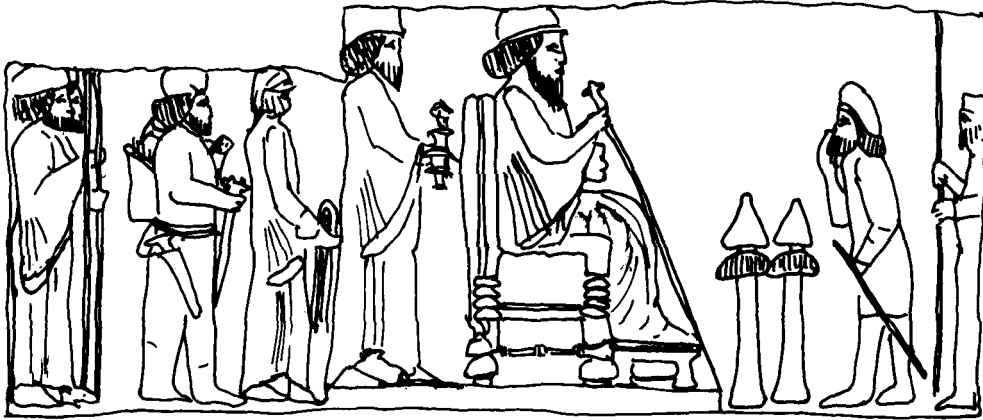


PERSEPOLIS



King Darius I (seated) with Xerxes I standing behind him. From a relief sculpture, Persepolis.

Inscriptions and archaeology allow the history of the Persian ceremonial capital, Persepolis, to be understood. The foundation inscriptions of Darius I show that Persepolis was planned, and started, some time before 512 BC. Darius I had a 135,000 sq. metre terrace built with drainage laid out for the whole site; a water source secured; and the site fortified before construction began. Building continued under Xerxes I although progress slowed during the years 481-466 BC before Persepolis was largely completed by King Artaxerxes I. The city was handed over to Alexander the Great's troops in 331 BC, only to be burnt the following year - as pay back for the destruction of Greek cities during the Persian Wars - 150 years earlier.¹

The Persian kings did not spend much time at Persepolis and it was a little too remote to be a good administrative capital. The region of Persepolis, however, was significant to the Achaemenid kings as it was here that they were buried and, at nearby Pasargadae, the Persian kings were crowned.

The buildings at Persepolis are made of a dark grey limestone, although white limestone was used for the imposing 111 stairs which were lined with relief sculptures of Persian subjects. These stairs lead to

the 'Gateway of All Lands' with its four colossal winged bulls, built by Xerxes I. The stables and many of the domestic buildings were made of mudbrick.

The Apadana, or Audience Hall, was entered from a columned porch on the west. The walls were covered in reliefs which expressed the pomp, glory and power of the king. The reliefs depict Persian nobility and tribute bearers in what is thought to be a New Year Festival.² To the east of the Apadana was the Central Palace with the Royal Treasury to the southeast. The Throne Room, or the Hall of One Hundred Columns, was probably commenced by Darius I, but an inscription says it was completed by Xerxes I and Artaxerxes I. The reliefs were finished by 459 BC. The Throne Room contained a metre of ash from Alexander the Great's fire and it was estimated that 25,000 pack animals were needed to carry the booty away.³ In size and splendour, Persepolis is a testimony to the power and position of the Persian kings.

¹ Quintus Curtius Rufus, *The History of Alexander*; Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander*; Plutarch, *Life of Alexander*

² Herodotus I.133, IX.110; Olmstead, *History of the Persian Empire*; Hope, *Persepolis as a Ritual City*, *Archaeology* 10, June 1957

³ Plutarch, *Life of Alexander*

Ahura Mazda

The Persian god Ahura Mazda represented emerging from a winged sun-disk. Ahura Mazda inspired the building of Persepolis and was responsible for its protection.



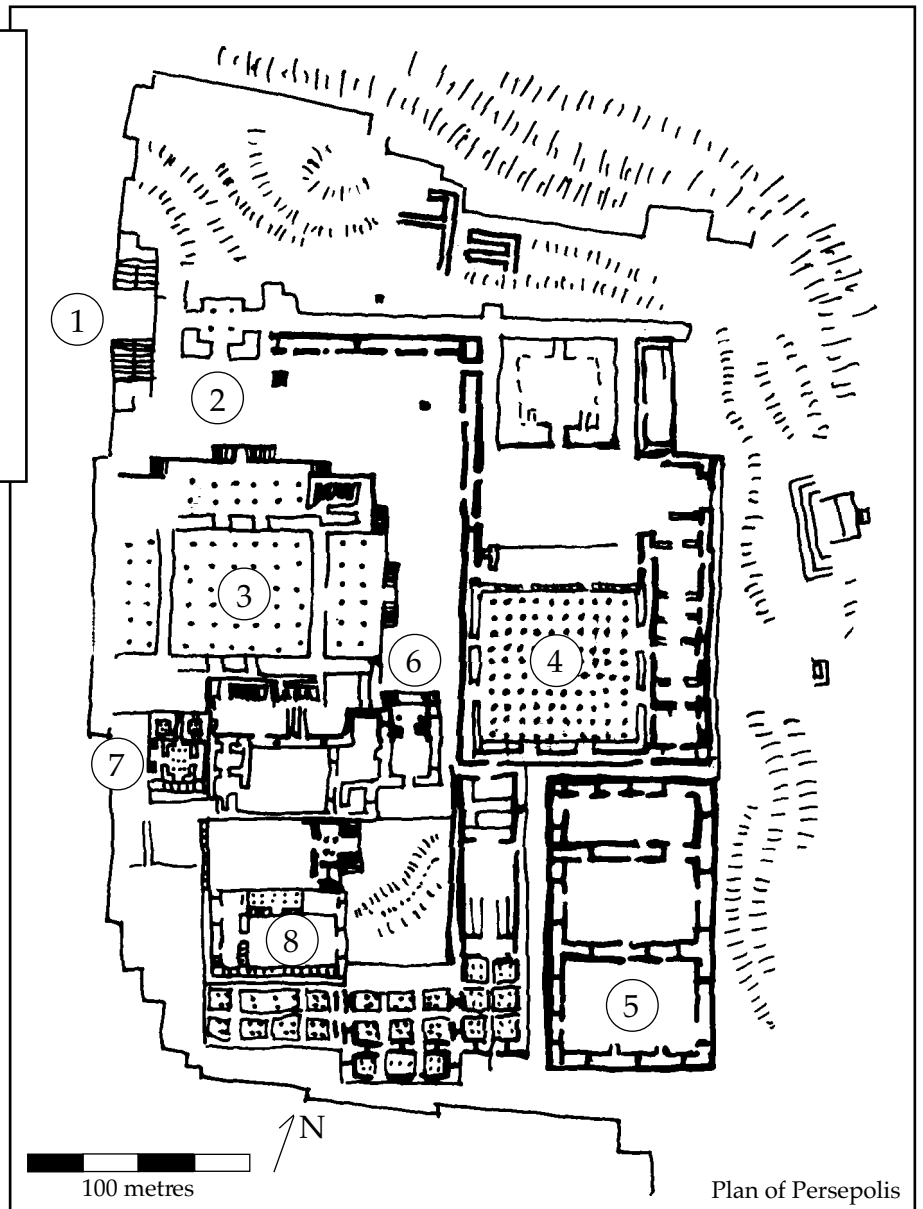
PERSEPOLIS

Key for Site Plan

1. Monumental Stairway
2. Gateway of All Lands: Xerxes' Gate
3. Apadana / Audience Hall
4. Hall of One Hundred Columns / Throne Hall
5. Royal Treasury
6. Tripylon
7. Palace of Darius
8. Palace of Xerxes

Foundation Inscription of Darius I Persepolis

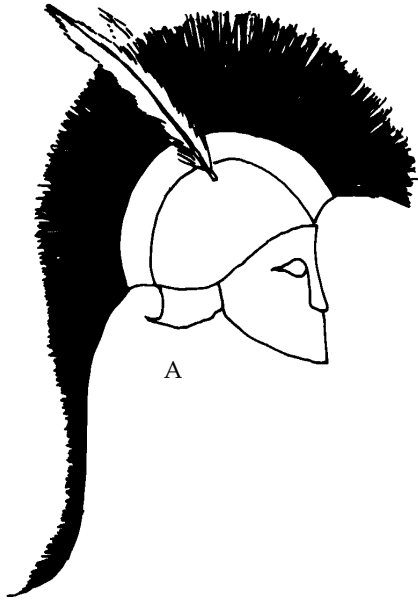
" ... I [am] Darius the great king, king of kings, king of many countries, son of Hystaspes, an Achaemenid. ... by the grace of Ahura Mazda these [are] the countries which feared me [and] brought to me tribute: Elam, Media, Babylonia, Assyria, Egypt, Armenia, Cappadocia, Spada, the Ionians who [are] of the mainland [and] those who [are] on the sea, and the countries which [are] beyond the sea; Sagartia, Parthia, Drangiana, Aria, Bactria, Sogdiana, Chorasmia, Sattagydia, Arachosia, India, Gzadara, the Scythians, Maka. ... if the Persian people shall be protected, welfare for a long time undisturbed will through Ahura descend upon this royal house."



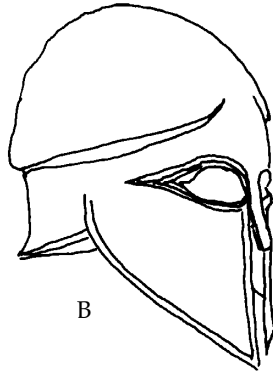
Questions

1. What was the main function of Persepolis?
2. What evidence is there to support this?
3. During whose reign was Persepolis started?
4. Give three types of building material used at Persepolis?
5. What is the area of Persepolis?
6. When, by whom, and why was Persepolis destroyed?
7. Name three Persian kings who were responsible for buildings at Persepolis?
8. Who is Ahura Mazda?
9. Name 5 countries which paid tribute to Darius I when construction at Persepolis began.
10. What is the dimension of the Apadana (Audience Hall) at Persepolis?
11. In a north-south direction, Persepolis is how many metres long?
12. How do you account for the difference in size between Darius' and Xerxes' palaces?
13. What does the relief sculpture of Darius and Xerxes tell us about their relationship?

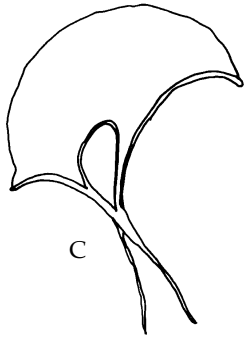
THE GREEK ARMY



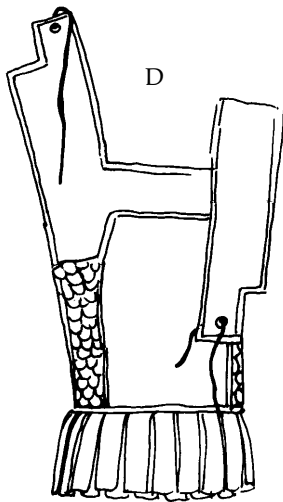
A



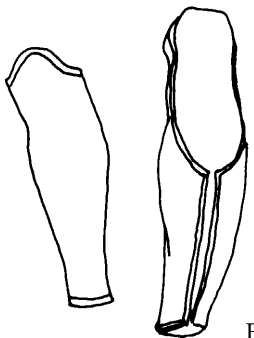
B



C

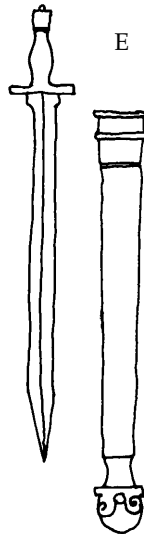


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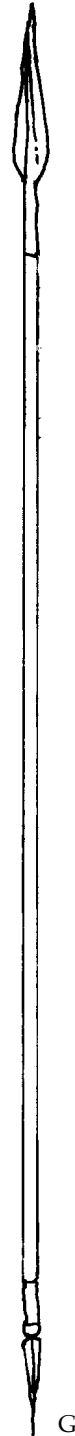


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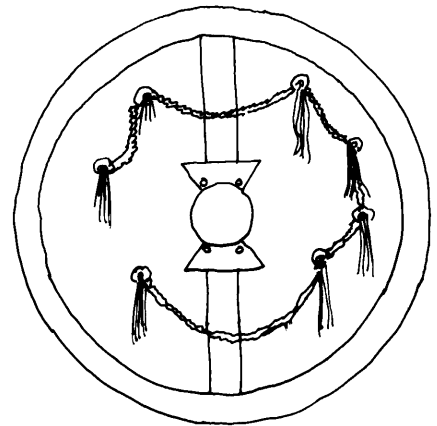
A: Greek helmet with horse-hair crest and feathers;
 B: 'Corinthian' type helmet;
 C: Leather cap worn under Greek helmets;
 D: Breastplate;
 E: Greek short sword and scabbard;
 F: Greek greaves to protect legs - left is a front view - right is a back view;
 G: Hoplite spear; H: Inside view, Hoplite shield;
 I: Outside view, Hoplite shield



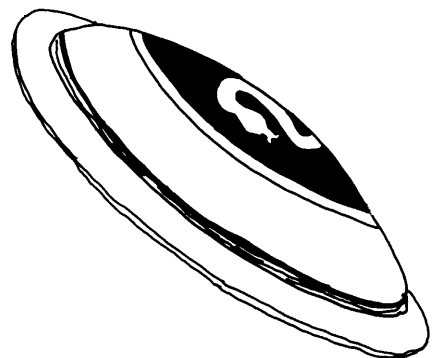
E



G



H



I

The following passages are from Herodotus as he talks about the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC.

PASSAGE 1

"The (10 Athenian) generals held the leadership of the army in succession, each for a day; and those of them who had voted with Miltiades, offered, when their turn of duty came, to surrender it to him. Miltiades accepted the offer, but would not fight until the day came when he in any case would have presided. When it did come, the Athenian army moved into position for the coming struggle. The right wing was commanded by Callimachus - for it was the regular practice at that time in Athens that the War Archon should lead the right wing; then followed the tribes, in their regular order; and finally, on the left wing were the Plataeans."

Herodotus *Histories* VI, 109

THE GREEK ARMY

PASSAGE 2

"The Persians, seeing the attack developing at the double, prepared to meet it, thinking it suicidal madness for the Athenians to risk an assault with so small a force. Well, that is what they imagined; nevertheless, the Athenians came on, closed with the enemy along the line, and fought in a way not to be forgotten.

The struggle at Marathon was long and drawn out. In the centre, held by the Persians themselves, the advantage was with the foreigners, who were so

far successful as to break the Greek line and pursue the fugitives inland from the sea; but the Athenians on one wing and the Plataeans on the other were both victorious. Having got the upper hand, they left the defeated enemy to make their escape, and then, drawing the two wings together into a single unit, they turned their attention to the Persians who had broken through the centre. Here again they were triumphant, chasing the routed enemy, and cutting them down until they came to the sea."

Herodotus *Histories* VI, 110

Questions

1. From the head down, list the armour which a Greek hoplite would wear in battle.
2. How was it decided which of the ten Athenian generals would hold command on a given day?
3. Which Athenian general held the command for the Battle of Marathon?
4. What do we mean by the 'wings' of the army?
5. On which wing did the Athenian War Archon command?
6. Who are the 'tribes' mentioned by Herodotus in Passage 1?
7. Where in their own lines did the Persians themselves fight?
8. In relation to the sea, which way were the Greeks at Marathon fighting? (towards/away)
9. Using the information in Passage 2, describe in stages the major events of the Battle of Marathon.
10. How reliable do you feel Herodotus is when he deals with topics like the Battle of Marathon? Why?



A hoplite: an ancient Greek infantryman