

DEFENDERS, CONQUERORS AND VANQUISHED

Lecture 18: Mithradatic Wars

Asia Minor

- Gradual increase in the independence of areas:
 - Pergamon
 - Galatians
 - Cappadocia
 - Pontus (Upper Cappadocia)
 - Bithynia

End of Pergamon

- 133 Attalos III dies and gives his Kingdom to Rome
- Cappadocia, Pontus and Bithynia all side with Rome in the war against Aristonikos

Mitridates VI

- 120 becomes king under the guardianship of his mother Laodice
- Brother Chrestos also king
- 112 Kills both and begins sole rule



Expansion

- Control of Black Sea
- Aid Greek cities in the Crimea against Scythians
- Attack Cappadocia, kills last member of the royal line Ariarathes VII
- Invades Paphlagonia



Ariarathes VII



Cappadocia

- Rome declares it “free”
- Ariobarzanes becomes king by the will of the Senate in 95

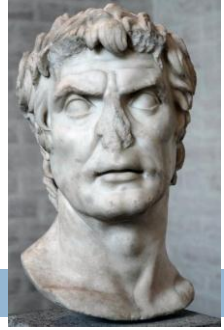


ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΙΟΒΑΡΙΖΑΝΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΡΩΜΑΙΟΥ

Roman intervention

The Cappadocians, however, being harassed by the cruelty and licentiousness of their rulers, revolted from Mithridates, and sent for the brother of their king, who was also called Ariarathes, from Asia where he was being educated. Upon this prince Mithridates again made war, defeated him, and drove him from Cappadocia; and not long after the young man died of a disease brought on by anxiety. After his death, Nicomedes, fearing lest Mithridates, from having added Cappadocia to his dominions, should also seize upon Bithynia which was near it, instructed a youth, of extraordinary beauty, to apply for the throne of Bithynia from the senate, as having been his father's, pretending that Ariarathes had not had two sons only, but a third. He sent his wife Laodice, also, to Rome, to testify that her husband had three children born to him. Mithridates, when he heard of this contrivance, despatched Gordius, with equal effrontery, to Rome, to assure the senate that "the young prince, to whom he had assigned the throne of Cappadocia, was the son of that Ariarathes who had fallen in the war against Aristonicus when giving assistance to the Romans." But the senate, perceiving the ambitious designs of the two kings, who were seizing the dominions of others on false pretences, took away Cappadocia from Mithridates, and, to console him, Paphlagonia from Nicomedes; and that it might not prove an offence to the kings, that any thing should be taken from them and given to others, both people were offered their liberty. But the Cappadocians declined the favour, saying that "their nation could not subsist without a king." Ariobarzanes was in consequence appointed their king by the senate.

Cappadocia



- Tigranes of Armenia marries a daughter of Mithridates
- Tigranes removes Ariobarzanes from Cappadocia
- Ariobarzanes flees to Rome (92)
- Lucius Cornelius Sulla, governor of Roman Cilicia, leads him back
- Sulla leaves, Mithridates kicks Ariobarzanes out again so he flees to Rome
- King of Bithynia dies and Mithridates kicks his son out, who also flees to Rome

Mithridates, Nikomedes IV and Rome

- Roman slave traders/publicani have a strong presence in Bithynia
- Nikomedes IV gets support from them and a delegation with troops to restore him to power and also Ariobarzanes

First Mithridatic War

- 88 BC – 85 BC
- Mithridates retaliates and attacks Bithynia, Cappadocia and the province of Asia
- Sulla campaigns, they sign a peace in 85
- Restoration of Nikomedes IV, Ariobarzanes and a payment of indemnity

Roman Asia Minor

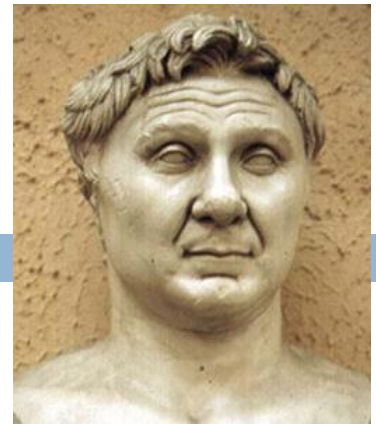
- Nikomedes IV dies in 74
- Leaves kingdom to the Roman People
- Pirates!
- War!



3rd Mithridatic War

- Attacks the new province of Bithynia
- Both ex-consuls of 74 for are sent, Marcus Aurelius Cotta (Bithynia) and Lucius Licinius Lucullus (Asia)
- Galatians support Rome
- 72 Mithridates expelled from Bithynia
- 72/1 Lucullus sieges Amisos
- 70 Mithridates flees to Armenia
- Appius Claudius Pulcher sent after Mithridates

3rd Mithridatic War



- Tigranes refuses to hand over Mithridates
- 67 Mithridates escapes back to Pontus and raises a new army
- Defeats garrison at Zela
- *Lex Manilia* in 66 gives broad powers to Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus to finish the war (in 67 he had been given broad powers against the pirates)

Flight and death

- ❑ Mithridates tries flee to Armenia and is refused
- ❑ Flees north to the Crimea and his territories there
- ❑ Machares (his son) had agreed to terms with Lucullus
- ❑ Kills his son
- ❑ 63 commits suicide



War with Armenia

- ❑ Tigranes flees to his capital, Artaxata
- ❑ Pompey arrives
- ❑ Tigranes welcomes him and surrenders his kingdom
- ❑ Restored as king of reduced Armenia
- ❑ All territories conquered by Tigranes now are Roman





Reading

- McGing, Brian. 2003. "Subjection and Resistance: to the Death of Mithradates". In Erskine, A. (ed). *A Companion to the Hellenistic World*. Blackwell. 71 - 89.