

# Lifelong Learning Collaborative

## Spring 2024

Fridays from 1:00 to 3:00, starting March 22 on Zoom

## The History and Culture of Ancient Persia

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### Administrative Divisions of The Achaemenid Empire, 490 BCE

<https://www.the-persians.co.uk/largemap.htm>

In this course we will survey the history and culture of ancient Persia – from prehistory to the arrival of Alexander the Great as its conqueror. We'll consider how Persia came to be as a nation, what were its accomplishments and culture, and why ancient Persia was so important in Western history.

Class members are strongly encouraged to look beyond the “Essential Reading” and bring insights and ideas that you find in other sources. Presentations should be at least somewhat related to the topic of the hour. A list of possible presentation topics appears at the end of this syllabus

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## **Class 1                      The Making of Iran**

All references to chapter numbers below pertain to Llewellyn-Jones's *Persians: The Age of the Great Kings*, except where otherwise noted.

### **Essential Reading or Viewing:**

*Prologue, Introduction  
And Chapter 1:            The Medes and the Persians*  
Llewellyn-Jones

Wikipedia: *Prehistory of Iran*                      4 pp  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistory\\_of\\_Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistory_of_Iran)

**Topic(s) for the First Hour: Course Goals, Presentations**

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour:            Prehistory: Aryans, Medes, Elamites et al**

### **Optional reading and viewing:**

*History of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, Part I (550-486 BC; Cyrus the Great - Darius the Great).*                      75 minutes  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzIVddeWfR4>  
A very good, concise history of early Persia from prehistory to the death of Darius I.  
Worth watching!

Wikipedia: *Achaemenid Empire*  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid\\_Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire)

## **Class 2 –                      Why Cyrus Was Great**

### **Essential Reading or Viewing:**

**Chapters 2 and 3**  
**See, the Conqu'ring Hero Comes**  
**The Many Deaths - and Births - of Cyrus the Great**  
Llewellyn-Jones

*Cyrus the Great: Building the First Superpower*                      51 minutes  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/empire/id1639561921?i=1000634716046>  
This fascinating podcast features Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones discussing Cyrus with the great historian of India, William Dalrymple. Don't miss it!

**Topic(s) for the First Hour:                      The Career and Accomplishments of Cyrus**

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour:**        **Cyrus, Human Rights and the Bible**

**Optional reading and viewing:**

*The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: Charting a New Empire. 59 minutes*

The Met Museum

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2013/cyrus-cylinder>

This website provides extensive discussion of the cylinder and its significance. A one-hour YouTube podcast lecture is included.

*The Text of the Cyrus Cylinder*

*Translated by Hanspeter Schaudig*

[https://www.academia.edu/38436868/\\_The\\_Text\\_of\\_the\\_Cyrus\\_Cylinder\\_in\\_M\\_Rahim\\_Shayegan\\_ed\\_Cyrus\\_the\\_Great\\_Life\\_and\\_Lore\\_Ilex\\_Series\\_21\\_Harvard\\_University\\_Press\\_2019\\_pp\\_16\\_25?auto=download&email\\_work\\_card=download-paper](https://www.academia.edu/38436868/_The_Text_of_the_Cyrus_Cylinder_in_M_Rahim_Shayegan_ed_Cyrus_the_Great_Life_and_Lore_Ilex_Series_21_Harvard_University_Press_2019_pp_16_25?auto=download&email_work_card=download-paper)

**Wikipedia: Cyrus the Great**

*15 pp*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus\\_the\\_Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_the_Great)

**Wikipedia: Cyrus the Great in the Bible**

*4 pp*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus\\_the\\_Great\\_in\\_the\\_Bible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_the_Great_in_the_Bible)

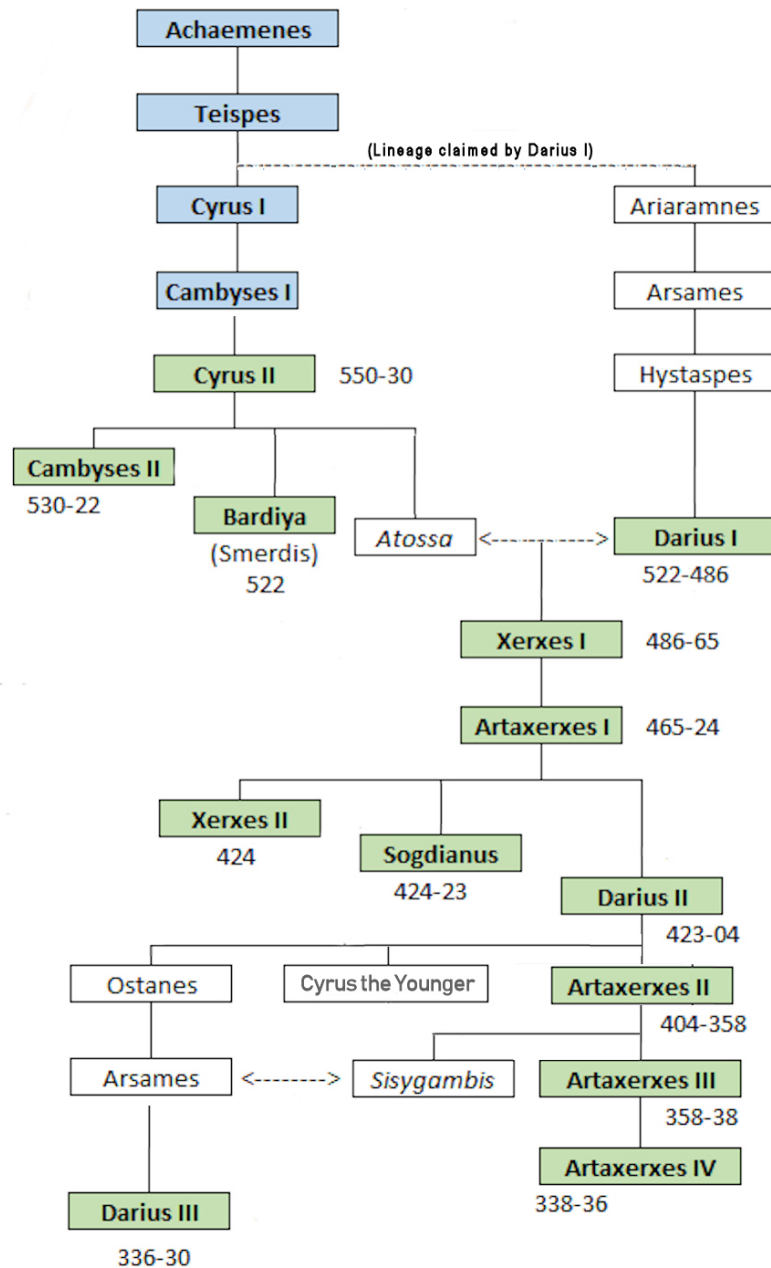
Especially worth reading is Footnote No. 11 of this article, which includes a long passage praising Cyrus, from the writings of Josephus

## Cambyse, Bardiya and Darius

**Chapters 4,5,13,14** **57 pp**  
**The Sceptre of Egypt**  
**The Truth and the Lie**  
**Exit Darius**  
**Ruling over Heroes**  
**Llewellyn-Jones**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/empire/id1639561921?i=1000634983424>

## Achaemenid Family Tree 220 years, 13 Kings



There is debate as to whether Darius I falsified his ancestry to justify his right to the kingship. (Spoiler: He apparently did!)

**Class 4**

**Persian Society and Government**

**Essential Reading or Viewing:**

**Chapters 6-11** **75 pp**  
**When Bureaucrats Ruled the World**  
**A Court under Canvas**  
**Constructing Majesty**  
**Slavery by Another Name**  
**Crowns and Concubines**  
**The Politics of Etiquette**  
**Llewellyn-Jones**

**Topic(s) for the First Hour:** **Governmental Accomplishments**

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour:** **Satrap, Slaves, Eunuchs, Oh My!**

**Optional reading and viewing:**

*King and Court in Ancient Persia 559 to 331 bce*  
*by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones*  
<https://ia903207.us.archive.org/35/items/KingCourtInAncientPersia/King%20%26%20Court%20In%20Ancient%20Persia.pdf>

See especially:

*Chapter 3 The Great King in His Empire: The Movable Court*

*Ancient Persian Government* **15 pp**  
*by Joshua J. Mark*  
**World History Encyclopedia**  
[https://www.worldhistory.org/Persian\\_Government/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Persian_Government/)

*The Administration Of The Achaemenid Empire* **58 pp**  
*By Christopher Tuplin*  
[https://www.academia.edu/4251207/The\\_administration\\_of\\_the\\_Achaemenid\\_Empire](https://www.academia.edu/4251207/The_administration_of_the_Achaemenid_Empire)

*Satrap* **3 pp**  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satrap>

*Eunuchs* **2 pp**  
<https://iranicaonline.org/articles/eunuchs>

*Bureaucracy in the Achaemenid Empire: Learning from the Past* **10 pp**  
*by Haleh Brooks*  
**World History Encyclopedia**  
<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/767/bureaucracy-in-the-achaemenid-empire-learning-from/>

**Slavery in Ancient Persia: see**

***BARDA And BARDA-DĀRI I. Achaemenid Period***

<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/barda-i>

This article says slavery in its usual meaning was not generally practiced in Persia, but the truth is complicated/

***Herodotus: On The Customs of the Persians***

**10 pp**

<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/149/herodotus-on-the-customs-of-the-persians/>

## **Class 5**

## **The Achaemenid Royal Family**

### **Essential Reading or Viewing:**

***Chapters 18, 19, 20***

**(Un)Happy Families**

**Blood Brothers**

**Women Beware Women**

**Llewellyn-Jones**

**Topic(s) for the First Hour:           Patricide and Fratricide**

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour:       The Roles of Royal Women**

### **Optional reading and viewing:**

***King and Court in Ancient Persia 559 to 331 bce***

**by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones**

<https://ia903207.us.archive.org/35/items/KingCourtInAncientPersia/King%20%26%20Court%20In%20Ancient%20Persia.pdf>

**See especially: Chapter 4 Harem: Royal Women and the Court**

***Families, Officialdom, and Families of Royal Officials in Chaldean and Achaemenid Babylonia***  
**8 pp**

**By M. Jursa**

[https://www.academia.edu/10537184/Families\\_Officialdom\\_and\\_Families\\_of\\_Royal\\_Officials\\_in\\_Chaldean\\_and\\_Achaemenid\\_Babylonia](https://www.academia.edu/10537184/Families_Officialdom_and_Families_of_Royal_Officials_in_Chaldean_and_Achaemenid_Babylonia)

Note that this article is contained in a book titled *Tradition and Innovation in the Ancient Near East* Scroll down to page 7 of this document

**Wikipedia: Cambyses II**

**6 pp**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambyses\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambyses_II)

***Xerxes I***

**12 pp**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerxes\\_I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerxes_I)

**Class 6**

**Ancient Persian Religions**

**Essential Reading or Viewing:**

**Chapter 12**

Also Sprach Zarathustra  
Llewellyn-Jones

*The Achaemenid Kings and the Worship of Ahura Mazda: Proto-Zoroastrianism in the Persian Empire.* 8 pp

By Avram R. Shannon

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1073&context=studiaantiqua>

**Topic(s) for the First Hour:** Zoroastrianism And Other Religions of the Empire

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour:** Persians, Jews And Judaism

**Optional reading and viewing:**

**Ancient Persia and the Book of Esther: Achaemenid Court Culture in the Hebrew Bible**

<https://www.amazon.com/Ancient-Persia-Book-Esther-Achaemenid/dp/1788317378>

Amazon says, “The author reveals answers to important questions, such as the role of the King’s courtiers in influencing policy, the way concubines at court were recruited, the structure of the harem in shifting the power of royal women, the function of feasting and drinking in the articulation of courtly power, and the meaning of gift-giving and patronage at the Achaemenid court.”

*Ancient Persian Religion*

by Joshua J. Mark

World History Encyclopedia

[https://www.worldhistory.org/Ancient\\_Persian\\_Religion/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Ancient_Persian_Religion/)

*Herodotus and the Persian Priests: The Histories as a Source for Iranian Religion*

20 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGFxcFSHFgA>

*Achaemenid Religion*

8 pp

Encyclopædia Iranica

<https://iranicaonline.org/articles/achaemenid-religion>

**Class 7**                      **Persepolis, Passagardae, Susa,  
Ectabana, And Other Major Cities**

**Essential Reading or Viewing:**

*9 Greatest Cities Of The Persian Empire* *10 pp*  
<https://www.thecollector.com/greatest-cities-achaemenid-persian-empire/>  
Brief profiles of the major cities important to the Achaemenids.

*Art of the Empire: Monumental Cities of Ancient Persia.* *66 min*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Indxgu9mLpE>  
*A really good Getty Museum lecture by archaeologist Ali Mousavi of UCLA, with extensive imagery*

*Wikipedia: Achaemenid architecture* *12 pp*  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid\\_architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_architecture)

**Topic(s) for the First Hour:**              **Histories and Events**

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour:**        **Roles of the Cities over Time**

**Optional reading and viewing:**

*Persepolis: Images Of An Empire*  
[https://artsandculture.google.com/story/KwVRKSxy\\_NfpLQ?hl=en](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/KwVRKSxy_NfpLQ?hl=en)  
Based on an exhibit displayed at the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago, this is a truly wonderful website with text, images and video.

*Persepolis*  
*UNESCO World Heritage*  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/114/>

*Susa - Gallery - UNESCO World Heritage Centre*  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1455/gallery/>

*Ecbatana – Wikipedia* *6 pp*  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecbatana>

**Class 8 –**                      **Art and Sculpture**

**Essential Reading or Viewing:**

*Featured Exhibition: Persia, Ancient Iran and the Classical World*  
<https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/persia/>  
*The Getty Museum's 2022 Exhibit*

***Ancient Persian Art – Achaemenid Empire (700 BC – 500 BC)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xyl47NxOyeQ>

<https://youtu.be/Xyl47NxOyeQ?si=O-c9Monm0REB2wFm>

**Wikipedia: Persian art**

**24 pp**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian\\_art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_art)

**Extensive imagery**

**Topic(s) for the First Hour: Persian Jewelry and Goldwork**

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour: Bas Reliefs and Statuary**

**Optional reading and viewing:**

**Bas-Reliefs of Persepolis: 5 Fascinating Facts**

**12 pp**

<https://www.thecollector.com/fascinating-facts-from-the-bas-reliefs-of-persepolis/>

***Egyptian Acculturation in Achaemenid Persia: The Iconographic Evidence***

***By Chana Algarvio***

**17 pp**

[https://www.academia.edu/45401886/Egyptian\\_Acculturation\\_in\\_Achaemenid\\_Persia\\_The\\_Iconographic\\_Evidence](https://www.academia.edu/45401886/Egyptian_Acculturation_in_Achaemenid_Persia_The_Iconographic_Evidence)

With many photos and drawings, this interesting article documents the ways in which Achaemenid and Egyptian art and architecture influenced each other over a long period.

**Wikipedia: Persian art**

**24 pp**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian\\_art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_art)

**Extensive imagery**

***Persia: Ancient Iran and the Classical World***

<https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/persia/explore.html>

A set of brief essays with illustrations

***The Sculptures and Inscription of Darius the Great on the Rock of Behistûn in Persia/Annotated/The Persian Text***

**35 pp**

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The\\_Sculptures\\_and\\_Inscription\\_of\\_Darius\\_the\\_Great\\_on\\_the\\_Rock\\_of\\_Behist%C3%BBn\\_in\\_Persia/Annotated/The\\_Persian\\_Text](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Sculptures_and_Inscription_of_Darius_the_Great_on_the_Rock_of_Behist%C3%BBn_in_Persia/Annotated/The_Persian_Text)

***Many images of bas reliefs included***

**Class 9 – Persia And The Greeks**

**Essential Reading or Viewing:**

**Chapter 15,16,21,22**

**Let Slip the Dogs of War**

**Les Liaisons Dangereuses**

**Violent Delights Have Violent Ends**

**Some Talk of Alexander**

**Topic(s) for the First Hour: The Many Wars With the Greeks**

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour: The Greek Portrayal Of Persia**

**Optional reading and viewing:**

***Herodotus: On The Customs of the Persians***

**by Joshua J. Mark**

<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/149/herodotus-on-the-customs-of-the-persians/>

***Aristotle's advice to Alexander the Great on Persian elites. 6 pp***

<https://www.purplemotes.net/2013/10/13/aristotle-advice-alexander-persia/>

**Plato: *The Laws***

<https://iep.utm.edu/pla-laws/#SH6c>

In Book 6, section c, Plato compares Athens with Persian society, revealing his poor opinion of the Persians.

***The Persians***

**By Aeschylus**

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aeschylus/persians.html>

In *The Persians*, Xerxes invites the gods' enmity for his hubristic expedition against Greece in 480/79 BC; the focus of the drama is the defeat of Xerxes' navy at Salamis. Aeschylus himself had fought at Marathon (490 BC). He may even have fought at Salamis, just eight years before the play was performed.

***Ctesias' History of Persia – Tales of the Orient* 264 pp**

**Translated By Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones And James Robson**

<https://archive.org/details/llewellyn-jones-robson-ctesias-history-of-persia-tales-of-the-orient-routledge-c>

Individual chapters are devoted to different periods of Persian history and to certain kings, showing what ancients thought of Persia, The Greek Ctesias was physician to the Achaemenid king, Artaxerxes II, whom he accompanied in 401 BC on his expedition against his brother Cyrus the Younger.

***History of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, Part II (486-330 BC; Xerxes I - Alexander the Great)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiIUDZsojhl>

A one-hour account of events from Xerxes invasion of Greece to Alexander's defeat of Darius III.

**Class 10 – The Legacy of the Achaemenids**

**Essential Reading or Viewing:**

***Epilogue- Persian Past, Iranian Present***  
**Llewellyn-Jones**

**Topic(s) for the First Hour: Political, Cultural and Intellectual Impact  
Of the Achaemenids**

**Topic(s) for the Second Hour: East is East and West is West?**

**Optional reading and viewing:**

***Achaemenid Dynasty***  
***Encyclopaedia Iranica***

<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/achaemenid-dynasty>

In describing the achievements of the dynasty (see *ii. The empire.* and *iii. Culture.*), this article provides an excellent summary of the dynasty's long-term impact on Iran and on even Western history.

### ***Suggested Presentations***

*Presentation topics should align in some way to the week's readings and class agenda. You are not limited to the topics below in deciding on a presentation. You might choose to focus on a single event, personage or artwork, for example.*

*Please consult with the coordinator if you choose a topic not on this list.*

***Why Cyrus was Great***

***The Cyrus Cylinder and Human Rights***

***Darius, Cambyses and Bardiya: Fake News?***

***Cambyses and Egypt***

***Darius and Egypt***

***The Behistun Inscription (and perhaps Leni Riefenstahl)***

***Fratricide, Patricide and Family History***

***Persian Government and Imperial Strategy***

***Important Persian Women and Their Roles***

***The Religions of Ancient Persia***

***Zoroastrianism Then and Now***

***Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Judaism (and Islam)***

***Persia, the Jews and Judaism***

***Cyrus in the Bible***

***Major Achaemenid Cities: The Persian Capitals***

***Achaemenid Art and Imperial Power***

***Achaemenid Art and Architecture***

***The Many Greek and Persian Wars***

***Persia in the Greek Imagination***

***Was the Fall of the Achaemenids Inevitable?***

***East is East and West is West?: Is it so?***

***Suggest your own topic!***

## ***Resources***

### ***Books***

#### ***Olmstead History of Persian Empire***

[https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/history\\_persian\\_empire.pdf](https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/history_persian_empire.pdf)

#### ***Ancient Persia: A Concise History of the Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BCE***

**By Matt Waters**

**252 pp**

Available at Ocean State Libraries

#### ***The Persian Empire***

**208 pp**

**By Lindsay Allen**

Available at Ocean State Libraries

A solid history with especially good illustrations

#### ***The King And Kingship In Achaemenid Art***

**311 pp**

**By Margaret Cool Root**

[https://www.academia.edu/21201942/The\\_King\\_and\\_Kingship\\_in\\_Achaemenid\\_Art\\_Essays\\_on\\_the\\_Creation\\_of\\_an\\_Iconography\\_of\\_Empire](https://www.academia.edu/21201942/The_King_and_Kingship_in_Achaemenid_Art_Essays_on_the_Creation_of_an_Iconography_of_Empire)

There are more than 70 pages of photo illustrations at end of the book.

#### ***King and Court in Ancient Persia 559 to 331 bce***

**288 pp**

**By Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones**

Available online at

<https://ia803207.us.archive.org/35/items/KingCourtInAncientPersia/King%20%26%20Court%20In%20Ancient%20Persia.pdf>

Chapter 1 The Great King and His Men

Chapter 2 Pomp and Circumstance: Monarchy on Display

Chapter 3 The Great King in His Empire: The Movable Court Chapter 4 Harem:

Royal Women and the Court

Chapter 5 The Pleasures and Perils of Court Life

**These 5 chapters total 120 pp**

#### ***Ctesias' History of Persia – Tales of the Orient***

**264 pp**

**Translated By Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones And James Robson**

<https://archive.org/details/lllewellyn-jones-robson-ctesias-history-of-persia-tales-of-the-orient-routledge-c>

Individual chapters are devoted to different periods of Persian history and to certain kings, showing what ancients thought of Persia. The Greek Ctesias was physician to the Achaemenid king, Artaxerxes II, whom he accompanied in 401 BC on his expedition against his brother Cyrus the Younger.

### ***Websites***

There is an immense amount of material relating to ancient Persia on the Web. These sites are among the very best. Many museum websites are also important resources.

### ***Academia.edu***

<https://www.academia.edu/>

Academia is a platform for sharing academic research on any topic ancient or modern, and is extremely useful.

### ***The Circle Of Ancient Iranian Studies (Cais)***

<https://www.cais-soas.com/essays.html>

A cultural body founded to promote scholarship & research in all aspects of pre-Islamic Iranian civilization, CAIS offers an enormous trove of information.

### ***Persia***

#### ***Livius.org***

<https://www.livius.org/category/persia/>

This reliable website lists 525 articles on a wide variety of Persian topics.

### ***Iran Chamber Society***

[https://iran chamber.com/history/history\\_periods.php](https://iran chamber.com/history/history_periods.php)

Iran Chamber Society was founded as a non-partisan and non-profit organization with the aim to promote Iranian culture and history.

### ***Encyclopedia Iranica***

<https://www.iranicaonline.org/>

The Encyclopaedia Iranica is a comprehensive research tool dedicated to the study of Iranian civilisation in the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

### ***Iran & The Iranians From Koroush To Khamenei***

<https://www.the-persians.co.uk/index.htm>

This site offers information on all things Iran, ancient and modern. It has a lot of helpful information about ancient Iran and the Achaemenids.

## ***Videos***

***History of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, Part I (550-486 BC; Cyrus the Great - Darius the Great).*** 75 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzIVddeWfR4>

A very good, concise history of early Persia from prehistory to the death of Darius I. Worth watching!

***Art of the Empire: Monumental Cities of Ancient Persia.*** 66 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Indxgu9mLpE>

A really good Getty Museum lecture by archaeologist Ali Mousavi of UCLA, with extensive imagery

*Ancient Persia Cities of Persepolis & Darius* 21 minutes  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXyosMpzAes>

*The Ancient And Forgotten Empire Of Persepolis* 49 minutes  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV30XIkDubo>

*Herodotus and the Persian Priests: The Histories as a Source for Iranian Religion* 20 minutes  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGFxcFSHFgA>

*Herodotus and the Persian Wars* 66 minutes  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PSMOGCwMxo>

*History of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, Part II (486-330 BC; Xerxes I - Alexander the Great)*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiIUDZsojhI>

A one-hour account of events from Xerxes invasion of Greece to Alexander's defeat of Darius III.

## Articles

### *Achaemenid Dynasty*

*Encyclopaedia Iranica*

<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/achaemenid-dynasty>

In describing the achievements of the dynasty (see *ii. The empire.* and *iii. Culture.*), this article provides an excellent summary of the dynasty's long-term impact on Iran and on even Western history.

## Art and Architecture

Major museum websites displaying ancient Persian art include the Metropolitan, the Louvre and the British Museum.

### Wikipedia: Persian art

24 pp

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian\\_art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_art)

Extensive imagery

### *Orientalism and Ornamentalism: Athenian Reactions to Achaemenid Persia*

By Margaret C. Miller

[https://www.academia.edu/98828511/Orientalism\\_and\\_Ornamentalism\\_Athenian\\_Reactions\\_to\\_Achaemenid\\_Persia?email\\_work\\_card=title](https://www.academia.edu/98828511/Orientalism_and_Ornamentalism_Athenian_Reactions_to_Achaemenid_Persia?email_work_card=title)

An analysis of Greek thinking about Persians as demonstrated in artwork

### *Persia: Ancient Iran and the Classical World*

<https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/persia/explore.html>

A set of brief essays with illustrations from the Getty Museum

### *The King And Kingship In Achaemenid Art*

311 pp

By Margaret Cool Root

[https://www.academia.edu/21201942/The\\_King\\_and\\_Kingship\\_in\\_Achaemenid\\_Art\\_Essays\\_on\\_the\\_Creation\\_of\\_an\\_Iconography\\_of\\_Empire](https://www.academia.edu/21201942/The_King_and_Kingship_in_Achaemenid_Art_Essays_on_the_Creation_of_an_Iconography_of_Empire)

There are more than 70 pages of photo illustrations at end of the book.

### *Engraved Gems from the Ancient Persian Empire*

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/engraved-gems-from-the-ancient-persian-empire-the-j-paul-getty-museum/eAWxHXd-0U7Edw?hl=en>

A beautifully done Getty Museum video discussing personal seals carved from semiprecious stones and engraved with exquisite miniature scenes were used widely within the ancient Persian Empire.

### Bas-Reliefs of Persepolis: 5 Fascinating Facts

12 pp

<https://www.thecollector.com/fascinating-facts-from-the-bas-reliefs-of-persepolis/>

***Bas Reliefs Of Persepolis***

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=bas+reliefs+of+persepolis&qv=bas+reliefs+of+persepolis&form=IOFRML&first=1>

***Dozens of images and links***

**Wikipedia: Achaemenid architecture** **12 pp**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid\\_architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_architecture)

***Egyptian Acculturation in Achaemenid Persia: The Iconographic Evidence***

**By Chana Algavio**

**17 pp**

[https://www.academia.edu/45401886/Egyptian\\_Acculturation\\_in\\_Achaemenid\\_Persia\\_The\\_Iconographic\\_Evidence](https://www.academia.edu/45401886/Egyptian_Acculturation_in_Achaemenid_Persia_The_Iconographic_Evidence)

**With many photos and drawings, this interesting article documents the ways in which Achaemenid and Egyptian art and architecture influenced each other over a long period.**

This link pertains to one city, but UNESCO has information and great photos on many important cities and other subjects in Persia.

***The Border between War and Peace. Power and Propaganda in Neo-Assyrian and Achaemenid Art*** **12 pp**

**By M. Castelluccia**

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340110617\\_The\\_Border\\_between\\_War\\_and\\_Peace\\_Power\\_and\\_Propaganda\\_in\\_Neo-Assyrian\\_and\\_Achaemenid\\_Art/link/5e7cec78a6fdcc139c08b72b/download?\\_tp=eyJjb250ZXh0Ijp7ImZpcnN0UGFnZSI6InB1YmxpY2F0aW9uIiwicGFnZSI6InB1YmxpY2F0aW9uIn19](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340110617_The_Border_between_War_and_Peace_Power_and_Propaganda_in_Neo-Assyrian_and_Achaemenid_Art/link/5e7cec78a6fdcc139c08b72b/download?_tp=eyJjb250ZXh0Ijp7ImZpcnN0UGFnZSI6InB1YmxpY2F0aW9uIiwicGFnZSI6InB1YmxpY2F0aW9uIn19)

***Persepolis: Images Of An Empire***

[https://artsandculture.google.com/story/KwVRKSxv\\_NfpLQ?hl=en](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/KwVRKSxv_NfpLQ?hl=en)

Based on an exhibit displayed at the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago, this is a truly wonderful website with text, images and video.

***Persepolis***

**UNESCO World Heritage**

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/114/>

***Cyrus the Great***

***Cyrus the Great: Building the First Superpower***

**51 minutes**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/empire/id1639561921?i=1000634716046>

This fascinating podcast features Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones discussing Cyrus with the great historian of India, William Dalrymple.

**Wikipedia: Cyrus the Great** 15 pp  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus\\_the\\_Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_the_Great)

**Wikipedia: Cyrus the Great in the Bible** 4 pp  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus\\_the\\_Great\\_in\\_the\\_Bible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_the_Great_in_the_Bible)

**The Text of the Cyrus Cylinder**  
**Translated by Hanspeter Schaudig**  
[https://www.academia.edu/38436868/\\_The\\_Text\\_of\\_the\\_Cyrus\\_Cylinder\\_in\\_M\\_Rahim\\_Shayegan\\_ed\\_Cyrus\\_the\\_Great\\_Life\\_and\\_Lore\\_Ilex\\_Series\\_21\\_Harvard\\_University\\_Press\\_2019\\_pp\\_16\\_25?auto=download&email\\_work\\_card=download-paper](https://www.academia.edu/38436868/_The_Text_of_the_Cyrus_Cylinder_in_M_Rahim_Shayegan_ed_Cyrus_the_Great_Life_and_Lore_Ilex_Series_21_Harvard_University_Press_2019_pp_16_25?auto=download&email_work_card=download-paper)

**The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: Charting a New Empire. 59 minutes**  
**The Met Museum**  
<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2013/cyrus-cylinder>  
This website provides extension discussion of the cylinder and its significance. A one-hour YouTube podcast lecture is included.

### ***Darius I - the Great***

**Darius the Great: Ruling from India to the Mediterranean Empire** 51 minutes  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/empire/id1639561921?i=1000634983424>  
**In this podcast** Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones discusses with historian William Dalrymple several aspects of the reign of Darius, including his murder of Bardiya and likely murder of Cambyses II. Also discussed in detail: the lives of royal women, the conquests of Darius, and the historic imperial bureaucracy he created.

**Darius I, King of Persia** 3 pp  
**By [J.M. Munn-Rankin](#)**  
**Encyclopædia Britannica**  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Arses>

**History of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, Part I (550-486 BC; Cyrus the Great - Darius the Great)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzIVddeWfR4>

**Wikipedia: The Sculptures and Inscription of Darius the Great on the Rock of Behistûn in Persia/Annotated/The Persian Text**  
[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The\\_Sculptures\\_and\\_Inscription\\_of\\_Darius\\_the\\_Great\\_on\\_the\\_Rock\\_of\\_Behistûn\\_in\\_Persia/Annotated/The\\_Persian\\_Text](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Sculptures_and_Inscription_of_Darius_the_Great_on_the_Rock_of_Behistûn_in_Persia/Annotated/The_Persian_Text)  
**A complete translation, with photos and illustrations.**

### ***Religion***

**The Achaemenid Kings and the Worship of Ahura Mazda: Proto-Zoroastrianism in the Persian Empire.** 8 pp

**By Avram R. Shannon**

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1073&context=studiaantiqua>

***Zoroastrianism And Persian Mythology: The Foundation Of Belief* 11 pp**

<https://www.thecollector.com/zoroastrianism-persian-mythology/>

**By Edd Hodsdon**

A very good introduction to Zoroastrianism and its impact on Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

***Practice of Worship in the Achaemenid Heartland***

**23 pp**

**By Wouter F.M. Henkelman**

[https://www.academia.edu/41141190/Practice of worship in the Achaemenid Heartland](https://www.academia.edu/41141190/Practice_of_worship_in_the_Achaemenid_Heartland)

A chapter in a much larger volume of articles

*Scroll down in the anthology to this article*

***Ancient Persian Religion***

**by Joshua J. Mark**

**World History Encyclopedia**

[https://www.worldhistory.org/Ancient\\_Persian\\_Religion/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Ancient_Persian_Religion/)

## ***Government***

***Administrative Legacies Of The Persian World-State Empire***

**10 pp**

<https://sdaworldhistory.edublogs.org/files/2015/08/5-Administrative-Legacies-of-the-Persian-World-State-Empire-1xr5ap5.pdf>

This provides both a comprehensive review of the overall legacy of the Achaemenid empire and a detailed analysis of its importance in providing a model of imperial governance to rulers throughout the Mideast and the World in centuries to come.

***King and Court in Ancient Persia 559 to 331 bce***

**288 pp**

**by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones**

<https://ia903207.us.archive.org/35/items/KingCourtInAncientPersia/King%20%26%20Court%20In%20Ancient%20Persia.pdf>

***Bureaucracy in the Achaemenid Empire: Learning from the Past***

**10 pp**

**by Haleh Brooks**

<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/767/bureaucracy-in-the-achaemenid-empire-learning-from/>

***Ancient Persian Government***

**15 pp**

**by Joshua J. Mark**

**World History Encyclopedia**

[https://www.worldhistory.org/Persian\\_Government/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Persian_Government/)

*The Administration Of The Achaemenid Empire* 58 pp  
By Christopher Tuplin  
[https://www.academia.edu/4251207/The\\_administration\\_of\\_the\\_Achaemenid\\_Empire](https://www.academia.edu/4251207/The_administration_of_the_Achaemenid_Empire)

*Satrap* 3 pp  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satrap> *Bureaucracy in the Achaemenid Empire:*

*Learning from the Past* 10 pp  
by Haleh Brooks  
World History Encyclopedia  
<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/767/bureaucracy-in-the-achaemenid-empire-learning-from/>

### ***Persian Society***

*Families, Officialdom, and Families of Royal Officials in Chaldean and Achaemenid Babylonia* 8 pp  
[https://www.academia.edu/10537184/Families\\_Officialdom\\_and\\_Families\\_of\\_Royal\\_Officials\\_in\\_Chaldean\\_and\\_Achaemenid\\_Babylonia?email\\_work\\_card=title](https://www.academia.edu/10537184/Families_Officialdom_and_Families_of_Royal_Officials_in_Chaldean_and_Achaemenid_Babylonia?email_work_card=title)  
*Note: Scroll down to page 7 of this document*

*Torture In The Achaemenid Period* 6 pp  
*Encyclopaedia Iranica*  
<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/torture-achaemenid-period>

*Herodotus: On The Customs of the Persians* 10 pp  
<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/149/herodotus-on-the-customs-of-the-persians/>

*King and Court in Ancient Persia 559 to 331 bce* 288 pp  
by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones  
<https://ia903207.us.archive.org/35/items/KingCourtInAncientPersia/King%20%26%20Court%20In%20Ancient%20Persia.pdf>

**Slavery in Ancient Persia: see**  
***BARDA And BARDA-DĀRI I. Achaemenid Period***  
<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/barda-i>

This article says slavery in its usual meaning was not generally practiced in Persia, but the truth is complicated/