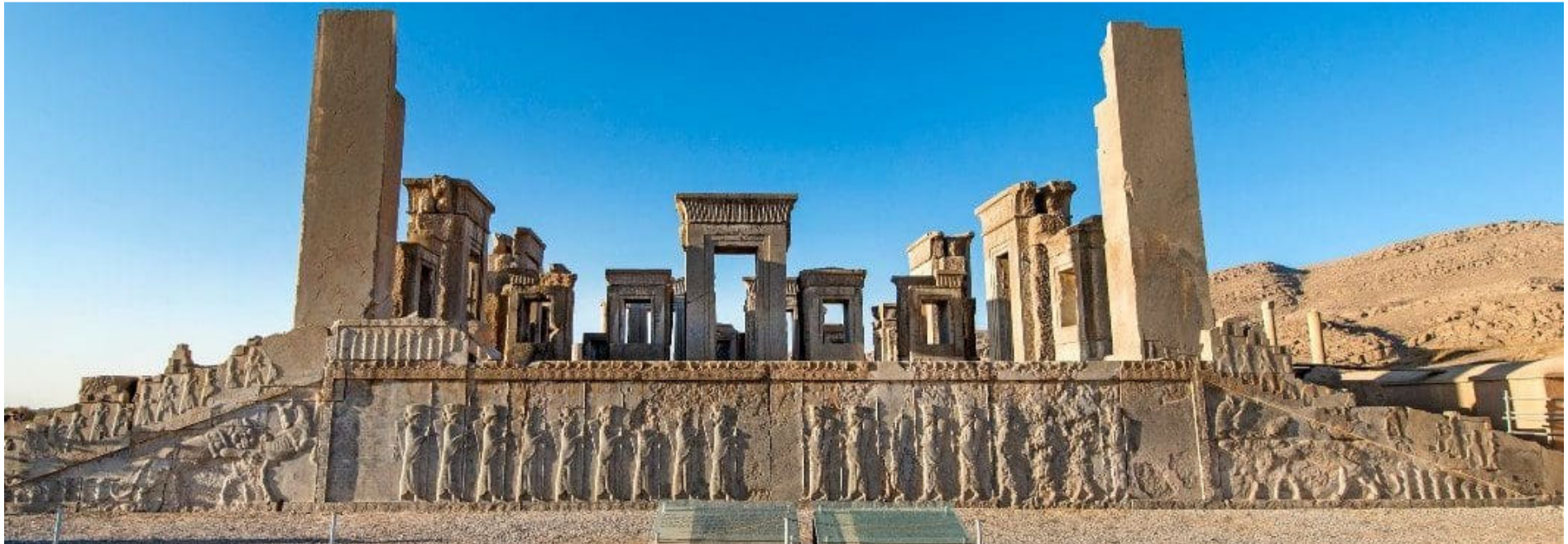




A Short History of Achaemenid Coinage

Ali Aravand

06/04/2018, Shaws Bridge, Belfast

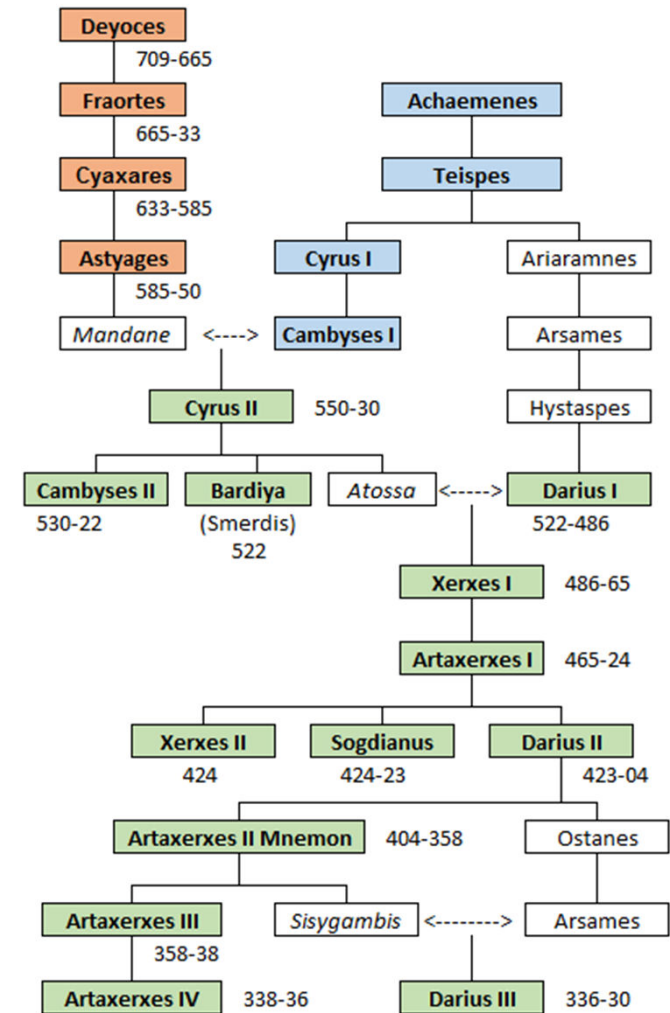
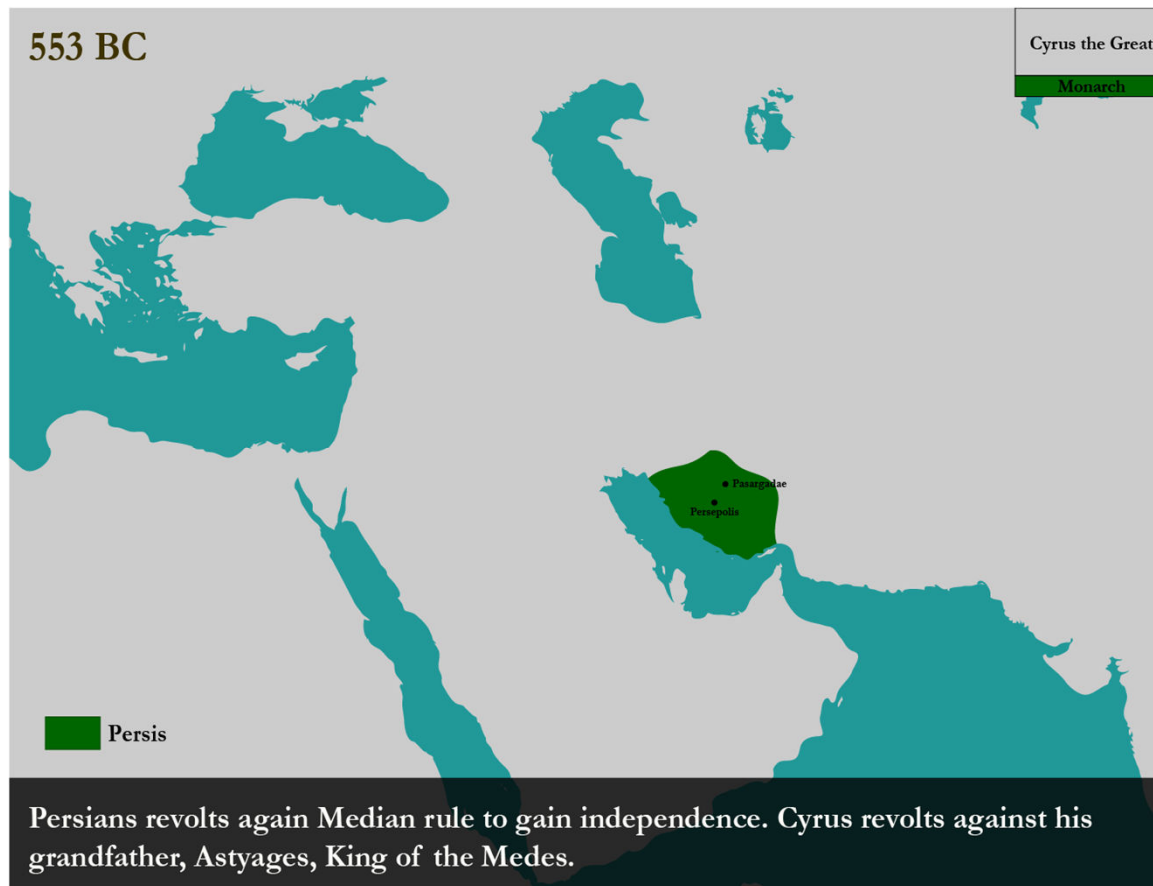
Persians

- First mention by Shalmansaer III of Assyria, 834 BC.
- Mention of Anshan and Parsuash (Parsumash) by other Assyrian and Babylonian kings
- Migration theory

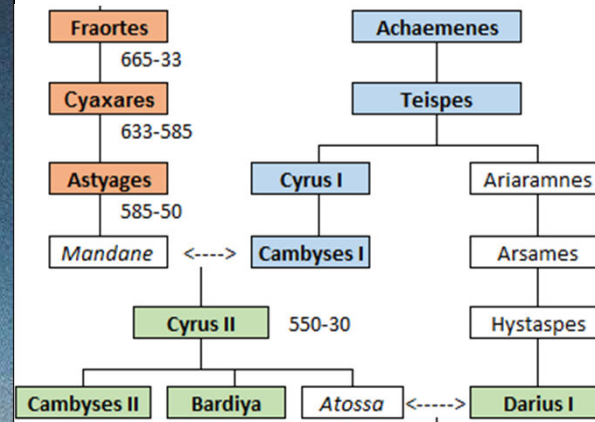




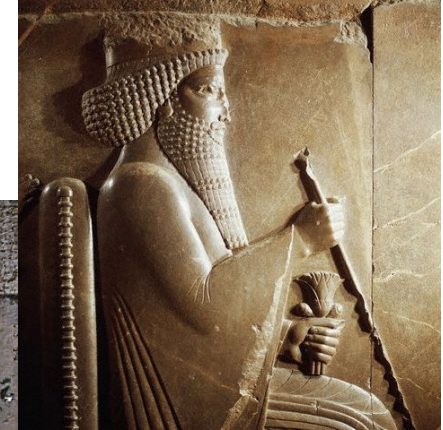
Achaemenid Empire 550-330 BC



Cyrus II (Kurash) the great 559-530 BC



Darius I the great 522-486 BC



Babak Tafreshi

LydiaSardis

under Alyattes/ Croesus 610-560 BC



1/3 stater – electrum – 4.7 grams



1/6 stater (hekte) – electrum – 2.36 grams



1/12 (hemihekta) stater – electrum –
1.18 grams



1/24 stater – electrum – lion's paw,
0.5-0.6 grams

LydiaSardis
Croesus 560 -546 BC



Croesus-AR stater – silver– 10.66 grams



Croesus-AR 1/6 stater –
1.74 grams



Croesus- AR 1/12stater – 0.85 grams



Croesus- AR 1/24stater – 0.71 grams



Croesus- AR 1/48 stater – 0.2 grams

LydiaSardis
Croesus 560 -546 BC



Croesus-AV stater ~ 11 grams



Croesus-AV 1/6 stater – 1.78 grams



Croesus-AV 1/12 stater – 0.88 grams

LydiaSardis under Persians

Cyrus II the great/ Cambyses II/ Darius I the great

546-510 BC

- Standard weight was lowered for different denominations.



Cyrus the great-AV stater ~ 8 grams
AKA light AV series



Cyrus the great, AR ½ stater (Siglos) ~ 5.5
grams (new denomination)

Lydia under Darius I (522-486 BC)

- New coin types, The first unique Persian type, great king figure on the obv.



Darius I the great, AR ½ stater (Siglos)
~ 5.5 grams – **520-505 BC**

Lydia under Darius I (522-486 BC)



Darius I the great, AR $\frac{1}{2}$ stater (Siglos) type II
~ 5.5 grams – **505-486 BC**



Darius I the great, AV stater (Daric) type II
8.3 grams – **505-486 BC**

Darius I/ Xrexes I (early 5th century BC)



Darius I the great to Xrexes I, AV stater (Daric)
type III ~ 8.3 grams – **490-475 BC**



Darius I the great to Xrexes, stater (sigloi) type
III ~ 5.47 grams – **490-475 BC**

Xrexes I (486 – 465 BC)

- Introduction of the dagger instead of the spear since 450 BC
- This continues for 150 year!



Xrexes I, AR stater (Sigloi), 5.45 grams – **455-420 BC**



Artaxrexes II to Artaxrexes III, AR stater (Sigloi), 5.45 grams – **375-340 BC**



Atrexrexes II (404-358 BC) onwards

- Stylistic improvement
- Survives even after Alexander III The Great for 5 years



Atreuxrexes II (404-358 BC) onwards

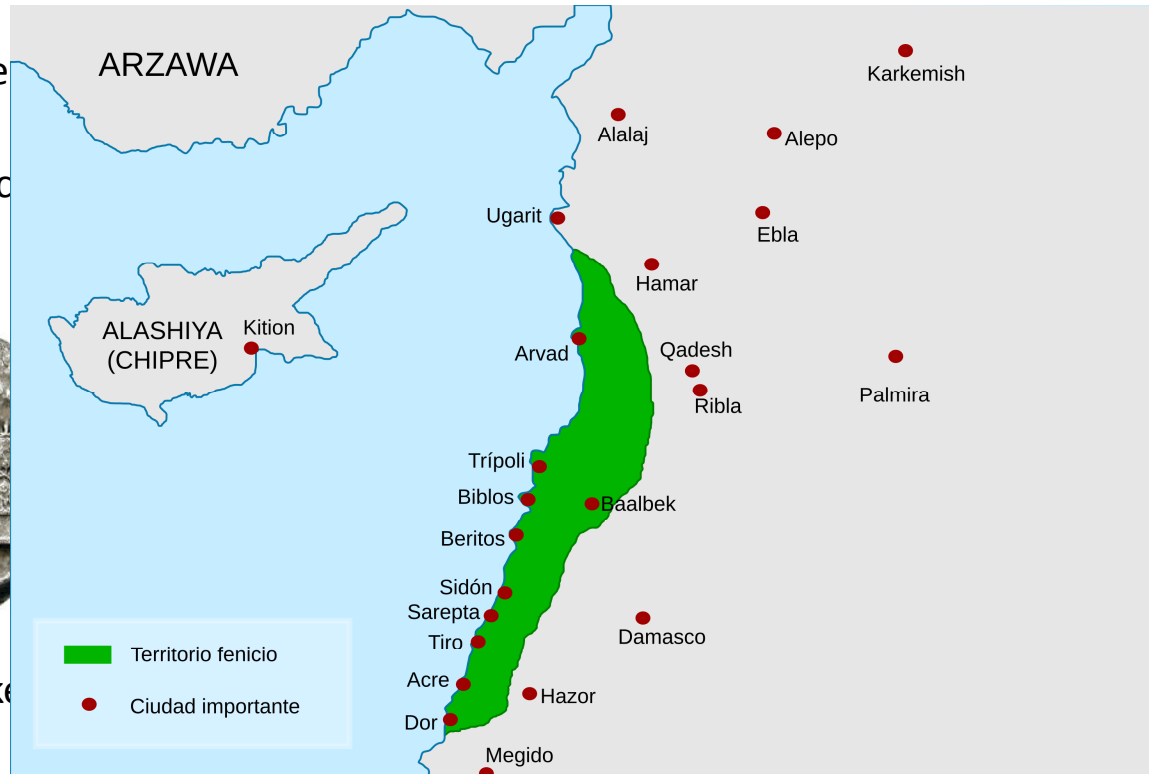


Phoenicia (Arados, Byblos, Sidon, and Tyre) under Persian Empire

- Mostly (except for silver shekel)
- Mostly depicted for Sidon.



Sidon, AR half shekel



ms – 384-



Phoenicia Satrap coins



Phoenicia-Sidon, Baalshallim 1/16 Shekel,
0.76 grams – **401-366 BC**



Phoenicia-Tyre, Shekel, 8.28 grams – **346-345 BC**
Melkarth riding hippocampus
Crook and flail on shoulder



Phoenicia-Byblos, Ozbaal AR shekel, 13.23
grams – **333 BC**





Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Cilcia, Mazaeus AR stater, 10.96 grams – **361-334 BC**



Tissaphernes, satrap of Lydia, 420-395 BC



Tissaphernes



Athens, AR tetradrachm, 16.77 grams – **449-413 BC**





Cilicia, Tarsus, Pharnabazus AR Stater, 10.66
grams – **379-374 BC**

No mention of the great king!!