

Chapter 8

The Attalids

BAAG 75602
Alexander to Kleopatra:
History of the Hellenistic period
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Philetairos

- Son of Attalos and Boa from Teium.
- Appointed by Lysimachos as treasurer at Pergamon.
- Sides with Seleukos in 281.
- After Kouropedion remains treasurer at Pergamon.
- Surrenders the body of Seleukos to Antiochos I.





Philetairos (281-262)

- Nominal recognition of Antiochos I' authority
- *De facto* independent ruler of Pergamon and its surrounding rural area
- Possession of 9.000 talents and a mercenary army
- Benefactions towards Greek cities
- Careful steps towards independence (coins with Seleukos' head)

Eumenes I (262-241)

- Nephew and heir of Philetairos
- Successfully faces attack of Antiochos I (262)
- Formal independence (coins with Philetairos' head)
- Expansion in the Troad, the sources of Kaikos, coastal cities of Aiolis (Elaia, Gryneion)
- Annual payments to the Galatians
- Military settlements (Attaleia, Philetaireia)



Attalos I (241-197)

- Nephew and heir of Eumenes, proclaims himself king after defeating the Galatians.
- Long war with Antiochus Hierax leads to Attalid control over much of Seleucid Asia Minor between 227 and 222.
- Royal propaganda presents him as champion of Hellenism.
- Retreat to original possessions after Achaïos' counter-attack (220: Pergamon, Smyrna, cities in Troad).





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Attalos I (241-197)



- Sides with Antiochos III against the rebel Achaïos and controls much of NW Asia Minor (218)
- Cultivates good relations with Rome as a counterbalance to the Antigonids, Bithynians and Seleucids (204: Great Mother's sacred stone to Rome)
- Sides with Rome in the 1st and 2nd Macedonian Wars (Aegean ambitions, Aigina)

Eumenes II (197-158)

- Son of Attalos I inherits a kingdom under threat from Antiochos III' expansionism.
- Encourages Rome to go to war and provides military, diplomatic and financial support.
- After the treaty of Apameia he takes the greatest part of Seleucid Asia Minor to the Taurus.
- Main factor in the balance of powers in Asia Minor.



The Attalid Kingdom after the Treaty of Apameia



Eumenes II: Administration

- Seleucid patterns in the administration.
- *Epi ton pragmaton*, regional *strategoi* over territorial districts, *epi tes poleos* as supervisors of cities.
- Local state officials drawn not from the court but from the local elites.





Eumenes II: Propaganda

- Extension of the sanctuary of Athena Nikephoros at Pergamon
- *Nikephoria* in 181
- Great altar of Zeus with depiction of Gigantomachy
- Sponsoring of buildings in Athens and Delphi (*stoai* of Eumenes and Attalos)









Alkyoneos

Athena

Nike

Ge






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Attalid propaganda

- Idealized image of Philetairos 
- Promotion of the mythical figure of Telephos, son of Hercules and ruler of Mysia (link with Argead Macedonia) 
- Promotion of Pergamos, son of Andromache and Neoptolemos, descendant of Achilles (link with Alexander the Great) 
- Dynastic unity and concordance

Eumenes II's foreign policy

- The most important Asia Minor power
- Initiatives without consulting Rome
- Involvement in Seleucid dynastic rivalries
- Standard enmity towards the Antigonids
- Plays a vital part in the Roman decision to initiate the 3rd Macedonian War



Eumenes II's estrangement with Rome

- After the 3rd Mac. War, Rome no longer needs Eumenes
- His ambitions and initiatives raise suspicions
- Rome humiliates Eumenes by denying audience
- A Galatian revolt is put down by Eumenes but a Roman *senatus consultum* declares the Galatians free in 166
- Eumenes does not wholly resign from Galatia (repeated complaints by Prusias II)

Attalos II (158-138)



- Brother of Eumenes II (Philadelphos).
- Improvement of relations with Rome, moderate policy but not wholly dependent on Rome.
- Wars against Prusias II (159-153) at the head of a coalition of Asia Minor powers (Cappadocia, Pontus) with Roman diplomatic support.
- Involvement in dynastic rivalries in Bithynia and Cappadocia (pro-Attalid Kings).
- At the end of his reign good relations with Rome, Bithynia, Cappadocia.

Attalos III (138-133)

- Negative image in the ancient tradition.
- Murder of relatives and royal advisors, neglect of administration, interest in pharmacology, botany and zoology.
- He bequests his kingdom to Rome.

