

## Γρεεχε ανδ Περσια Νοτε γυιδε\* (Greece and Persia Note Guide\*)

- The Persian Empire began around 550 BCE
- There were two main reasons the Persians were able to become and stay powerful:
  - They treated their conquered people well
  - They allowed the conquered to keep their customs and religions
- Cyrus II leads a revolt against the Medes and is successful
  - Marks the beginning of the Persian Empire
- Cyrus leads his army to conquer Mesopotamia parts of India, and even some Greek colonies in Asia Minor
  - Cyrus forms the largest empire the world had ever seen
- Because of his great success, he is called Cyrus the Great
- The Persian army was very strong
- The Persian army's elite (best) were called Immortals
- The army also had a very powerful Cavalry
  - Cavalry - A unit of soldiers who ride horses
- Eventually, Darius I takes control and expands the empire even more
- Darius I also set up a vast road system
  - Possibly the world's first postal system
- Capital city = Persepolis

- 499 BCE - Several Greek colonies rebel against the Persians
- Persians put down revolt, but Darius wants revenge on the Greeks
- Darius I invades Greece in 490 BCE
  - Invaded north of Athens on Plains of Marathon
- This battle began the Persian Wars
  - Persian Wars - A series of wars between Persia and Greece
- Athens emerges Victorious at Battle of Marathon
- Ten years after Battle of Marathon, a new ruler is in charge of Persians - Xerxes
- Xerxes attempts to finish what his father started
  - Invades Greece in 480 BCE
  - Brings both Army and Navy
- Sparta joins with Athens this time to help out
- Three major battles:
  - Battle of Thermopylae - Persian victory
    - i. Athens is destroyed after the Battle of Thermopylae
  - Battle of Salamis - Greek Naval victory
  - Battle of Plataea - Final battle: Greek victory
- Persians leave Greece defeated again
  - They will never return