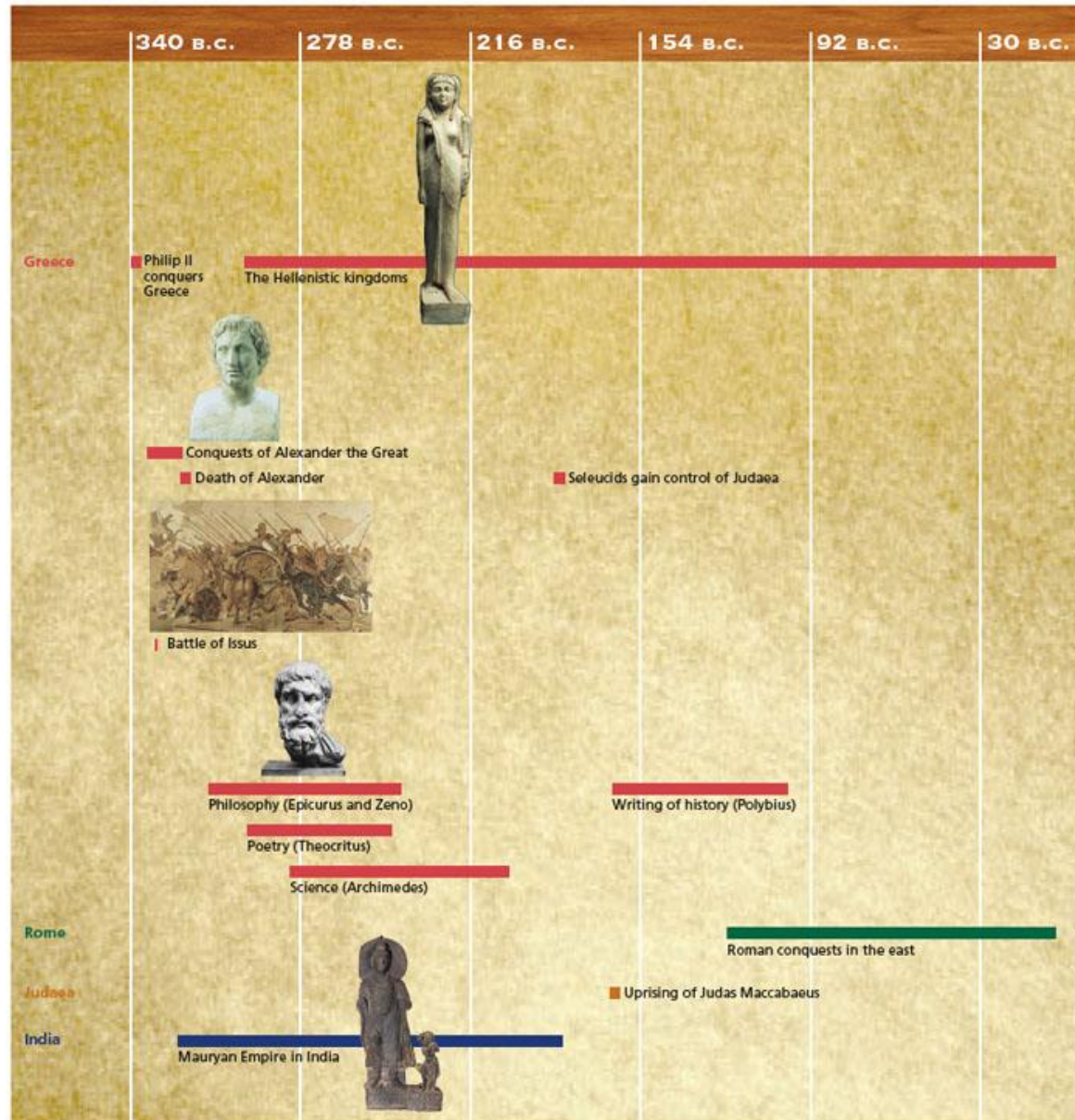


# Chapter 4

The Hellenistic World

# Timeline



# The Rise of Macedonia and the Conquests of Alexander

- Hellenic Age—b.c. 800–323.
- Hellenistic Age— b.c. 323–30
- new pattern of civilization emerged, based on a mixture of Greek Eastern elements
- Macedonia
- a young and energetic Macedonian king
- consolidated the southern Balkans under his rule.
- Philip II (359 – 336 B.C.)
- He turned Macedonia into the chief power of the Greek world.

- His brother died, leaving as his heir a small boy.
- Regent for the boy took the throne  
His son was born to him  
Alexander  
Plan to conquer Greece
- Demosthenes repeatedly warned Philip's rapid expansion.

- Athenian Reaction to Philip
  - Battle of Chaeronea (338 B.C.)
- Macedonian army crushed the Greeks
- Macedonian made an alliance with the Greek states called Corinthian League
- All members took an oath of loyalty
- Philip allowed the Greek polis autonomy and asked them to cooperate with him in a war against Persia.
- However, he could undertake this invasion because
- he was

# Alexander the Great

- The Conquests of Alexander

When Alexander became king of Macedonia he was only twenty smothering a rebellion in Greece

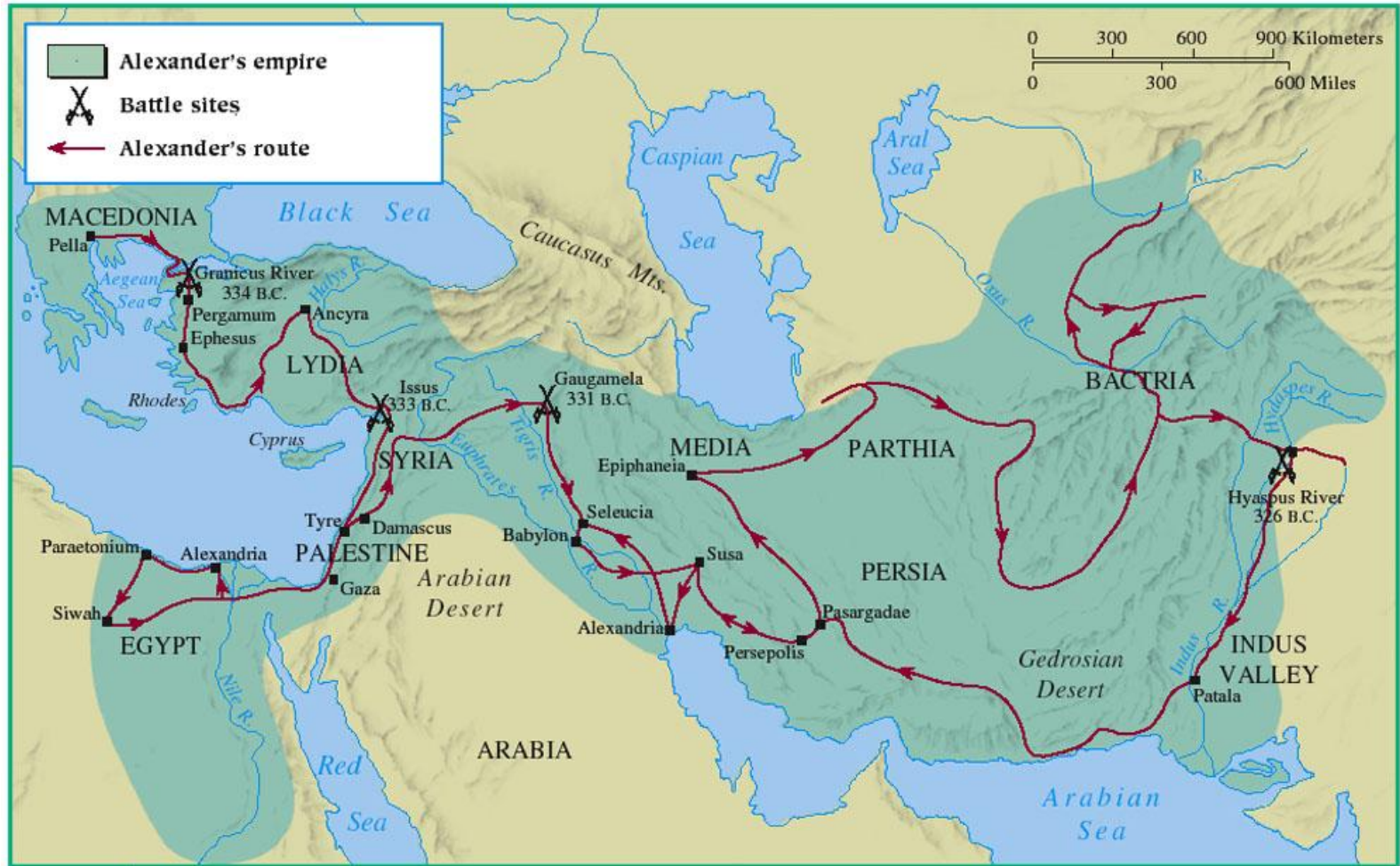
    attacking Asia Minor—Battle of Granicus River (334B.C.)

    Battle of Issus (333 B.C.)

- Syria, Palestine and Egypt (332 B.C.)
- At Egypt, took the title of Pharaoh
- Founded the first city named Alexandria

- Mesopotamia–Darius III–Battle of Gaugamela (331 B.C.)
- Susa–Persepolis (330 B.C.)
- Took the title of King Persia
- Pakistan (327 B.C.)
- India –Hydaspes River (326 B.C.)
- Death of Alexander (323 B.C.)

# Map 4.1: The Conquests of Alexander the Great





- Although he conveyed the Greek language and ideas
- he ruled on a principle of monarch–despotism.
- The dominant form of government in the Hellenistic world was the despotism of rulers
- who represented themselves at least semi–divine
- His Hellenistic monarchies were inherited by the Romans.

- Historians' evaluation
- Ranging from bloodthirsty monster interested only in endless conquest to romantic dreamer aiming to create a multiethnic world open to all cultures.
- he was a great military leader  
left a cultural legacy

# Alexander's Legacy

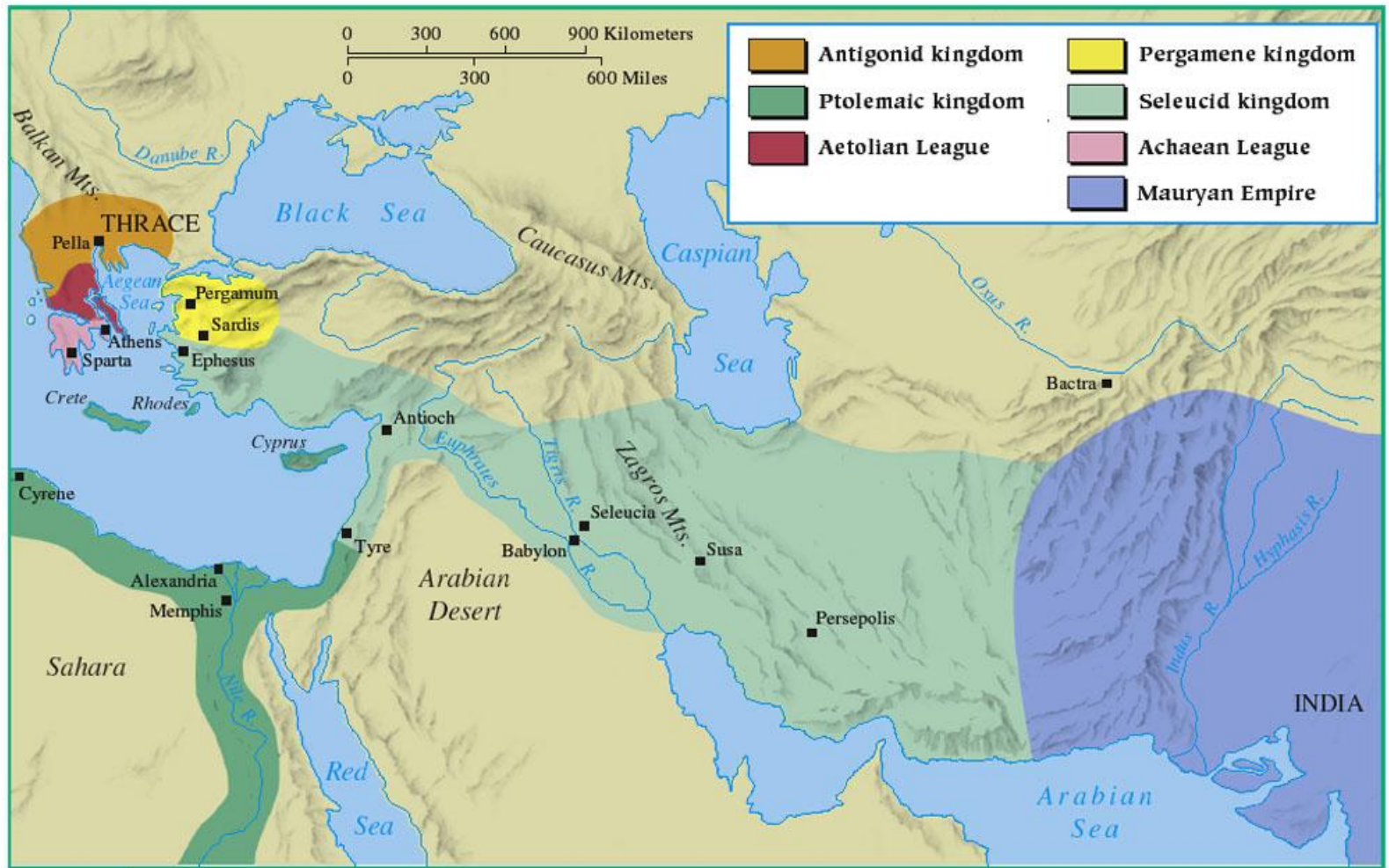
- Greek language, art, architecture, and literature spread throughout the Near East.
- Alexandria which was built by Alexander worked as a center of culture.
- Alexander's explorations benefited numerous scientific fields from geography to botany, because he took along scientifically minded writers to collect and catalog the new knowledge they acquired
- He created a new age. Hellenistic era.
- The word Hellenistic is derived from a Greek word meaning «to imitate Greeks»

- Mixture of Greek and Eastern elements
- The language of the new cultured classes was predominantly Greek, and even the peoples whose heritage was non-Greek considered it desirable to have some Hellenistic culture.
- When Alexander died in 323 B.C. he left no legitimate heir to succeed him.
- When his friends requested him on his deathbed to designate a successor, he replied «to the strongest»
- However, after Alexander's death his generals engaged in a long and bitter struggle.

# The World of the Hellenistic Kingdoms

- By 275 B.C.—Disintegration of the Empire
- Four Successor Kingdoms
  - Macedonia – Antigonids
  - Persia, Mesopotamia and Syria – Seleucids
  - Egypt, Phoenicia and Palestine – Ptolemies
  - Pergamum – Attalids

# Map: 4.2: The World of the Hellenistic Kingdoms



## • Threat from the Celts

- At the end of the fifth century B.C. Celtic people began to migrate south and east.
- They were known as Gauls
- occupies large areas of Europe north of the Alps during the early Iron Age(c 800–500 B.C.).
- They attacked the city of Rome in 390 B.C. and attacked Macedonia early in the third century B.C.
- Other groups of Celts later attacked Asia Minor where Attalus I defeated them in 230 B.C.
- Celts were feared everywhere in the Hellenistic world.

a Celtic warrior,  
who is  
committing  
suicide after  
killing his wife to  
prevent their  
capture by the  
enemy after  
defeat in battle  
by Attalus I, king  
of Pergamum.



Dying Celts



# History

- Polybius (c. 203–c. 120 B.C.)
  - a Greek who lived for some years in Rome.
  - He is regarded as second only to Thucydides among Greek historians
  - His major work consisted of forty books narrating the history of the “inhabited Mediterranean world” from 221 to 146 B.C.
  - His history focuses on the growth of Rome from a city–state to a vast empire, seeking rational motives for historical events

# Hellenistic Art

- Hellenistic art did not preserve all of the characteristic qualities of the art of the Greeks.
- In place of the humanism, balance, and restraint, qualities of exaggerated realism, sensationalism and voluptuousness now became dominant.
- The simple and dignified Doric and Ionic temples gave way to luxurious palaces, costly mansions and elaborate public buildings and monuments.

- Sculpture

- Sculpture likewise exhibited extravagant and sentimental tendencies.
- Violent emotionalism and exaggerated realism were features common to the majority.
- the Winged Victory of Samothrace, late 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C.– also called the Nike ( Victory )
- Calmness and compassion for human suffering
- Laocoön–In sharp contrast to the serenity of the Winged Victory

# Laocoön

Exaggerated realism and sensationalism depicted the death of Laocoön

- Laocoön warned the Trojans not to touch the wooden horse sent by the Greeks and was punished by Athena who sent two serpents to kill him and his sons.

# A Golden Age of Science

- Astronomy, mathematics, geography, medicine, and physics
- Astronomy– Hellenistic astronomer, Aristarchus (BC 310–230), Hellenistic Copernicus
- heliocentric view of the universe–
- the earth and the other planets revolve around the sun

Master of geometry

- Euclid (c. 300 B.C.)
- Archimedes of Syracuse (287–212 B.C.)– .)
- law of floating bodies or specific gravity

- King Hiero II asked Archimedes to determine whether his golden crown was of solid gold, or whether silver had been added.
- Archimedes had to solve the problem
- Without damaging the crown
- While taking a bath, he noticed that the level of the water in the tub rose as he got in, and realized that
- this effect could be used to determine the volume of the crown

- Archimedes then took to the streets naked, so excited by his discovery that he had forgotten to dress, crying
- Eureka (Greek: "εὕρηκα!", meaning
- the principles of the lever.

# Philosophy: New Schools of Thought

- preserved the rational tradition of Greek philosophy
- four principal schools of philosophy:

Epicureanism, Stoicism, Skepticism, Cynicism

- Epicureanism and Stoicism had several features in common.
- Both were individualistic, concerned with
- The good of the individual
- Epicurus (341 – 270 B.C.)
  - the universe ran on its own.
  - Doctrine of pleasure



- to achieve happiness.
- did not include all forms of indulgence in the category of genuine pleasure.

The so-called pleasures of the flesh should be avoided

- a moderate satisfaction of bodily appetites is permissible
- The highest of all pleasures, however, consists in serenity of soul, in the complete absence of both mental and physical pain
- held no high regard for either political or social life.

- **Stoicism**

- Zeno (335 – 263 B.C.)
- Individual happiness
- happiness could be found only in virtue
- living in harmony with the divine will, a principle of order
- virtuous living—living in accordance with the laws of nature
- urged participation in public affairs as a duty for the citizen of rational mind.

# Conclusion

- Hellenistic culture was not a degenerate phase of Greek civilization.
- Instead, it was a new social and cultural organism born of a fusion of Greek and Near Eastern elements.

# Discussion questions

- How was Alexander evaluated and what was Alexander's legacy?
- How was Alexander's empire divided after his death?
- Explain about Epicureanism
- Explain about Stoicism

# Web Links

- [Ancient Greek Sites on the World Wide Web](#)
- [Internet Ancient History Sourcebook: Greece](#)
- [Cultural Map of Hellas](#)
- [Alexander the Great of Macedon](#)
- [Diotima: Women in the Ancient World](#)
- [The Archimedes Homepage](#)
- [The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: Greek Philosophy](#)