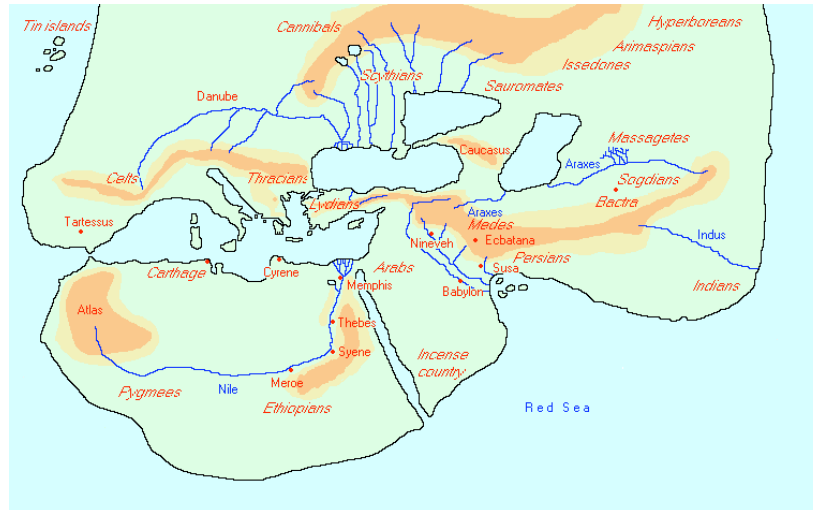




THE PERSIAN COLLAPSE

- 331 BC: Darius offers a truce
 - Darius: east of the Euphrates
 - Alexander: west of the Euphrates
- Alexander crosses into Mesopotamia
 - Battle of GAUGAMELA
- 330 BC: Enters BABYLON
 - Persian nobles murder DARIUS



The World According to Herodotus

EAST AND BACK

- 330 BC East through Scythia
 - Reached India
- 327 BC: turned around
- 324 BC finally reached Babylon
 - settled down to run Empire
 - lots of plans to consolidate
- 323 BC Alexander dies
 - Aged 33
 - No HEIR!

ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE

- Alexander →
 - Married a Persian, Roxana
 - Acted more Persian
 - Showed tolerance and RESPECT
 - included non-Greeks in the governing and military classes

POLITICAL RESULTS

- Successor States:
 - Ptolomy in Egypt ⇒ Ptolomid Dynasty
 - Seleucus in Persia ⇒ Seleucid Empire
 - Antigonius in Greece ⇒ Antigonid Dynasty



Successor States

- Distribution of the Persian Treasury at BABYLON
 - Higher standard of living
 - Many large building projects
 - Patronage of arts, scholarship
 - e.g. Library of Alexandria
- Most important result was CULTURAL:
The HELLENISTIC AGE

HELLENISM

or HELLENIZATION

The extension of Greek culture throughout the known world through Greek conquest, political control and colonization

The Hellenistic Age

- “The Age of the Greeks”
- *Hellene*: Greek word for “Greeks”
- 336–30 BC
 - The beginning of Alexander’s reign
 - The Roman conquest of Egypt
- ADOPTION and SYNCHRETISM
 - Cultural SYNCHRETISM: the merging of ideas from two or more cultures

Characteristics

- Prosperity
- Political Instability
 - ⇒ MONARCHIES
 - ⇒ ANXIETY
 - Religious Heterodoxy
- Individual

New Philosophies

- CYNICISM
 - Diogenes of Sinope
 - INDIVIDUAL integrity through Simplicity
- EPICURIANISM and HEDONISM
 - Pursuit of pleasure, absence of fear or pain
- STOICISM
 - Zeno of Citium

