

Part 4: Long Reading

Time Remaining: 19 minutes

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liberation is the decree that released Jewish people from captivity in Babylon and allowed them to return to their homeland.

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



7. In Paragraph 6, what does the word “strife” in the phrase “the strife between Europe and the Middle East” refer to?

- ☐ trade
- ☐ conflict
- ☐ treaty
- ☐ negotiation

8. Which of the following reflects the Persian Empire's states after Alexander's invasion?

- ☐ They entered a long period of prosperity.
- ☐ They kept their individual cultures.
- ☐ They were unified under the Persian Empire.
- ☐ They lost their political identities.