

Chapter 7: The Empires of Persia (130-147) Student Notes

Introduction to Empire

1. What is an empire?
2. What problems are created by empires?

Achaemenid Dynasty

3. Who founded the Achaemenid Dynasty and what kind of empire did he establish?
4. Describe how Darius ruled the Persians.
5. What was the qanat system?

6. How did the Persians view other ethnic/religious groups before/after Xerxes?

7. Describe the founding of Zoroastrianism.

8. What did the Zoroastrians believe?

9. To whom did these beliefs appeal? Why?

10. What caused the Persian Wars and what happened during these wars?

Alexander the Great (to be discussed later)

Seleucid Dynasty

11. Who ruled during the Seleucid Dynasty? How did their background affect their ability to rule?

Parthian Dynasty

12. What did the Parthians want?

13. How successful were the Parthians in building their dream empire?
Why?

Sassanid Dynasty

14. How did the Sassanids manage to hold off the Romans?

15. What brought about the end of the Sassanid Dynasty?