

RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS



The Pimlico
Dictionary of
Classical Civilizations

Arthur Cotterell

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About the Book

An original and unique work of reference which breaks new ground by treating for the first time the classical era of the Old World as a whole. Never before have the key peoples and events of Greece, Rome, Persia, India, and China been encompassed in a single volume, despite the fact their civilizations had much in common and laid the foundations of present-day Europe and Asia.

Aurthur Cotterell asserts that for too long Greece and Rome have been regarded as the classical world and its study isolated from even the major powers that confronted the Greeks and Romans in Iran and India. Today we are more aware of the complex interrelations that once existed between the Greeks and the Persians, the Macedonians and the Indians, the Romans and both the Persians and the Sasanians. The persistent isolation of China, on the other hand, cut off by mountains and deserts from India, makes the classical experience there so useful for comparison and contrast. The virtual absence of slavery in China is but one of its startling features.

About the Author

Arthur Cotterell now combines a career in education and training after school with an extensive interest in other civilizations. His previous books include *The Minoan World*, *A Dictionary of World Mythology*, *The Penguin Encyclopedia of Ancient Civilizations*, *The First Emperor of China*, *China: A History* (also available from Pimlico), *East Asia: From Chinese Predominance to the Rise of the Pacific Rim*, *Origins of European Civilization* and *The Penguin Encyclopedia of Classical Civilizations*.

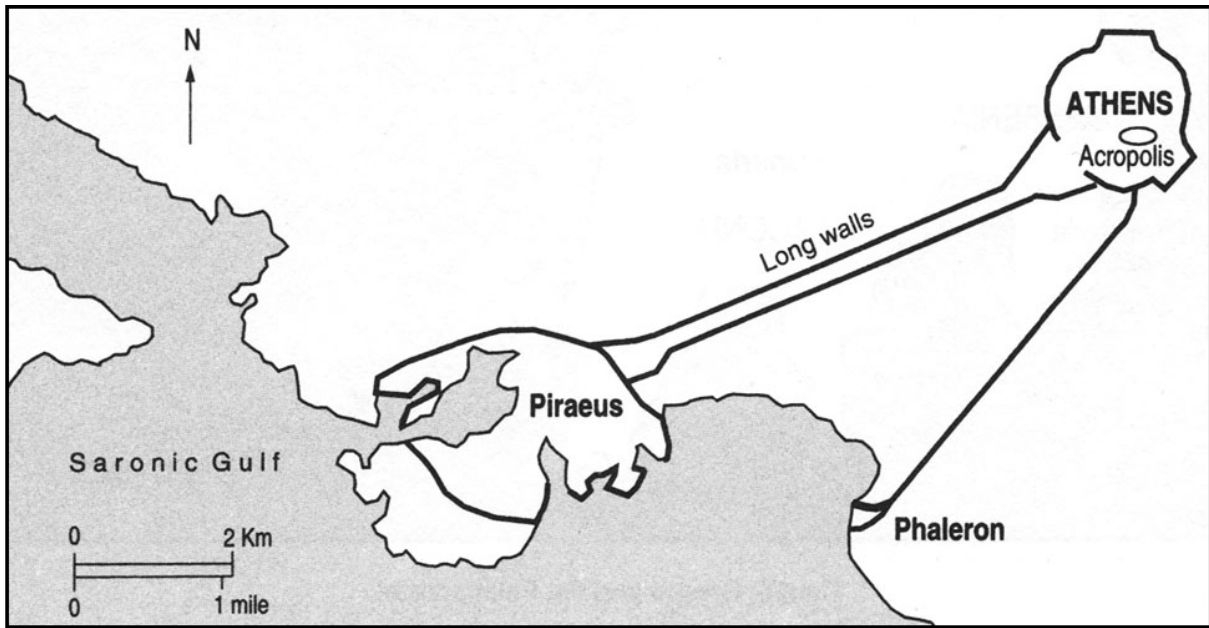
MAPS



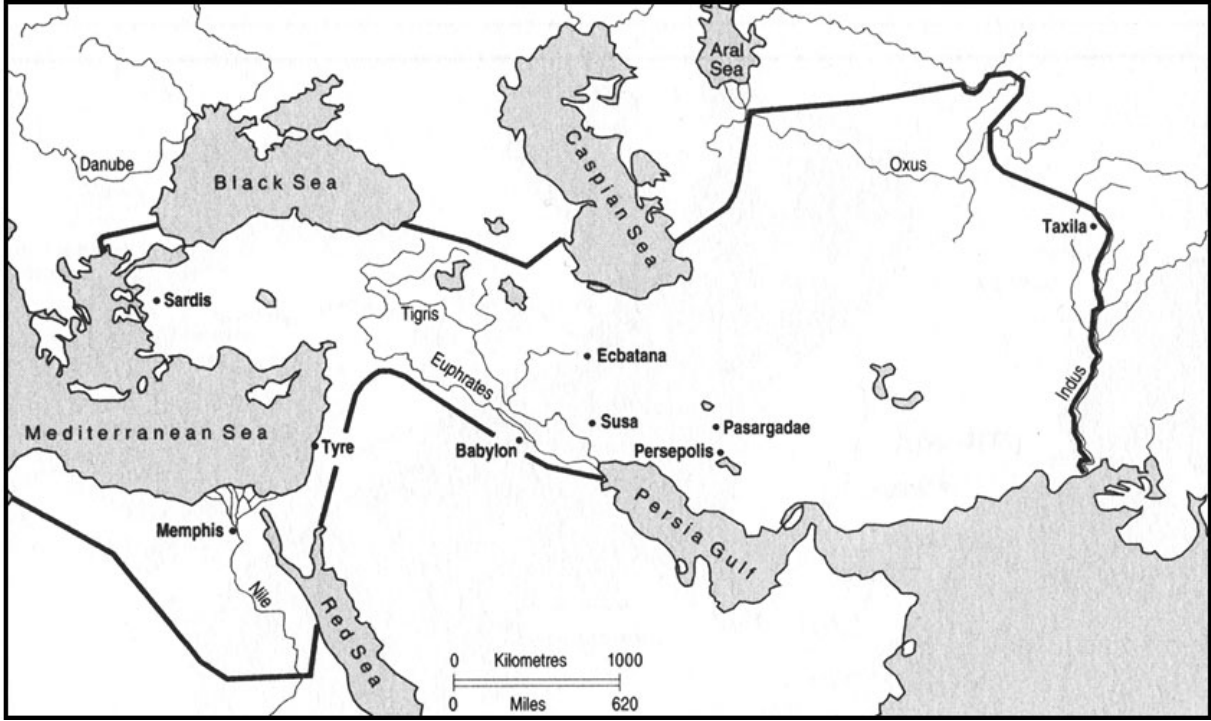
Central Greece and the Peloponnese



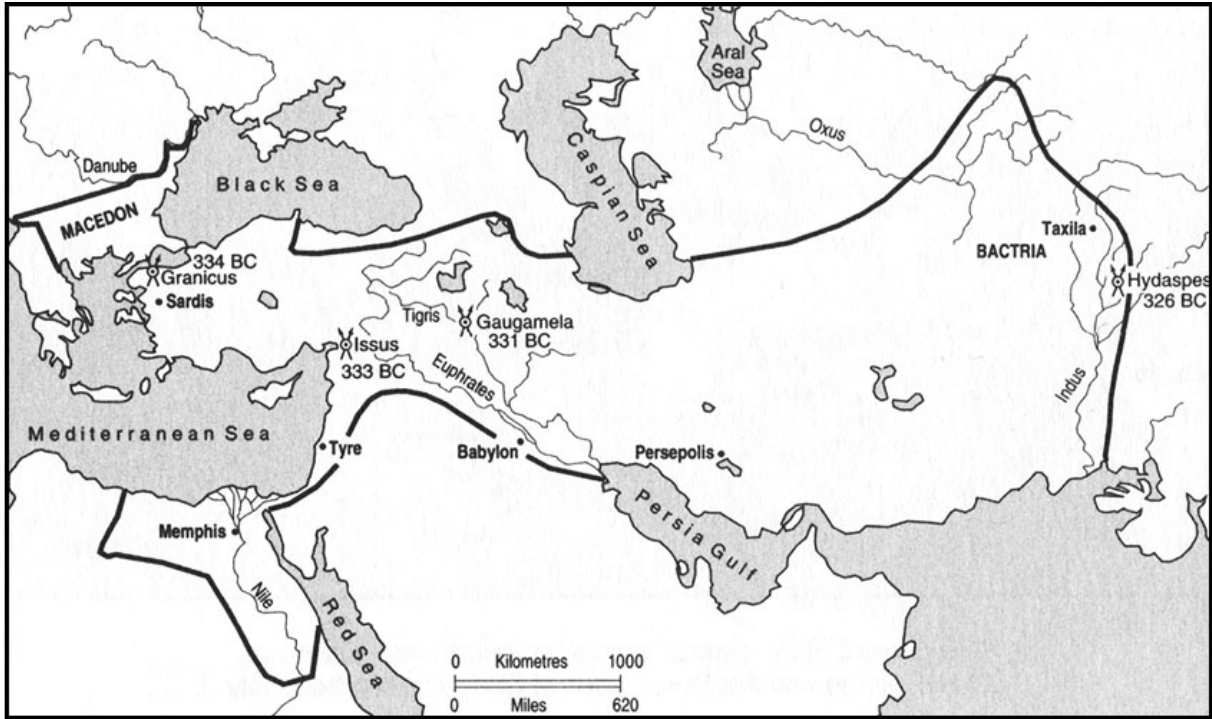
The Aegean



The landward defences which transformed classical Athens into an Island



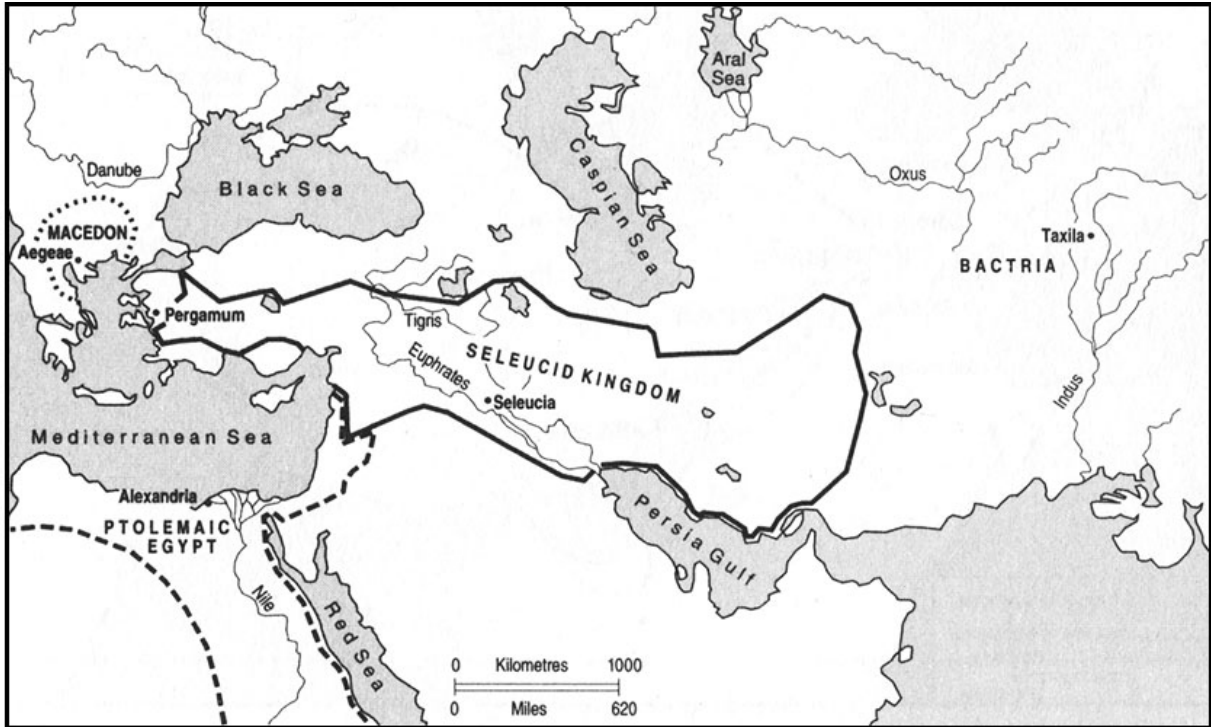
The Persian empire (500 BC)



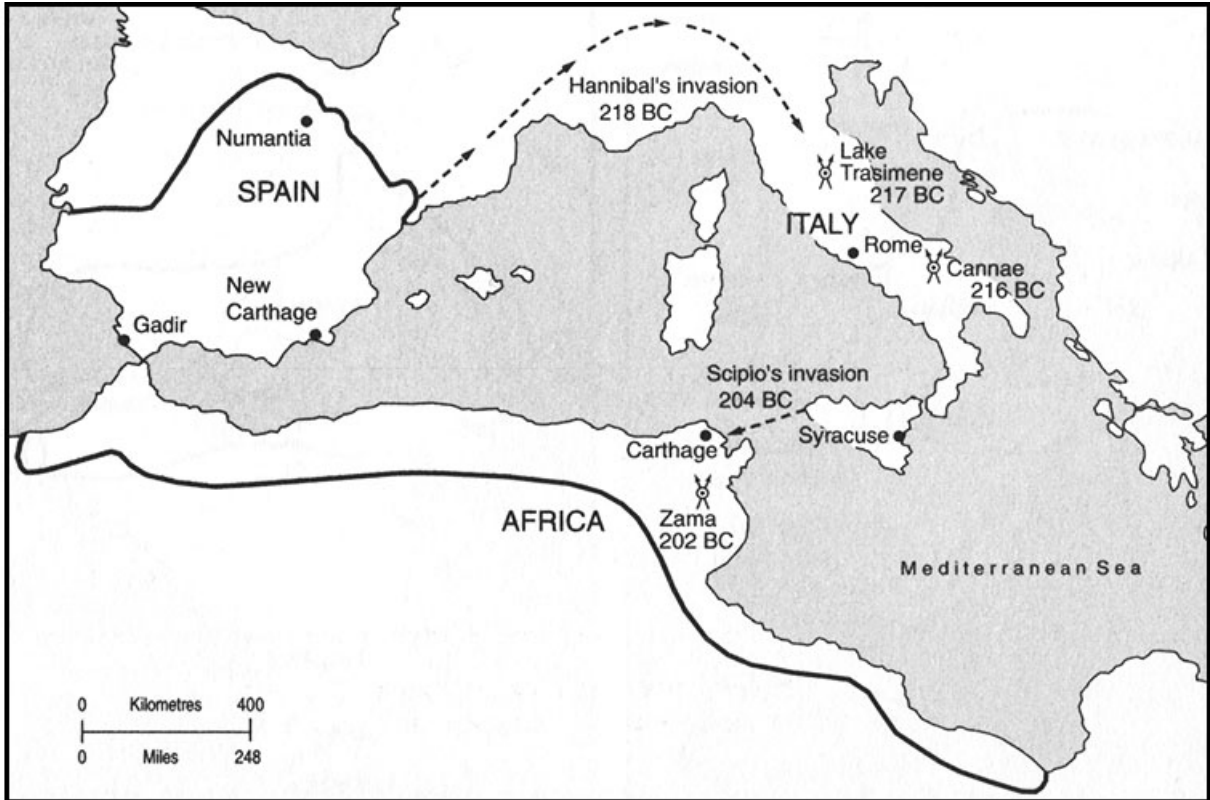
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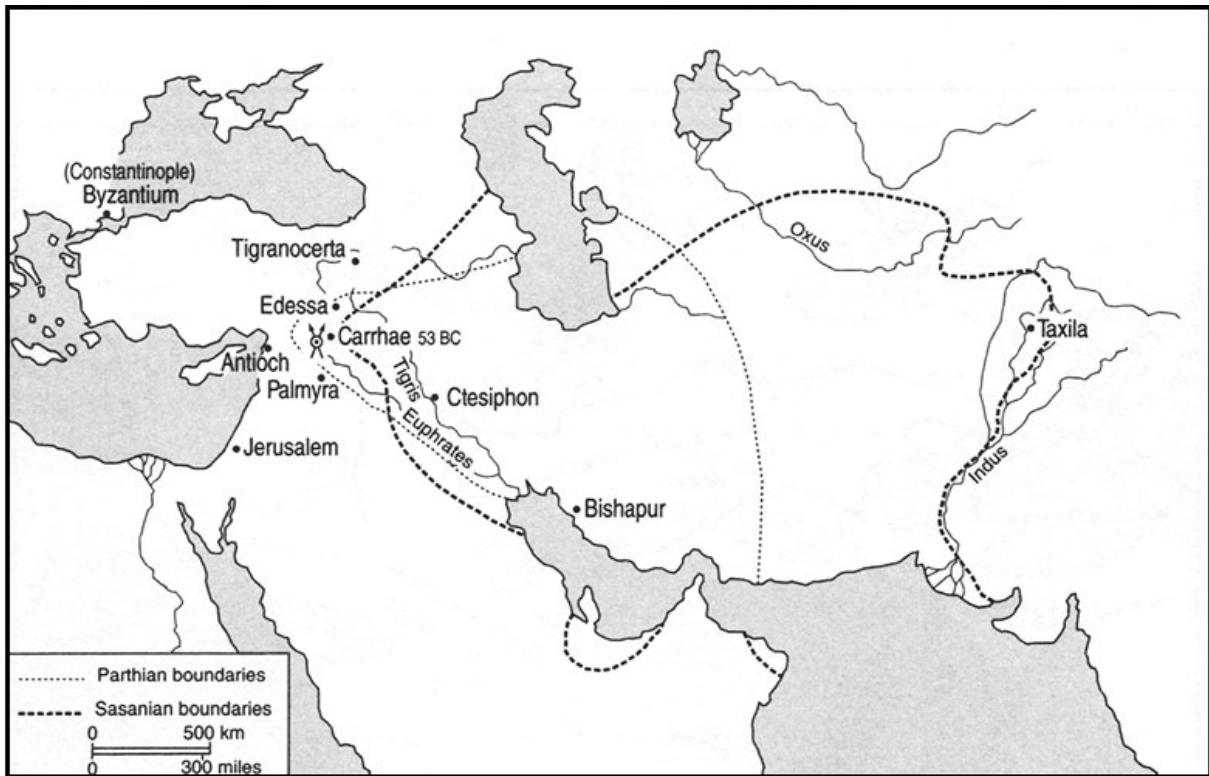
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Successor powers to the Macedonian empire: Antigonid Macedon, Seleucid Asia, Ptolemaic Egypt around 240 BC



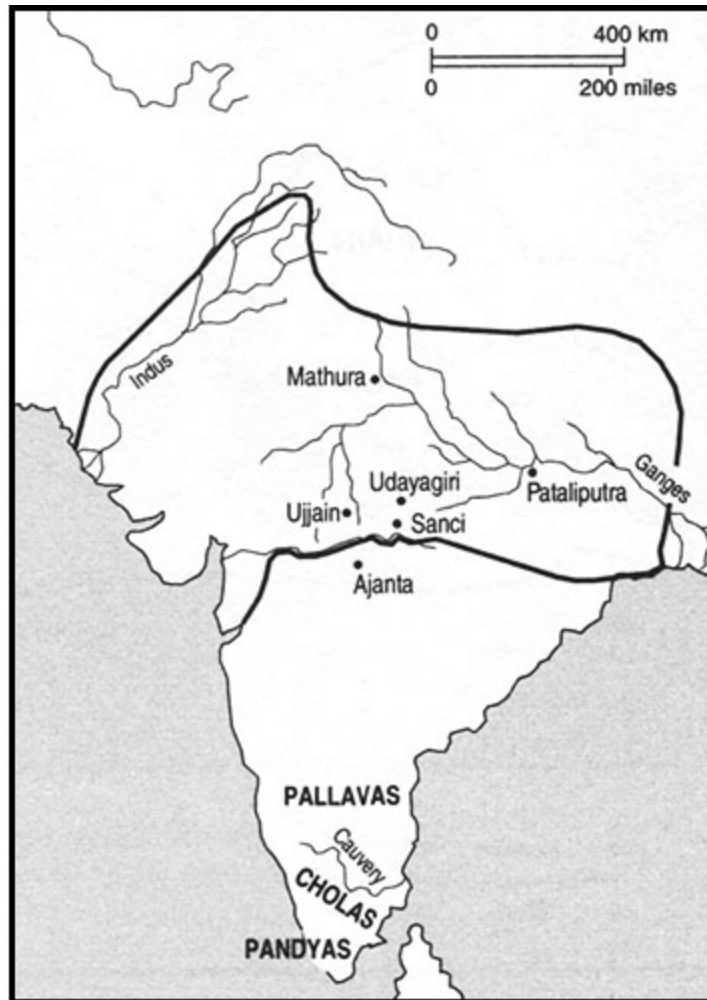
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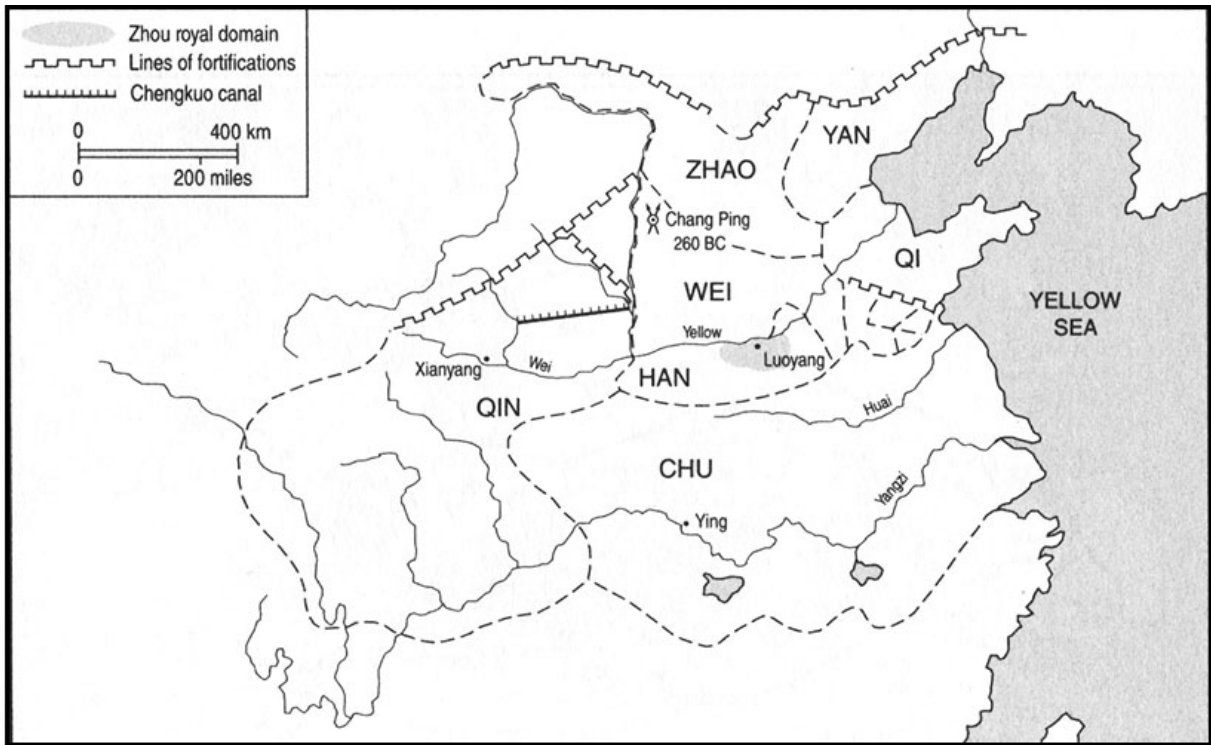
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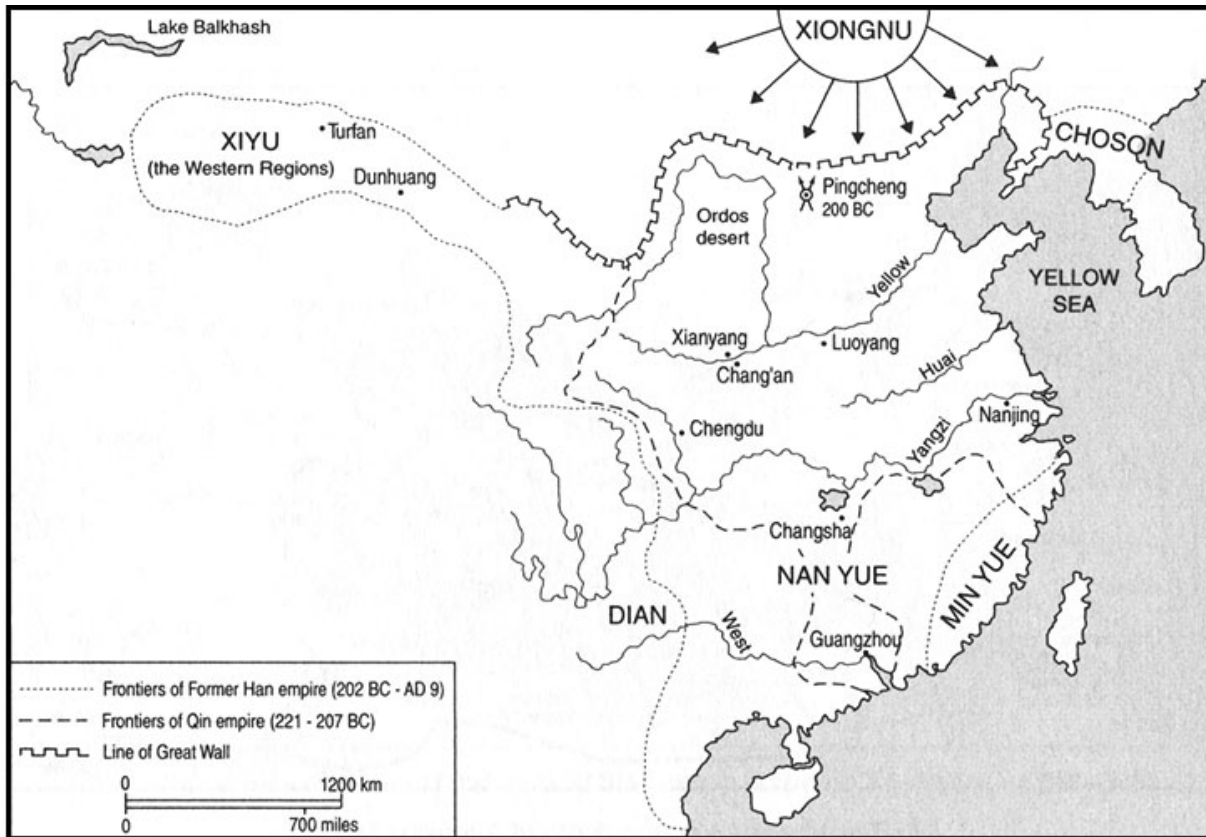
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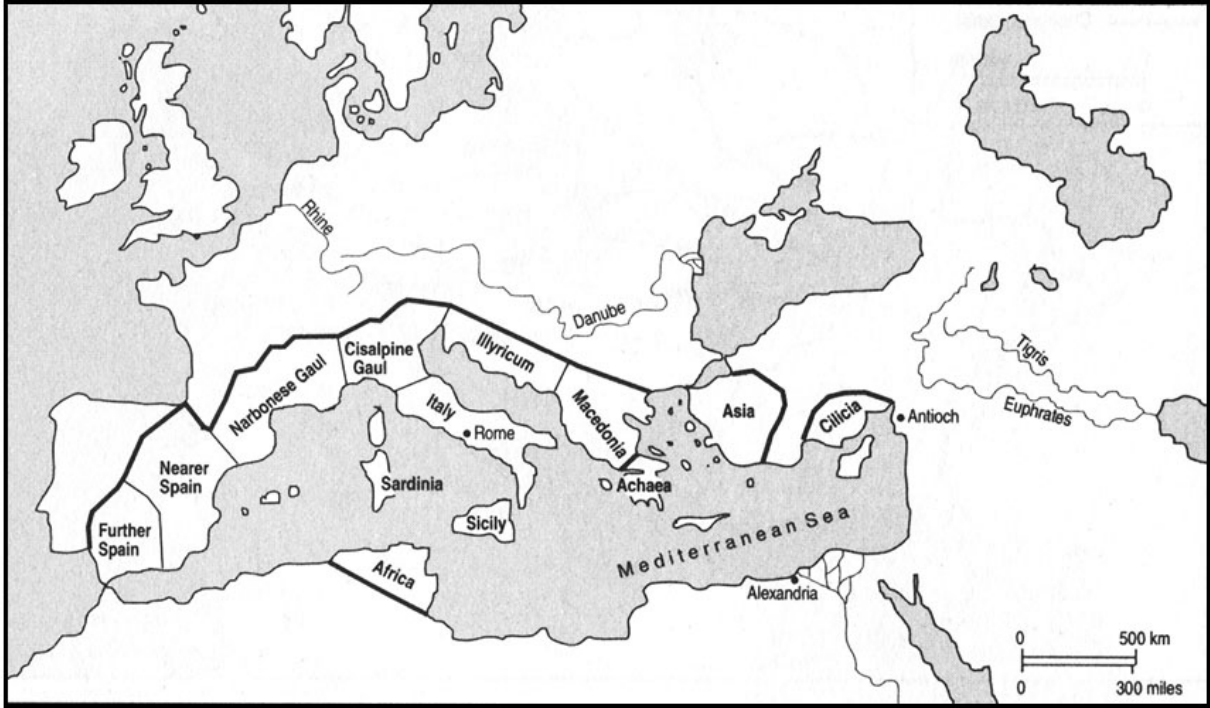
The Gupta empire under Chandragupta II (AD 376-412)



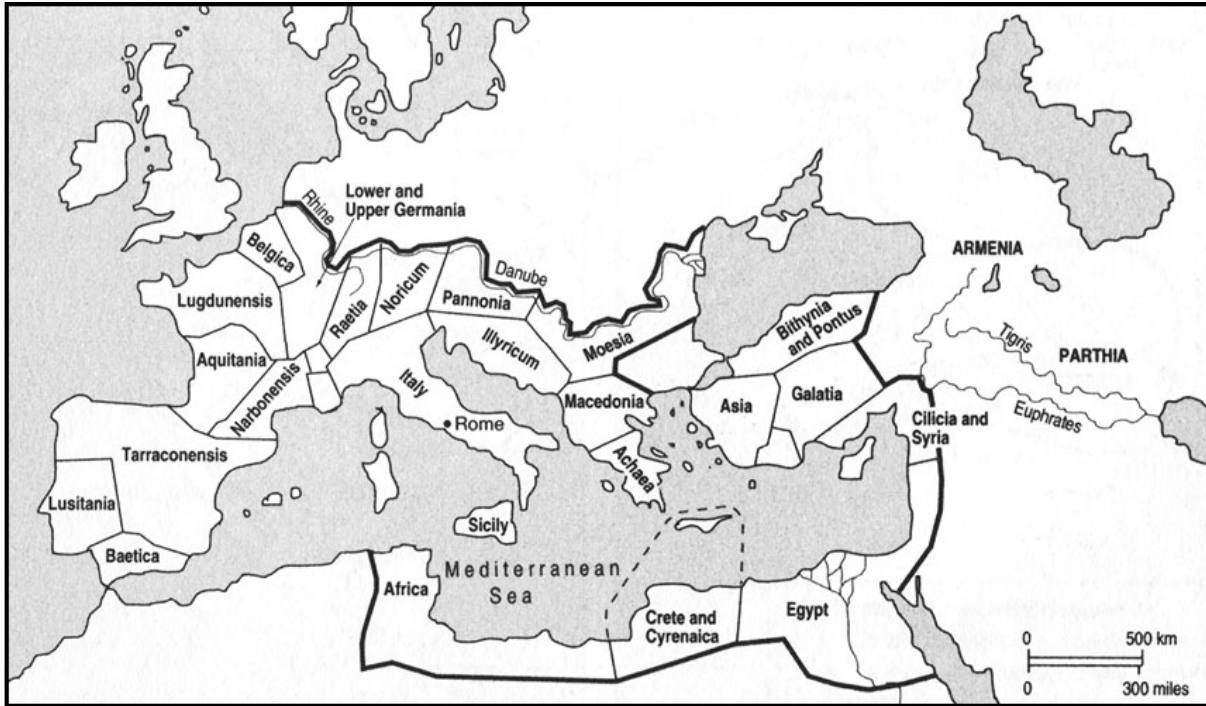
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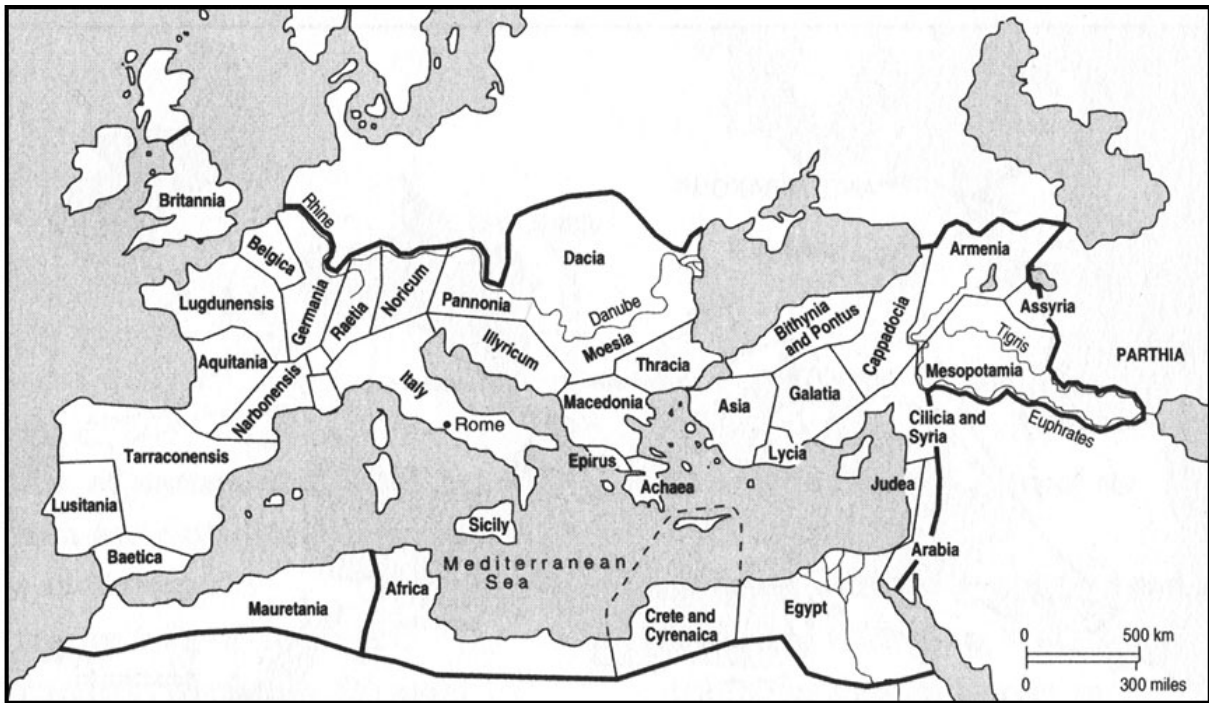
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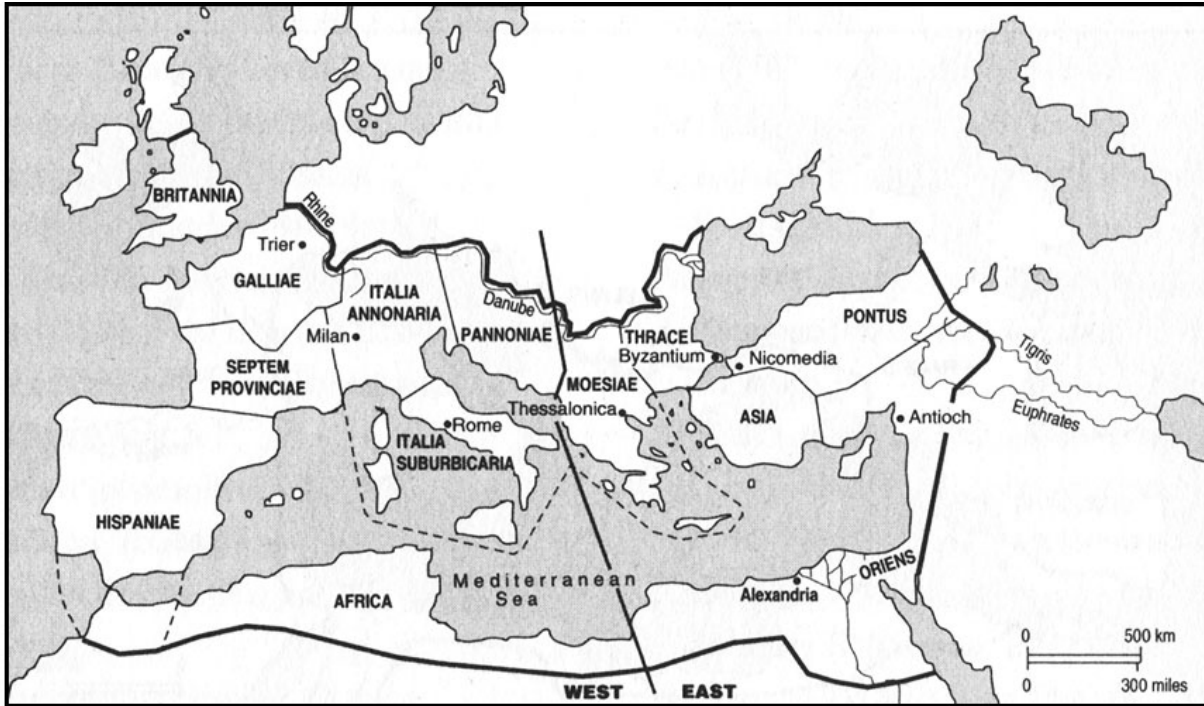
The provinces of late republican Rome (100 BC)



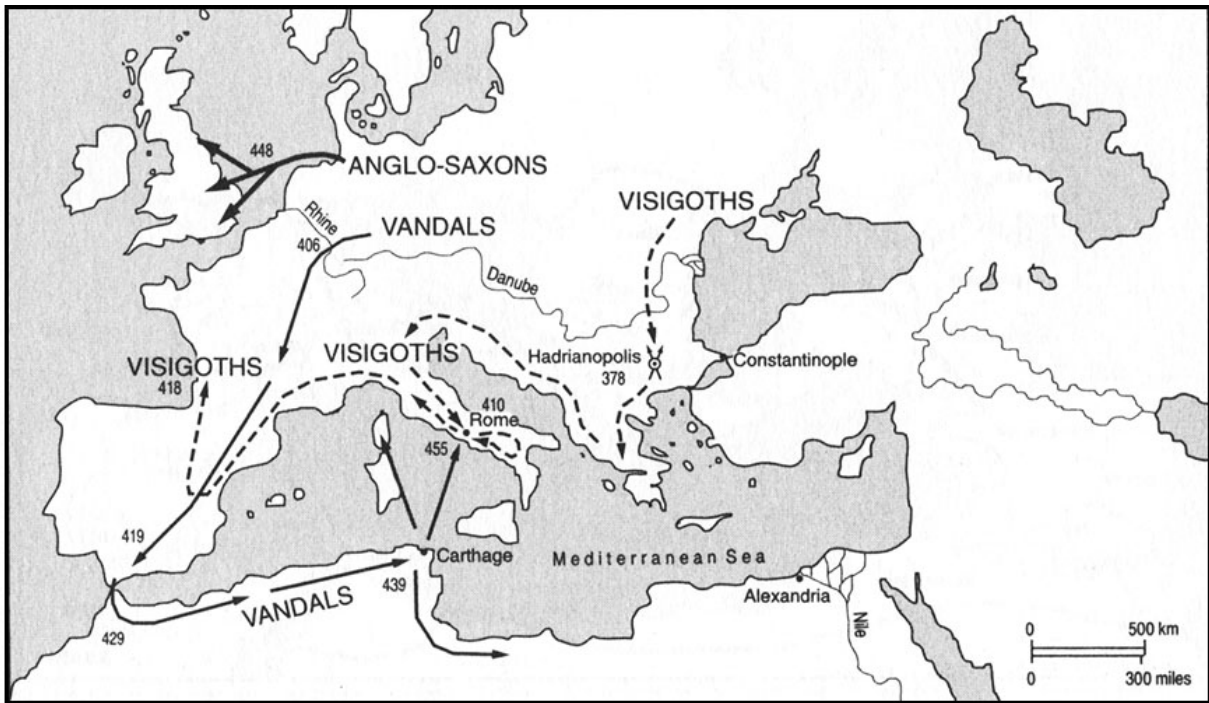
The Roman empire on the death of Augustus (AD 14)



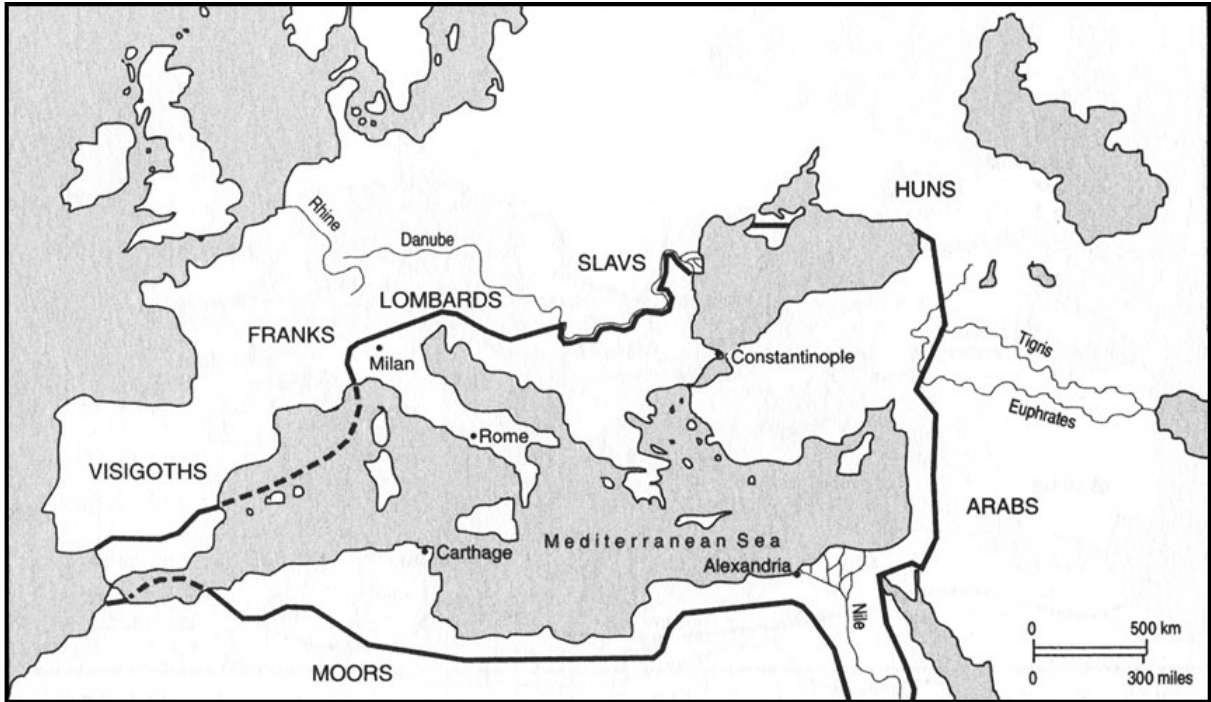
The Roman empire on the death of Trajan (AD 117)



The administrative dioceses introduced by the Roman emperor Diocletian (AD 284–305)



The routes taken by just three barbarian invaders, the Vandals, Visigoths and Anglo-Saxons, in the fifth century AD



Eastern Roman empire on the death of Justinian (AD 565)

CHRONOLOGY

	WEST	MEDITERRANEAN	EAST
600 BC –			Solon asked to mediate between the rich and the poor at Athens 594
			Pisistratus becomes tyrant of Athens 561
	Pythagoras settles at Croton 531		Persians conquer Egypt 525 Tyrant Polycrates killed by Oroetes 523
	Expulsion of Etruscan kings from Rome c.510		Persians campaign in Thrace 512 Hippias expelled from Athens 510 Cleisthenes' democratic reforms at Athens 508 Aeginetans raid coast of Attica 506
	Treaty agreed between Carthage and Rome 507–506		
500 BC –	Defensive alliance between Rome and the Latins 493 Birth of Empedocles at Acragas c.492 Carthaginians defeated by the Greeks at Himera 480		Ionian revolt 499–494 Spartans defeat Argives at Sepeia 494 Persian invasions of Greece 490 and 480–479 Delian League formed 478–477
			Cimon ostracized from Athens 461
	Twelve Tables, first written law code for Rome 451 Pericles sponsors panhellenic foundation of Thurii, where Herodotus settles 443		Athenian fleet lost in Egyptian revolt 454 Building of the Parthenon started 447
			The Peloponnesian War begins 431 Death of Pericles 429 Spartan defeat at Sphacteria 425 Death of Cleon at Amphipolis 424 Oligarchic reaction at Athens 411 Athens surrenders to Sparta: Long Walls and fleet destroyed 404 Themistocles killed by the Thirty, a Sparta-backed oligarchy 403
	Sicilian Expedition 415–413 Dionysius I seizes power at Syracuse 405		
400 BC –			

	WEST	MEDITERRANEAN	EAST
400 BC -	<p>Rome sacked by the Gauls 390 Plato visits Syracuse 387</p> <p>Timoleon overthrows tyrants in Sicily 345 Rome becomes predominant in Latium 338</p> <p>Samnites defeat Romans at Caudine Forks 321</p>		<p>Athenians execute Socrates 399 Death of Lysander 395 Thrasybulus rebuilds Athenian naval power 389 Plato founds the Academy at Athens 385 Thebans defeat Spartans at Leuctra 371 Messenia freed by the Thebans 369 Death of Epaminondas at Mantinea 362 Aristotle appointed as Alexander's tutor 343 Macedon defeats Thebes and Athens at Chaeronea 338 Assassination of Philip II of Macedon 336 Destruction of Thebes 334 Alexander visits oracle of Siwah in Libyan desert 331</p> <p>Zeno of Citium arrives at Athens 310 Epicurus settles in Athens 307 Ptolemy becomes king of Egypt 305</p>
300 BC -	<p>Pyrrhus invades Italy at the request of Tarentum 280 Pyrrhus wins costly victory over the Romans at Asculum 279 Pyrrhus evacuates Italy 275 Carthage and Rome go to war, and first gladiatorial show at Rome 264</p> <p>Romans occupy Sardinia and Corsica 238</p> <p>Hannibal besieges Saguntum, an ally of Rome in Spain 219 Disastrous Roman defeat at Cannae 216 Romans sack Syracuse, killing Archimedes: Sicily annexed 211 First Roman possessions in Spain 206 Hannibal recalled from Italy, and defeated at Zama 202 Carthage turned into a Roman satellite 201</p>		<p>Demetrius becomes king of Macedon 294</p> <p>Seleucus I assassinated shortly after his defeat of Lysimachus 281 Gauls invade Macedon and Greece 279 Antigonos Gonatas becomes king of Macedon 276 Death of Pyrrhus at Argos 272 Cleanthes succeeds Zeno as head of the Stoa 263</p> <p>King Cleomenes III of Sparta defeated at Sellasia 222 Egyptian troops give Ptolemies victory over Seleucids at Raphia 217 Alliance between Macedon and Carthage against Rome 215</p>
200 BC -			

	WEST	MEDITERRANEAN	EAST
200 BC -	<p>The elder Cato becomes censor at Rome 184</p> <p>Romans campaign in Spain 181</p> <p>The historian Polybius brought to Rome as a hostage 167</p> <p>Death of the Roman playwright Terence 159</p> <p>Romans destroy Carthage and annex Africa 146</p> <p>The Stoic philosopher Panaetius becomes a close associate of Scipio Aemilianus 144</p> <p>Failure of land reforms at Rome 133 and 123-121</p> <p>Marius enlists poorest Romans to fight against Jugurtha, the usurper of Numidia 107</p>		<p>Romans defeat Macedonians at Cynoscephalae 197</p>
100 BC -	<p>Teutones and Cimbri destroyed by Marius 102-101</p> <p>Birth of Julius Caesar 100</p> <p>Birth of Lucretius c.94</p> <p>Rivalry between Marius and Sulla leads to first military coup at Rome 88</p> <p>Sulla becomes dictator at Rome 82</p> <p>Spartacus leads slave revolt in southern Italy 73-71</p> <p>Pompey given special command against pirates 67</p> <p>Cicero executes Catiline 62</p> <p>First triumvirate formed between Pompey, Crassus and Caesar 60</p> <p>Caesar begins Gallic campaign 59</p> <p>Rebellion of Vercingetorix in Gaul 52</p> <p>Assassination of Julius Caesar: Octavian declared his heir 44</p> <p>Second triumvirate formed between Antony, Octavian and Lepidus 43</p> <p>Senate formally acknowledges supremacy of Octavian, the first Roman emperor Augustus 27</p>		<p>Romans end Macedonian independence at Pydna 168</p> <p>Senate orders Aemilius Paullus to enslave Epirotes 167</p> <p>Romans destroy Corinth and annex Greece 146</p> <p>Athens, under a restored democracy, joins Mithridates VI of Pontus against Rome 88</p> <p>Sulla sacks Athens 86</p> <p>Cicero in Athens and Rhodes 79</p> <p>Caesar defeats Pompey at Pharsalus in Thessaly 48</p> <p>Caesar in Alexandria 48-47</p> <p>Battle of Philippi 42</p> <p>Antony and Cleopatra defeated at Actium 31</p> <p>End of Ptolemaic rule in Egypt 30</p>
BC -			

	WEST	MEDITERRANEAN	EAST
AD –	<p>Loss of three legions in Germany 9 Death of Augustus, the first Roman emperor 14 Fall and execution of Sejanus 31 Death of Tiberius 37 Assassination of his successor Caligula 41 Southern Britain annexed by Claudius 43 Claudius poisoned by Agrippina, whose son Nero succeeds him 54 Rebellion of Boudicca 60–61 Great fire at Rome blamed on Christians 64 Suicide of Nero ends first imperial dynasty at Rome 68 Vespasian becomes emperor with support of his troops 69</p> <p>Eruption of Vesuvius 79 Dedication of the Colosseum 80</p> <p>Assassination of Domitian, Vespasian's younger son 96 Accession of Trajan 98</p>		<p>Illyrian revolt 6–9</p> <p>Philo leads Jewish delegation from Alexandria to Rome 39</p> <p>Jews rise in revolt 66 Nero tours Greece, having prizes awarded for his poetry to himself everywhere 67</p>
AD 100 –	<p>Accession of Hadrian 117 Hadrian visits Britain 121–122</p> <p>Accession of Antoninus Pius 138 Frontier in Britain advanced into Scotland 142</p> <p>Accession of Marcus Aurelius 161</p> <p>Campaigns of Marcus Aurelius against the Germans 167–180 Death of Marcus Aurelius and accession of his son Commodus 180</p> <p>Assassination of Commodus 192 Accession of Septimius Severus, the first Roman emperor from Africa 193</p>		<p>Trajan annexes Dacia and Arabia 105–106, then campaigns against the Parthians, annexing Mesopotamia 113–117</p> <p>Gnosticism flourishes at Alexandria 130–180 Jewish revolt of Bar Cochba 132–135</p> <p>Polycarp martyred at Smyrna 155 or 165 Roman campaign against Parthia 162–166</p> <p>Septimius Severus campaigns against the Partians, capturing Ctesiphon 197–199</p>
AD 200 –			

	WEST	MEDITERRANEAN	EAST
AD 200 –			Clement flees from persecution of Christians in Alexandria 202
	Assassination in 235 of Alexander, last Severan emperor, followed by a long period of military anarchy and foreign invasion		Ardashir I takes over Parthian empire becoming first Sasanian ruler 226
	Decius persecutes Christians 250–251		Sasanians sack Antioch 256 Valerian captured by Sasanians 260 Last Olympic Games held 261 Palmyra overruns eastern Roman provinces 267–272 Major Gothic inroads in Thrace and Greece 268 Aurelian suppresses Palmyra 270
	Aurelian forced to build defences for Rome 270		Peace agreement with Sasanians 288
	Accession of Diocletian and his reform of the empire 284		Retirement of Diocletian and Maximian 305
AD 300 –	Constantine hailed as emperor by troops at York 306		Council of Nicaea 325 Constantine founds Constantinople as Christian capital of Roman empire 330
	Constantine first acknowledges Christianity 312		Julian killed in battle against the Sasanians 363
	Baptism and death of Constantine 337		Visigoths given permission to settle south of Danube 376 Visigoths defeat and kill Valens at Adrianople 378 Theodosius I finally settles Visigoths as Roman allies 382
	Accession of Julian, who withdraws privileges given to the church by Constantine 360		
	Accession of Valentinian I and his brother Valens 364		
	Campaigns against the Alemanni on the Rhine 365–375		
	Death of Valentinian I 375		
	Theodosius prohibits pagan rituals 391–392		Honorius' brother, Arcadius, rules in the east 395
AD 400 –	Western Roman emperor Honorius under Stilicho's control 395		

	WEST	MEDITERRANEAN	EAST
AD 400 –	<p>Honorius flees to Ravenna 404 Massive German crossing of the Rhine 406 Visigothic leader Alaric sacks Rome 410 Visigoths allowed to settle in south-western France 418</p> <p>Vandals cross to Africa 429 Death of St Augustine during Vandal siege of Hippo 430</p> <p>Defeat of the Huns on the Catalaunian Fields in Gaul 451 Death of Attila, king of the Huns 453 Vandals sack Rome 455</p> <p>Deposition of Romulus Augustulus, last western Roman emperor: Odoacer becomes first barbarian king of Italy 476</p> <p>Ostrogoths overthrow Odoacer by 493 and establish their own kingdom in Italy.</p>		<p>Landward defences of Constantinople strengthened 413</p> <p>Theodosius II sponsors learning at Constantinople 425</p> <p>Death of Theodosius II, who achieved the longest reign of any Roman emperor 450</p> <p>Ostrogoths set out for Italy 488</p>
AD 500 –	<p>Belarius recaptures Africa from Vandals 533–534 Eastern Roman army recovers much of Italy by 540</p>		<p>Accession of Justinian 527 Dedication of Hagia Sophia 537 Sasanians under Khusrau I sack Antioch 540</p>
AD 600 –	<p>Most eastern Roman gains lost after 570: Visigoths capture Spain and the Lombards take nearly all of Italy</p>		<p>Death of Justinian 565</p> <p>Accession of Maurice, who reorganizes Byzantium's defences 582 Maurice backs Khusrau II as Sasanian king 591</p>

	WEST ASIA	INDIA	CHINA
600 BC -			
	<p>Death of Zoroaster 551</p> <p>Cyrus overthrows the Medes 550</p> <p>Croesus of Lydia defeated by Cyrus who also subdues the Greek cities of Ionia 546</p> <p>Peaceful surrender of Babylon 539</p> <p>Death of Cyrus in Central Asia 530</p> <p>Accession of Darius I amid widespread rebellions 521</p>	<p>Birth of the Buddha 563</p> <p>King Bimbisara founds Nanda dynasty 546</p> <p>The Jain saviour Mahavira dies c. 528</p> <p>Persians annex north-western India 518</p>	<p>Birth of Confucius 551</p>
500 BC -	<p>Ionian revolt 499-494</p> <p>Persians dispatch expeditions against mainland Greece 490 and 480-479, and against Egyptian rebels 485 and 459-454</p> <p>Death of Darius I 486</p> <p>Xerxes assassinated 465</p> <p>Peace agreed between Persia and Athens 449</p> <p>After failure of Athenian expedition to Sicily, Persia switches sides and backs Sparta with gold 413</p> <p>Spartans back Cyrus the Younger in his bid for the Persian throne 401</p>	<p>Nanda expansion under Ajatasatru, 494-462</p>	<p>Warring States period begins 481</p> <p>Death of Confucius 479</p> <p>Birth of Mo Zi 468</p>
400 BC -			<p>Birth of Shen Buhai 400</p>