

DEFENDERS, CONQUERORS AND VANQUISHED

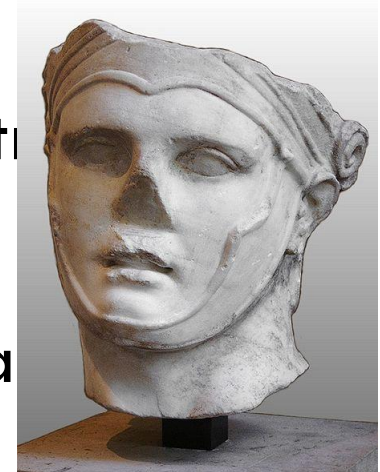
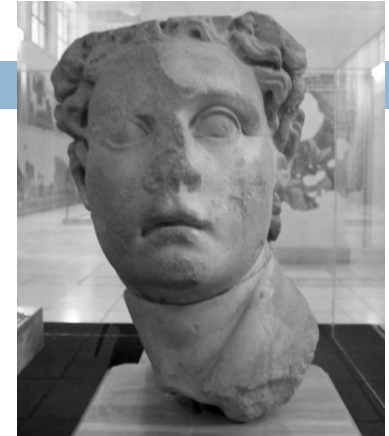
Lecture 25: The Seleucids

Modern Sources for the Seleucids

- Sherwin-White, S. and A. Kuhrt (1993). *From Samarkhand to Sardis: A new approach to the Seleucid Empire*. London, Duckworth.
- Ma, J. (2000). *Antiochos III and the Cities of Western Asia Minor*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Grainger, J. D. (1997). *A Seleukid Prosopography and Gazetteer*. Leiden.
- Houghton, A. and C. Lorber (2002 and 2009). *Seleucid Coins: A Comprehensive Catalogue: Parts I and II*. New York, American Numismatic Society.

Seleucus I (312/11-281)

- Commander of the Royal *Hypasists*
- Marriage to Apame (Bactrian) at Susa
- 2nd in command to Perdiccas
- Satrap of Babylon (321/0)
- Driven out by Antigonus (316/5)
- 312/11 with Ptolemaic aid retakes his satrapy
- Eastern Anabasis (309-301)
- Agreement with Chandragupta for elephants



Before Ipsus



Battle of Ipsus

When the battle was begun, Demetrius, at the head of his best cavalry, fell upon Antiochus the son of Seleucus, and fought with so much bravery that he put the enemy to flight; but by a vain and unseasonable ambition to go upon the pursuit, he lost the victory ; for he went so far that he could not get back to join his infantry, the enemy's elephants having taken up the intermediate space. Seleucus, now seeing his adversary's foot deprived of their horse, did not attack them, but rode about them as if he was going every moment to charge; intending by this manoeuvre both to terrify them and to give them opportunity to change sides. The event answered his expectation. A large part separated from the main body and voluntarily came over to him; the rest were put to the rout. When great numbers were bearing down upon Antigonus, one of those that were about him said, " They are coming against you, sir." He answered, " What other object can they have? But Demetrius will come to my assistance." In this hope he continued to the last, still looking about for his son; till he fell under a shower of darts. His servants and his very friends forsook him; only Thorax of Larissa remained by the dead body.

The battle being thus decided, the kings who were victorious dismembered the kingdom of Antigonus and Demetrius like some great body, and each took a limb, thus adding to their own dominions the provinces which these two princes were possessed of before.

Plutarch, *Life of Demetrius* 29-30

After Ipsus



Succession



- Marriage to Stratonice (296)
- Resurgence of Demetrius (294-286)
- Appointment of Antiochus as co-ruler (294)

Death of Seleucus

- Final campaign against Lysimachus (281)
 - Victory at Corupedium
- A return to Macedon?
- Death at the hands of Ptolemy Ceraunus (281)

“For Alexander departed from life in Babylon and Seleucus became the ruler of a larger part of his dominions than any other of Alexander’s successors.”

Appian Syrian Wars 56

Antiochus I (281-261)

- Legitimacy
- Revolts and unconsolidated gains
- First Syrian War
- Galatian Invasion



Problems of Legitimacy

- ❑ Not Argead: no royal background, does not have Alexander's body
- ❑ Part barbarian
- ❑ Competition and conflict over spear-won land
- ❑ Lack traditional power base in most new kingdoms therefore must appeal to traditional elite

Potential Solutions



Asia Minor and the Seleucis

- Pergamum
 - Returns the body of Seleucus
- Northern League
 - Fighting between the major cities of the Black sea region
 - Invitation to the Galatians
- Seleucis
 - Region around Antioch and the Syrian Tetrapolis
 - Evidence from one inscription OGIS 219 = *I.Ilium* 32 = Austin 2006: 139

Galatian Invasion (279-)

- Invitation to aid Zipoetes of Bithynia
- 20,000 warriors break off from Brennus' invasion of Greece and slowly move into Asia Minor (279)
- Antiochus gives aid to some of the cities of Asia Minor (277-765)

First Syrian War (275-271)

- Losses in Caria, Lycia, Cilicia and Pamphylia to the Ptolemies
- Antiochus supports Magas the governor of Cyrenaica against Ptolemy
- Ptolemy II and Antiochus I go to war
- Results?
 - ▣ Miletus goes over to the Ptolemies
 - ▣ Ptolemaic control of southern coast of Asia Minor

Death of Antiochus I

- Defeat by Eumenes (of Pergamum) at Sardis
- Ephesus slips to Ptolemaic control

Antiochus II (261-246)

- ❑ Second Syrian War
- ❑ (Re)expansion
- ❑ Diplomatic marriage
- ❑ Bactria?



Second Syrian War (261-253)

- Ptolemy II invades
- Antiochus II retakes Miletus, Ephesus, Samos, Pamphylia and Cilicia

Re(expansion)

- Some success in Thrace
- Some success in Asia Minor
- Perhaps the loss of Bactria

Diplomatic Marriage

- Peace treaty at the end of the Second Syrian War c.252
 - ▣ Antiochus II marries Berenice, the daughter of Ptolemy II Philadelphus
- Antiochus already has a wife (Laodice) and 2 sons
 - ▣ Forced to divorce Laodice and reduce her to concubine status
- In 246, forsakes Berenice and returns to Laodice
- He dies shortly there after (poison or natural causes?)

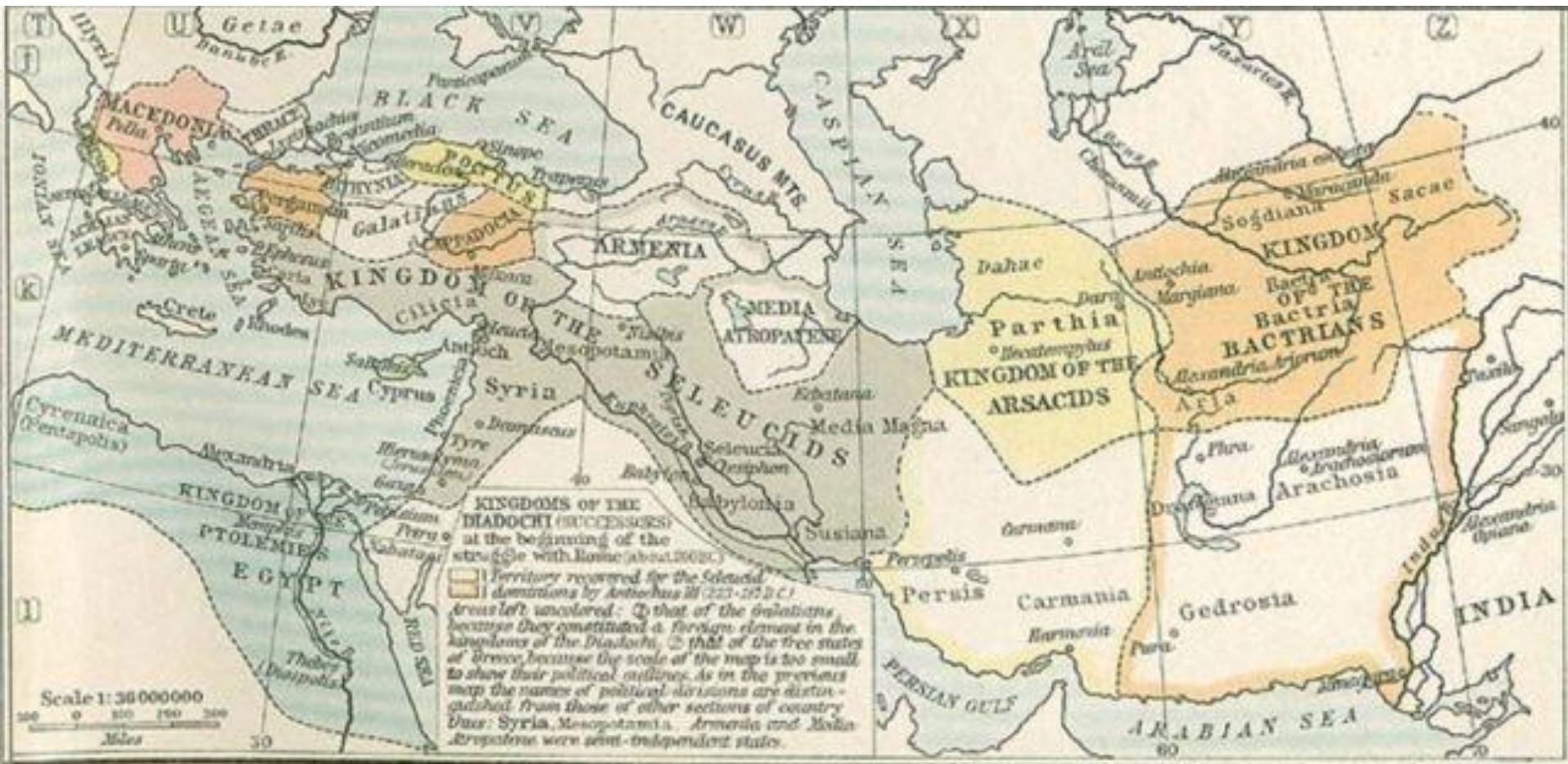
Seleucus II (246-226)

Antiochus Hierax (c.244-c.229/8)

- Laodicean War
- War of the brothers
- Bactria?



State of the Empire at the Death of Seleucus II



Seleucus III (226-223)

- Attempt to retake Asia Minor



Antiochus III (223-187)

- Coele-Syria (Syria/Palestine)
- Molon and the East
- Coele-Syria (Syria/Palestine)
- Asia Minor
- The Anabasis
- Coele-Syria (Syria/Palestine)
- Europe and the Romans



Immediate Succession

- Proclaimed by the army as king in 223
- Sends Achaeus to deal with problems in Asia Minor
- Molon and his brother revolt in Persia and Media
 - Syrian invasion
 - Not particularly successful

Molon and the East

- 3 generals are sent to defeat the rebellion
- Antiochus goes in person with his army to face Molon
 - ▣ Follows the advice of Zeuxis
- A large portion of Molon's army defects to Antiochus
- Molon is defeated and Antiochus is able to reestablish control in the East

Battle of Raphia 217

The armies having been drawn up in this fashion, both the kings rode along the line accompanied by their officers and friends, and addressed their soldiers. 2 As they relied chiefly on the phalanx, it was to these troops that they made the most earnest appeal, Ptolemy being supported by Andromachus, Sosibius and his sister Arsinoë and Antiochus by Theodotus and Nicarchus, these being the commanders of the phalanx on either side. The substance of the addresses was on both sides very similar. **For neither king could cite any glorious and generally recognized achievement of his own, so that it was by reminding the troops of the glorious deeds of their ancestors that they attempted to inspire them with spirit and courage. They laid the greatest stress, however, on the rewards which they might be expected to bestow in the future, and urged and exhorted both the leaders in particular and all those who were about to be engaged in general to bear themselves therefore like gallant men in the coming battle.** So with these or similar words spoken either by themselves or by their interpreters they rode along the line.

Polybius 5.83

Asia Minor

- Achaeus had begun to claim Asia Minor as his own kingdom
- Spends 3 years pursuing Achaeus in Asia Minor
- Pins Achaeus in Sardis and after a long siege defeats him

The Anabasis

- Armenia
 - Makes Xerxes a vassal
- The Parthians
 - 2 years of fighting, some success?
- Bactria
 - 2 more years, fails to defeat the Bactrians
- India
 - Treaty with Sophagasenus, gets more elephants
- Persis and the Persian Gulf
- Babylon
 - 204 returns and celebrates 20 years as king and take the title *Megas*

Coele-Syria (Syria/Palestine)

- Ptolemy IV dies in 204
- Antiochus invades again in 202
- Success!
 - ▣ Coele-Syria is finally in Seleucid control
 - ▣ Jerusalem is now part of the Seleucid empire

Europe and the Romans

- Return to Asia Minor
- 197 invades Thrace
- 192 he aids his allies the Aetolians and takes parts of Greece
- War with the Romans
 - ▣ Defeated at Thermopylae (191)
 - ▣ Retreat to Asia
 - ▣ Defeat at Magnesia (190/189)

Treaty of Apamea

- ❑ Cede all territory north of the Taurus mountains
- ❑ No navy in the Aegean
- ❑ No war elephants
- ❑ 15,000 silver talents payable in yearly instalments for 12 years
- ❑ Hostages

The rest of the Seleucids

- Inevitable decline or self destruction?
- Antiochus IV and the Jewish State
- Chaos at the end of the dynasty
- Who controls former Seleucid Territory?

Follow-up Reading

- Wheatley, P. (2002). "Antigonos Monophthalmus in Babylonia, 310-308 B. C." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 61 (1): 39-47.
- Sherwin-White, S. (1983). "Ritual for a Seleucid King at Babylon?" *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 103: 156-159.
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