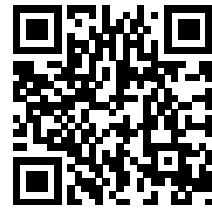


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Early Persian Empires



In ancient times, the _____ emerged as one of the most powerful peoples in the Middle East. Originating from what is now _____, they built a vast empire that stretched from the Indus River in the east to the shores of the _____ in the west. The empire was founded by Cyrus the Great, who was known for his innovative approach to governance and _____ towards the cultures and religions within his domain. Under his rule, the Achaemenid _____ became the largest the world had ever seen.

The Persian government was highly _____, featuring a system of provinces called satrapies. Each satrapy was governed by a _____, who was responsible for collecting taxes and maintaining order. This system allowed the _____ to effectively control their vast empire and ensure its prosperity.

One of the most remarkable _____ of the Persians was the construction of the Royal Road, which facilitated rapid communication and _____ throughout the empire. This road stretched over 1,600 miles and was so well designed that _____ could travel across the empire in just a week.

Education and culture flourished under Persian rule, with _____ serving as a cultural and administrative center. This magnificent city showcased the empire's architectural _____ and was the site of many celebrations and ceremonies.

Despite their power, the Persians were eventually challenged by the _____. The conflicts between the Persian Empire and the Greek city-states, particularly the battles of _____ and Thermopylae, are legendary. Although the Persians were initially successful, their invasion of _____ ultimately failed, leading to the decline of their empire.

The legacy of the Persians, however, lives on. Their _____ to administration, architecture, and the promotion of cultural and religious _____ have had a lasting impact on the development of civilization in the _____ and beyond.

Aegean Sea organized Persians achievements Greece Middle East Persians
tolerance Marathon Empire Persepolis messengers prowess contributions
Greeks satrap Iran tolerance trade