21. The Successors of Alexander’s Empire

- Diadochoi
- Seleucus I (Nikator)
- Ptolemy I (Soter)
- Perdiccas
- Antigonus Monophthalmus
- Partition at Triparadeisos (320)
- Battle of Ipsus (301)
- First Syrian War 275 BCE (5 all together)

The Ptolemaic Kingdom
- Seleucia (before and after Ipsus)
- Antigonid Kingdom
- Kingdom of Pergamon
- Parthia

The Demise of Alexander

"... the motive in almost every heart was grief and a sort of helpless bewilderment at the thought of losing their king. Lying speechless as the men filed by, he yet struggled to raise his head, and in his eyes there was a look of recognition for each individual as he passed...

Arrian, The Campaigns of Alexander, VII. 27."
The Death of Alexander
11 June 323 BCE

Over next week Alexander’s health rapidly declined
- At one moment, he was so desperate that he gave his ring to Perdiccas and when asked to whom the ring should be given, some believe he replied:
  - “tōi kraterōi” (To Krateros)
  or
  - “tōi kritistōi” (to the strongest).

Difficulty in choosing a Successor
Macedonian army command leant itself to selecting a leader—but ...
Many potential top candidates were dead or incapable:
- Clitus-killed in drunken rage
- Parmenion-executed
- Hephaestion-died of fever (malaria)
- Philip III (younger brother)-mentally deficient
- Alexander IV (son with Roxanne)-too young

Perdiccas took overall command and came to agreement with other generals
- would act as regent for Philip III and Alex IV
Alexander’s Generals

**Seleucus I**
- Page under Philip II
- Commander of the Hypaspists

**Ptolemy**
- Helped uncover plot
- Bodyguards
- after Cleitus

**Antigonus**
- “one-eye”
- Key in Asia invasion
- Commander of Greek Hoplites
- Satrap of Lycia and Pamphylia

**Perdiccas**
- Bodyguard commander of Tyre siege
- Became #2 man after Parmenion is executed

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The Diadochoi Partition at Babylon

Macedonian generals divide up Alexander’s Empire

- Perdiccas: Regent of empire
- Seleukus: chiliarch (senior officer of Royal Army)
- Ptolemy: Egypt
- Antigonus: Western and Southern Anatolia
- Lysimachus: Thrace
- Antipater: Macedonia and Greece
- Poros and others: Eastern portion (as before)

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Alexander’s Funeral Cortege by André Bauchant (1940)

Tate Gallery, London
**Greek Revolt**

Lamian War (323-2 BCE)

- Athens immediately revolts upon hearing of Alexander’s death
  - “Freedom of the Greeks”
- Athens and other poleis send a joint force and besiege Antipater in his fortress at Lamia
  - relieved by Macedonian forces
- war not finished until Kraterus arrives with fleet and defeats Greeks at the Battle of Crannon (322)
  - Athens is garrisoned
  - Greeks decide to abide by alliance

**Perdiccas exerts his “authority”**

- Makes a marriage proposal to Cleopatra, Alexander’s full sister
  - worries the others
- Perdiccas starts ordering others to fulfill military positions
  - ex: Eumenes in Phrygia
- Goes down to Egypt to get Alexander’s body back
  - botches the invasion, killed by his own troops

**Partition at Triparadeisos (July 320)**

- Antipater: Greece and Macedonia
  - protective regent of Phil 3 and Alex 4
  - son Cassander: commander of hetairoi
- Seleucus: Babylonia
- Ptolemy: Egypt and Libya
- Antigonus: Anatolia
  - commander-in-chief of Macedonians in Asia
- Lysimachus: Thrace
Shifting Alliances: fear of the “strongest”

Antigonus One-Eye’s Bid for Empire

- Kicks Seleucus out of Babylonia
  - finds refuge with Ptolemy
- Antigonus starts taking money from local treasuries
  - 45,000 talent (1 talent = 54 pounds)
- lays siege to Tyre-kicks out Ptolemy’s troops
- makes an important proclamation:

“Decree of the Macedonians”

1. condemns Cassander for killing Olympias
   - tear down his new capital Cassandreia
   - release Alex 4
2. ALL GREEK STATES WERE TO BE:
   - FREE
   - AUTONOMOUS
   - UNGARRISONED
   • Ptolemy would soon issue a similar proclamation
“Peace” of 311

Hellenistic Kingdoms 311-303

- Peace of 311: Empire divided into 4 parts:
  - Antigonus
  - Ptolemy
  - Lysimachus
  - Cassander
- Made regent of Alex IV
- Then has him killed when (13 years old)

Hellenistic Kingship shifts

- Generals all start to take the title basileus

Numismatics: The study of coinage as an historical source
Coin of Ptolemy I "Soter" (Savior), the Marshal who lived to die in his bed. Ptolemy wears the Diadem made famous by Alexander.

Alexander’s Marshal, Seleucus, became king of Syria and his successors, the "Seleucids," ruled there for generations. This coin denotes his full title of Seleucus I Nicator (312 - 281 BC), showing the "horns" of Alexander, together with Nike (victory) crowning a trophy.

Lysimachus was one Marshal who seldom put his own image on his coinage, but preferred rather to emphasize his connection with the divine Alexander (note the horns of Zeus Ammon). This silver tetradrachma from the British Museum.

Battle at Ipsus (301)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigonids</th>
<th>Allied forces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 70,000 infantry</td>
<td>• 64,000 infantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 10,000 cavalry</td>
<td>• 10,500 cavalry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 75 elephants</td>
<td>• 480 elephants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– gift from Raj in India to Seleucus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Antiochus (son of Seleucus) commands heavy cavalry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Antigonus

Lysimachus

Seleucus

Antiochus

Demetrios

Allied/Lysimachus/Seleucid
Impact of Ipsus

- Demetrius escapes with troops and cavalry
  - ends up in Athens and invades Greece
- The dream of unifying Alexander’s Empire dies with Antigonus
  - various leaders now fight for portions of his empire
After the Battle of Ipsus 301 BCE

Death of Cassander

Demetrios

Seleukus

Antigonus II

Lysimachus

Pyrrhus

Just before the first Syrian war c. 275 BCE
Parthia and Baktria ceded to Asoka

Eastern Half of Seleucid Kingdom begins to break

The Rise of the Great 3

- Ptolemy III Eueuergetes (of great Deeds)
- Antiochus III Megas (the Great)
- Philip V Macedon

Ptolemy III (Euergetes)
246-222 BCE

- victor of the Third Syrian War
- occupied Antioch and Babylon
  - lost Cyclades islands to Antigonus II
- created 365 day calendar
- responsible for the first known example of a series of decrees published as bilingual inscriptions on massive stone blocks in three writing systems (Rosetta Stone)
Antiochus III (Great)

- defeated by Ptolemy in 217

212-204 went on an Eastern campaign
- attacked the Armenians, Parthians and Bactrians
- Fought the Romans (192-189)
recovered Anatolia from his rebellious uncle Achaeus

188 Peace of Apamea

Philip V
(238-179 BCE)

220-217 Social War
- Philip V leads League of Corinth against Aetolia, Sparta and Elis
- successful and earns respect

215-205 First Macedonian War
- enters alliance with Hannibal
- conquers Achaean League and Attilids

201 expands in Aegean at Ptolemy’s expense

200-197 Second Macedonian War
- defeated by Romans at Cynoscephalae
190 reorganized internal affairs, economy, mines, coins
A Much Changed World by 170