**ACHUMENID EMPIRE**

The eponym of this dynasty was Achaemenes (Old Persian: Haxāmaniš, a bahuvrihi compound translating to "having a friend's mind").

The **Achaemenid Empire** ([Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language): امپراتوری هخامنشی) (ca. 550–330 BCE), also known as the **Persian Empire**, was the successor state of the [Median Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Median_Empire), ruling over significant portions of what would become [Greater Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Iran). The Persian and the Median Empire taken together are also known as the **Medo-Persian Empire**, which encompassed the combined territories of several earlier empires.

**HASMONEANS**

The **Hasmoneans** were the ruling dynasty of the **Hasmonean Kingdom of Israel** ([140](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/140_BC)–[37 BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/37_BC)), an independent religious [Jewish state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_state) in the [Land of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_of_Israel). The Hasmonean dynasty was established under the leadership of [Simon Maccabaeus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Maccabaeus), two decades after his brother [Judas the Maccabee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judas_Maccabeus) ("Hammer") defeated the [Seleucid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seleucid) army during the [Maccabean Revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabean_Revolt) in [165 BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/165_BC). The Hasmonean Kingdom survived for 103 years before yielding to the [Herodian Dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodian_Dynasty) in 37 BC. Even then, [Herod the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_the_Great) felt obliged to bolster the legitimacy of his reign by marrying a Hasmonean princess, Mariamne, and conspiring to have the last male Hasmonean heir drowned in his [Jericho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jericho) palace.

**HERODS**

* [Herod the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_the_Great) (c. 74-4 BC), King of the Israel who reconstructed the Second Temple (Herod's Temple) in Jerusalem.
* [Herod Archelaus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_Archelaus) (23 BC-c. AD 18), ethnarch of Samaria, Judea, and Idumea
* [Herod Antipas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_Antipas) (20 BC-c. AD 40), tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea, who was described in the New Testament as ordering John the Baptist's death and as mocking Jesus
* Herod [Agrippa I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agrippa_I) (c. 10 BC-AD 44), king of Judea, called "Herod" in the Acts of the Apostles
* [Herod II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_II), sometimes called Herod Philip I, father of Salome
* [Philip the Tetrarch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_the_Tetrarch) (4 BC-AD 34), sometimes called Herod Philip II, tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis
* [Herod of Chalcis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_of_Chalcis), also known as Herod III, king of Chalcis (AD 41-48)
* Herod [Agrippa II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agrippa_II) (AD 27-100), tetrarch of Chalcis who was described in Acts of the Apostles as "King Agrippa" before whom Paul of Tarsus defended himself

**PTOLEMIES**

The **Ptolemaic dynasty** was a Greek royal family which ruled the [Ptolemaic Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_Empire) in [**Egypt**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) during the [Hellenistic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic) period. Their rule lasted for 275 years, from **305 BC to 30 BC.**

[Ptolemy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy_I_Soter), one of the seven [somatophylakes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somatophylakes) (bodyguards) who served as [Alexander the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great)'s generals and deputies, was appointed [satrap](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satrap) of [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) after Alexander's death in [323 BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/323_BC). In [305 BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/305_BC), he declared himself King Ptolemy I, later known as "Soter" (saviour). The [Egyptians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptians) soon accepted the Ptolemies as the successors to the [pharaohs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaoh) of independent Egypt. Ptolemy's family ruled Egypt until the [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) conquest of [30 BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30_BC).

All the male rulers of the dynasty took the name Ptolemy. Ptolemaic queens, some of whom were the sisters of their husbands, were usually called Cleopatra, Arsinoe or Berenice. The most famous member of the line was the last queen, [Cleopatra VII](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleopatra_VII), known for her role in the Roman political battles between [Julius Caesar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar) and [Pompey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompey), and later between [Octavian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus_Caesar) and [Mark Antony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Antony). Her suicide at the conquest by Rome marked the end of Ptolemaic rule in Egypt.

**SELUCID**

The **Seleucid Empire** ([312](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/312_BC) – [63 BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/63_BC)) was created out of the eastern conquests of the former [Macedonian Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonian_Empire) of [Alexander the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great). The [Macedonian kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia) was centered in the [Near East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_East) and regions of the [Asian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia) **part** of the earlier [Achaemenid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid) [Persian Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Empire). At the height of its power it included central [Anatolia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatolia), the [Levant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant), [Mesopotamia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia), [Persia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persia), today's [Turkmenistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan), [Pamir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pamir_Mountains) and parts of [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan). It was a major centre of [Hellenistic culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_culture) which maintained the preeminence of [Greek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greeks) customs and where a [Macedonian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Macedonians) political elite dominated, mostly in the urban areas. Seleucid expansion into Greece was abruptly halted after decisive defeats at the hands of the [Roman army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_army). Much of the eastern part of the empire was conquered by the [Parthians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthian_Empire) under [Mithridates I of Parthia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithridates_I_of_Parthia) in the mid-2nd century BC, yet the Seleucid kings continued to rule a rump state from Syria until the invasion by [Armenian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Armenia) king [Tigranes the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigranes_the_Great) and their ultimate overthrow by the [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) general [Pompey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompey).

**Hellenization**

Hellenization (or Hellenisation) is a term used to describe the spread of ancient Greek culture, and, to a lesser extent, language. It is mainly used to describe the spread of Hellenistic civilization during the Hellenistic period following the campaigns of Alexander the Great of Macedon. The result of Hellenization was that elements of Greek origin combined in various forms and degrees with local elements, which is known as Hellenism. Persian culture had a decisive impact upon the emergence of Hellenism. In modern times hellenization has been associated with adoption of modern Greek culture and the ethnic and cultural homogenization of Greece.

**Eponym**

An eponym is the name of a person, whether real or fictitious, after which a particular place, tribe, era, discovery, or other item is named or thought to be named.

Romulus is the eponym of Rome.

**Etruscan**

English

Alternative forms: \* Etrurian

Adjective - Etruscan

1. Of or pertaining to the region and culture of Etruria, a pre-Roman civilization in Italy.