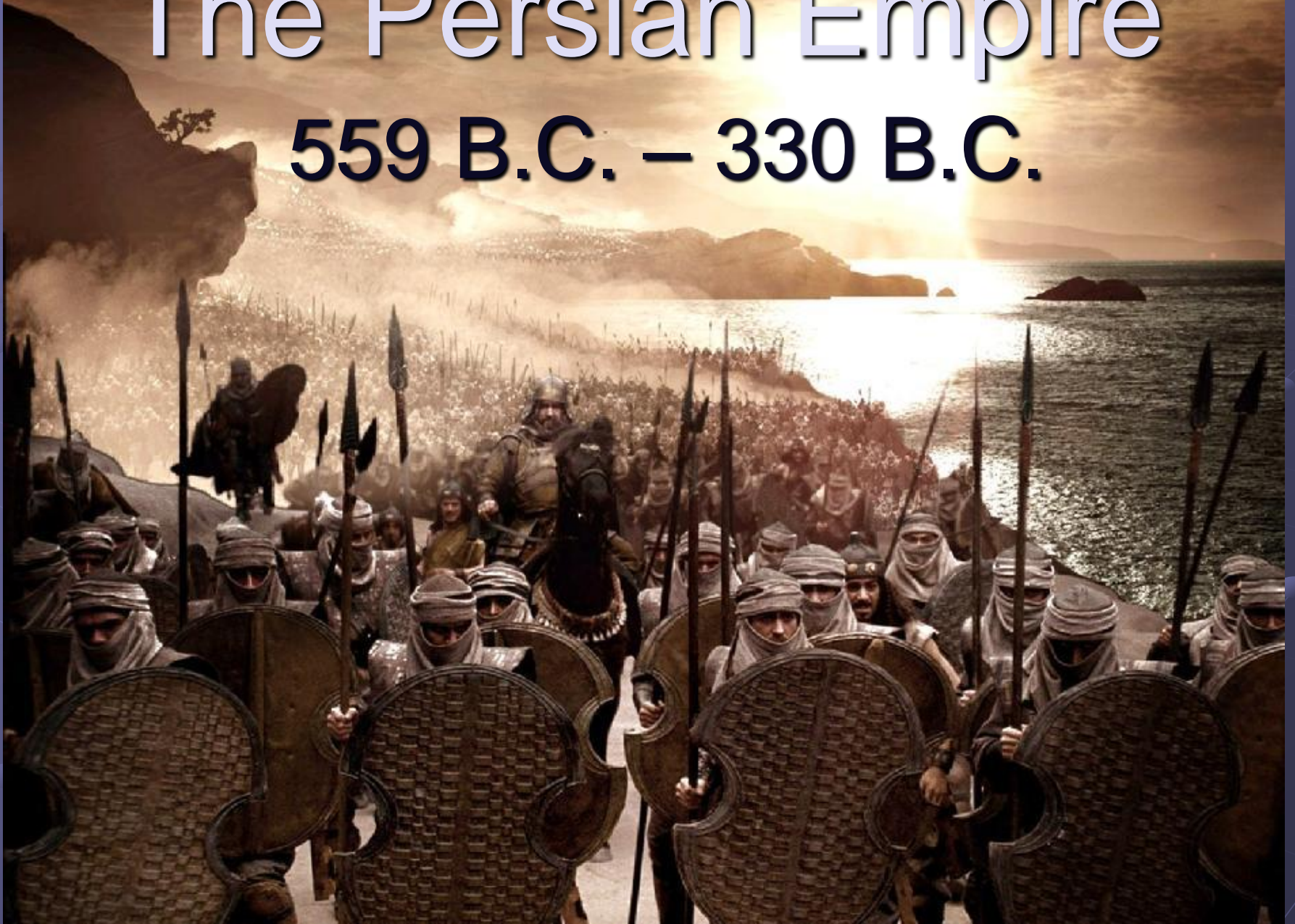


# The Persian Empire

**559 B.C. – 330 B.C.**





# I. Cyrus the Great (559 – 530 B.C.)

- A. United many local tribes into the largest empire of the world - The Persian Empire!
- B. Cyrus also allowed conquered people to continue to practice their customs and religious beliefs
- C. Ended the Babylonian Captivity (Jews)
- D. This began the Persian tradition of treating conquered people honorably and with mercy

## II. Darius (521 B.C. – 486 B.C.)

- A. Unites Persia once again after massive fighting after Cyrus dies
- B. Begins building a new city at Persepolis and The Royal Road which is used for transportation of goods and messages to unite the empire
- C. Expands and reorganizes his empire into provinces called satrapies to better govern the massive amount of land. We borrow this concept (States)

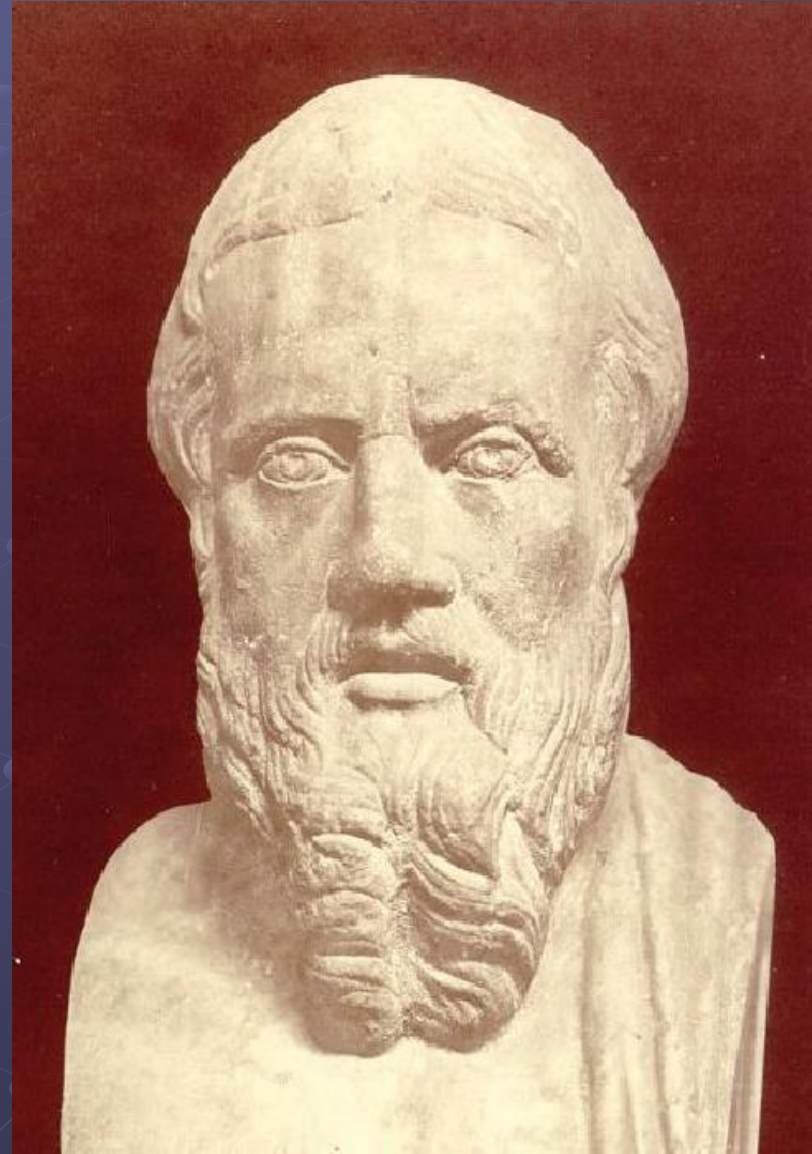
# The Persian Wars

**Battle of Marathon  
(Darius)**

**Battle of Salamis  
(Xerxes)**

# The Father of History!

Today, we  
know about  
these battles  
because of the  
Greek historian  
*Herodotus*

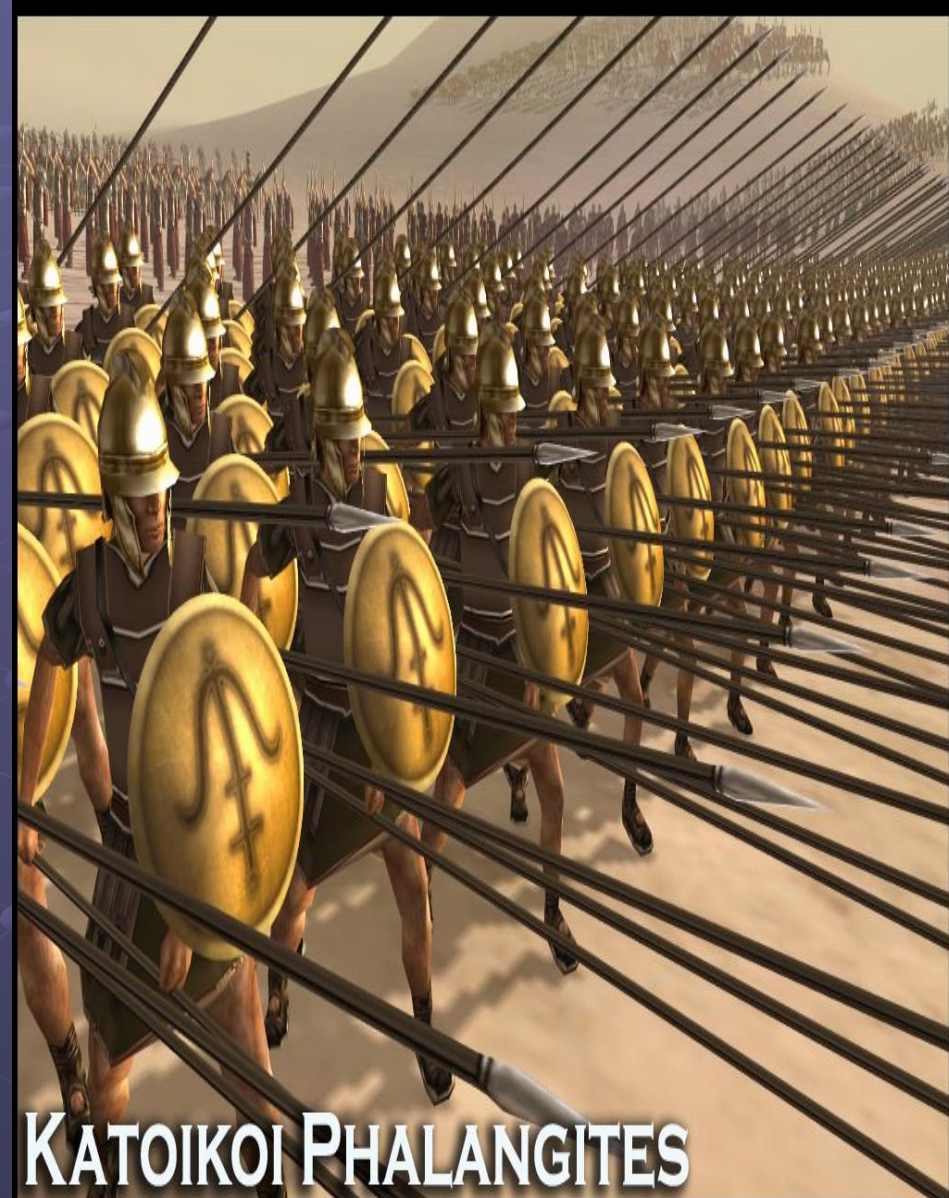


# Herodotus

- A. “The Father of History”
- B. Wrote about the history of the Persian Wars, Egypt and Greece
- C. Interviewed people who lived through the events – first hand accounts!
- D. Wrote in an interesting style to please readers – writings gained popularity!
- E. Gave both sides of an account
- F. His accuracy is sometimes questioned as he may not have checked facts

# III. The Battle of Marathon

- A. King Darius wants to defeat Greeks for interfering with this kingdom
- B. Persians greatly outnumber the Athenians
- C. Athenians win because of better armor, strategy and the phalanx

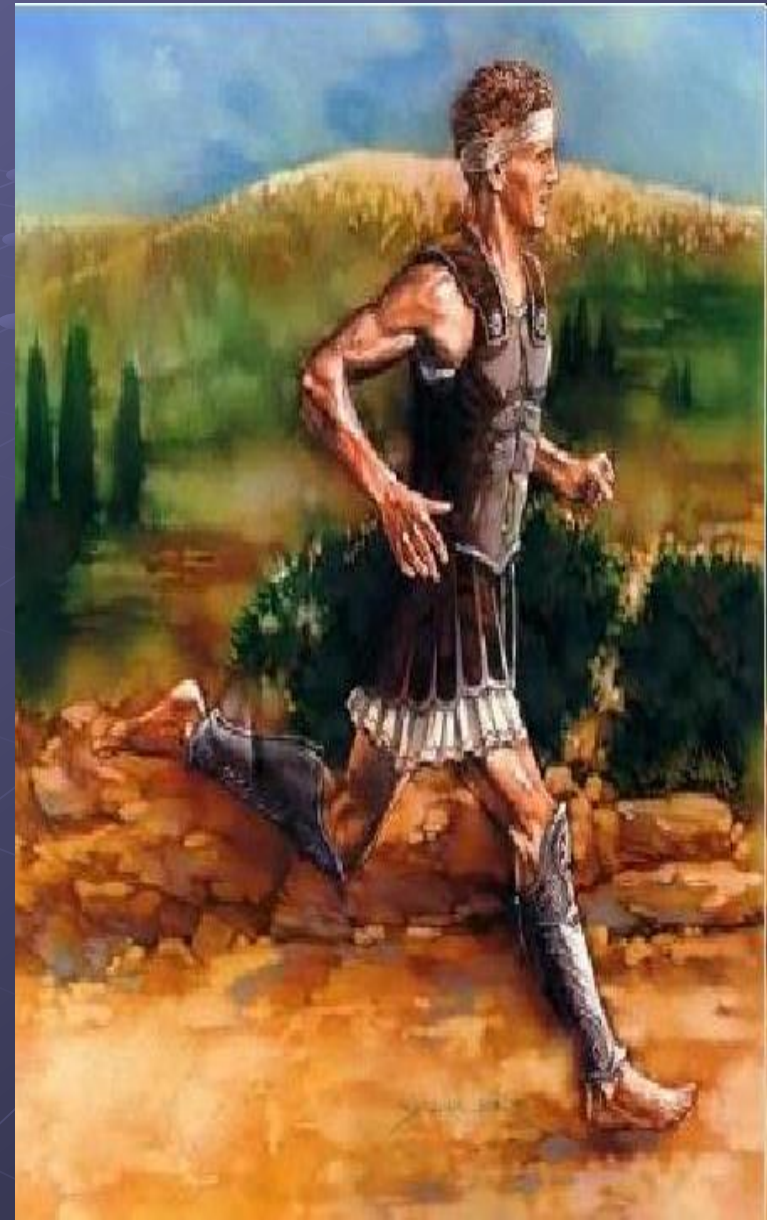






# The first Marathon!

- A marathon today is named after the legendary runner *Pheidippides*
- Legend has it that he ran from Marathon to Athens (about 26 miles) to announce victory and warn them of Persian attack
- He then collapsed and died from exhaustion.



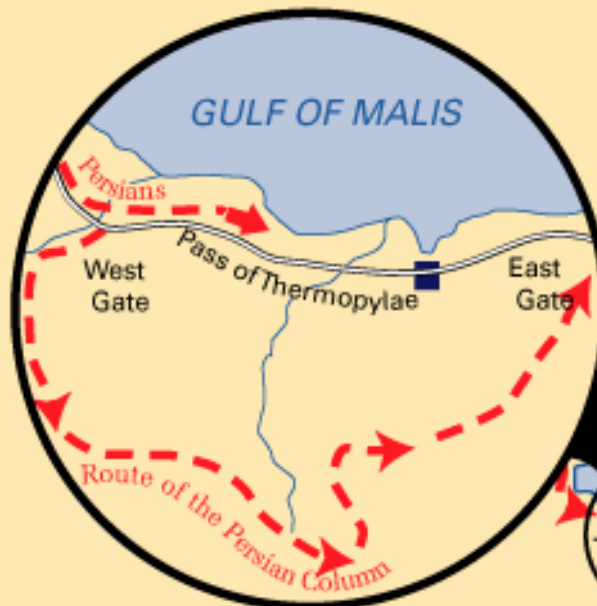
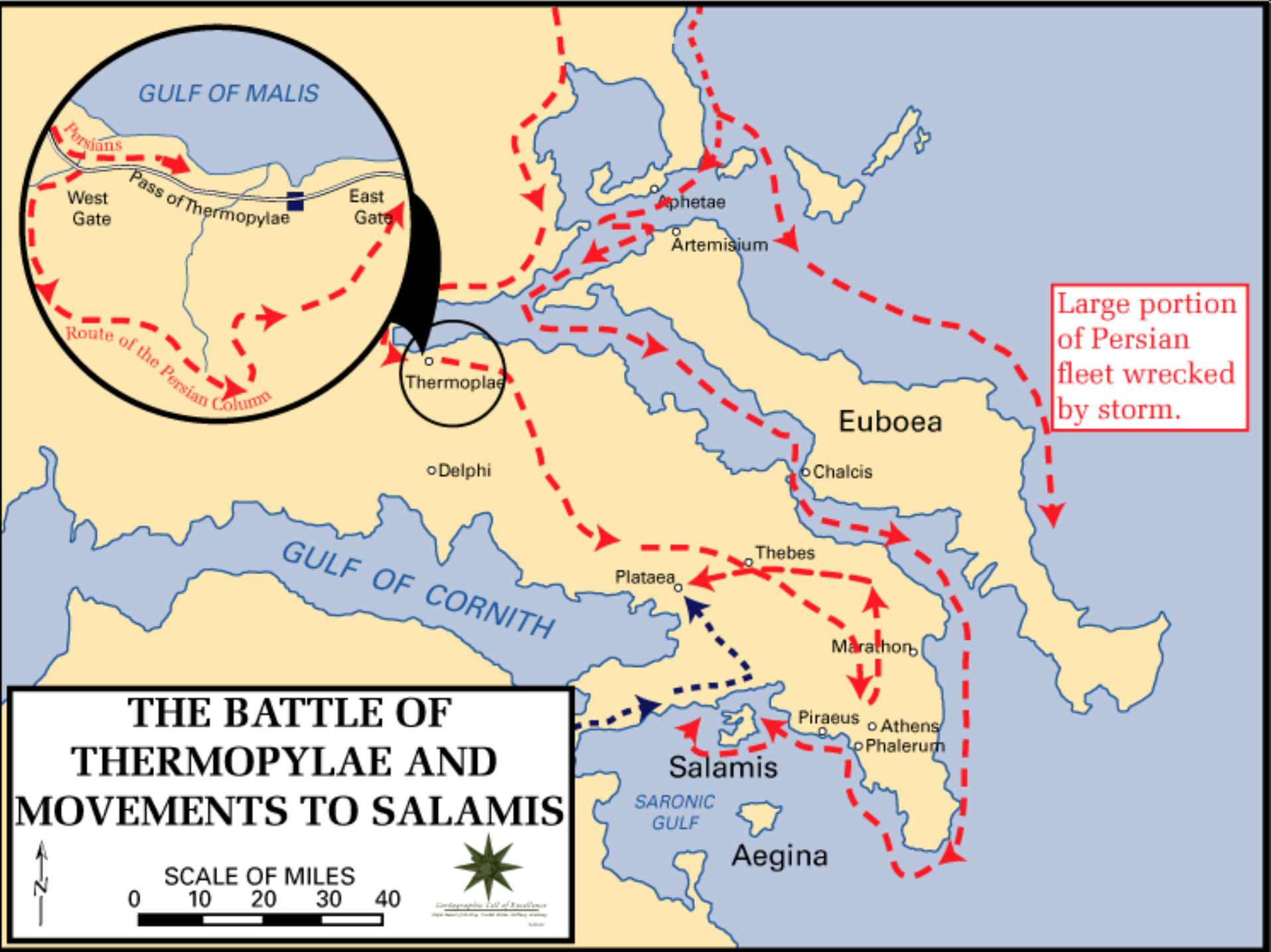
# IV. King Xerxes

- A. Son of Darius who lost the Battle of Marathon
- B. Wanted to avenge his father's loss and defeat the Greeks.



# Xerxes invades Greece!

- A. Xerxes brings an overwhelming Persian army into Greece
- B. However, have an extremely difficult time invading because they have to pass through a very narrow passageway called at Thermopylae
- C. This is the famous stand of the 300 Spartan soldiers who hold off Xerxes while the other Greeks retreat.



Large portion of Persian fleet wrecked by storm.

# THE BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE AND MOVEMENTS TO SALAMIS

SCALE OF MILES  
0 10 20 30 40

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# Xerxes is on the move!

- After finally getting through the pass at Thermopylae, Xerxes arrives at Athens to find the city deserted
- He loots the Acropolis and burns the city to the ground.
- He then prepares his naval fleet for the decisive battle to defeat the Greeks!

# Themistocles saves Greece!

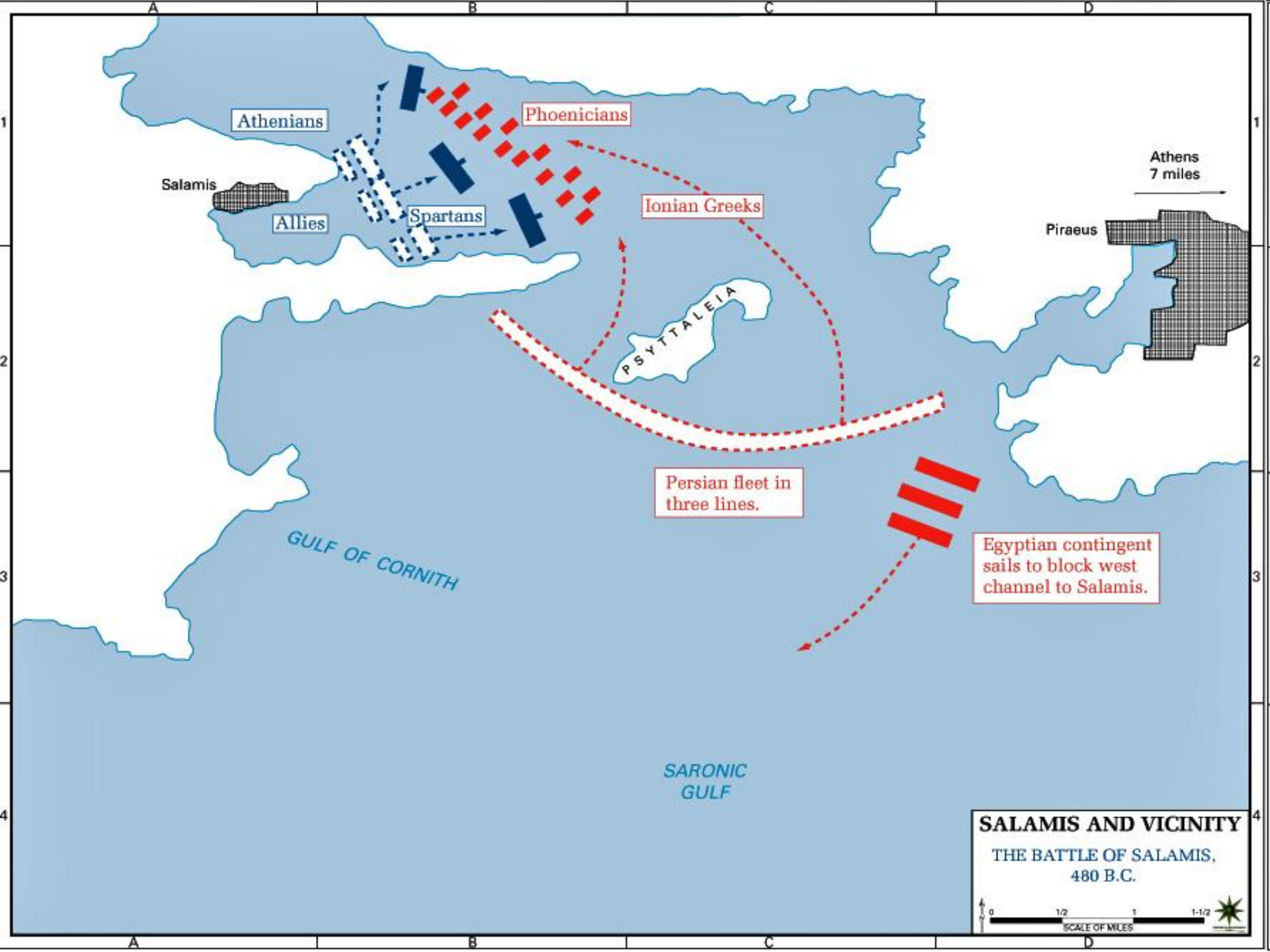
- A. Athens retreat from their city and Xerxes burns it to the ground
- B. Under the leadership of *Themistocles* the Greeks come up with one final plan to save their way of life!



# The Greeks defeat Persia

- A. The Greeks decide to lure the Persians into the Strait of Salamis so that they could better fight the Persians
- B. The Greek navy is made up of small ships that can easily outmaneuver the huge Persian fleet.
- C. The Persian Wars end and Greece enters into a “Golden Age”





Athenians

Phoenicians

Salamis

Allies

Spartans

Ionian Greeks

Athens  
7 miles

Piraeus

PSYTTALEIA

Persian fleet in  
three lines.

Egyptian contingent  
sails to block west  
channel to Salamis.

GULF OF CORNITH

SARONIC  
GULF

**SALAMIS AND VICINITY**

THE BATTLE OF SALAMIS,  
480 B.C.





Buzina

Betsis

Nisa Peramos

Skaramanos

Pakhi

Ayios Yorgios

Nafpaktos

Perama

Nikaa

Perasthino

Perasta

Vardero

Perastina

Nissa

Aandri

Nafpaktos

Onaki

Lambrino

Sater



Eleusis

Megara

Nisaea

Attika

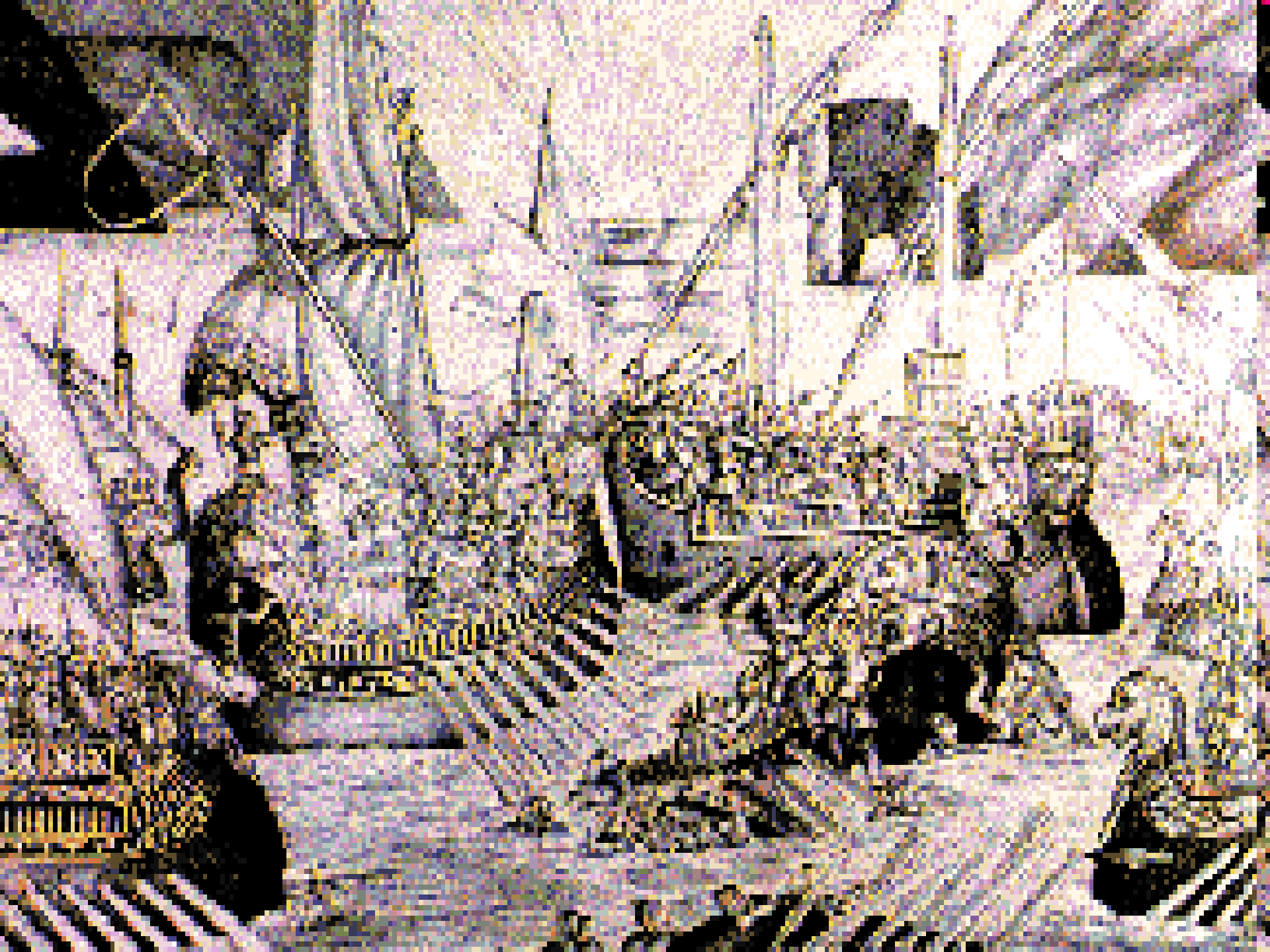
Salamis

Psyttalea









# V. Fall of the Persian Empire

- A. Defeated Persians return home
- B. High taxes angered subjects and led to rebellions against the throne
- C. 6 of next 9 kings murdered = instability in the government
- D. Alexander the Great took advantage of their weakened state and conquered another King Darius and the Persian Empire