

Chapter 3

The Creation of the Hellenistic Kingdoms

The Wars between Alexander's Successors



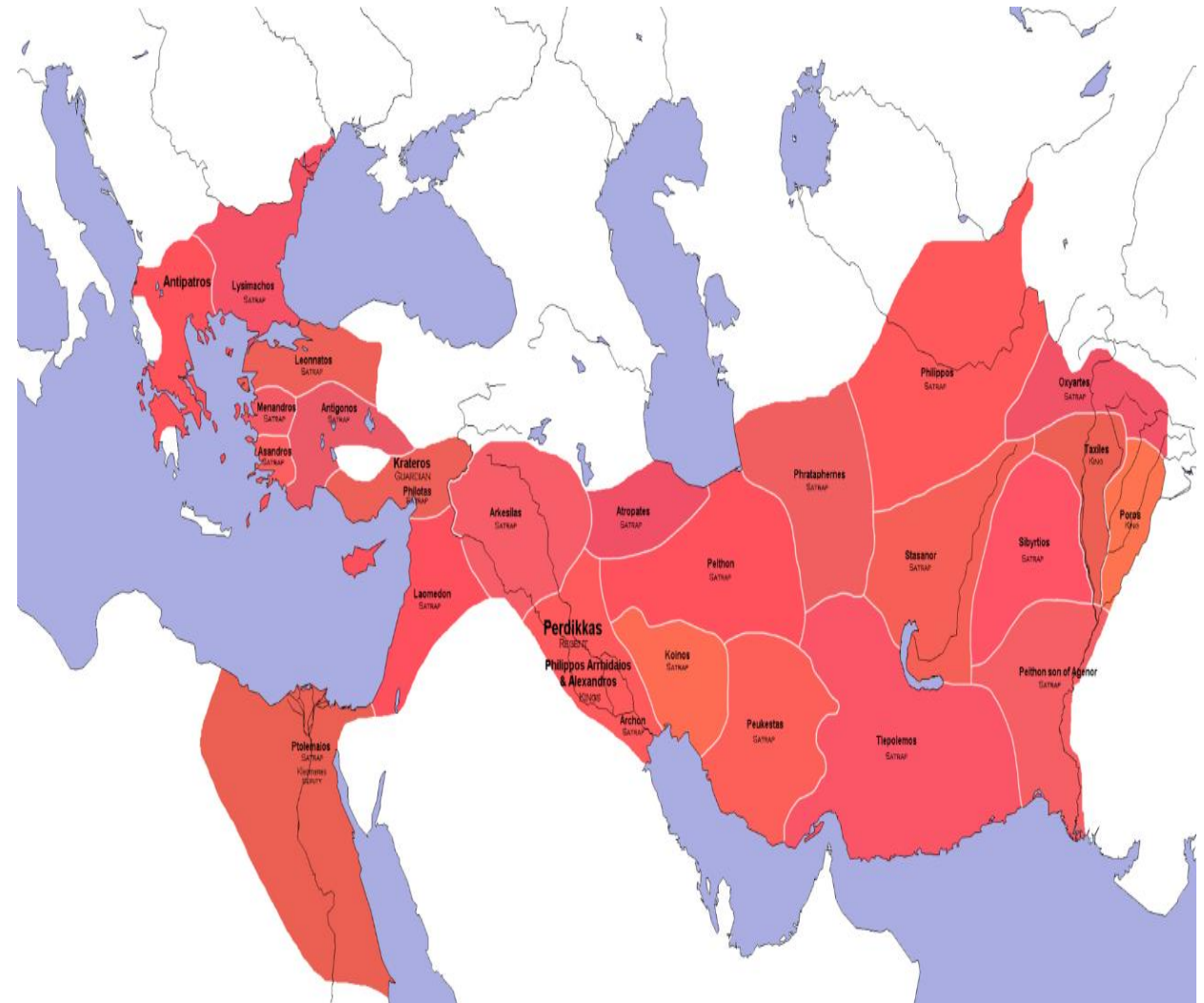
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Alexander to Kleopatra: History of
the Hellenistic period

Giorgos Mitropoulos

The arrangement at Babylon, 323 BC

- Two kings: Philippos-Arrhidaios and Alexander IV
- Perdikkas as supervisor of the kingdom (royal ring and seal)
- Antipater as general of Europe
- Assignment of satrapies
 - ✓ Greater Phrygia to Antigonos the One-Eyed
 - ✓ Thrace to Lysimachos
 - ✓ Egypt to Ptolemy



Challenges

- After Alexander's death the Greek settlers and garrison troops stationed at Bactria mutinied and begun a march back home.
- The mutiny was put down by Python, acting on Perdiccas' order.
- Several Greek cities, headed by Athens (Demosthenes), formed an alliance against Antipater and the Macedonians→ **Lamian War (323-322)**, provoked by discontent over the decree ordering the return of the exiles.
- Greek cities use discharged mercenaries
- Defeat of the Athenian fleet near Amorgos and of the Greek land forces at Crannon (Thessaly)
- The Corinthian League is dissolved. Athenian democracy is destroyed, since property requirements for holding citizenship are imposed, while selection of officials by lot and pay for office are abolished.

The First War of the Successors, 321 BC

- A challenge on Perdiccas' authority provoked by fear for his ambitions (marriage with Alexander's sister Kleopatra).
- Ptolemy steals Alexander's body and Antigonos refuses assisting Eumenes in the conquest of Cappadocia.
- Antipater, Antigonos, Ptolemy and Lysimachos form a coalition against Perdiccas and his lieutenant Eumenes.
- Perdiccas' invasion to Egypt leads to the entrapment of his army in the Nile.
- Perdiccas is assassinated by his own officials (Python and Seleukos).



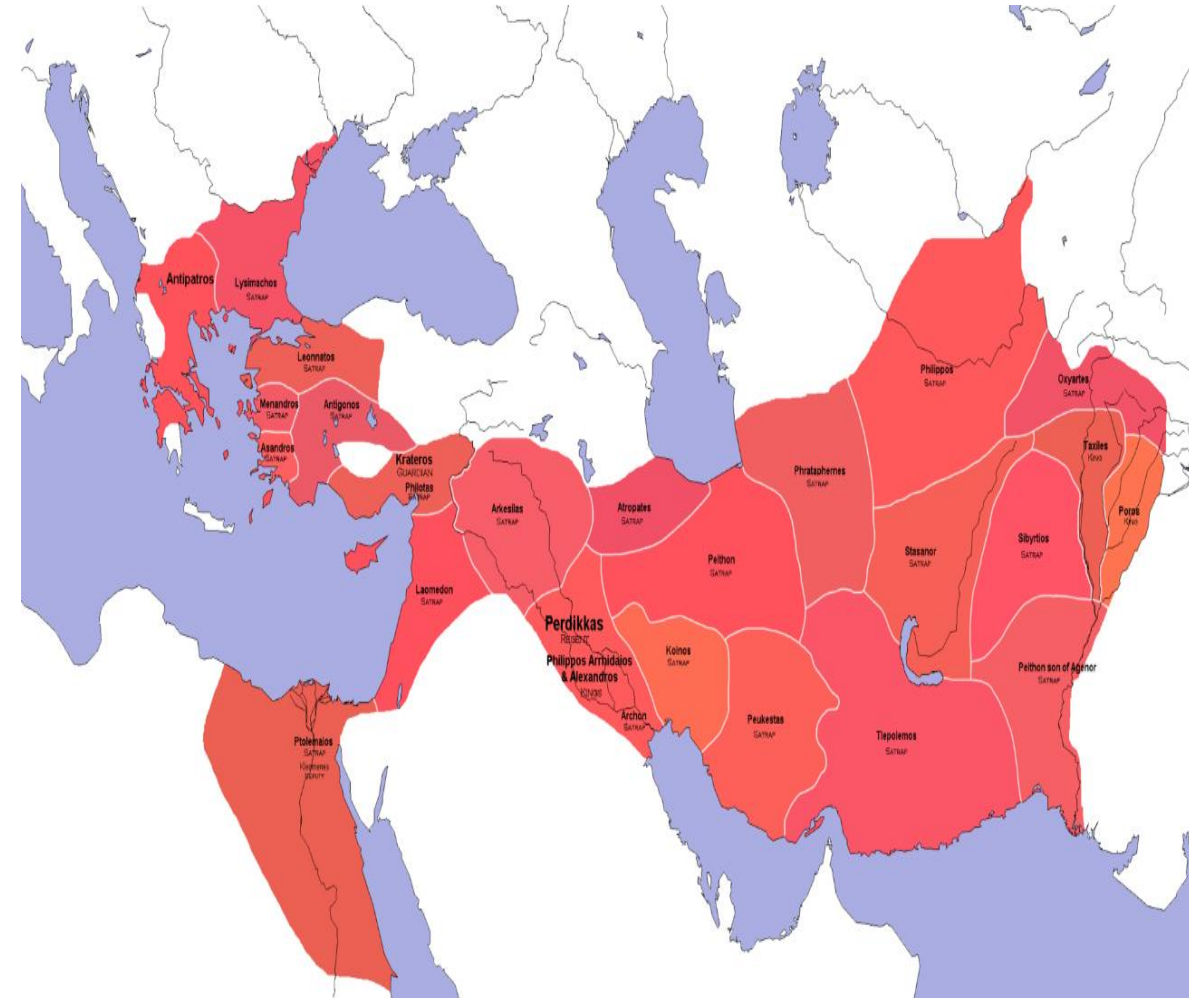
The events at Triparadeisos

(Arrian FGrH 156 F 1 §§34–38)

Antipater in his turn carried out a distribution of provinces in Asia, partly confirming the previous arrangements and partly modifying them when circumstances required. Ptolemy was to control Egypt, Libya and all the expanse of territory beyond it together with any further conquests he made to the west. ... To Seleucus he gave Babylonia. ...; he placed Antigonus as before in charge of Greater Phrygia, Lycaonia, Pamphylia and Lycia... His own son Cassander he made 'chiliarch' of the cavalry. Antigonus he appointed commander of the army previously under the orders of Perdiccas, with the mission of guarding and protecting the kings and also, at Antigonus' own request, of concluding the war against Eumenes. Antipater himself, highly praised by everyone for all his exertions, then returned to Macedon.

The Settlement at Triparadeisos, 319 BC

- Antipater is made supervisor of the kings and takes them back to Macedonia
- Ptolemy and Lysimachos remain in possession of Egypt and Thrace respectively
- Seleukos is given the satrapy of Babylonia
- Antigonos remains in possession of Phrygia
- He takes command of the royal army in Asia in order to continue the war against Eumenes



Antipater's death

(Diodorus 18.48.4-50)

While already on his death-bed, Antipater appointed Polyperchon guardian (*epimeletes*) of the kings and general with full powers His son Cassander he appointed 'chiliarch' and second in authority. ...Cassander, however, was dissatisfied with the arrangement and incensed at the idea that his father's authority should pass to someone who was not related by blood ... At first, he went into the country with his friends, where he had ample opportunity and leisure to converse with them on the subject of supreme command...He also sent messengers in secret to Ptolemy, to renew his friendship with him and invite him to be his ally and send with all haste a navy from Phoenicia to the Hellespont. Similarly, he sent messengers to the other leading men and the Greek cities to urge them to join his side. ... Polyperchon, on his side, assumed the guardianship of the kings and held a meeting of his council with his friends. With their approval he summoned Olympias, inviting her to assume the care (*epimeleia*) of Alexander's son who was still a child, and to take up residence in Macedon with royal authority; ...

... In Asia, as the news of Antipater's death was noised about, revolutionary stirrings began to be felt, as those in positions of authority sought to work for their own ends. Chief among these was Antigonus. He had previously defeated Eumenes in Cappadocia and taken over his army, and he had overcome Alcetas and Attalus in Pisidia and also taken over their armies. In addition, he had been chosen by Antipater general of Asia with full powers, and appointed commander of a large army. ... He was hoping to achieve supreme power and resolved to ignore the kings and their guardians. He reckoned that his superior army would make him master of the treasures in Asia, since there was no one in a position to oppose him. He had at the time 60,000 infantry, 10,000 cavalry and 30 elephants; apart from these he hoped to procure if necessary other armies, since Asia was capable of providing an inexhaustible source of pay for the mercenaries he recruited. ... Antigonus then immediately called a council of his friends, communicated to them his ambitions for supreme power, and assigned satrapies to some of his most prominent followers and military commands to others. He filled them all with great hopes and made them enthusiastic for his own plans. For it was his intention to overrun Asia, expel the existing satraps and organise the appointments in favour of his friends.

The Second War of the Successors (319-315 B.C.)

- Antipater before dying names Polyperchon as supervisor of the Kings.
- Antipater's son Cassander reacts making an alliance with Ptolemy, Lysimachos and Antigonos the One-Eyed (already engaged on an ongoing war with Eumenes).
- Polyperchon sides with Eumenes and recalls Olympias.
- Olympias executes Philippos-Arrhidaaios but is later executed by Cassander who takes control of Macedonia.

Antigonos defeats and executes Eumenes. He expels satraps from Asia replacing them with his own associates. He takes control of royal treasuries (Susa, Persepolis, Ekbatana). Seleukos flees to Egypt.



The Third War of the Successors (315-311 B.C.)

- Ptolemy, Lysimachos and Kassander demand from Antigonos to share with them the royal money.
- Antigonos is also to hand over Syria to Ptolemy, Babylonia to Seleukos, Hellespontine Phrygia to Lysimachos and perhaps Lycia (or Lydia) and Cappadocia to Kassander.
- The ultimatum is rejected.

The Proclamation at Tyre

(Diodorus XIX.61–62.2)

Antigonos ... summoned a general assembly of his troops and of the resident foreigners and accused Cassander, invoking the execution of Olympias and the fate of Roxane and the king. Antigonos added that Cassander had forced Thessalonica to marry him, that he was manifestly seeking to appropriate the throne of Macedon, and also that he had settled the Olynthians, the worst enemies of the Macedonians, in the city he named after himself (Cassandrea) and had restored Thebes which the Macedonians had razed to the ground. As the crowd shared his indignation, he moved a resolution that Cassander should be regarded as an enemy, unless he destroyed the two cities, released from captivity the king and Roxane his mother and restored them to the Macedonians, and in general obeyed Antigonos, the appointed general who had received the supervision of the kingdom. All the Greeks should be free, exempt from garrisons, and autonomous. The soldiers carried the motion and Antigonos dispatched messengers in every direction to announce the resolution. He calculated as follows: the Greeks' hopes for freedom would make them willing allies in the war...

- **Cassander is declared an enemy of the state unless he submits to Antigonos**
- **Greek cities are to be free, autonomous and without garrisons**

The Peace Treaty of 311 BC

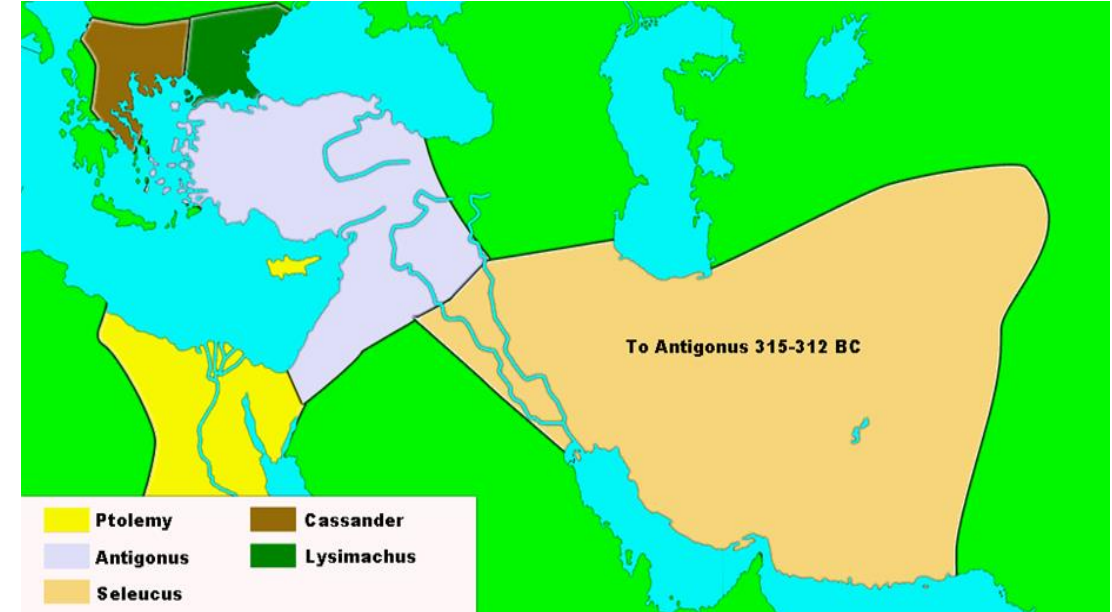
- In 312 BC Ptolemaic forces defeat Antigonos' son Demetrios (the Besieger) at Gaza, successfully confronting an invasion.
- Seleukos returns to Babylonia attempting to regain his satrapy
- A peace is concluded:

Diodorus XIX.105.1–4:

In the archonship of Simonides at Athens (311/10) [. . .] Cassander, Ptolemy and Lysimachos put an end to the war against Antigonos and concluded a treaty. It was specified in it that Cassander should be general of Europe until Alexander, Roxane's son, should come of age, that Lysimachos should be master of Thrace and Ptolemy master of Egypt and the neighbouring cities in Libya and Arabia, that Antigonos should command the whole of Asia, while the Greeks should be autonomous. Nevertheless, they failed to abide by this agreement, and each of them put forward fair pretexts and sought to increase his power...

- terms valid until Alexander IV comes of age.

- Cassander is recognized as general of Europe, Lysimachos remains in Thrace, Ptolemy in Egypt, Antigonos in command of Asia. No mention of Seleukos who nonetheless gains control of Mesopotamia and Iran by 309.



Assassination of Alexander IV and Roxanne by Cassander (Diodorus XIX.105.1–4)

Cassander saw that Roxane's son Alexander was growing up and that there were some who were spreading the word in Macedon that one ought to release the boy from custody and hand over to him his father's kingdom. Afraid for his own safety, he instructed Glaucias, who was in charge of the boy's custody, to assassinate Roxane and the king and conceal their bodies, and not to report the deed to any of the others. Glaucias carried out the orders, and this freed Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and even Antigonus from anticipated fears about the king. For now, that there was no one to take over the empire, those who ruled peoples or cities could each entertain hopes of kingship and controlled henceforward the territory under their power like kingdoms that had been conquered in war.

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καὶ τὴν ὑφ’ ἑαυτὸν τεταγμένην χώραν εἶχεν
ὥσανεὶ τινὰ **βασιλείαν δορίκτητον**



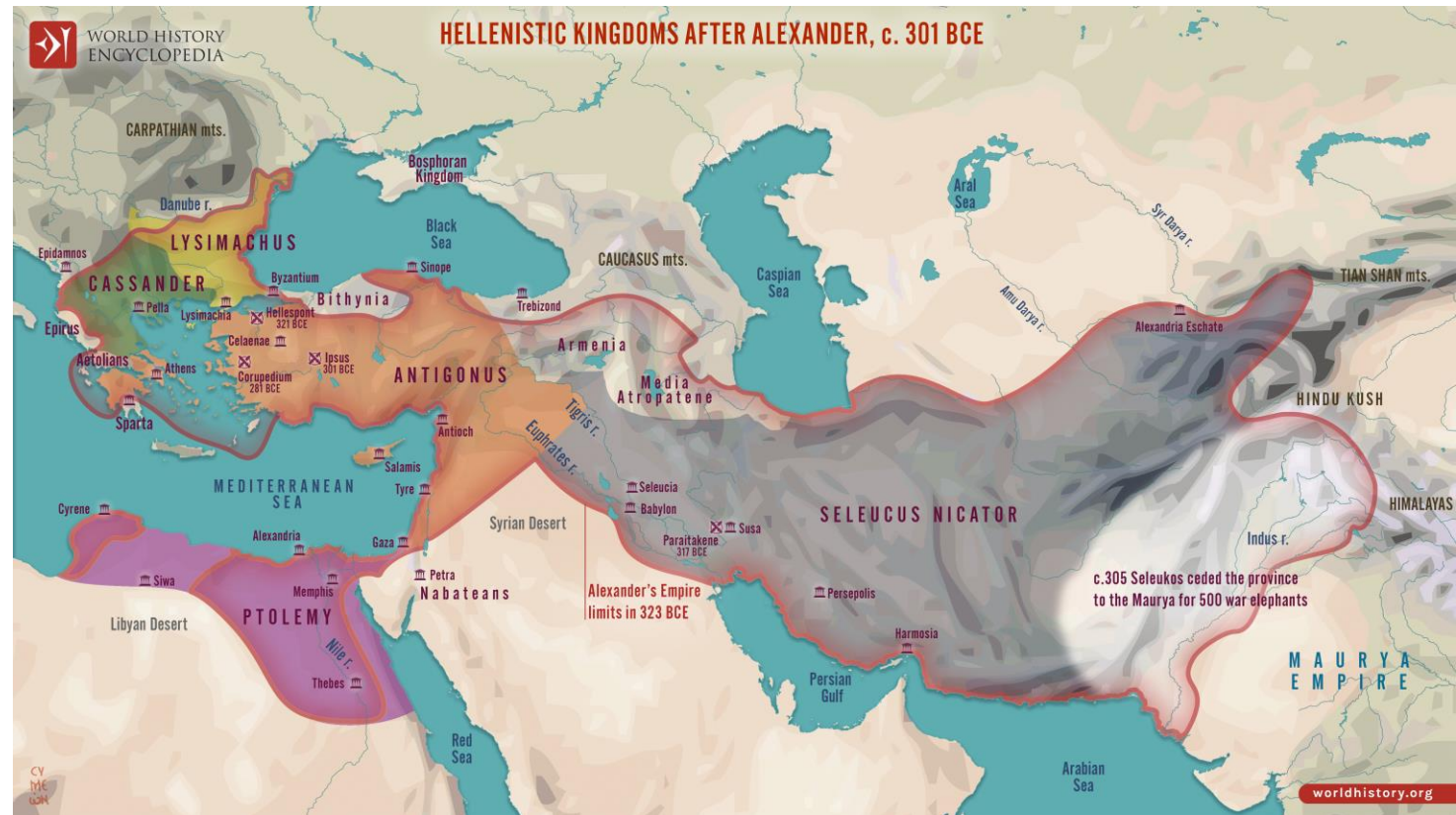
The successors become kings



- 307 B.C.: Demetrios 'liberates' Athens, taking the city away from Demetrios of Phaleron, a friend of Cassander, and restoring its ancestral constitution. Divine honours.
- **306** B.C.: Demetrios crushes the Ptolemaic naval forces off Salamis; Antigonos is proclaimed king and sends the diadem to his son as well.
- Soon the royal title is also assumed by Ptolemy (after confronting another Antigonid invasion), Lysimachos and Cassander.
 - 305/4 B.C.: Demetrios unsuccessfully besieges Rhodes (Ptolemaic ally)
 - 304-302: Demetrios campaigns in Greece against Cassander

The Fourth War of the Successors (307-301 B.C.)

- Coalition between Lysimachos, Seleukos, Cassander and Ptolemy against Antigonos.
- Lysimachos and Seleukos defeat Antigonos at Ipsos.
- Antigonos is killed, Demetrios flees to Central Greece.
- Lysimachos takes Asia Minor west of the Taurus Mountains, Seleukos northern Syria and Cilicia, Ptolemy Palestine and Phoenicia.



Demetrios' short-lived recovery and the rise of Lysimachos

- The death of Kassander in 298/7 causes instability in Macedonia, as his sons struggle against each other for the throne.
- Demetrios seizes the opportunity to take control of Macedonia, where he rules from 294 to 287 B.C.
- Lysimachos and Pyrrhos of Epirus drive him out in 287 B.C. and Demetrios makes a desperate bid for Asia, but is eventually captured by Seleukos.
- In 285 Lysimachos drives Pyrrhos out of Macedonia and thus becomes the ruler of a vast kingdom, including Thessaly, Macedonia, Thrace and Asia Minor.

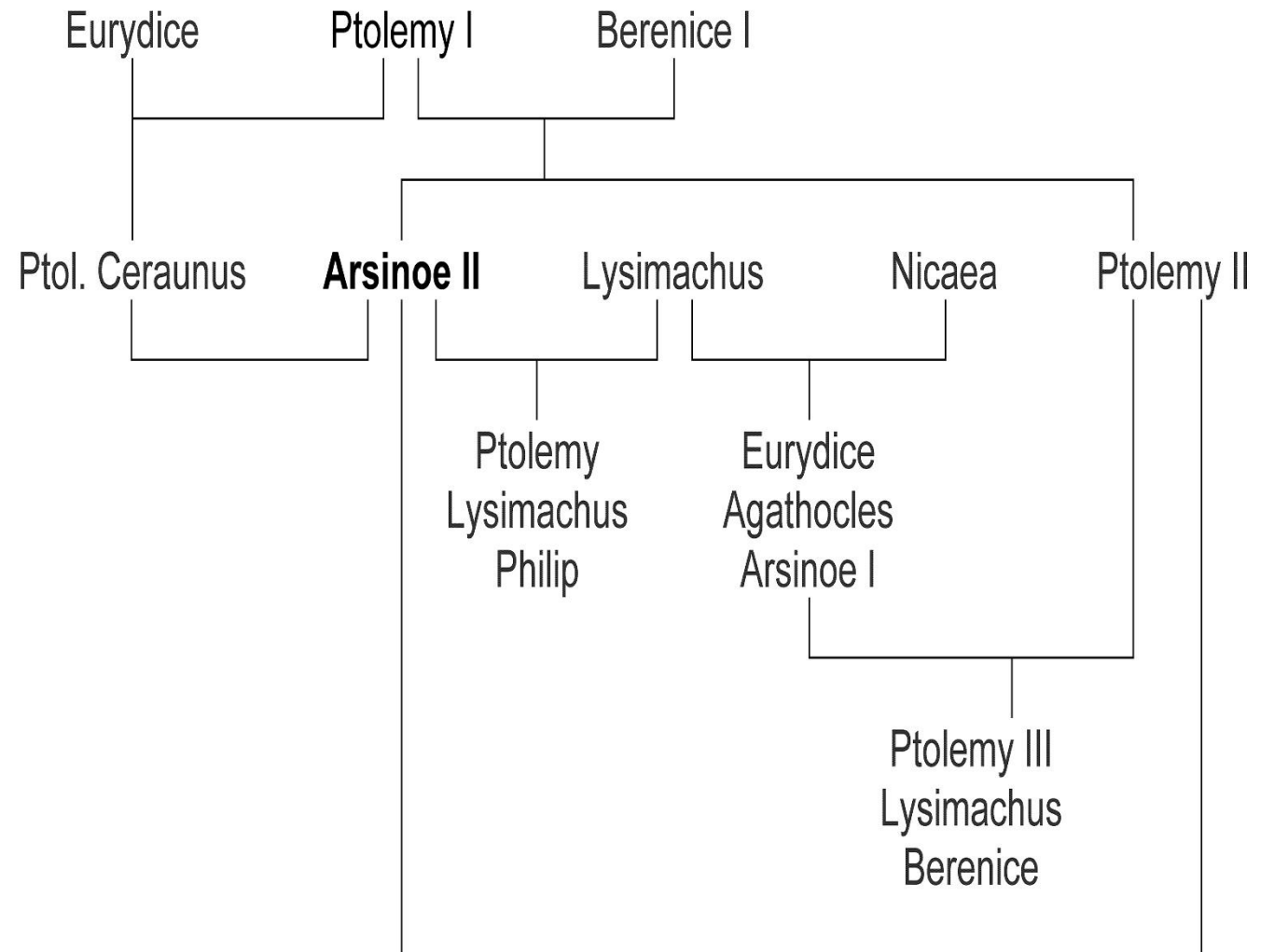
Lysimachos' family tree

Agathokles is the son of Lysimachos by his first wife Nicaea

Arsinoe II is the second wife of Lysimachos. She is the daughter of Ptolemy I by Berenike I and the full sister of Ptolemy II

Ptolemy Ceraunus ('The Thunderbold'), son of Ptolemy I by Eurydice, lives at Lysimachos' court, after Arinoe's II marriage with Lysimachos.

Agathokles is very popular in Lysimachos' kingdom but is assassinated by him (intervention of Arsinoe II ?)



The death of Lysimachos and its aftermath

- **Memnon of Heraclea, FGrH 434 F 11:** By killing his son Lysimachus earned the justified hatred of his subjects. On learning this Seleucus realised that it would be easy to destroy his empire as the cities were revolting from him, and he went to war against him. Lysimachus fell in the war struck by a missile, thrown by a man from Heracleia of the name of Malakon who was serving for Seleucus. With the fall of Lysimachus his empire fell to the share of Seleucus. Seleucus was elated by his successes over Lysimachus and hastened to cross to Macedonia, as he longed for his native country which he had left when he went on the expedition with Alexander. He intended to end his life there, as he was already an old man, and wanted to entrust Asia to his son Antiochus (I). But Ptolemy Ceraunus, at the time that Seleucus made himself master of Lysimachus' power, was in the following of Seleucus, not despised as a prisoner, but enjoying the honour and esteem of a king's son. He prided himself in the promises which Seleucus made to him, that his father would bring him back to rule in Egypt, his fatherly inheritance. But while he was treated with such care, the benefactions he enjoyed did not make his wickedness any better: he plotted against Seleucus, attacked his benefactor and killed him. He mounted a horse and fled to Lysimachea, where he put on a diadem and presented himself before the army with a splendid guard: they were forced to accept him and proclaimed him king, after previously obeying Seleucus.

The Battle of Kouropedion (281 BC)

- Dynastic conflicts in Lysimachos' court bring about an invasion by Seleukos who defeats Lysimachos at **Kouropedion**.
- Lysimachos is killed and his state is dissolved.
- Seleukos takes control of Asia Minor and proceeds to Macedonia to be proclaimed king there. However, he is assassinated by **Ptolemy the Thunderbolt** who becomes king in Macedonia.

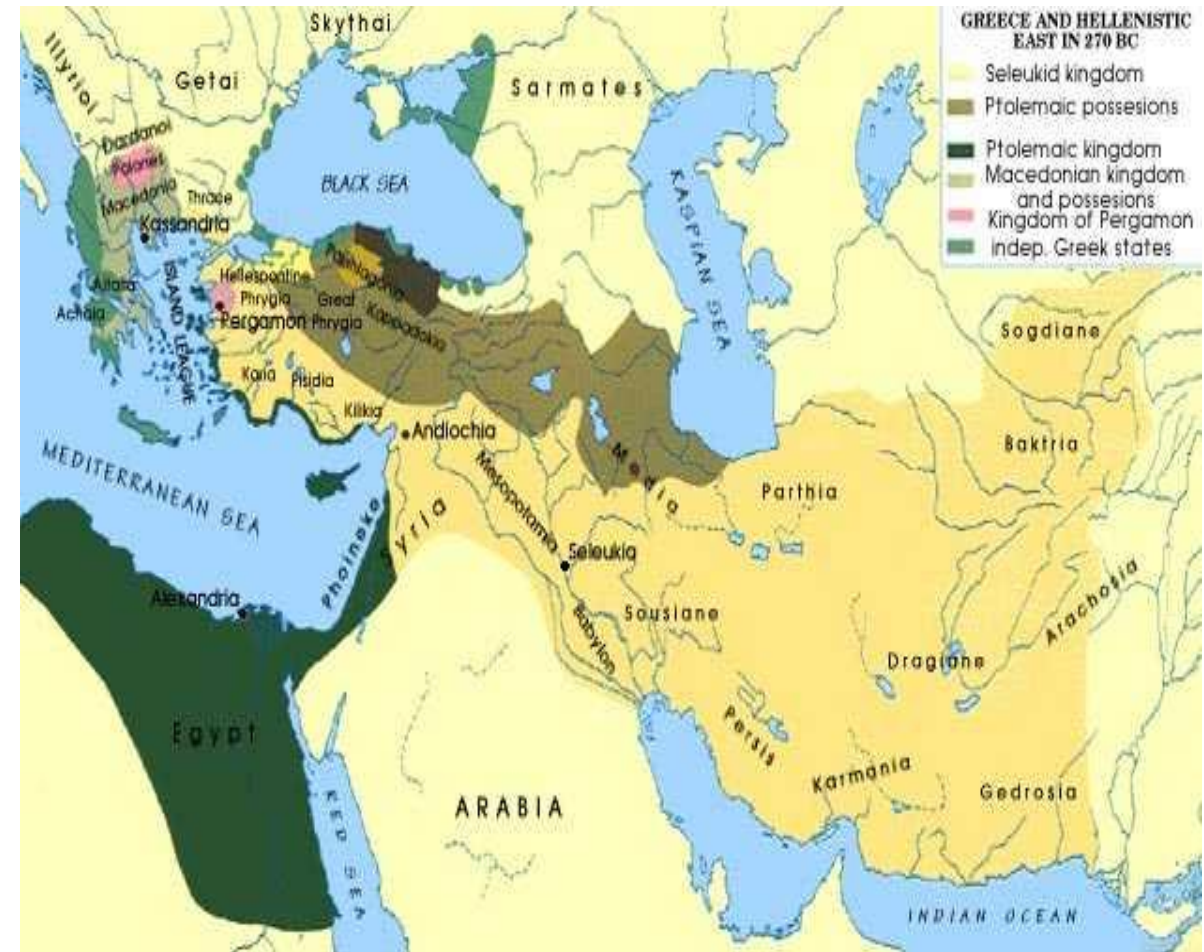


The Gallic invasion, the Battle of Lysimacheia and Antigonos Gonatas

- The Gallic invasion causes turmoil in Macedonia (279 BC)
- Death of Ptolemy the Thunderbolt: Macedonia without a king
- The Galatians are defeated by a coalition of Southern Greeks (Boiotians, Phokians, Lokrians, Athenians, Megarians, Aitolians).
- Antigonos Gonatas defeats the Galatians at Lysimacheia (276 BC) and he is proclaimed king of Macedonia.
- His rule is briefly challenged by Pyrrhos of Epirus who temporarily takes control of western and central Macedonia but is eventually driven out.

The crystallization of the Hellenistic political geography: the kingdoms

- **The Antigonids** rule over Macedonia, Thessaly and several cities of southern Greece: Corinth, Chalcis, Demetrias ('the Fetters of Greece') and Piraeus.
- **The Seleukids** rule over Iran, Mesopotamia, Northern Syria, and a great part of inland Asia Minor together with several Greek cities at the coast.
- Independent principality of Pergamon (Attalids).
- **The Ptolemies** rule over Egypt, Cyrenaica, Palestine, Phoenicia, Koele Syria and several coastal cities of Southern and Western Asia Minor.



Independent cities and Leagues (*Koina*) in Greece

- In Southern Greece and in the Aegean several cities preserve their independence (Sparta, Athens, Rhodes, Byzantium, Chios).
- Federal States (*Koina*), based on a mixture of direct democracy and proportional representation, function as a means of bringing together cities and their resources against the Macedonians.
- By 280 the Aetolian League controls much of Central Greece (Aitolia proper, Naupaktos and West Lokris, Mount Parnassos and Delphi).
- Successful in driving out the Galatians raiders (280/279 BC), the Aitolian *koinon* witnesses a spectacular development.

- Around 280 the Achaian League is also (re)formed in the north of the Peloponnese, initially comprising four cities in western Achaia (Dyme, Patra, Tritaia, Pherai); by 272 the Achaian *Koinon* comprises all of Achaea.



The Aitolian *Koinon*

- Aitolians: an ethnic group living in scattered villages and subdivided in three tribes with an annual federal meeting held in the sanctuary of Apollo at Thermos
- Aitolian expansion in the 3rd century BCE: incorporation and admission into the Aitolian political community of non-Aitolian cities and communities in central Greece.
- **Federal institutions:**
 - General assembly of all the citizens of the *Koinon*'s constituent communities held twice a year
 - Large federal council of representatives of the constituent communities at permanent session; a smaller board of *apokletoi* works with the federal magistrates
 - An annual *strategos* (general) in charge of the state; other federal magistrates are the treasurer, the hipparch (cavalry commander), the secretary



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The Achaean *Koinon*: Federal institutions

- Common weights, measures and coins
- federal boards of magistrates
 - *strategos* at the head of the state
 - Board of 10 *demiourgoi* advising the *strategos*
 - *hipparchos* (in charge of the cavalry), *nauarchos* (in charge of the fleet), secretary
- federal council of representatives of the constituent cities
- federal assembly
- principle of proportional representation (*poleis* represented in proportion to their population/military manpower)