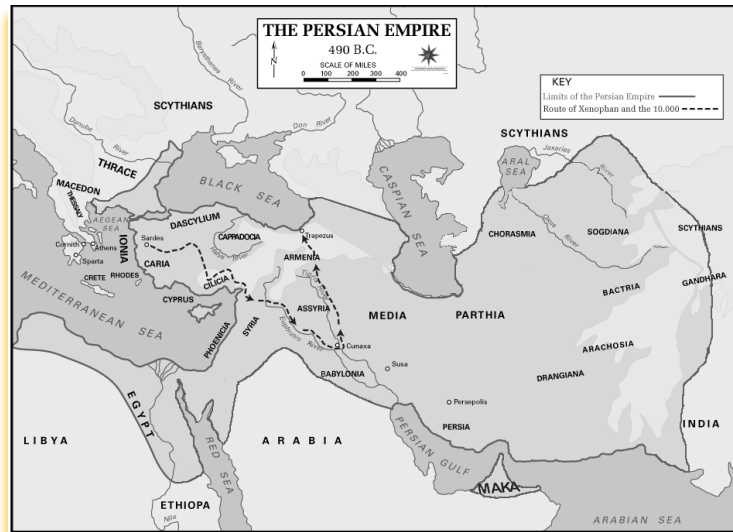


The Golden Age of Persia

600 BCE – 330 BCE

5CLIR Seminar – Fall 2022

Though not the biggest empire nor the longest in power, Persia was one of the great superpowers of the ancient world, militarily and culturally. At one point, their empire stretched from Istanbul to Kabul and south to southern Egypt. At the same time they were a global hub of culture, religion, science, art and technology for more than 200 years. The Persians were the first people to establish regular routes of communication between three continents—Africa, Asia and Europe. They built many new roads and developed the world's first postal service, their architecture was world class, later providing the inspiration for the Taj Mahal. Their miniature paintings and other visual arts were superbly executed. In addition, Alexander so admired the Persians for the way they organized their government bureaucracy, that he borrowed their system for himself.



This seminar will seek to gain an appreciation for the Persians' contributions to world civilizations. Each participant will be asked to do some collateral reading identified by the moderator, as well as researching and presenting on a topic agreed upon by the moderator.

Jim Harvey, moderator jimharvey293@gmail.com 413-259-5102

Some possible presentation topics

- Geography
- Cyrus II “The Great”
- Alexander “the Great”
- Darius I “The Great”
- Zoroastrianism
- The Economy and taxation
- Government
- The postal service
- The road system
- Food
- Persia and the Jews
- Persepolis
- Architecture
- Carpet making
- Miniature paintings
- Music
- Literature
- Inventions and Innovations