

Part 4: Long Reading

Time Remaining: 19 minutes

NEXT

In 547 BCE, Cyrus conquered the Greek territories of Ionia and appointed Persian rulers. This conquest would lead to the future conflicts known as the Greco-Persian Wars. Even though Persians were very tolerant of other religions and cultures, they implemented strong vertical governmental control. Greeks, on the other hand, valued their independent city states and horizontal structure. This ultimately led to decades of rebellions and battles for control.

In 480 and 479 BCE the Greeks won decisive victories over the presiding emperor, Xerxes, pushing the Persians to retreat. Such conflicts were not unusual in ancient times. From the Persian perspective, it was just one of the events in the history of the empire. However, when Greece emerged as a cultural and philosophical centre of Europe, the conflict was given more significance in European history. It is not impossible to imagine that the strife between Europe and the Middle East in the Middle Ages was heavily influenced by earlier accounts and perceptions of the Greek historians.

Legacy of the Empire

After around 200 years of prosperous development, the Persian Empire was conquered by Alexander the Great in 330 BCE. Even though Alexander's invasion separated the Persian Empire into multiple, smaller states, each of them retained many of their political and cultural traits.

The Achaemenid Empire had a huge, often understated impact on the cultural development of the world. Persian art and architecture incorporate a number of styles—Median, Assyrian, and Greek—creating a uniquely Persian appearance. The ancient city of Persepolis was one of the

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- ☐ a trigger of consequential invasion
- ☐ a province inhabited by Persians
- ☐ an example of political differences
- ☐ a source of ancient culture

5. According to the passage, what was the main cause for the Ionian Revolt?

- ☐ economic inequality
- ☐ succession disagreement
- ☐ political organization
- ☐ cultural tension

6. Fill in the blank with one word from the passage.

Cyrus's conquests led to the wars.