

Phoenicians, Assyrians, and Persian

Early Empire Builders

Phoenician Trade Routes

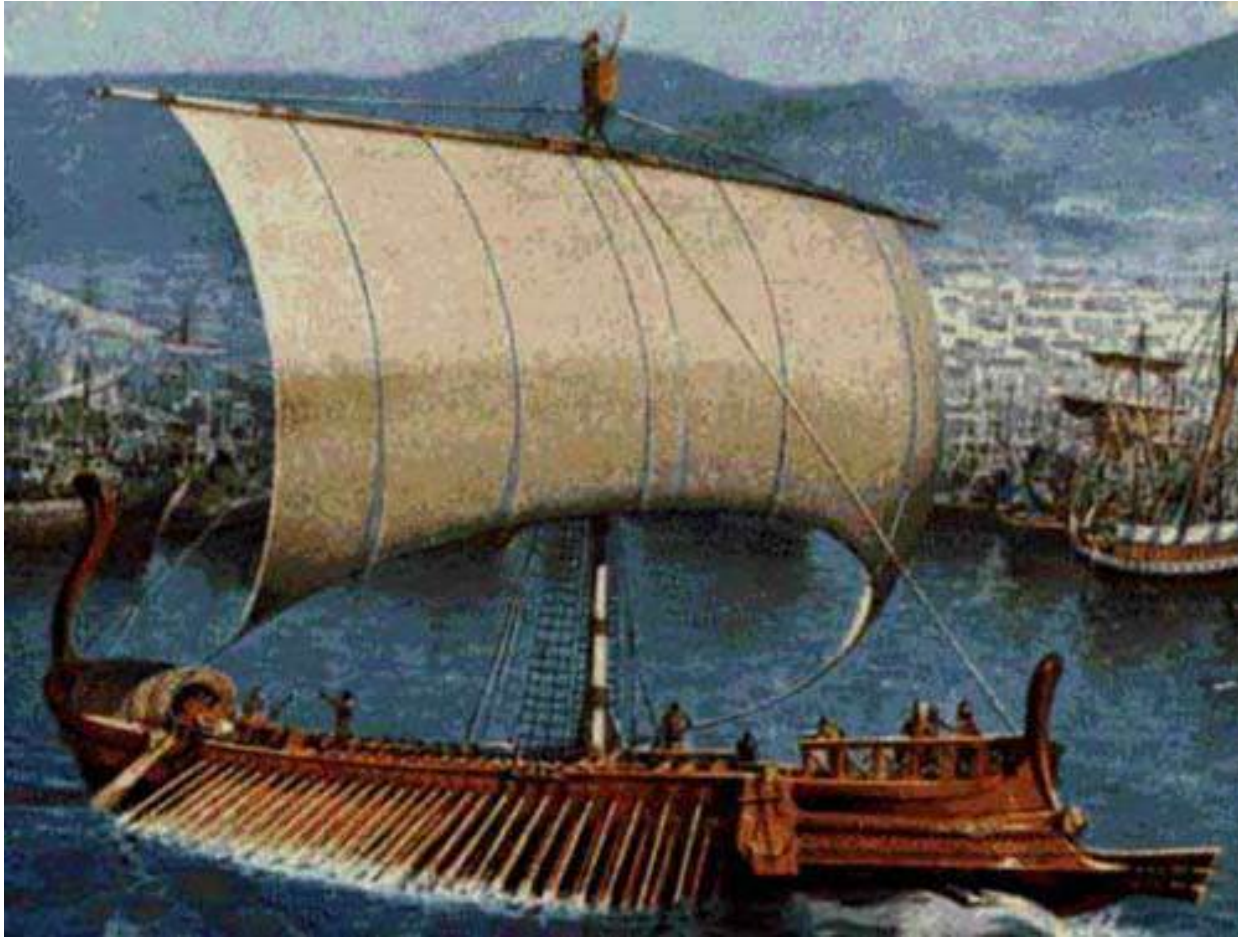


 *Greek and Phoenician Colonies and Trade. The Western Mediterranean was first colonized by Phoenicians and Greeks who together controlled trade throughout the region.*

Location

- founded Lebanon, on the Mediterranean
- established trading centers
- great shipbuilders and seafarers
- Example: Sailed around Africa, wouldn't be done for another 2000 years

Phoenician Boats



Trade Items

- Red-purple dye, papyrus, wine, weapons, precious metals, ivory, and even slaves
- Dye made from murex that came from snails, it took 60,000 snails to create 1 lb of dye so VERY expensive and only for the rich

Phoenician Alphabet

Letter Name	Proto-Sinaitic	Early Phoenician	Greek	Phonetic Value	Letter Meaning
*aleph			Α	[ʾ]	ox
beth			Β	[b]	house
gimmel			Γ	[g]	throwstick
daleth			Δ	[d]	door
he			Ε	[h]	
waw			Ϝ ¹ Υ	[w]	hook/peg
zayin			Ζ	[z]	
heth			Η	[h]	fence
teth			Θ	[t]	
yodh			Ι	[y]	arm/hand
kaph			Κ	[k]	palm of hand
lamedh			Λ	[l]	goad/crook
mem			Μ	[m]	water
nun			Ν	[n]	snake
samekh			Ξ	[s]	
*ayin			Ο	[ʿ]	eye
pe			Π	[p]	
tsade			Ϝ ²	[s]	
qoph			Ϙ ³	[q]	
reš			Ρ	[r]	head
šin			Σ	[š]	
taw			Τ	[t]	mark (?)

Lasting Legacy

- The Alphabet
- The writing system was developed to communicate with people throughout their empire, so instead of pictures they developed symbols with sounds
- Greeks later adopted and advanced the languages

Defeat and Decline

- The Phoenicians would lose control of their empire as the Assyrians developed and couldn't repel their army.

Assyrians



Basics

- The loved warriors and building
- The society and army was brutal, known to brag about killing cities
- Took over the fertile crescent, Tigris and Euphrates to Nile
- Great builders, built the one of the largest libraries holding 20,000 clay tablets

Army and Tactics

- Professional soldiers* paid*
- Threatened and intimidated, pay tribute or suffer consequences
- Siege tactics practiced: ladders, dug tunnels, battering ram
- Chariots, archers, and iron daggers and swords
- Entire city populations would be slaughtered: impale or behead men, and murder or enslave women and children



Downfall and Decline

- Because they were so brutal, eventually groups in the area joined forces and took down the Assyrians

Persians



Persians Expand

- Persians will build the largest empire up to this time in history
- They had a professional army, but were also much more tolerant once people were conquered
- Organization with provinces and travel allowed Persians to stay connected and create trade

1600 mile Royal Road



Organization

- The divided the empire into provinces and then would send tax collectors (satrap)
- Once they expanded they allowed the people to worship freely, speak their language as long as they paid tribute
- Once they reached Greece they ran into trouble and challenged who would control the Mediterranean

Xerxes vs the Greeks

