

DEFENDERS, CONQUERS AND VANQUISHED

Lecture 30: Roman Dominance

“Secret Pact”

- 204 Ptolemy IV dies, replaced by boy king
- Philip V focuses attention eastward after 1st Macedonian War
- Antiochus returns from expeditions to the East and Asia Minor
- Secret Pact?

5th Syrian War

- 201, Antiochus invades Koile Syria
- Seleucids take control of Koile Syria and Palestine
- Seleucids now control Jerusalem
- Ptolemaios, son of Thraseas

Asia Minor

- 197, Attalus I dies and replaced by Eumenes II
- Zeuxis attacks Pergamene territory
- Antiochus' fleet takes coastal cities in Asia Minor
 - ▣ Ephesus
 - ▣ Lampsacus and Smyrna view the activities as hostile
 - Embassies sent to Rome

Greek Freedom

Smyrna and Lampsacus asserted their right to be free and there was danger, should their claim be allowed, of other cities in Aeolis and Ionia following the example of Smyrna, and those on the Hellespont the example of Lampsacus. Accordingly he despatched a force from Ephesus to invest Smyrna and ordered the troops in Abydos to march to Lampsacus, only a small detachment being left to hold the place. But it was not only the threat of arms that he made use of, he sent envoys to make friendly overtures to the citizens, and whilst gently rebuking their rashness and obstinacy lead them to hope that in a short time they would have what they wanted. It was, however, perfectly clear to them and to all the world that they would enjoy their liberty as the free gift of the king and not because they had seized a favourable opportunity of winning it. They told the envoys in reply that Antiochus must be neither surprised nor angry if they did not patiently resign themselves to the indefinite postponement of their hopes of liberty.

War with Antiochus

They ordered him, as regards the cities of Asia, to keep his hands off those which were autonomous and make war on none of them and to withdraw from those previously subject to Ptolemy and Philip which he had recently taken. At the same time they enjoined him not to cross to Europe with an army, for none of the Greeks were any longer being attacked by anyone or the subjects of anyone, and they announced in general terms that some of their body would come to see Antiochus.

-Polybius 18.47

It was not proper for them to receive their liberty by order of the Romans, but by his own gracious favour

-Polybius 18.51

War with Antiochus 191-189

Aetolian Alliance

Achaean declare war on Antiochus (191)

Romans defeat Antiochus at Thermopylae (191)

Romans defeat Antiochus at Magnesia (189)

Peace of Apameia

Aetolian Alliance

- Autumn 192
- Antiochus III moves a small army to Greece
 - ▣ 10,000 men
 - ▣ 500 cavalry
 - ▣ 6 elephants

Greek Cities and Antiochus

- Antiochus hopes to be greeted as liberator
- “Frees” Chalcis
- Isolates Philip by a subordinate’s plan to replace him with his brother in law

Winter Preparations

The king left Demetrias for Chalcis. Here he fell in love with a daughter of Cleoptolemus, a Chalcidian magnate, and after numerous communications to her father followed by personal interviews (for he was reluctant to be entangled in an alliance so far above his own rank) Antiochus married the girl. The wedding was celebrated as though it were a time of peace, and forgetting the two vast enterprises in which he had embarked - war with Rome and the liberation of Greece - he dismissed all his cares and spent the rest of the winter in banquets and the pleasures attendant on wine, sleeping off his debauches, wearied rather than satisfied. All the king's officers who were in command of the different winter stations, especially those in Boeotia, fell into the same dissolute mode of life; even the common soldiers were completely sunk in it, not a man amongst them ever put on his armour or went on duty as guard or sentry, or discharged any military duty whatever. When, therefore, at the commencement of spring Antiochus passed through Phocis on his way to Chaeronea, where he had given orders for the whole of his army to muster, it was easy for him to see that the men had passed the winter under no stricter discipline than their leader. From Chaeronea he ordered Alexander the Acarnanian and the Macedonian Menippus to take the troops to Stratus in Aetolia...

Thermopylae (191)

- Marcus Acilius Glabrio crosses into Thessaly and moves south
- Antiochus defends at Thermopylae
- Massively outnumbered
- Outflanked
- Defeated
- Flees with what is left to Ephesus

Magnesia (189)

The king's army was a motley force drawn from many nations and presented the greatest dissimilarity both in the men and their equipment. There were 16,000 infantry in the Macedonian fashion, known as the "phalanx." These formed the centre, and their front consisted of ten divisions; between each division stood two elephants. They were thirty-two ranks deep. This was the main strength of the king's army and it presented a most formidable appearance, especially with the elephants towering high above the men. The effect was heightened by the frontlets and crests on the animals, and the towers on their backs on which stood the drivers, each accompanied by four soldiers. On the right of the phalanx Antiochus stationed 1500 Gallograeci infantry, and with them were linked up 3000 cavalry, clad in mail armour and known as "cataphracti." These were supported by the "agema," another body of cavalry numbering about 1000; they were a select force, consisting of Medes and men drawn from many tribes in that part of the world. Behind these in support were sixteen elephants. The line was continued by the royal cohort called "argyraspides" from the kind of shield they carried. Then came the Dahae, mounted archers, 1200 strong; then 3000 light infantry, half of them Cretans and half Tralles. Beyond these again were 2500 Mysian bowmen, and at the end of the line a mixed force of Cyrtian slingers and Elymaean archers.

On the left of the phalanx were 1500 Gallograeci infantry and 2000 Cappadocian, similarly armed and sent by Ariarathes, next to whom were posted a miscellaneous force numbering 2700. Then came 3000 cataphracti and the king's personal cavalry, 1000 strong, with somewhat slighter protection for themselves and their horses, but otherwise closely resembling the cataphracti, made up mostly of Syrians with an admixture of Phrygians and Lydians. In front of this mass of cavalry were scythe chariots and the camels which they call dromedaries. Seated on these were Arabian archers provided with narrow swords four cubits long so that they could reach the enemy from the height on which they were perched. Beyond them again a mass of troops corresponding to those on the right wing, first Tarentines, then 2500 Gallograeci cavalry, 1000 newly enlisted Cretans, 1500 Carians and Cilicians similarly armed, and the same number of Tralles. Then came 4000 caetrati, Pisidians, Pamphylians and Lydians, next to these Cyrtian and Elymaean troops equal in number to those on the right wing, and finally sixteen elephants a short distance away.

Peace of Apameia

- 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



3rd Macedonian War

- 179: Philip V dies, Perseus takes the throne
- Alliances with Prusias (king of Bithynia), Seleukos IV, Delphi, Rhodes
- Marriage Alliances with Prusias II and Seleucus IV
- Rome gives the Lycians independence from Rhodes (178)
- 172: Eumenes denounces Perseus at Rome

3rd Macedonian War

- 172: Q. Marcius Philippus tricks Perseus into thinking peace is possible with Rome
- 171: Roman army shows up in Greece and declares war on Perseus

Inscribed the charges against Perseus at Delphi

[- (line 6) = Know then first of all that Per]seus, contrary to what is proper, [came with an army to the feast of the] Pythia. [It was] evidently not [at all] right [for him to share with you in [either] sacrifices or games or [festivals, since] he brought in the [barbarians] from beyond the [Ister, who had been roused before for] no [good cause] but instead for the enslavement [of Greece, and who] having marched against the sanctuary [at Delphi, having in mind to plunder] and destroy it, received from [the god fitting punishment]. And he transgressed the oaths made by (his) [father, which he had himself renewed]. And [he conquered] (the) Thracians, who are our [allies. And he drove] Abroup[olis, whom we included in [the treaty with Philip], from his kingdom. And he removed (the) envoys [sent from (the) Thebans] to Rome about an alliance by the [treachery of a shipwreck].

He came moreover, to this point of madness, [that, considering it a great thing contrary to] oaths [to destroy] the freedom [given] by our commanders by throwing] the whole nation into disorders [and political conflicts], he continued to do [nothing if not what is] base, but [confounding everything, and courting the masses, and] destroying leading men, [he mindlessly promised cancellations of debts] and brought about social revolutions, (thereby) showing [what hatred he had towards the best] men....

3rd Macedonian War

- Perseus wins the first battle
- 168: Rhodes attempts to negotiate and end to the war

Pydna and the end of the Antigonids

- 168: L. Aemilius Paullus takes command
- June 168: Paullus defeats Perseus at Pydna
- Macedon was divided into four separate states, Illyria into three
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of old taxes now go as tribute to Rome
- The gold and silver mines in Macedonia are shut down
- 1000 Achaean hostages in Rome (including Polybius)

Rome and Her Allies

- Rhodes:

- ▣ Delos was declared a free port and given to Athens

- Eumenes:

- ▣ Ignored when he arrives in Rome
 - ▣ Accused of making common cause with Perseus

Day of Eleusis

At the time when Antiochus approached Ptolemy and meant to occupy Pelusium, Caius Popilius Laenas, the Roman commander, on Antiochus greeting him from a distance and then holding out his hand, handed to the king, as he had it by him, the copy of the senatus-consultum, and told him to read it first, not thinking it proper, as it seems to me, to make the conventional sign of friendship before he knew if the intentions of him who was greeting him were friendly or hostile. But when the king, after reading it, said he would like to communicate with his friends about this intelligence, Popilius acted in a manner which was thought to be offensive and exceedingly arrogant. He was carrying a stick cut from a vine, and with this he drew a circle round Antiochus and told him he must remain inside this circle until he gave his decision about the contents of the letter. The king was astonished at this authoritative proceeding, but, after a few moments' hesitation, said he would do all that the Romans demanded. Upon this Popilius and his suite all grasped him by the hand and greeted him warmly. The letter ordered him to put an end at once to the war with Ptolemy. So, as a fixed number of days were allowed to him, he led his army back to Syria, deeply hurt and complaining indeed, but yielding to circumstances for the present.

Follow-up Reading

- Errington, R.M. 2008. *A History of the Hellenistic World: 323-30 BC*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. 214-246.
- Austin, M.M. 1986. “Hellenistic Kings, War, and the Economy” *The Classical Quarterly New Series*, Vol. 36, No. 2, pp. 450-466.
- Morgan, M.G. 1990. “The Perils of Schematism: Polybius, Antiochus Epiphanes and the ‘Day of Eleusis’” *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte*, Vol. 39, No. 1, pp. 37-76.