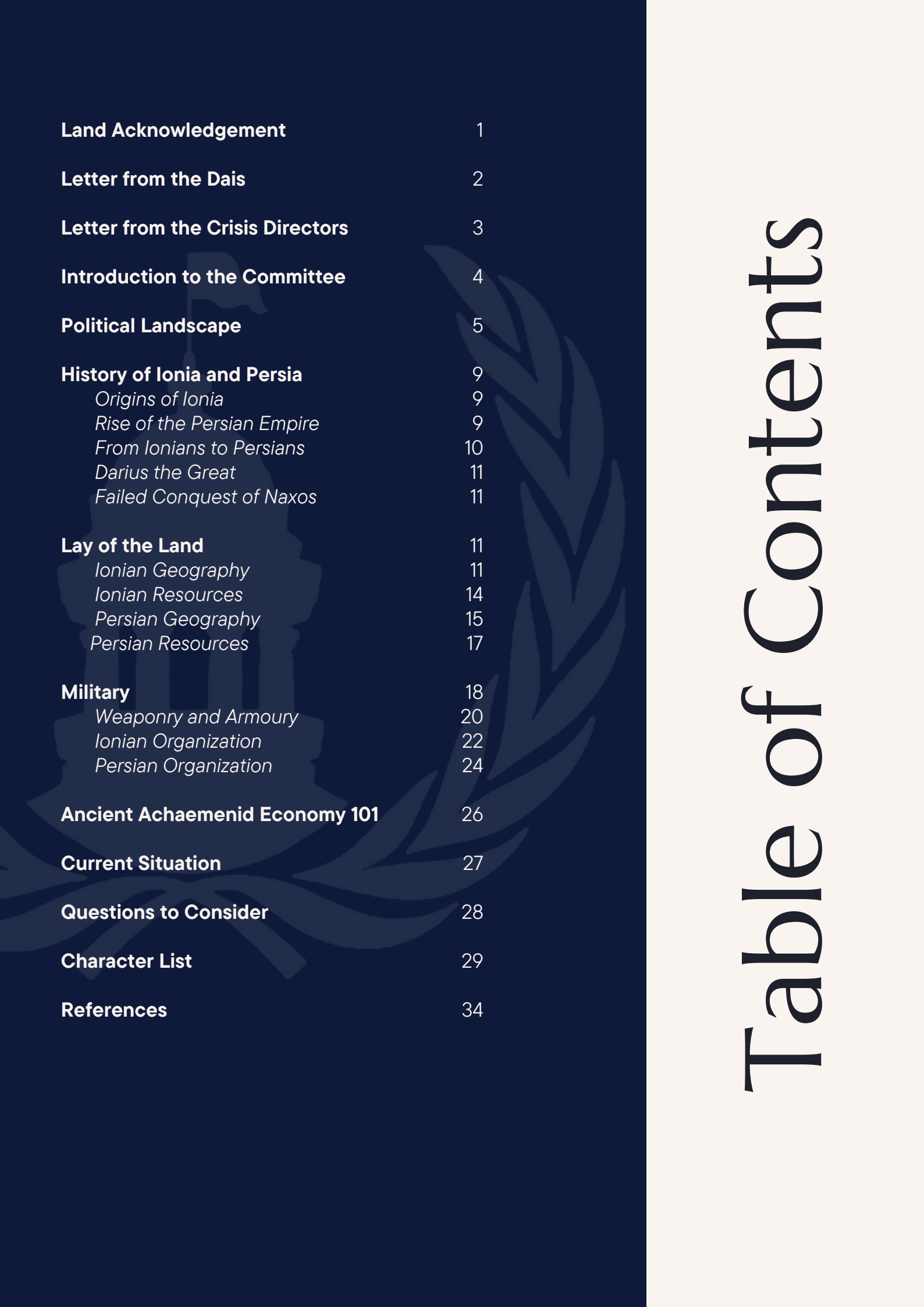




JACMUN 2024

**Path to Glory:
The Battle for Ionia**



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Land Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge that John Abbott College was built upon the unceded Indigenous lands of the traditional territory of both the Kanien'kehá:ka, "Mohawk," and the Anishinabeg "Algonquin," peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather there, and we thank the many generations of people who have taken care of this land and these waters. Tiohtiá:ke, Montreal, is historically known as a gathering place for diverse First Nations; thus, we recognize and deeply appreciate the historic and ongoing Indigenous connections to, and presence on, these lands and waters. We also recognize the contributions Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made in shaping and strengthening our communities.

It is JACMUN's great honour to be able to host its conference on this territory. We commit to building a sincere relationship with Indigenous peoples based on respect, dignity, trust, and cooperation, in the process of advancing truth and reconciliation.



Letter from the Dais

Dear delegates,

The Dais is pleased to welcome you all to the Path to Glory: The Battle for Ionia crisis committee for JACMUN 2024! We are all incredibly excited to see exactly how the debate unfolds and see all the amazing speakers participating.

My name is Tyler, and I am your chair for our crisis committee. I will be assisted by Nour Zaher and Yasmine Sakr-Ménard as Vice-Chairs. I'm in my second year at John Abbott College in Honours Social Science, and I absolutely adore archaic and classical art and literature, so I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of this committee. However, ancient culture isn't the only reason I'm here; MUN has been a part of my life since secondary school, and the friends and connections I have made through MUN have impacted my life in ways I don't think any other activity could.

With that said, we hope that this committee's dais can provide every delegate with an opportunity to not just argue and debate over millennia-old topics, but also meet and connect with other delegates from Montréal and hopefully beyond. Our best advice is as follows; take the time to make every moment this weekend count, whether you're in a heated argument with another delegate or having lunch with them an hour later. Make friends, hopefully not enemies, and most of all: enjoy yourselves. Good luck to every delegate, and try to keep the chaos to a minimum (or don't, it's a crisis after all).



**Yasmine Sakr-Ménard,
Vice-Chair**



**Tyler Holbis,
Chair**

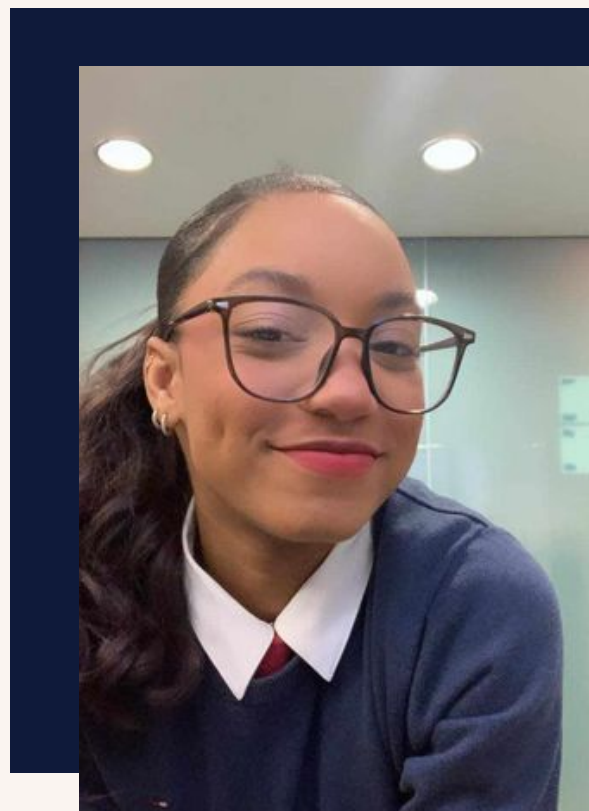


**Nour Zaher,
Vice-Chair**

Letter from the Crisis Directors

“It’s a beautiful day in Ionia, a beautiful day for Ionians, won’t you revolt, won’t you rebel? It’s a Persian day in this beautywood, a beautiful day for a Persian, won’t you conquer, won’t you control?” Welcome all to the Path to Glory committee! My name is Ocean, I’m a second year student and delegate of Champlain College and a future Sociology major at Concordia, and it is my honour to be half of your dynamic Crisis Director duo for this conference and I am super excited to dive into this event with you all! I am a history geek through and through so by all means have as much historical fun as your hearts desire, I’ll be right behind you to help you make it happen! Remember to stay equitable in committee whilst being as ruthless as land cunning as you have it in you, we love a real chaotic crisis over here. Hope you have loads of fun, good luck and show us what you got!

Ocean Piquion-Pierre
Crisis Director



Γειά σας Delegates,

Welcome to the Path to Glory Committee! My name is Peter, I’m a second year Cegep student at Champlain College studying math and computer science and it is my distinct pleasure to be the other half of your Crisis Director Duo for this conference. Proudly Greek, I am impassioned by my country’s rich history and culture and I am beyond excited to see how you reshape the course of ancient history in this committee. All sides of this conflict have unique cultural identities and I hope recreating their clash through debate will be as spectacular as I am envisioning it to be. Each side has their strengths and their weaknesses so it is up to you to use your resources to come out on top. (Your actions in 500 BCE will determine if I eat tzatziki or mast o khiar in 2024). All jokes aside, I encourage you to bring your creativity, ingenuity and merciless war plans into committee. Chaos and originality is the name of the game. Θα τα καταφέρετε μια χαρά!

Peter K
Crisis Director



Introduction to the Committee

Set in the early 5th century BCE, this committee delves into the clash between the Ionian Greeks and the mighty Persian Empire. The Ionian city-states, especially Miletus, have long sought autonomy from Persian rule, inspired by democratic ideals from their Greek counterparts. However, Darius I's ambitions for imperial control over the region have prevailed thus far.

Delegates will navigate shifting alliances within various socioeconomic classes of Greeks, betrayals by those most trusted, and the political fabric of the region to determine the fate of the Ionian city-states. Decisions taken within this committee will shape the course of ancient history, impacting the balance of power between the Greeks and Persians in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Will the Ionians restore their cities to their former glory and reign supreme over Anatolia once more or will their attempts at rebellion be crushed under the iron rule of the Achaemenid Empire? The outcome relies solely on your diplomatic prowess, alliance-making, and cunning betrayal. Welcome to Ionia.

Δικαιοσύνη - Υπερηφάνεια - Πατρίδα

Καλή τύχη,

Delegates

اتحاد وفاداری رفاه

موفق باشید



Political Landscape

The Political Landscape of the Ionian League is one of constant turmoil, instability and uncertainty. The Ionians may have physically surrendered to the Persians, giving up control of their lands and laws in the process, but their hearts and minds are steadfastly aligned with their Ionian identity. This is what makes the Ionian people so difficult to subjugate to Persian rule.

In order to partially appease a restless Ionia, Cyrus I, the emperor of the Achaemenid Empire, installed regional native tyrants, that is of Greek descent, to preside over the Ionian city-states (*Polis* of their true Greek name). To the Ionian people, the appointment of these Greek leaders seemed to afford them a degree of autonomy. They could not be more wrong though as these state figureheads were just that, puppets that answered directly to the Persians.

The hierarchy of government and society in Ionia in 500 BCE was as one would expect. At the bottom were the Ionian commoners. One level above them was the Ionian aristocracy that served as a buffer between the peasants and the regional tyrants above them. These commanders answered to Persian Satraps or governors, who themselves reported back to Darius I. Each class or member of this social hierarchy had a unique situation and role to play within the political fabric of Ionia.

As mentioned earlier, while some city-states took the implementation of tyrants to mean a greater degree of autonomy from the Persian's direct rule, others like Ephesus and Colophon's lower class saw straight through this mirage and demanded the return of democracy as the dominant political system within their cities. But the peasants were ultimately treated as such, silenced by their tyrants and ignored by the aristocrats who remained happy as long as the Ionian League remained fiscally prosperous. Yet, the commoners' determination did not wane for they were proud of their origins, traditions and culture. The populace felt a strong sense of national identity which allowed them to resist the Persian attempts to assimilate them. In fact, their vision for a free Ionia only grew stronger the longer the Persians remained in power.

In the upper echelons of Ionian society were the aristocracy. These Greek nobles neglected their societal duties as the politically affluent and influential class in favour of maintaining and growing their family fortunes. Avaricious were they so, their only concern was the prosperity of the Ionian League's economy. The aristocrats remained unbothered by the Persians' rule as long as markets continued to function efficiently thus ensuring their family's opulence. Previously serving as a major buffer between the Ionian government and its subjects, the aristocracy would step in to shift policy in their and often the whole Leagues' favour. But with their fixation on amassing wealth came the forsaking of any societal action against unwarranted political moves in high courts. In fact, the aristocracy would turn a blind eye to any tyrannical policies so long as their fortunes were protected. Their only allegiance lay where their riches were invested and against those who would impoverish them.

The tyrants of the Ionian city-states, while an impressive title, was really quite a difficult position to have. Those appointed by the Persian empire to rule were treated harshly by their subjects and their subjugator. They were constantly cursed and condemned by the common folk for not doing enough to defend their interests against that of the Persians. Moreover, their political decisions were constantly being analyzed and dissected by the aristocrats who feared diminishing returns as a result of them. And lastly, they were criticized and scolded by Persian Satraps who demanded more control in the region. It suffices to say that the Greek tyrants were the metaphorical rope in a match of tug of war between the Ionians and the Persians.

Darius I had established a satrapy, a group of 20 ruling governors who were often related to the emperor, whose job it was to enforce the emperor's policies. Satraps were thus in charge of overseeing the Greek tyrants' decisions and reporting Persian progress in Ionia back to the Darius I. These governors would also collect taxes and issue judicial verdicts in the emperor's name. They were the physical embodiment of Darius I's will and were the pillars upon which the stability of the Persian empire lay.

Thus, the political dynamics of the Persian-ruled city-states of Ionia are interlocked in a fragile state of equilibrium. With pressure mounting on the Greek tyrants from all sides, one can only ask when, not if, the weak point of this political fabric will be torn apart and what will happen if the ensuing hole in said fabric is mended with a patchwork of lies and deceit.

History of Ionia and Persia

Origins of Ionia

Named after Ion the first settler, son of Hellen, who is said to be the common ancestor of all Greeks, Ionia became a safe haven for those who sought refuge from the governmental collapse in North Peloponnese. These settlers conquered twelve cities in the Ionian region and developed their own traditions, customs and dialects. These elements of a unified Ionian identity were the catalyst for the formation of the Ionian League.

The Ionian League was a confederacy of 12 city-states that exerted considerable influence in the region. While the Ionians were culturally united, they preferred keeping their laws and politics separated which is why the League was predominantly a religious organisation. It promoted cultural unity throughout the region and bolstered the development of inter-city relationships through events like the Pan-Ionic festival. When the recommendation to merge politically was proposed by the governor of Miletus, the other city-states fervently refused. For Ionians, municipal policies and laws were supreme and took precedence over any overarching Ionian interests.

While the confederacy projected an image of strength and unity outward for all to see, the Ionians faced numerous internal political and military conflicts. One such conflict was the invasion of Smyrna and Miletus by the Lydians. Once these Ionian epicentres were seized, the rest of the Ionian city-states fell soon after and Ionia was united under one Lydian banner. Just as quickly as they asserted control, the Lydians yielded to the rapid rise of another formidable empire known as the Achaemenid Empire or the Persian Empire.

Rise of the Persian Empire

The Persian Empire was established circa 550 BC when Cyrus The Great revolted against the Median Empire, the ruling Iranian class at the time, and overthrew the late Emperor Astyages. With Cyrus now in control of the capital, Ecbatana, he asserted himself as the emperor and ruled with an iron fist. He grew his empire to a formidable size conquering kingdoms such as Lydia and the city of Babylon. His successor Cambyses II continued the expansion of the empire by conquering Phoenicia, Cyprus, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene and Barca.

Though formidable in size, the empire could never be massive enough to quell Cambyses II's thirst for more land. And so the greedy emperor went on to plan an invasion into Carthage and Ethiopia which both failed dramatically. Soon after Cambyses died making his brother, Bardiya, the next in line to ascend the throne. However, his rule did not last long as Darius I soon usurped the throne and became Darius the Great of the Achaemenid Empire.

From Ionians to Persians

When Cyrus the Great, Emperor of the Achaemenid Empire conquered the city-states of the Ionian League (Lydians), it took a total of four years to subjugate the Lydians. After numerous failed attempts to entice the Ionians to peacefully comply and follow the new regime, the Persian rule took a dictatorial turn, leaving many to flee to the Northwest and the rest to be officially under Persian rule.

Political instability reigned as the Ionians were found to be difficult to control, leading to Cyrus I's solution of instating a native tyrant in each city-state of Ionia which would rule in his name as a puppet. The tyrants were now abhorred by the citizens, and controlled harshly by the Persians, needing to stay in their good graces at all costs.

Nonetheless, this method of ruling lasted through Darius the Great's turn to rule starting in 522 BCE. Amongst his chosen rulers, he appointed his half-brother Artaphrenes as satrap of Lydia. He would therefore preside over the Lydian leaders, including himself answering to Darius I. The Lydian rulers convened and promised Artaphrenes not to engage in conflict with each other regardless of their brewing ambitions for more territory and power in their regions. This included exterior conquests to prevent the political dynamic within the Lydian states from growing more unstable than it already was.

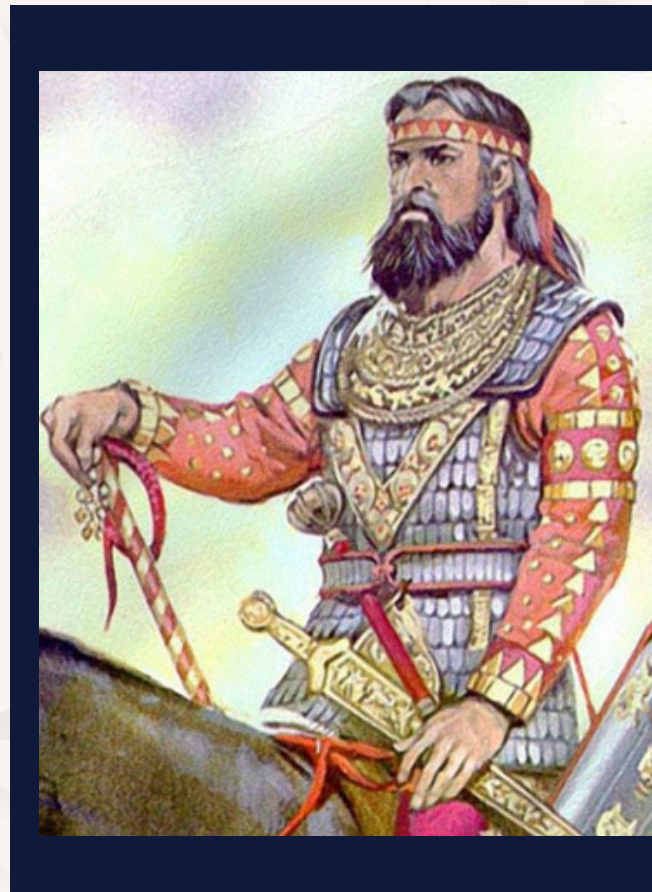
With that agreement in effect, the Lydian states remained relatively stable. However, Miletus' leader, the tyrant named Aristagoras, was an ambitious, yet compassionate leader whose loyalty was based solely on personal values and whose top priority was his interests and that of Miletus. This is why, in 500 BCE, when exiles from the island of Naxos requested for him to conquer the island in order for them to safely come home, he saw an opportunity to grow the empire, a righteous way to accomplish one's duties. He asked for Artaphrenes's logistical and military support to pursue the endeavour and once all was approved by Darius, the Conquest of Naxos of 499 BCE commenced.

The outcome of the conquest aside, the Ionian Greeks and the Persians were now at opposing ends more than ever before. Nationalism and thirst for independence were fueled by the perceived incompetence of the tyrants and satraps, as well as the mistreatments of the people, notably with heavy taxation, leading to the formation of rebel movements against Persian rule.

Though they did not possess a great amount of funds or arms, the Ionian rebels had absolutely no desire to submit to the empire any longer; their culture and nation were theirs to love and serve, ready to fight all those who would counter their interests.

Darius the Great's Reign

The story of Darius I's reign is one of political instability through and through. It starts with Cyrus the Great's son, Cambyses, who ascended to the throne upon his father's passing in 530 BCE. Soon after his ascension to the throne, he departed on numerous expeditions, notably his operation in Egypt in which Darius took part as the king's spearman. Before leaving, he assigned a man named Patizithes to keep a hold of the throne until his return; a fine offering of power for anyone hungry enough to take it. Darius I saw this as an opportunity to seize power. He did this by setting up his brother Gautama to sit on the throne as false king instead of Patizithes, acting as Bardiya (or Smerdis), the real king's brother, to gain control from the shadows. At Cambyses' return, his position had been taken from him in this coup, leading him to take his own life in defeat.



Gautama would not sit idle for long as it was found his true identity was not of the ex-king's brother. A plan was put in place by multiple conspirators, which included Darius, to rid the country of the imposter. Gautama found himself assassinated not long after, leaving the noblemen to discuss amongst themselves the future of the empire. Megabyzus, one of the conspirators, proposed the installation of an oligarchy, whereas Darius proposed a monarchy. This matter had no choice but to be settled by a contest. At dawn the next morning, the first horse who would bravely neigh would name his master as the new ruler.

Absolutely truthfully and honestly, as totally declared by the divine forces and not by any scheme of Darius's making, without a trace of cheating or deceit in sight at all, Darius's horse neighed first, valiantly framed by a strike of lightning and thunder.

On that fateful day in 522 BCE, Darius I officially became the third Persian King of the Achaemenid Empire.

His rule at first was hardly accepted by most, with revolts brewing around several regions. Nonetheless, he went on multiple expeditions and military campaigns, secured territories and grew his influence. His reign made multiple improvements to the empire in terms of governance, law-making, infrastructure, economy, etc. Additionally, he perpetuated the tradition of instating sous-tyrants for each region in his command. These appointed leaders answered to the greater Persian powers and Darius I extended his rule through them. Though this system did not come without its own set of challenges it proved to be quite efficient.

This division of his power allowed him to approve of the tyrant Aristagoras' decision to conquer Naxos in 499 BCE.

The Failed Conquest of Naxos (499 BCE)

With the purchased help of Artaphernes of Lydia's army, Aristagoras and his troops sailed to the island of Naxos. Sadly, conflict on the ship erupted, leading Artaphernes' right-hand man on the ship (his cousin Megabates) to send word to the Naxians of their arrival and plans, betraying the expedition (this is debated by historians as a possible excuse spread around by Aristagoras for the outcome of the expedition).

The forces in Naxos were then ready for the Persians' arrival and the Persian siege barely lasted four months until Aristagoras and the troops sailed back to their mainland in defeat. At their return, they had lost men, resources, money and time with this failed expedition, and were indebted to Artaphernes, unable to pay him for his support afterwards as was planned. This entire expedition was an utter failure as described by historians; It proved to be a catalyst for the Ionians' anger and led the Persians to become dissatisfied with the organization of the Ionian Region.

Lay of the Land

Ionian Geography

Ionian Cities and Strongholds

The Ionian region comprises a network of culturally vibrant city-states. The most notable being Miletus, a bustling metropolis and a hub for trade, philosophy, and the arts. As one of the longstanding epicentres of Ionian activity, resistance to the Achaemenid empire's rule is strongest here. The city of Ephesus stands as a vital maritime and commercial core, renowned for the Temple of Artemis, an important site for the city. Smyrna, known for its strategic position, serves as a key maritime trade city. Colophon and Clazomenae contribute to the region's intellectual heritage, boasting renowned schools of thought. Strongholds such as Priene and Myus, positioned strategically in the mountainous terrain, provide defensive advantages to its inhabitants.

Ionian Trade Routes

Ionian economic vitality stems from its advantageous position between the Aegean and the Persian Gulf. The Royal Road, linking Sardis to Susa, facilitates trade throughout Anatolia, while the Mediterranean Maritime Trade routes connect Ionian ports to its Mediterranean trading partners. Miletus, in particular, engages in a lucrative trade network with Greece and the Egyptian and Mesopotamian regions of the Persian Empire. These trade routes foster cultural exchange and economic prosperity within the regions. The Ionians, adept sailors and traders, navigated the Mediterranean waters, exchanging goods such as wine, olive oil, textiles, and pottery with their neighbours.

Ionian Terrain

Ionian exhibits diverse terrains, ranging from fertile plains to immense and bereft peaks. The Maeander River winds through the landscape which allows for agricultural abundance in its valleys. The mountainous regions, like the Mycale range, offer natural fortifications for Ionian strongholds. The coastal areas, with their natural harbours, provide ideal conditions for maritime trade and the construction of ports. Forested areas contribute to local economies, supplying timber for shipbuilding and trade. The diversity of Ionian terrain will allow for flexibility in military strategy as well. Additionally, the indigenous Anatolian population, with its cultural traditions and practices, coexists within the Ionian cities. These people have exhaustive knowledge of the landscape of the region and play an important role in its navigation.

Maps of Ionia



THE GREEK CITY-STATES c. 500 BCE



Ionian Resources

Water Sources

Ionian, with its coastal geography along the Aegean Sea, enjoyed abundant water sources vital for sustenance and agriculture. The Maeander River, winding through the region, provided fertile plains for cultivation. Additionally, natural springs and wells dotted the landscape, ensuring a reliable supply of fresh water to support both cities and rural outposts. Access to these water sources played a pivotal role in shaping the agricultural landscape and sustaining the flourishing cities of Ionia. Due to their intimate knowledge of the waters, Ionians have the upper hand in navigating this type of terrain.

Food Sources

The fertile plains of Ionia, nurtured by the Maeander River and other waterways, support a diverse array of agricultural activities. Grains such as wheat and barley thrived in the region's soil, forming the staple diet of the Ionian population. Fertile soil also allowed for the herding of sheep and goats whose meat and milk were consumed by the locals. Moreover, due to the ease of access to these bodies of water, seafood also played a major role in the Ionian diet. Olive orchards dotted the landscape, producing olive oil, a valuable commodity for both consumption and trade. Vineyards flourished, contributing to the production of wines, an essential element of Ionian culture. Finally, the Ionians also hunted for deer and wild boar within their forests to sustain themselves.

Raw Material Sources

Ionia's varied terrain provided access to a rich array of raw materials. Forested areas in the region, particularly in the mountainous zones, offered timber for construction and shipbuilding. The dense forests also provided a source of wood for burning and various artisanal crafts. The Ionian cities, such as Miletus and Ephesus, had access to deposits of valuable metals, including silver and copper, which were mined and used for crafting tools, weapons, and ornamental objects. These metal resources played a crucial role in the economic and technological development of the Ionian city-states. Clay, abundant in the region, served as a primary construction material for buildings, pottery, and other essential items. The Ionian Greeks skillfully harnessed the natural resources of the region for construction, creating sturdy and functional structures. Stones quarried from the local mountains provided durable building materials, enhancing the architectural abilities of cities like Miletus.

Lay of the Land

Persian Geography

Persian Cities and Strongholds

The Achaemenid Empire, under the rule of King Darius I, stretches across vast territories from Asia Minor to the Indus Valley. Susa, one of the empire's capital cities, is the headquarters of all administrative affairs. It is littered with grand administrative buildings and it is where Darius I's dictates his will from his famed royal palace. In Persepolis, grand festivities and gatherings are hosted for influential parties to mingle. The city allowed the empire to assert its grandeur and architectural prowess. While it portrayed the kingdom in an opulent fashion, the city itself did not have any major industry and was subsidized by other economic hubs within the empire. Babylon stands as a cultural and economic centre, while Ecbatana in Media serves as a strategic administrative core. The empire also features numerous forts and strongholds along its frontiers, including the Sogdian Rock in Central Asia and the city of Daskyleion in Anatolia.

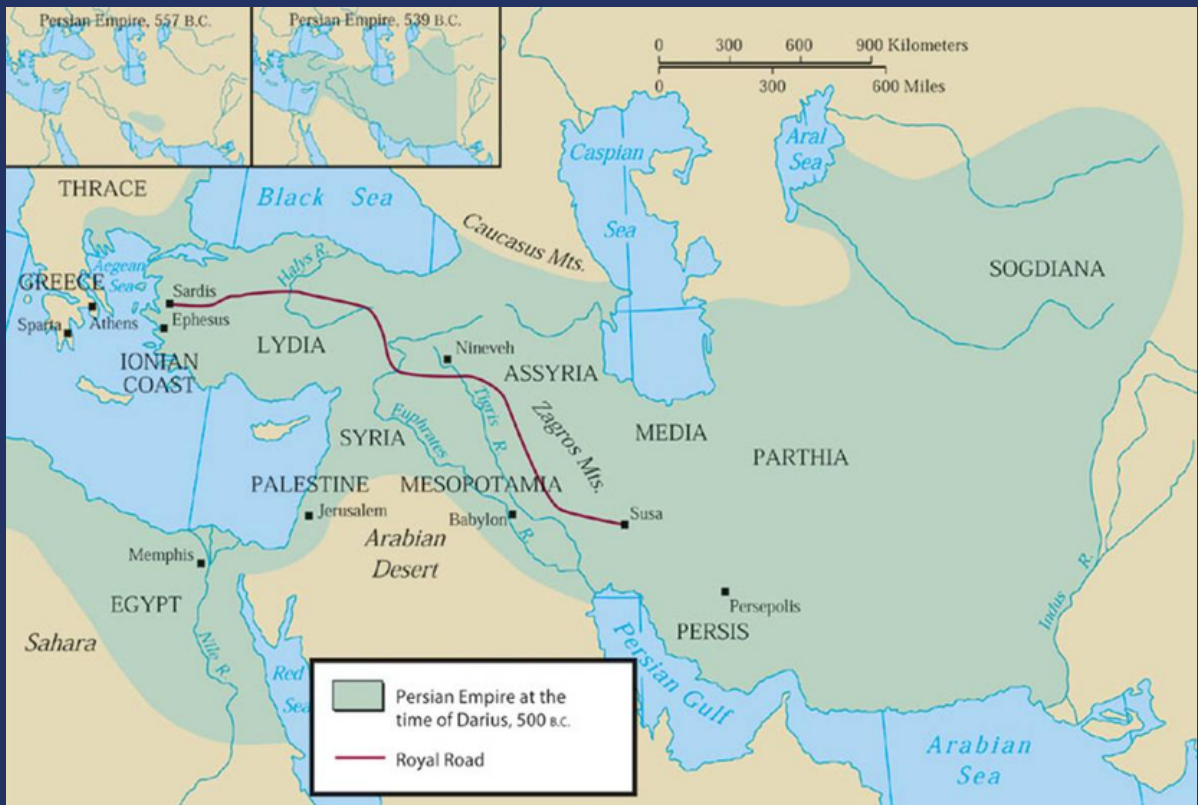
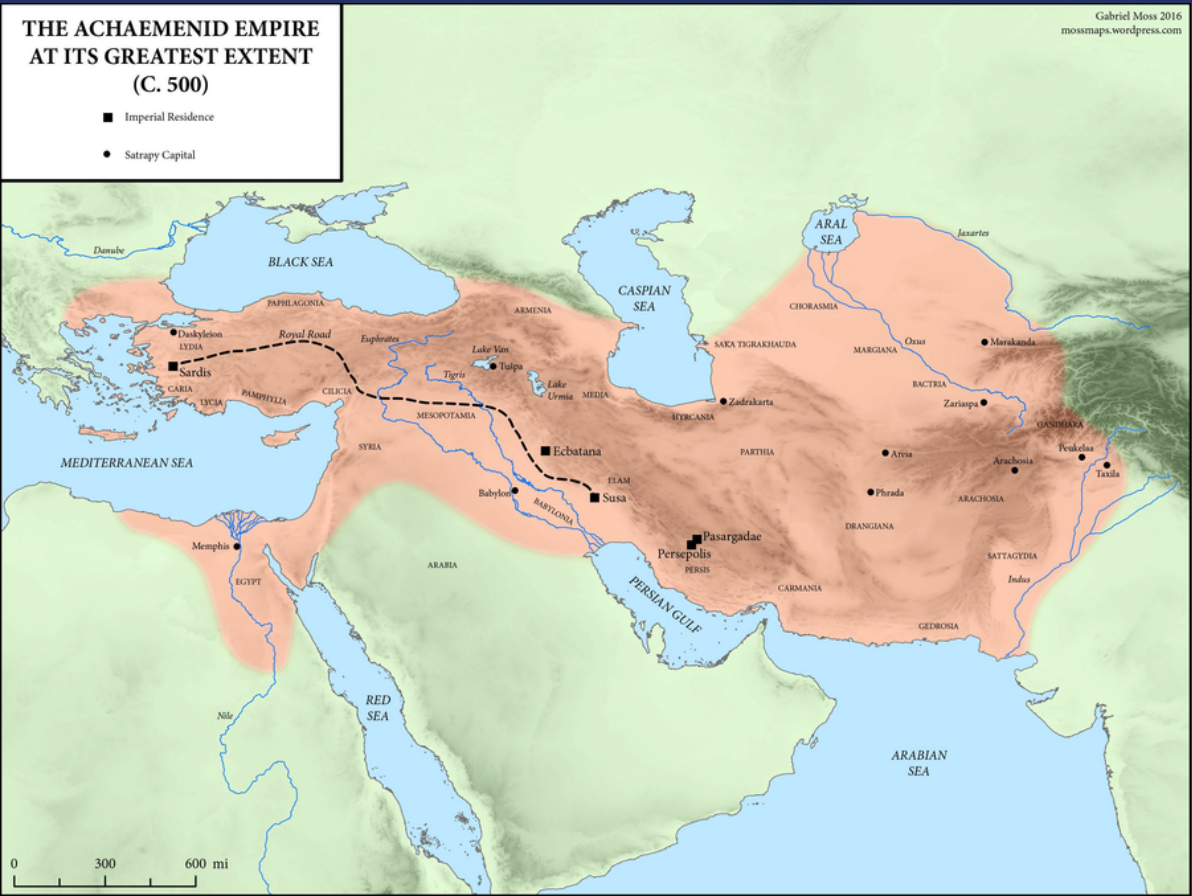
Persian Trade Routes

Besides the Royal Road, mentioned earlier, which is shared between the Persians and Ionians, the Persians have quite a few trade routes ensuring the economic prosperity of their empire. One such trade route, aptly named the Persian Gulf Maritime Route, goes through the Persian Gulf connecting Mesopotamia with the Indian subcontinent. Moreover, the Incense trade route, linking the Mediterranean with Arabia and India, sustained economic hubs like Damascus and Babylon served as critical nodes in this intricate trade network, fostering the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures between travelling merchants.

Persian Terrain

The Achaemenid Empire encompasses diverse terrains, from the arid deserts of Persia to the fertile plains of Mesopotamia. The Zagros Mountains form a natural barrier to the east, while the Taurus Mountains protect the western border. The empire spans vast plateaus, arable plains, and arid landscapes which impact agriculture, trade, and military strategy, shaping the empire's economic and geopolitical dynamics. The empire embraces a mosaic of cultures and ethnicities, from the Persian heartland to the diverse regions under its rule. Persian, Median, Babylonian, and Egyptian populations contribute to the empire's rich social and cultural tapestry. Local governance structures and cultural practices are respected, fostering a sense of unity through diversity. The incorporation of conquered peoples into the imperial bureaucracy ensures stability and administrative efficiency.

Maps of the Achaemenid Empire



Persian Resources

Water Sources

The Achaemenid Empire encompasses diverse landscapes, presenting a variety of water sources crucial for sustaining life and agriculture. Major rivers, including the Tigris and Euphrates in Mesopotamia, provided fertile plains for cultivation. The Zayandeh Rud in Persia proper and the Helmand River in the eastern regions ensured access to freshwater for irrigation and daily use. Additionally, sophisticated *qanat* (underground aqueducts) systems enabled the efficient utilization of groundwater in arid regions, contributing to agricultural productivity.

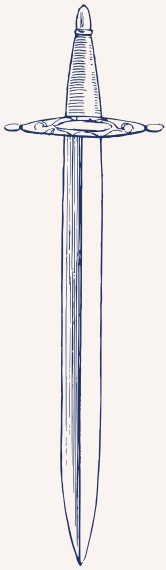
Food Sources

The fertile plains of Mesopotamia and the alluvial soils of the river valleys facilitated the cultivation of staple crops. Wheat, barley, and millet formed the basis of the Persian diet, while dates and fruits from orchards enriched the variety of available food. Nomadic pastoralism played a significant role in Persian society. Herds of cattle, sheep, and goats roamed the vast plateaus, providing a consistent source of meat, dairy products, and wool for textiles. Their nomadic lifestyle allowed the Persians to develop extensive knowledge on which local herbs and plants could be eaten such as wild mushrooms, mint and almonds.

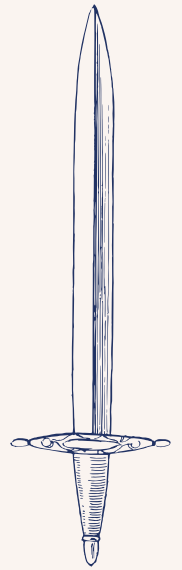
Raw Material Sources

Persia possessed extensive forests, particularly in the northern and western regions. These forests provided a wealth of timber for construction, shipbuilding, and various industries. The empire was also rich in mineral resources, with notable metal deposits contributing to the empire's economic strength. Copper deposits, located near the Persian Gulf and Anatolia regions, and iron deposits, located near the Persis region, were strategically mined and used for the production of tools, weapons, construction materials and coinage. The Persian Empire possessed abundant stone resources, with quarries on Mount Rahmat and the Zagros Mountains supplying materials for construction. Notably, Persepolis, the ceremonial capital, used locally quarried stones for its grandiose structures. In regions where stone resources were scarce, clay and mud-brick construction became prevalent. These locally sourced materials were used for building houses, fortifications, and critical infrastructure. The empire was also known for its wealth of precious stones, including turquoise, lapis lazuli, and agate. These gemstones were not only valued for ornamental purposes but were also incorporated into architectural designs, showcasing the empire's opulence.

Military



For the sake of equity, overly graphic and gruesome depictions of city-wide destruction and harming tactics often seen in ancient military records will not be discussed or accepted as they may be triggering and do not embody the diplomacy required in a Model United Nations conference. Be very careful with your words and actions at all times.

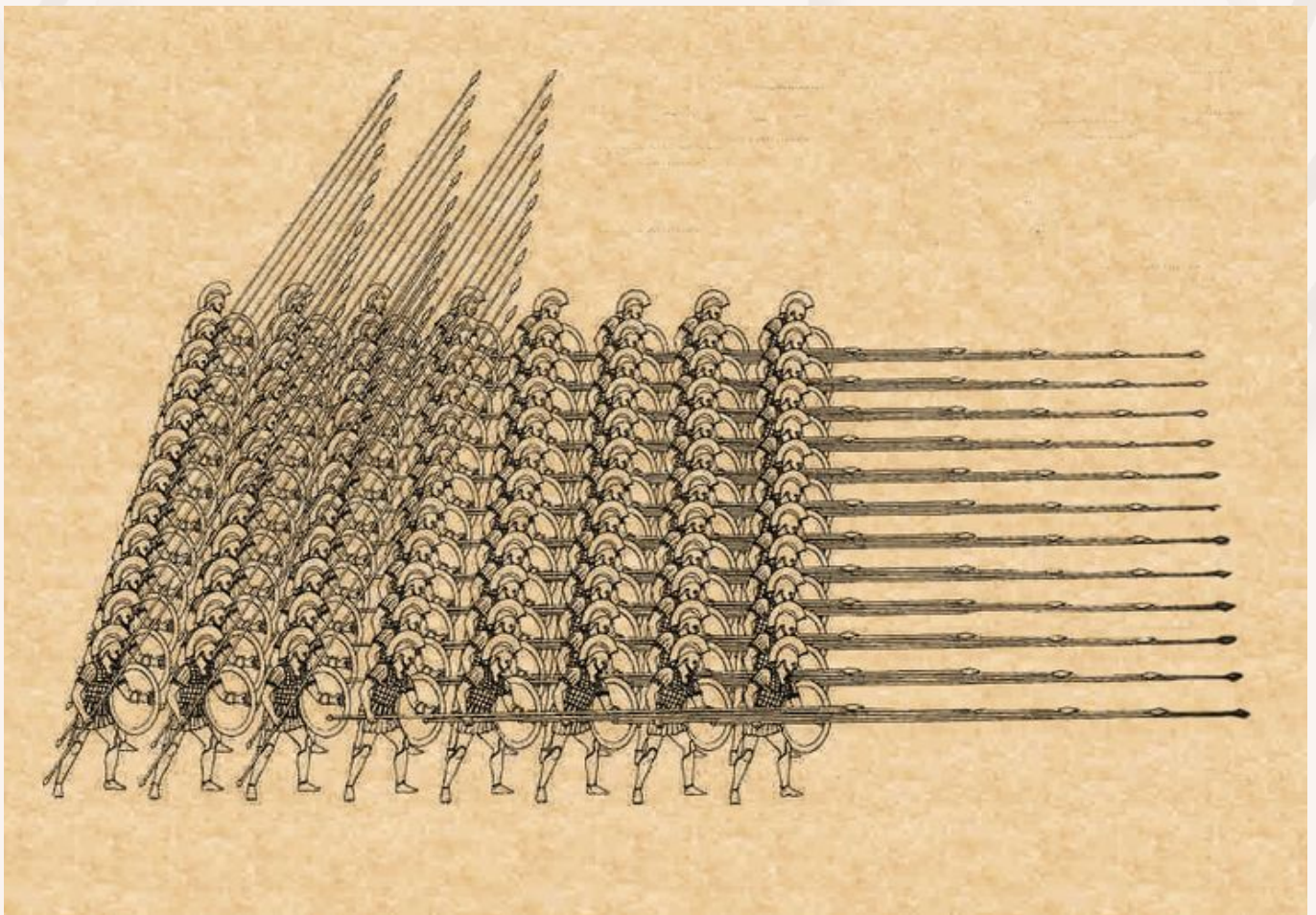


Ancient Greece is known for its prowess in its military tactics. From the Spartans to the Thebans, the land had an abundance of incredibly skilled fighters and leaders who carried out the bloodiest and most fantastic of battles. Many military developments made their appearance during the Archaic era of Greece in which we stand at the time of this committee. These developments were accelerated by the rise of urban populations and the defining of Greek values, which included strategic warfare.

Soldiers at the time were called hoplites. Conscripted by the state when needed for a particular campaign, they were usually citizens turned soldiers bearing shields, spears and even swords or daggers at their side in sheaths to accompany them through battle. A hoplite could be any man, no matter the level of training, with an able body, able to provide himself with fighting suits and weapons made of linens and/or bronze. They were often private artisans or farmers and regular family men. On average, this demographic matched over 35% of the population of city-states, supplying regiments with relatively limited manpower to go about their endeavours.

Fighting at the time was a noble and brave thing to take part in, backing out was seen as cowardly. Once a war or battle was declared, the offence would often march into the city in question to decimate all that was on their path, whilst other times, the opponents would both agree to pick a select spot as a battlefield. The preferred chosen sites would hold two high points which each of the opponents would set as their base on high terrain and would have a level-grounded terrain in between the two where the fighting would be taking place. Seeing as this is Greece, the many coastal sides and smaller mountain planes would be often used as they held the perfect requirements, and were abundant in its landscape.

Once locations were set, strategies based on the location, manpower and weaponry types would be thought out. Short and efficient battles were preferred out of all and were calculated very meticulously to be executed with the highest precision. Rules of honour also were put in place, the likes of such that we recognize today. For example, we do not persecute an already defeated and surrendering army, stopping all fighting when a timeout or retreat is flagged, and the like. A notable strategy employed by regiments was the phalanx formation which consisted of the mass grouping of soldiers close together each standing with their shields whilst aiming their spears, spikes and other weapons at the exterior opponent, kind of like a porcupine. This tactic tends to be a Greek fan-favourite which seems to work wonders when facing Persian infantries. Furthermore, formation tactics which included groupings in rectangles, circles, triangles, lines and more, were well loved and used as they were found to be more efficient and encouraged teamwork to vanquish enemies, rallying common will and forces together in an army.



Weaponry and Armoury



A hoplite or even a higher general is nothing without his body protection, his armour. As mentioned, each had to provide their own, which meant they were often decorated with family or clan crests as good luck or the crests of the polis they represented. A body armour made of full bronze could weigh over 70 lbs, but lighter and cheaper linen armour was more popular.

The basics carried by the average Greek Hoplite consisted of an 80-100 cm concave shield also known as an aspis weighing around 14-18lbs with

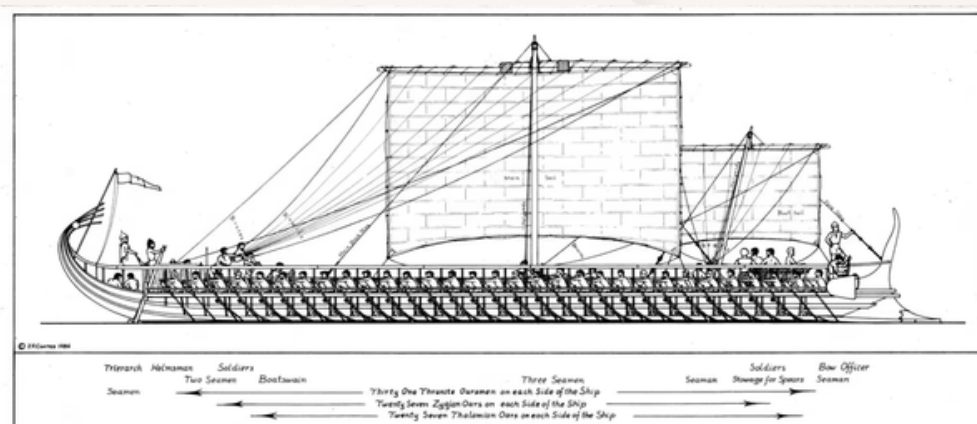
a handgrip inside for easier management, a 2.5-4.5 m long spear, a typical Pilos helmet and a xiphos (shorter 60 cm sword), plus a second weapon if one was lucky. Richer soldiers could be protected by cuirass and muscle protectors made of bronze, the classic Spartan-style bronze helmets with cheek plates, and even leg and shoulder protectors as well.

On the Persian side, they valued lighter protective armour which allowed for more freedom of movement, lighter wicker shields, short spears, javelins and daggers, as well as bows and arrows. Some zealous ones even wore no armour at all, counting on their confidence in their own skill and their faith to carry them through the fight.

Armoury and weaponry were passed down from generation to generation to save on costs, but also as a sign of honour, bravery and love from one fighter to his son, then his grandson and so on. This was believed to pass down strength from loved ones of the past, but also cowardice, as a weapon from a coward was considered bad luck and would brand you as a son of a coward and, therefore, a coward yourself.

Naval Equipment

Historically, the Ionian revolt was the first recorded use of *triremes* for battle purposes. Both Ionian Greeks and Persians held these types of ships closely as they found them to be extremely useful. *Triremes* are driven by oars on their sides which are paddled by about 170 oarsmen per boat. Men who were too poor to buy their own armour and join the hoplites would become oarsmen and would practice accordingly. As for the rest of the crew of about 30 more people, at its head was a *Kubernetes* (ancestor of the word 'governor' which is also used in politics and naval ranks today). The trireme is very long and swift, holding up a sail to guide it as well. The boat itself is made of wood, but its front tip is made of bronze and is used as an offensive means to pierce the side of another ship. They were hard to keep on the water for long, therefore it needed to be set on the shore, but during a battle they would prove themselves to be extremely efficient, tainting war records with hundreds of *triremes* per battle.



Ancient Greek Trireme



Visual representation of a Greco-Persian battle during the Ionian Revolt



Ionian Organization

Ionian Military Tactics

The Ionians employed a number of different military tactics depending on their needs during wartime. These strategies were influenced by the rugged terrain and the Ionians' familiarity with their homeland, aimed to exploit advantages and mitigate weaknesses. The following were some of the most prominent military strategies used:

Guerrilla tactics involved hit-and-run attacks, ambushes, and the use of difficult terrain to the Ionians' advantage. This allowed the Ionians to disrupt larger Persian forces, inflict casualties, and demoralize their opponents. However, Guerrilla warfare required intimate knowledge of the terrain, making it challenging to implement in unfamiliar areas. Additionally, sustained guerrilla tactics depended on the resilience and cohesion of Ionian forces.

Moreover, Ionian forces, when faced with a superior Persian army, implemented scorched earth tactics. This involved intentionally destroying or rendering unusable resources, such as crops and infrastructure, to deprive the Persians of sustenance and support. The success of scorched earth tactics relied on the Ionians' ability to retreat and regroup effectively after implementing the strategy lest their soldiers be burned along with the crop. It also risked alienating local populations who depended on the destroyed resources for survival.

Finally, when Ionian forces were defending fortified positions, they engaged in siege warfare. This tactic aimed to withstand prolonged Persian assaults, using defensive structures and tactics to repel the enemy. The success of siege warfare depended on the availability of resources within the besieged city or stronghold. Ionian forces needed sufficient supplies to withstand the prolonged conflict.

Ionian Political Tactics

In order to ensure the success of their military campaigns the Ionians would have had to establish political power as well. They did this through the following political tactics:

Ionians sought alliances with neighbouring Greek city-states, like Athens and Eretria, to bolster their military strength and gain support against Persian aggression. Building and maintaining alliances required delicate diplomacy. Differences in political interests among Greek city-states could hinder unified action.

Next, Ionian leaders used rhetoric and communication to garner support for their cause. Their propaganda aimed at highlighting Persian oppression and rallying Greeks against a common enemy. The Propaganda's effectiveness depended on the Ionians' ability to control the narrative. False information or internal disagreements could undermine their credibility thus rendering the propaganda useless in swaying public narrative.

Ionian Communication Methods

Communication was integral to successful military action. The Ionians implemented effective and rapid communication methods in the following ways:

Beacon fires were used for long-distance communication, signalling warnings or coordinating movements. This allowed rapid communication across the rugged terrain during wartime. Visibility and the risk of interception were limitations of this strategy though. The effectiveness of this method relied on clear sightlines and the ability to interpret signals accurately.

Additionally, trained runners carried messages swiftly across difficult terrain, ensuring quick communication between Ionian forces and their allies. However, the reliance on human messengers introduced risks of interception, delays, or potential misinformation.



Persian Organization

Persian Military Tactics

The Persians, with their vast and diverse empire, implemented a range of military tactics to secure territorial control and confront external threats. These tactics were characterized by the empire's adaptability to various terrains and its ability to integrate diverse military forces within its own.

Persian archers, equipped with powerful composite bows, formed a formidable ranged force. Massed archery allowed them to rain down arrows on enemy formations, weakening adversaries before engaging in close combat. The effectiveness of archery relied on maintaining distance from opponents. Skilled adversaries who closed the gap quickly or employed effective cover could easily neutralize this tactic.

The Persian elite infantry, known as the Immortals, formed a highly trained and well-equipped force. Their disciplined formations and superior weaponry made them effective in direct confrontations. The size of the Immortals was limited though, and their effectiveness depended on maintaining unit cohesion. They could be vulnerable to flanking or swift and dynamic enemy manoeuvres.

Persian cavalry, particularly the aforementioned Immortals, employed the "hammer and anvil" tactic. They used swift cavalry charges to create chaos in enemy ranks, with infantry acting as the anvil to encircle and eliminate disoriented foes. This tactic required open terrain for effective cavalry charges. In rugged or confined landscapes, the mobility of the cavalry could be limited.

Persian Political Tactics

Darius I used royal inscriptions as his own form of propaganda to project an image of grandeur, legitimacy, and divine favour. This helped in fostering a sense of unity and loyalty among the diverse subjects of his empire. The success of imperial propaganda depended on effective dissemination and public acceptance. Overemphasis on royal grandeur could generate resentment among some segments of the population.

Next, the construction of monumental projects, such as the Royal Road, palaces, and fortifications, served both practical and symbolic purposes. These projects showcased Persian wealth, power, and commitment to the well-being of the empire. While infrastructure projects were impressive, they required significant resources and manpower. Unsuccessful or delayed projects could lead to dissatisfaction within the affected communities.

Persian Communication Methods

The Royal Road facilitated swift communication across the vast empire. The Persian Pony Express system employed mounted couriers for quick message relay. The efficiency of communication depended on the condition of the roads and the availability of well-maintained relay stations.

Moreover, Persian rulers used hieroglyphs and inscriptions on monumental structures to convey messages of power and authority. These served both as political statements and communication to the empire. The use of hieroglyphs limited communication to those who could interpret them. Language barriers might hinder the broader understanding of messages.

Ancient Achaemenid Economy 101

Moving away from classical trading methods, with the rise of a more secular and prosperous (for the fortunate) economy, the Achaemenid coinage system truly made its appearance during Darius I's reign, introducing: the Persian **daric**, a gold coin and the **siglos**, a silver coin.

The **daric** was a 95.83% pure gold, thick coin standardly weighing 8.4 grams. It depicts the Persian king of the time or a warrior-hero bearing a bow and arrow. The **siglos** were made of regular silver. One daric (gold) is equal to 20 siglos (silver).

After multiple calculations from your CD, the standard for the committee will be that, in that era: **1 daric = 607.50\$ CAD** today and **1 siglos = 30.30\$ CAD** today.

It is said that an average day's wage was about half a daric for common workers. Furthermore, it is said that a gallon of olive oil costs about half a siglos and a cloak about 3 siglos. For more costly references, it would cost about 140 darics to build a standard trireme.

**If anything is amiss, please contact your CDs as they will be happy to help.*



Persian Daric from
around 510 BCE



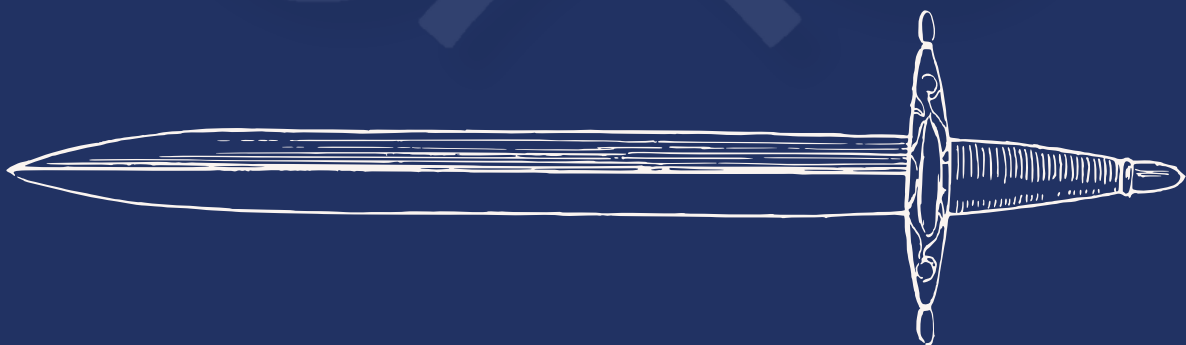
Persian Siglos from
around 520 BCE

Current Situation

The failed conquest of Naxos resulted in many issues, causing the already fragile political climate to lie on the precipice of chaos. Many men were lost, leaving families endowed, resources were scarcer and morality was at an indescribable low. The trust in the leading forces was dwindling away by the second and the tension could be cut clean with a knife. Not only that, pockets empty upon their return, Aristagoras and his limited crew could not pay for the help they requested from the Lydians and were no longer in the royal family's good graces. Some aristocrats grew ever frustrated with their tyrant as the military campaign in Naxos had serious consequences for the economy. Fearing for his position and even his life, Aristagoras found himself torn between two options: either he would attempt to repair the damage caused, take accountability and be stripped of his titles, fortune and home, or, he would address the angry Ionian citizens, direct their anger towards the Persian empire as a whole instead of his own tyrannical rule and incite them to revolt against the Persian higher-ups, giving him the advantage of seeming like a leader for freedom and allow him to stand on his own against Darius I and the Persians satraps. Councils and historians sat with him to think of his course of action, plans were thought and rethought, but the chaos was fast approaching.

A decision must be made, or chaos will ensue... and if it's the wrong one, the people of Ionia and their rulers will encounter a bitter fate.

In the meantime, all are preparing arms and prayers as they enter a period of increased instability (even worse than before the Naxos campaign). Generals gear up, citizens sharpen their best blades and many more immigrate North to avoid conflict before it's too late. All are en garde, all are cautious of spies and foes, awaiting their chance to strike. This unsustainable way of living haunts all; the only solution: swift action.





Questions to Consider

1. How will different revolts affect the regular citizen populations? Is there a way to protect innocents to maintain their loyalty and gratitude whilst achieving a group's goals?
2. What as a character do you have to offer in terms of resources, skills, knowledge or manpower to the conflict? Where can you assert your dominance as a pioneer in that field? Which sector is the most profitable for you to pour your time and energy into?
3. In the event of the end of such a revolt, no matter the winning or losing sides, how will you instate a new world order and what does that order look like? Will your plans lead you to immediate or long-term success or failure?
4. Where, when, who and how is the best way to go about advancing on the other side? Think of the landscape outlined, the resources of the land, the present characters, etc.
5. What drives the rebel movements? What drives the Persian resistance? What drives your character to act the way they do? What drives most people in this situation and how can you take advantage of that?
6. What defines the Ionian identity and how can your character use that to their advantage to manipulate Ionian morale throughout the course of the committee?

Character List



The characters are placed in alphabetical order, not in any order of importance or status as they each hold the key to the success or failure of this committee. Furthermore, these characters are mostly fictional, if not slightly based on real people who were a part of this conflict, researching might be less accessible than the creation of your own arc and distinct persona. Use what was given to you as hints and a big dose of your creativity to make these characters your own, you are a (relatively) blank canvas!



Arash Mirza

Persian military tactician specialized in unconventional warfare and creative strategies. He began his military career as a rookie in the Achaemenid Empire's first forces, accompanying them to victory in the conquest of Ionia. In the line of fire, he lost his mentor in the last month of the expedition for Ionia's siege, giving him a bitter taste for retribution in his heart. Years later, his experience and wisdom have landed him the title of a trusted military tactician, highly respected and praised amongst the Persian ranks, and he honours his mentor's legacy each day.

Aristagoras

A nobleman promoted to tyrant by the Persian emperor, currently disliked by both Persian nobles and Ionian rebel subjects, Aristagoras faces the price of a failed ambition in Naxos. His position is on the line, his land is on the line, his life is on the line. He faces two options: turning on the Persians and instigating a revolt or turning on the Ionians and risking a complete decimation of his government and lands. Will he do the right thing or the thing that serves him best, no matter the costs?

Azar Moradi

The Persians' most cunning intelligence officer. Azar grew up quiet and shy, with no one expecting him to develop analytical and strategic prowess on his own in the shadows. His brain was picked amongst the masses to serve the empire as the leader of their network of spies and intelligence agents whilst his proud mother and 8 siblings would be well cared for by the empire. His knowledge of the Ionian inner circles is remarkable, in a true "keep your friends close and enemies closer" fashion, allowing him to gain the proper intel on the citizens and their growing madness.

Crown Prince Xerxes

Crown Prince Xerxes is the firstborn and heir of Darius I. His life was and always will be tainted with gold and riches, but of his own accord, Xerxes differed from his father as he grew humble and compassionate towards his subjects, even the fiercest of Ionians. His peaceful acts earned him the praise of many on either side, although the Persian nobles consider him weak for his benevolence. In the wake of such chaos, it will be up to him to choose what is right, what is true and what he must do in consequence, whom he will help, and whom he will ally himself to, knowing his duty and the effects of his choices.

Cyrus Rahmati

Cultural ambassador of Persia in Ionia. This intense and intimidating diplomat believes fervently in the beauty of Persian culture and its elitism over all others. Almost 50 years after their original conquest of the land, Ambassador Rahmati cannot fathom why the Ionians still have not complied and adopted the Persian identity as their own. His goal from the start and at all times was to intertwine the current local identity with the overarching one, but his methods have been deemed inefficient, leading him to a rethinking of his tactics as resentment brews.

Dimitrios Aristophanis

Conflict is bad for business, or is it? Dimitrios Aristophanis ponders such a question as his affairs find themselves to be threatened by the ongoing political climates. Owner of olive orchards and vineyards in Ionia, exporting olive oil, wine, wood and more across the Greek city-states, he has grown his commerce to a respectable level and seeks to grow evermore. He offers allegiance and support to whoever offers him protection and perspectives of wealth advancement, calculating his potential losses, but anticipating his many fruitful wins...

Eleni Yatropoulos

Meet Eleni, descendant of a long line of healers from the Ionian mainlands, student of advanced medicine techniques and phytology in the best schools in Persia. She is extremely well-read and her knowledge of destructive medicine such as natural poisons is as grand as her knowledge of life-saving care. She finds herself in a perplexing predicament having married a Persian alchemist she met during her studies, desiring no bloodshed, nor to use her power for wrongdoing on either side. That being said, she always remains fiercely protective of her family, her husband and her children.

Kallias Andrakis

Kallias was of humble beginnings, a true Ionian whose father passed away during the conquest of Ionia, leaving him and his mother to fend for themselves. At his birth, his mother sought a prophecy about her son, revealing ahead a future of leadership and greatness. Since then, Kallias has evolved, learned to wield his father's sword, and grown stronger, but also grown secretly hungrier for power. He worked himself up the chain to become one of the faces and main leaders of the rebellion, advocating for his people and defying the status quo. Paradoxical is he, his desire for freedom tends to get overridden by the intoxicating allure of power...

Katerina Monastiriou

As an Ionian priestess, Katerina embodies the essence of her people's faith, weaving tales of divine wisdom and invoking the power of their ancestral gods. Her guidance in chaos is an incredible force, she inspires victory through faith for the Ionian people. Growing up to become a priestess, Katerina grew a passion for studying politics in secret and is unwaveringly supportive of the Ionian cause. Her grace charms many in the noble circles, allowing her to remain undetectable while influencing the higher courts. Moreover, her beauty is so striking that men will offer her and her aspirations anything to get her to break her vows to priesthood.

Kimon Spathiou

Kimon, a Corinthian mercenary with a taste for blood and a hunger for power and wealth stands before us all. His sword bears no allegiance other than his own, promising to serve the best outcome for his own person. His past haunts his every step, abandoned as a child, needing to fend for himself, he serves not only his present self but honours his broken inner child with each slash. Today, he is all the stronger for it and enters this Ionian-Persian brouhaha playing by his own rules.

Panos Prodotakis

Panos is a conflicted man whose life motto seems to be: “Only fools and dead men do not change their minds.” Born in mainland Persia, his destiny was to join their ranks once he came of age. This was all Panos had prepared for, and he joined the ranks at age 16, earning years of experience, knowledge and status, until one fateful day, Sergeant Prodotakis disappeared out of thin air. It wasn't until a few months later that they found him, married to an Ionian woman, aiding the Ionian rebels. His rejection of his past does come with the advantage of insider knowledge, but his loyalty and fealty are subject to doubt.

Polykrates Polykratopoulos

In Samos, not far away lives an instated Tyrant named Polycrates. His jolly and gluttonous persona sees war as he would see a children's game with wooden swords: a fun event! His loyalty is as fickle as a child's yoyo and as with all things, he enjoys making decisions and making his great ideas come to life, but not as much as he loves tearing it all down. In this predicament, he dangles his troops and resources like candy in front of the adversaries in need of such, placing his bets, offering his abundant help, as long as his investments prove themselves to be fruitful...the opposite possibly causing one side's annihilation.

Soraya Jamshidi

Commander of the Persian Navy in the Ionian Sea. She knows the waters like the lines of her own hands and has gone through more storms and tides than she can recount. The eldest daughter from a minor Persian noble family, never marrying or bearing children and dedicating her life to her duties, Soraya's loyalty to the crown knows no bounds and her ruthlessness across the seas is renowned, having been her saving grace in her years of fighting for higher rank as a woman.

Stavros Ikodomopoulos III

Incredibly skilled blacksmith and carpenter, lit up with the fire of defiance, Stavros serves the Ionian rebel cause as one of their biggest forces. Though his hands may be calloused and roughed, his pieces of weaponry, transportation technology and armoury are works of art crafted with care and efficiency. Stavros, third of his name, learned his skill from his father Stavros, who learned it from his father before him, Stavros. This line of men has always stood strong and proud of their heritage, ready to serve and defend it at all costs.

Yannis Psaropoulos

Successful Ionian fisherman, knowledgeable of the coastlines' every nook and cranny navigable by small boat, Yannis' skill in discrete sailing and in seafood supply is well known in the Ionian rebel ranks. His faith guides him in his crafts daily, especially as he believes in an old legend his grandmother would tell him about a small boat with a fishnet inside, both gifted by Poseidon himself to humans for their activities; the boat was never found, but the Psaropoulos family fishing net would be this very gift from the god, endorsing their success. His dream is to find and navigate that boat, if it exists, and to help the people of Ionia defend themselves across the seas expertly.





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**We hope to see you
again next year!**

