A detailed marble relief sculpture depicting Alexander the Great on horseback, slaying a Persian warrior. Alexander is shown in a dynamic pose, leaning forward with his right arm raised, holding a spear. The horse is rearing up, and the Persian warrior is falling beneath its hooves. The sculpture is set within a rectangular frame.

Chapter 5 Interstate Relations and Wars in the 3rd Century

BAAG 75602

Alexander to Kleopatra:

History of the Hellenistic period

Giorgos Mitropoulos

Polybius on Ptolemaic foreign policy (Pol. V. 34)



After his father's death, Ptolemy (IV) ... showed himself indifferent and frivolous towards those in charge of foreign affairs, though his predecessors had devoted not less but more care to them than to their rule in Egypt itself. For they threatened the kings of Syria (i.e. the Seleucids) by land and by sea, as they were masters of Coele Syria and Cyprus; their sphere of control included the dynasts in Asia and also the islands, as they were masters of the most important cities, strongholds and harbours along the whole coast from Pamphylia to the Hellespont and the region of Lysimacheia. They kept a watch on affairs in Thrace and Macedonia through their control of Aenus and Maroneia and of even more distant cities. In this way, having extended their reach so far and having shielded themselves at a great distance with these possessions, they never worried about their rule in Egypt. That was why they rightly devoted much attention to foreign affairs.

Interstate Conflicts

- The Ptolemies against the Seleucids in Syria and Asia Minor (Syrian Wars)
- The Ptolemies against the Antigonids in the Aegean Sea and mainland Greece
- Independent Greek cities with hegemonic ambitions (Sparta, Athens) and the Aitolian and the Achaean Leagues oppose Antigonid Macedonia
- Ptolemaic support to Sparta, Athens, Achaean League.



Interstate Conflicts

- **1st Syrian War (274-271):** Ptolemy II successfully faces an attack by Magas of Cyrenaica and Antiochos I
- **Chremonideian War (268-263):** Athens, Sparta and other Greek cities with Ptolemaic support are defeated by Antigonos Gonatas
- **2nd Syrian War (260-253):** Initially successful in coastal Asia Minor against the Seleucids Ptolemy II is defeated by the alarmed Rhodians and the Macedonians at sea.
- Antiochos II marries Berenike, the daughter of Ptolemy II

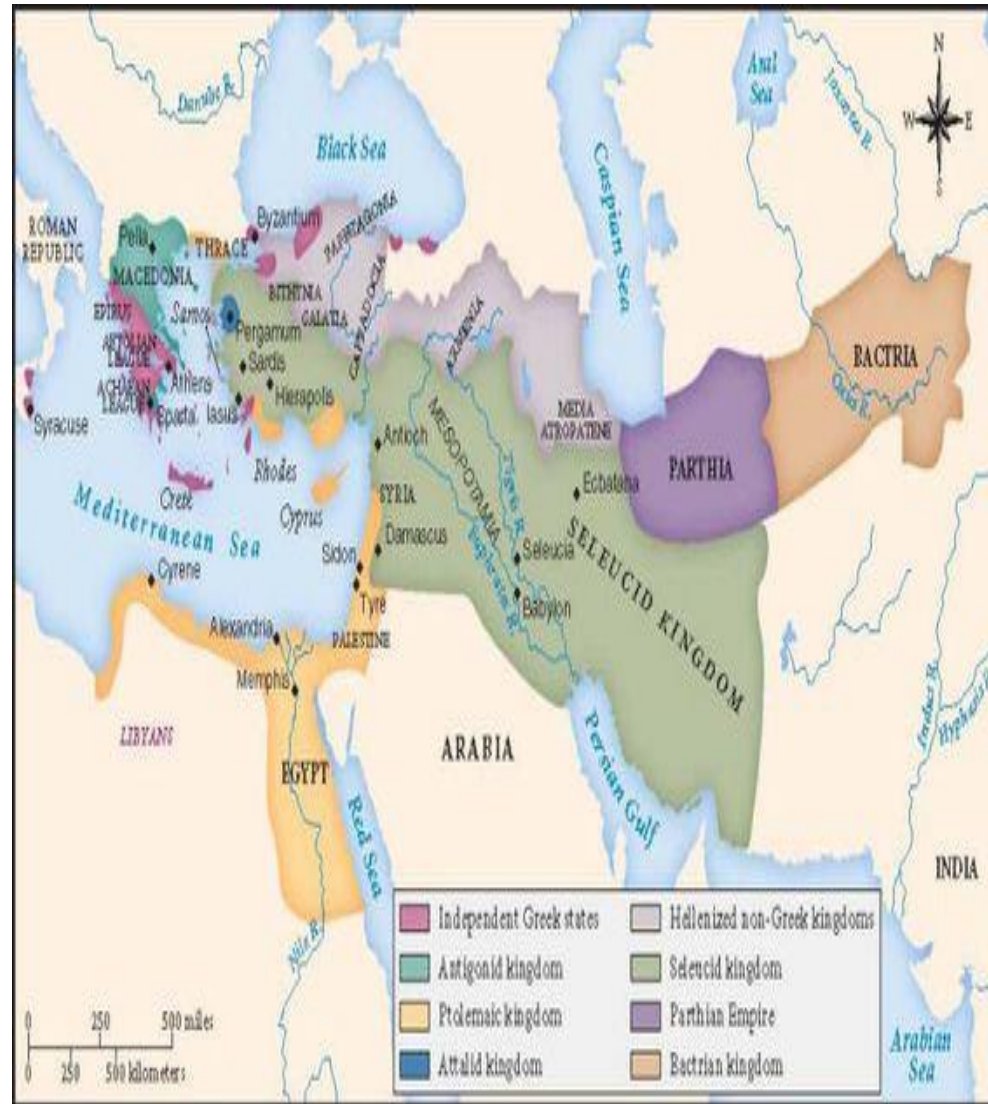


The decree of Chremonides (*Syll.*³ 434–5)

Chremonides son of Eteocles of Aethalidae moved: since previously the Athenians, the Lacedaemonians, and their respective allies after establishing a common friendship and alliance with each other have fought together many glorious battles against those who sought to enslave the cities, which won them fame and brought freedom to the other Greeks; and now, when similar circumstances have afflicted the whole of Greece because of [those] who seek to subvert the laws and ancestral constitutions of each city, and King Ptolemy following the policy of his ancestor and of his sister conspicuously shows his zeal for the common freedom of the Greeks; and the people of Athens having made an alliance with him and the other Greeks has passed a decree to invite (all) to follow the same policy; and likewise the Lacedaemonians, who are friends and allies of King Ptolemy, have voted to make an alliance with the people of Athens, together with the Eleans, Achaeans, Tegeates, Mantineans, Orchomenians, [Phigaleans,] Caphyceans, all the Cretans who are in [alliance] with the Lacedaemonians and Areus and the other allies, ... so that, now that a common harmony (*homonoia*) has been established between the Greeks against those who are presently flouting justice and breaking the treaties with the cities, they may prove eager combatants with King Ptolemy and with each other and in future may preserve harmony and save the cities...

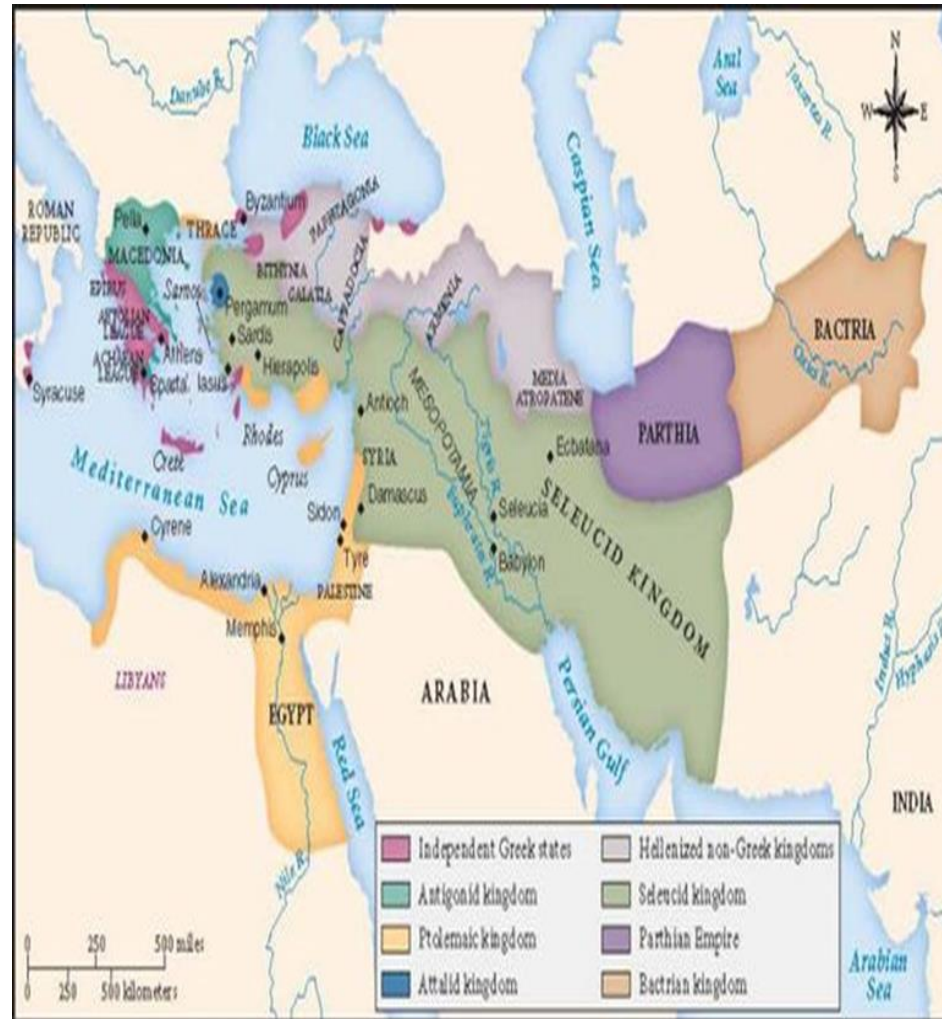
The Third Syrian War, 246-241

- Death of Ptolemy II and Antiochos II in 246
- Opposing heirs: children of Laodike (Seleukos II and Antiochos Hierax) and of Berenike.
- Ptolemy III invades Syria, Seleukos II king in Asia Minor
- Ptolemy III controls Syria and Mesopotamia but is forced to return to Egypt.
- Revolts in Alexandria, troubles in Cyrenaica in connection with Magas' death and the fate of his realm.
- The Antigonid Demetrios the Handsome plans to marry Magas' daughter Berenike



The end of the Third Syrian War

- Ptolemy III marries Berenike, daughter of Apama and Magas and controls Cyrenaica
- Naval defeat of Ptolemy III at Andros by Antigonos Gonatas.
- Seleukos II gains control of Syria and Mesopotamia
- End of the War: Ptolemaic gains in Samos, Ionia, Thrace, Seleukeia.

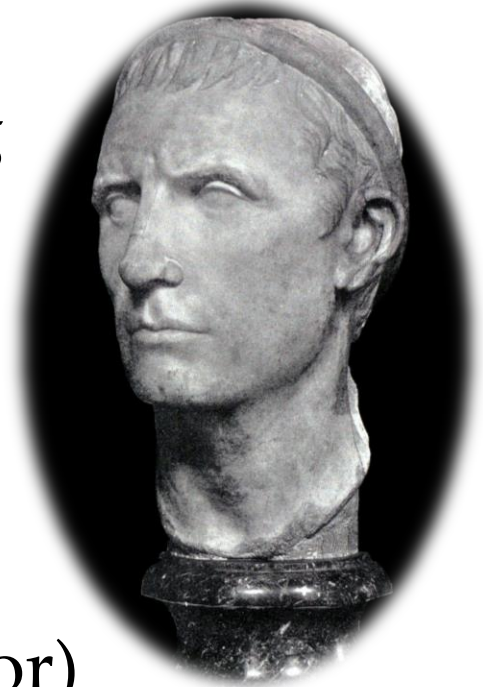


After the Third Syrian War

- Moderate foreign policy of Ptolemy III (no interventions)
- Seleukid Weakness
- Antiochos Hierax independent king in Asia Minor in 238 or 235
- Attalos of Pergamon drives out Hierax in 229 and rules over former Seleucid Asia Minor
- The Seleukids lose Eastern Iran to the Parthians. Bactria becomes an independent kingdom ruled by a Greek dynasty

Antiochos III: The first years

- Antiochos III (223 B.C.) aims at restoring the Seleukid kingdom in its former power.
- On his behalf Achaïos gains Asia Minor
- In 221 Antiochos suppresses Molon's revolt in Mesopotamia
- In 220 Achaïos revolts (king in Asia Minor)
- But Antiochos turns against young Ptolemy IV (Ptolemy's advisers: Sosibios and Agathokles)



The Fourth Syrian War, 219-217 BC

- Antiochos III invades Phoenicia and Palestine
- Theodotos, the Ptolemaic commander in Coele-Syria, sides with Antiochos.
- Sosibios and Agathokles recruit Egyptian soldiers.
- Ptolemaic Victory at Raphia 217.
- End of the War: Antiochos keeps Seleukeia.



Preparations for the *Anabasis* – Partial Control of Asia Minor

- In 213 Antiochos III seized Sardeis and executed the rebel Achaïos.
- However, this was not a full restoration of Seleukid control in Asia Minor.
- Antiochos had to recognize the Attalid possessions in North Western Asia Minor and the Ptolemaic possessions in the southern and the western coast of Asia Minor.



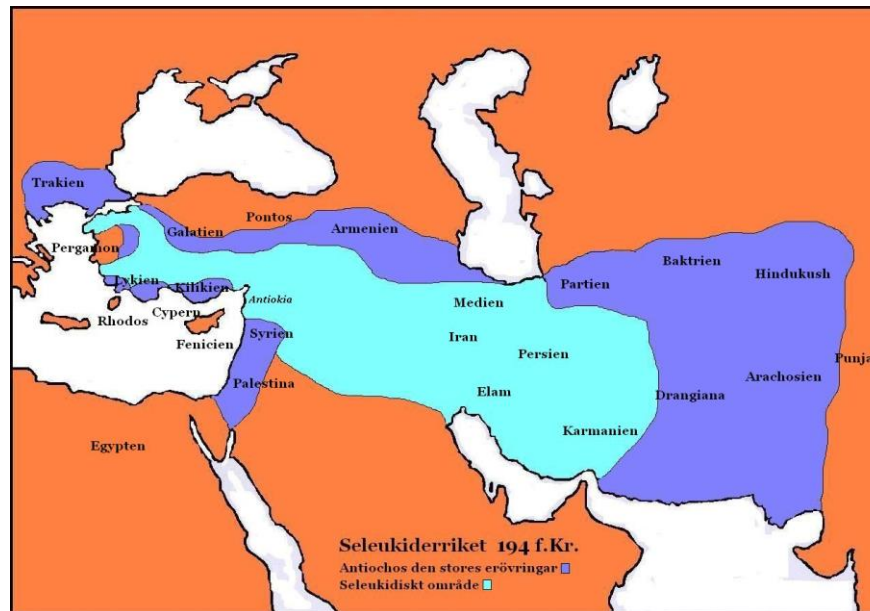
The *Anabasis* (212-205 BC)

- Attempt to restore Seleukid power in Eastern Iran.
- Seleukid control was exercised only in Media, Elymais and perhaps Persis.
- Antiochos turned initially to Armenia, formerly obliged to pay tribute to the Seleukids, and re-imposed this tribute to king Xerxes.
- Antiochos then moved against the Parthians and after some military successes he concluded a treaty with king Arsakes II (Arsakids) on unattested terms (payment of tribute? supply of troops?).



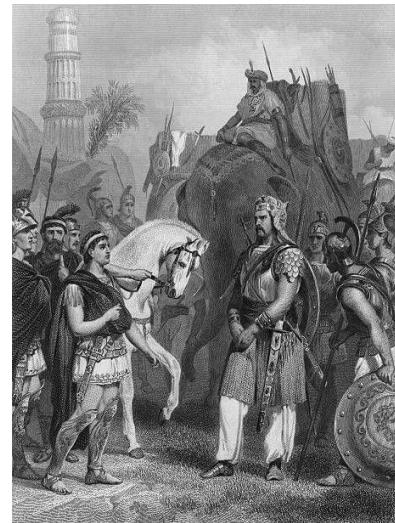
The *Anabasis* (212-205 BC)

- In 208 B.C. Antiochos campaigned in Baktria, defeated king Euthydemos but did not manage to seize Baktra, his capital.
- A treaty concluded in 206 B.C. recognized the royal title and power of Euthydemos who gave to Antiochos war elephants.



The *Anabasis* (212-205 BC)

- A similar treaty was later concluded between Antiochos III and the Indian ruler Sophagasenus, the latter supplying to Antiochos money and elephants.
- Antiochos III had no choice but to proceed to a rather diplomatic solution of the problem concerning his relations with the various independent rulers of Eastern Iran:
- He recognized the power of these kings and the latter were obliged to nominally recognize Antiochos III as their overlord.



Affairs in Greece: Antigonid retreat from the Peloponnese

- Between 251 and 243 BC the Achaean League, under the leadership of Aratos of Sikyon incorporates several non-Achaean cities of the Northern Peloponnese (Sikyon, Corinth, Troezen, Epidaurus), by expelling Antigonid garrisons or local pro-Macedonian regimes.



War of Demetrius II in Greece

- Antigonos Gonatas dies in 239 BC. The Achaeans and the Aitolians form an alliance against his son and successor Demetrius II
- Aitolian territorial gains in Central Greece and Thessaly and Achaean gains in the Peloponnese (Megalopolis, Arcadia, Argos, Megara)
- Independence of Athens (229 BC)



The Antigoniid comeback



- In the Peloponnese, Spartan expansionism (reaction to Achaean enlargement) under the reformer king Cleomenes III threatens the Achaean League (War of Cleomenes: 228-222 BC)
- Achaean appeal to Antigonos Doson (Megalopolitan approaches from 227, formal appeal in 224)
- Defeat of Cleomenes at Sellasia, 222 BC
- Antigoniid control of Corinth.



The Social War



- Several leagues (Achaean, Boiotians, Acarnanians and Epeirotes) participate in an alliance under the leadership of the Macedonian King (Antigonos Doson and later Philip V)
- 220-217: **Social War: Macedonia and its allies** against the Aetolians and their allies (Sparta, Elis, Messene)
- war concluded with the treaty of Naupactus (the Aetolians suffer territorial losses in Central Greece)

