

PERSIAN WAR—CHARACTERS

ANCIENT GREECE—560 TO 472 B.C.

RISE OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE TO AFTERMATH OF THE PERSIAN WAR

EARLY EMPIRES

Nebuchadnezzar	645–561 BC	King who conquered much of Assyria and made his capital at Babylon.
Amasis II	d. 525 BC	Second to last king of Egypt, died before Egypt was overrun by Cambyses.
Croesus	560–547 BC	Wealthy monarch of Lydia who lost his kingdom to Cyrus the Great.

RISE OF PERSIA

Cyrus the Great	558–529 BC	Prince of Persia who overran Medes, Lydia and Assyria to create the Persian Empire.
Harpagus	~ 550 BC	Minister of Astyages who betrayed him in favor of Cyrus.
Cambyses	d. 522 BC	Eldest son of Cyrus. Invaded Egypt, killed brother, then died.
Smerdis the Magi	~ 522 BC	Impersonated Smerdis, son of Cyrus and stole the throne of Persia.
Atossa	~ 521 BC	Daughter of Cyrus the Great, wife of Darius, mother of Xerxes
Darius the Great	d. 486 BC	With six conspirators seized the throne of Persia, primarily through craft rather than force.
Tomyris	~ 529 BC	Queen of the Scythians. Her army defeated and killed Cyrus the Great.
Democedes	~ 500 BC	Greek physician, valuable slave of Darius. Schemed and plotted to return to Greece.
Zopyrus	d. 482 BC	Loyal Persian General, helped Darius retake Babylon with an elaborate ruse.

IONIAN REVOLT AND PERSIAN HEROS

Histiaeus	d. 494 BC	Very close advisor to Darius, rescued him from disaster in Scythia, later rebelled. Father in law of Aristagoras.
Aristagoras	~ 494 BC	Son-in-law of Histiaeus. Led Rebellion of Greek Colonies in Asia Minor.
Xerxes	520–465 BC	Raised an enormous army for Persian invasion of Greece. Defeated at <i>Battle of Salamis</i> .
Mardonius	d. 489 BC	Brother-in-law of Xerxes and commander-in-chief of Xerxes's Army.
Artabanus	~ 480 BC	Brother of Darius. Close advisor to Darius and Xerxes.
Artemisia	~ 480 BC	Queen of Halicarnassas and Cos. One of Xerxes most trusted advisors and Generals.
Demaratus	~ 480 BC	Exiled King of Sparta, advisor to Xerxes during his invasion of Greece.
Pythius	~ 480 BC	Satrap who magnificently hosted Xerxes and was repaid by having his eldest son slain.

GREEK HEROES

Bulis and Sperthias	~ 485 BC	Volunteered to sacrifice their lives to the Persian King to expiate the murder of Ambassadors.
Miltiades	d. 489 BC	Athenian General who led Greece to great victory at the <i>Battle of Marathon</i> .
Pheidippides	d. 490 BC	Ran from Athens to Sparta to warn of Persians. Ran to Athens after Marathon, then died.
Leonidas	d. 480 BC	Spartan King whose whole army died defending the pass of Thermopylae.
Themistocles	525–462 BC	Athenian hero of the <i>Battle of Salamis</i> . He masterminded Athenian naval supremacy.
Eurybiades	~ 480 BC	Head of Spartan Fleet during the Persian War.
Aristides	d. 468 BC	Athenian General and Statesman. Fought at Marathon, Salamis; created Delian League.
Pausanias	d. 470 BC	Spartan General who led Greece against Mardonius at the <i>Battle of Plataea</i> .