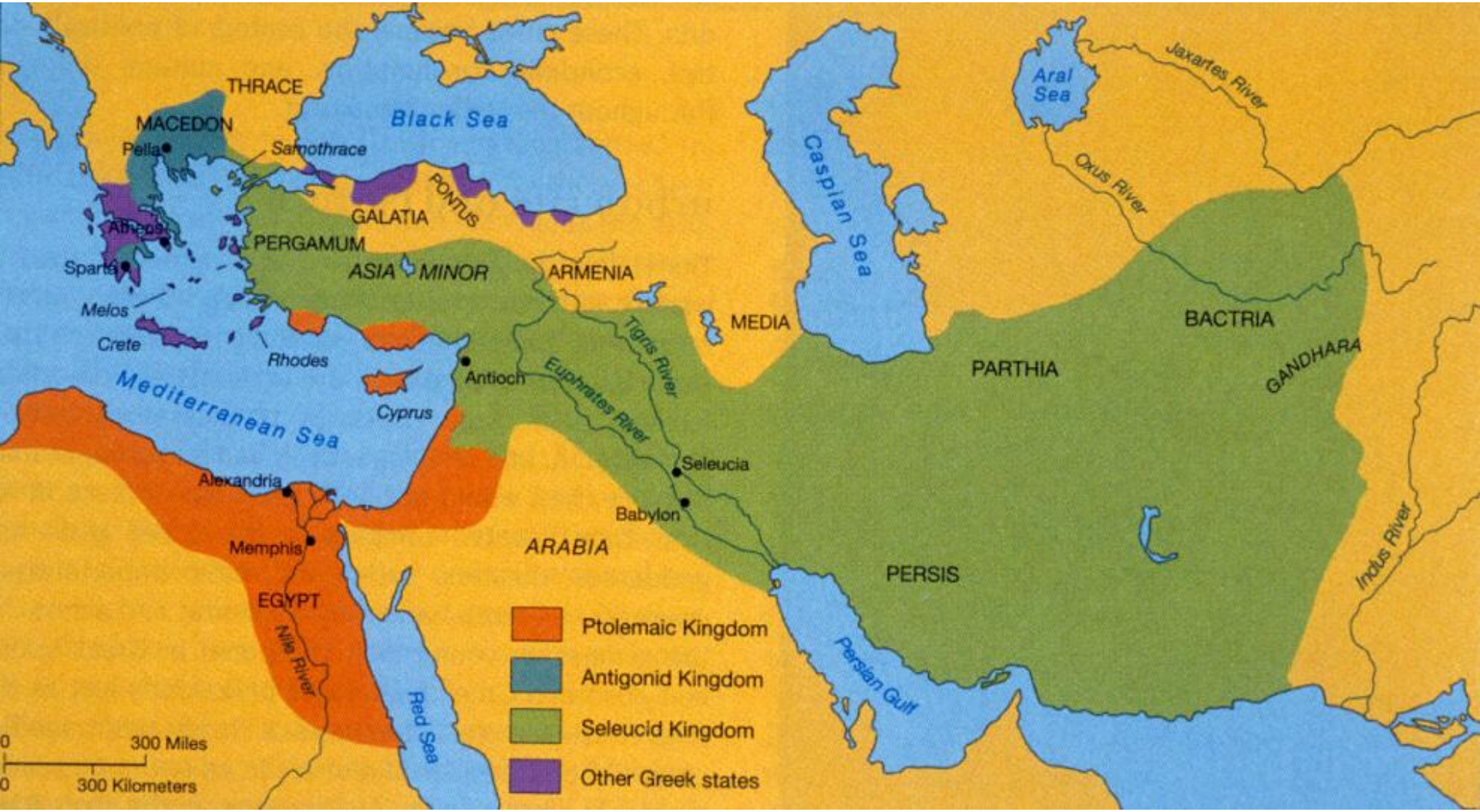
DEFENDERS, CONQUERORS AND VANQUISHED

Lecture 16: Philip II

What is the Hellenistic world?



What is the chronology?

- Starting point?
  - Start of Alexander's rule?
  - Death of Alexander?
- Ending point?
  - Actium?
  - Destruction of Corinth?
  - End of Seleucid Empire?
- Normal dates:
  - 323 – 31 BC

What are our sources?

- Alexander:
  - Diodorus
  - Q. Curtius Rufus
  - Plutarch
  - Arrian
  - Justin
  - Alexander Romance?
  - Inscriptions
- Hellenistic World:
  - Diodorus
  - Justin
  - Polybius
  - Regional Histories
  - Inscriptions
  - Papyri
  - Coins

Very Important Books

Textbook

- Errington, R.M. 2008. *A History of the Hellenistic World: 323-30 BC*. Blackwell.
- Erskine, A. 2003. *A Companion to the Hellenistic World*. Blackwell.

Source Books

- Austin, M. 2006. *The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the Roman Conquest*. CUP.
- Bagnall, R.S. and Derow, P. 2008. *The Hellenistic Period: Historical Sources in Translation*. Blackwell.

PHILIP II

From Chaironea to his death

Aftermath of Chaironea

- Philip is master of Greece
  - Except Sparta who is excluded
  - Thebes is garrisoned
  - “Fetters of Greece”: Corinth, Ambracia and Chalcis are garrisoned
  - Creation of the “League of Corinth”

“League of Corinth”

Oath. I swear by Zeus, Earth, Sun, Poseidon, Athena, Ares and all the gods and goddesses. I shall abide by the peace(?); and I shall neither break the agreement with Philip(?), nor take up arms for harm against any of those who abide by the oaths(?), neither by land nor by sea; nor shall I overthrow the kingdom of Philip or his descendants, nor the constitutions existing in each state when they swore the oaths concerning the peace; nor shall I myself do anything contrary to these agreements, nor shall I allow anyone else as far as possible.

If anyone does commit any breach of treaty concerning the agreements, I shall go in support as called on by those who are wronged (?), and I shall make war against the one who transgresses the common peace (?) as decided by the common council (*synedrion*) and called on by the *hegemon*; and I shall not abandon - - -

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“League of Corinth”

The provisions of the treaty were:

- that the constitutions of the member states would remain unchanged;
- that violence between the member states was no longer permitted;
- that, in case of the overthrow of a government, a congress of representatives, was to meet at Corinth;
- that it would establish the facts and declare war;
- that the league's army was to be commanded by Philip;
- that the league's member states would send a number of soldiers to the league's army in proportion to their size.

Purpose of the League

- Support Philip in his pan-hellenic war against Persia
- Keep Greece under Macedonian control
- Prevent conflicts between Greek States

Trouble in the Family

337:

However, the disorders in his household, due to the fact that his marriages and amours carried into the kingdom the infection, as it were, which reigned in the women's apartments, produced many grounds of offence and great quarrels between father and son, and these the bad temper of Olympias, who was a jealous and sullen woman, made still greater, since she spurred Alexander on. The most open quarrel was brought on by Attalus at the marriage of Cleopatra, a maiden whom Philip was taking to wife, having fallen in love with the girl when he was past the age for it. Attalus, now, was the girl's uncle, and being in his cups, he called upon the Macedonians to ask of the gods that from Philip and Cleopatra there might be born a legitimate successor to the kingdom. At this Alexander was exasperated, and with the words, "But what of me, base wretch? Dost thou take me for a bastard?" threw a cup at him. Then Philip rose up against him with drawn sword, but, fortunately for both, his anger and his wine made him trip and fall. Then Alexander, mocking over him, said: "Look now, men! here is one who was preparing to cross from Europe into Asia; and he is upset in trying to cross from couch to couch." After this drunken broil Alexander took Olympias and established her in Epirus, while he himself tarried in Illyria.

Plutarch, *Alexander* 9.5-11

Reconciliation?

But when Pixodarus, the satrap of Caria, trying by means of a tie of relationship to steal into a military alliance with Philip, wished to give his eldest daughter in marriage to Arrhidaeus the son of Philip, and sent Aristocritus to Macedonia on this errand, once more slanderous stories kept coming to Alexander from his friends and his mother, who said that Philip, by means of a brilliant marriage and a great connexion, was trying to settle the kingdom upon Arrhidaeus. Greatly disturbed by these stories, Alexander sent Thessalus, the tragic actor, to Caria, to argue with Pixodarus that he ought to ignore the bastard brother, who was also a fool, and make Alexander his connection by marriage. And this plan was vastly more pleasing to Pixodarus than the former. But Philip, becoming aware of this, went to Alexander's chamber, taking with him one of Alexander's friends and companions, Philotas the son of Parmenio, and upbraided his son severely, and bitterly reviled him as ignoble and unworthy of his high estate, in that he desired to become the son-in-law of a man who was a Carian and a slave to a barbarian king. And as for Thessalus, Philip wrote to the Corinthians that they should send him back to Macedonia in chains. Moreover, of the other companions of Alexander, he banished from Macedonia Harpalus and Nearchus, as well as Erigyius and Ptolemy, men whom Alexander afterwards recalled and had in the highest honours.

Plutarch, *Alexander* 10.1-5

The Invasion of Asia

- 336: Advance forces are sent by Philip to begin to secure the region around the Hellenspont and Asia Minor for an invasion
- Parmenio, Amynatus, Attalus (the father of Cleopatra) lead the forces

Philip and Olympias

- 336: Reinforcing Alliances
- Marriage of Cleopatra (daughter of Olympias by Philip) to Alexander of Molossis (brother of Olympias)
- Marriage to be celebrated at Aegeae

Murder!

Magnificent games were also celebrated, and as Philip was going to view them, unattended by his guards, walking between the two Alexanders, his son and son-in-law, Pausanias, a noble Macedonian youth, without being suspected by anyone, posting himself in a narrow passage, killed him as he was going through it, and caused a day appointed for joy to be overclouded with mourning for a death. Pausanias, in the early part of his youth, had suffered gross violence at the hands of Attalus, to the indignity of which was added this further affront, that Attalus had exposed him, after bringing him to a banquet and making him drunk, not only to insults from himself, but also to those of the company, as if he had been a common object for ill-treatment, and rendered him the laughing-stock of those of his own age. Being impatient under this ignominy, Pausanias had often made complaints to Philip, but being put off with various excuses, not unattended with ridicule, and seeing his adversary also honoured with a general's commission, he turned his rage against Philip himself, and inflicted on him, as an unjust judge, that revenge which he could not inflict on him as an adversary.

Justin 9.6

Murder!

Pausanias, nevertheless, nursed his wrath implacably, and yearned to avenge himself, not only on the one who had done him wrong, but also on the one who failed to avenge him. In this design he was encouraged especially by the sophist Hermocrates. He was his pupil, and when he asked in the course of his instruction how one might become most famous, the sophist replied that it would be by killing the one who had accomplished most, for just as long as he was remembered, so long his slayer would be remembered also. Pausanias connected this saying with his private resentment, and admitting no delay in his plans because of his grievance he determined to act under cover of the festival in the following manner. He posted horses at the gates of the city and came to the entrance of the theatre carrying a Celtic dagger under his cloak. When Philip directed his attending friends to precede him into the theatre, while the guards kept their distance, he saw that the king was left alone, rushed at him, pierced him through his ribs, and stretched him out dead; then ran for the gates and the horses which he had prepared for his flight. Immediately one group of the bodyguards hurried to the body of the king while the rest poured out in pursuit of the assassin; among these last were Leonnatus and Perdiccas and Attalus. Having a good start, Pausanias would have mounted his horse before they could catch him had he not caught his boot in a vine and fallen. As he was scrambling to his feet, Perdiccas and the rest came up with him and killed him with their javelins.

Diod. Sic. 16.94

Who killed Philip?

- Pausanias
- Who was to blame?
  - Alexander?
  - Olympias?
  - ?

Accession of Alexander

- Punish Pausanias
- Kill Cleopatra and infant daughter
- Kill Attalus
- Kill the princes Lyncestis and Amyntas son of Perdiccas III

Follow up reading

- Read Plutarch's *Life of Alexander*
- http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/Alexander*/home.html
- or
- http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/alexandr.html