

HISTORY OF ACHAEMENID IRAN

Tentative diagram of the 40-hour seminar

(in 80 parts of 30 minutes)

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UNITS	TOPICS	DATA
1 A	Achaemenid beginnings I A	Introduction; Iranian Achaemenid historiography; Problems of historiography continuity; Iranian posterior historiography; foreign historiography
1 B	Achaemenid beginnings I B	Western Orientalist historiography; early sources of Iranian History; Prehistory in the Iranian plateau and Mesopotamia
2 A	Achaemenid beginnings II A	Brief Diagram of the History of the Mesopotamian kingdoms and Empires down to Shalmaneser III (859-824 BCE) - with focus on relations with Zagros Mountains and the Iranian plateau
2 B	Achaemenid beginnings II B	The Neo-Assyrian Empire from Shalmaneser III (859-824 BCE) to Sargon of Assyria (722-705 BCE) - with focus on relations with Zagros Mountains and the Iranian plateau
3 A	Achaemenid beginnings III A	From Sennacherib (705-681 BCE) to Assurbanipal (669-625 BCE) to the end of Assyria (609 BCE) - with focus on relations with Zagros Mountains and the Iranian plateau
3 B	Achaemenid beginnings III B	The long shadow of the Mesopotamian Heritage: Assyria, Babylonia, Elam/Anshan, Kassites, Guti, Akkad, and Sumer / Religious conflicts of empires - Monotheism & Polytheism
4 A	Achaemenid beginnings IV A	The Sargonid dynasty and the Divine, Universal Empire - the Translatio Imperii
4 B	Achaemenid beginnings IV B	Assyrian Spirituality, Monotheism & Eschatology; the imperial concepts of Holy Land (vs. barbaric periphery) and Chosen People (vs. barbarians)
5 A	Achaemenid beginnings V A	The Medes from Deioces to Cyaxares & Astyages The early Achaemenids (Achaemenes & the Teispids)
5 B	Achaemenid beginnings V B	- Why the 'Medes' and why the 'Persians'? What enabled these nations to form empires?
6 A	Zoroaster A	Shamanism-Tengrism; the life of Zoroaster; Avesta and Zoroastrianism
6 B	Zoroaster B	Mithraism vs. Zoroastrianism; the historical stages of Zoroaster's preaching and religion
7 A	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) I A	The end of Assyria, Nabonid Babylonia, and the Medes
7 B	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) I B	The Nabonidus Chronicle

8 A	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) II A	Cyrus' battles against the Medes
8 B	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) II B	Cyrus' battles against the Lydians
9 A	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) III A	The Battle of Opis: the facts
9 B	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) III B	Why Babylon fell without resistance
10 A	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) IV A	Cyrus Cylinder: text discovery and analysis
10 B	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) IV B	Cyrus Cylinder: historical continuity in Esagila
11 A	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) V A	Cyrus' Empire as continuation of the Neo-Assyrian Empire
11 B	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) V B	Cyrus' Empire and the dangers for Egypt
12 A	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) VI A	Death of Cyrus; Tomb at Pasargad
12 B	Cyrus the Great (Cyrus II) VI B	Posterity and worldwide importance of Cyrus the Great
13 A	Cambyses I A	Conquest of Egypt and Cush (Ethiopia: Sudan)
13 B	Cambyses I B	Iran as successor of Assyria in Egypt, and the grave implications of the Iranian conquest of Egypt
14 A	Cambyses II A	Cambyses' adamant monotheism, his clash with the Memphitic polytheists, and the falsehood diffused against him (from Egypt to Greece)
14 B	Cambyses II B	The reasons for the assassination of Cambyses
15 A	Darius the Great I A	The Mithraic Magi, Gaumata, and the usurpation of the Achaemenid throne
15 B	Darius the Great I B	Darius' ascension to the throne
16 A	Darius the Great II A	The Behistun inscription
16 B	Darius the Great II B	The Iranian Empire according to the Behistun inscription
17 A	Darius the Great III A	Military campaign in Egypt & the Suez Canal;
17 B	Darius the Great III B	Babylonian revolt, campaign in the Indus Valley
18 A	Darius the Great IV A	Darius' Scythian and Balkan campaigns; Herodotus' fake stories
18 B	Darius the Great IV B	Anti-Iranian priests of Memphis and Egyptian rebels turning Greek traitors against the Oracle at Delphi, Ancient Greece's holiest shrine
19 A	Darius the Great V A	Administration of the Empire; economy & coinage
19 B	Darius the Great V B	World trade across lands, deserts and seas
20 A	Darius the Great VI A	Rejection of the Modern European fallacy of 'Classic' era and Classicism
20 B	Darius the Great VI B	Darius the Great as the end of the Ancient World and the beginning of the Late Antiquity (522 BCE - 622 CE)
21 A	Achaemenids, Zoroastrianism, Mithraism, and the Magi A	Avesta and the establishment of the ideal empire
21 B	Achaemenids, Zoroastrianism, Mithraism, and the Magi B	The ceaseless, internal strife that brought down the Xšāça (: Empire)
22 A	The Empire-Garden, Embodiment of the Paradise A	The inalienable Sargonid-Achaemenid continuity as the link between Cosmogony, Cosmology and Eschatology
22 B	The Empire-Garden, Embodiment of the Paradise B	The Garden, the Holy Tree, and the Empire
23 A	Xerxes the Great I A	Xerxes' rule; his upbringing and personality

23 B	Xerxes the Great I B	Xerxes' rule; his imperial education
24 A	Xerxes the Great II A	Imperial governance and military campaigns
24 B	Xerxes the Great II B	The Anti-Iranian complex of inferiority of the 'Greek' barbarians (the so-called 'Greco-Persian wars')
25 A	Parsa (Persepolis) A	The most magnificent capital of the pre-Islamic world
25 B	Parsa (Persepolis) B	Naqsh-e Rostam: the Achaemenid necropolis: the sanctity of the mountain; the Achaemenid-Sassanid continuity of cultural integrity and national identity
26 A	Iran & the Periphery A	Caucasus, Central Asia, Siberia, Tibet and China Hind (India), Bengal, Deccan and Yemen
26 B	Iran & the Periphery B	Sudan, Carthage and Rome
27 A	The Anti-Iranian rancor of the Egyptian Memphitic priests A	The real cause of the so-called 'Greco-Persian wars', and the use of the Greeks that the Egyptian Memphitic priests made
27 B	The Anti-Iranian rancor of the Egyptian Memphitic priests B	Battle of the Eurymedon River - Egypt and the Wars of the Delian League
28 A	Civilized Empire & Barbarian Republic A	The incomparable superiority of Iran opposite the chaotic periphery: the Divine Empire
28 B	Civilized Empire & Barbarian Republic B	Why the 'Greeks' and the Romans were unable to form a proper empire
29 A	Artaxerxes I (465-424 BCE) A	Revolt in Egypt; the 'Greeks' and their shame: they ran to Persepolis as suppliants
29 B	Artaxerxes I (465-424 BCE) B	Aramaeans and Jews in the Achaemenid Court
30 A	Interregnum (424-403 BCE) A	Xerxes II, Sogdianus, and Darius II
30 B	Interregnum (424-403 BCE) B	The Elephantine papyri and ostraca Aramaeans, Jews, Phoenicians and Ionians
31 A	Artaxerxes II (405-359 BCE) & Artaxerxes III (359-338 BCE) A	Revolts instigated by the Memphitic priests of Egypt and the Mithraic subversion of the Empire
31 B	Artaxerxes II (405-359 BCE) & Artaxerxes III (359-338 BCE) B	Artaxerxes II's capitulation to the Magi and the unbalancing of the Empire / Cyrus the Younger
32 A	Artaxerxes IV & Darius III A	The decomposition of the Empire
32 B	Artaxerxes IV & Darius III B	Legendary historiography
33 A	Alexander's Invasion of Iran A	The military campaigns
33 B	Alexander's Invasion of Iran B	Alexander's voluntary Iranization/Orientalization
34 A	Alexander: absolute rejection of Ancient Greece A	The re-organization of Iran; the Oriental manners of Alexander, and his death
34 B	Alexander: absolute rejection of Ancient Greece B	The split of the Empire; the Epigones and the rise of the Orientalistic (not Hellenistic) world
35 A	Achaemenid Iran - Army A	Military History
35 B	Achaemenid Iran - Army B	Achaemenid empire, Sassanid militarism & Islamic Iranian epics and legends
36 A	Achaemenid Iran & East-West / North-South Trade A	The development of the trade between Egypt, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Iran, Turan (Central Asia), Indus Valley, Deccan, Yemen, East Africa & China
36 B	Achaemenid Iran & East-West / North-South Trade B	East-West / North-South Trade and the increased importance of Mesopotamia and Egypt

37 A	Achaemenid Iran: Languages and scripts A	Old Achaemenid, Aramaic, Sabaean and the formation of other writing systems
37 B	Achaemenid Iran: Languages and scripts B	Aramaic as an international language
38 A	Achaemenid Iran: Religions A	Rise of a multicultural and multi-religious world
38 B	Achaemenid Iran: Religions B	Collapse of traditional religions; rise of religious syncretism
39 A	Achaemenid Iran: Art and Architecture A	Major archaeological sites of Achaemenid Iran
39 B	Achaemenid Iran: Art and Architecture B	The radiation of Iranian Art
40 A	Achaemenid Iran: Historical Importance A	The role of Iran in the interconnection between Asia and Africa
40 B	Achaemenid Iran: Historical Importance B	The role of Iran in the interconnection between Asia and Europe