

# KAY 492

## Turkish Administrative History

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Week 1

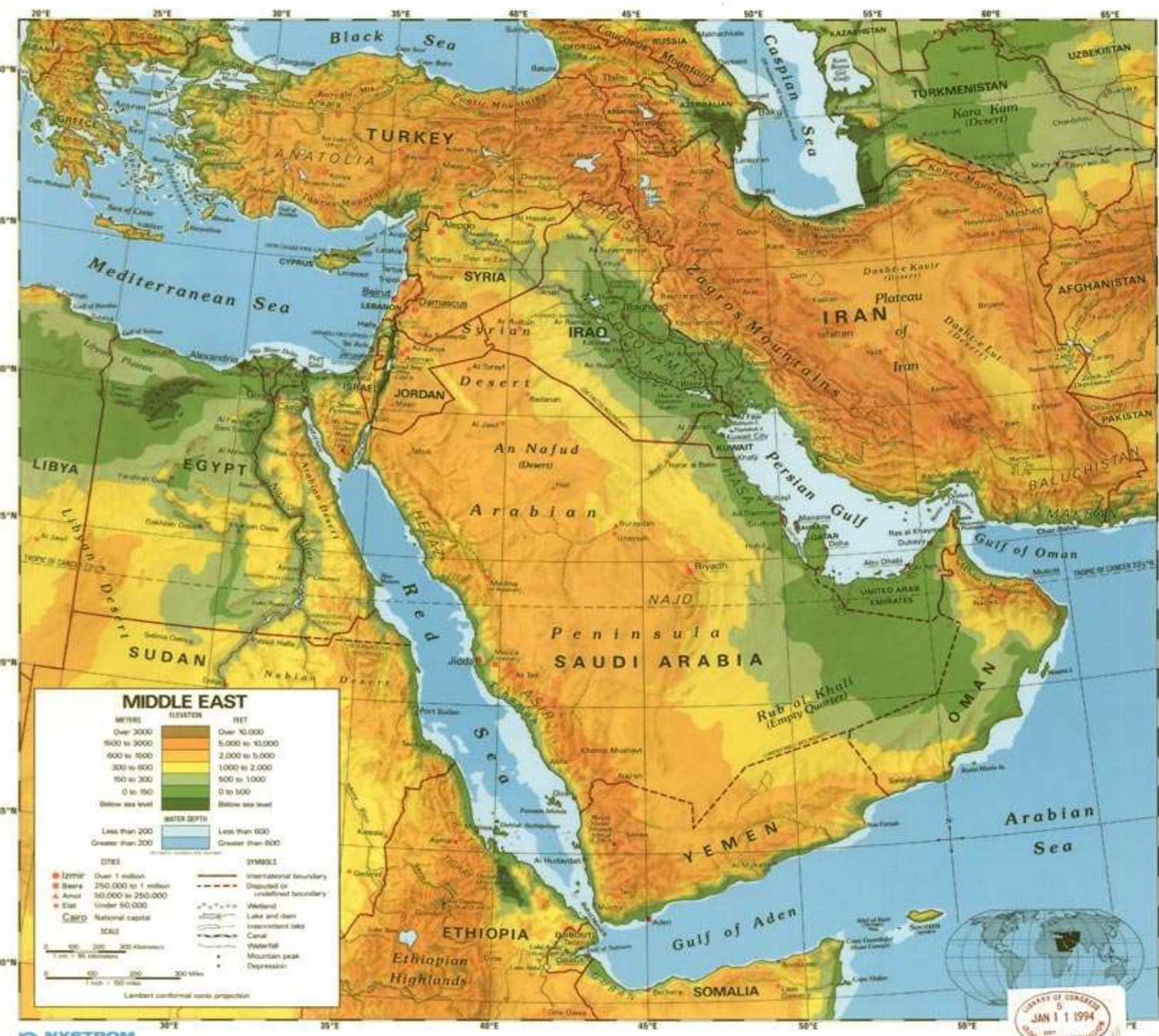
Ortaylı, pp. 15-29

Course Introduction &  
Middle Ages Iranian Sassanian  
(Sassanid) Administration

# Course Objective

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- Better understand the Ottoman Empire & the Republic of Turkey
    - Interactions between the Eastern & Western Worlds
    - 3 Roman Empires born out of the Mediterranean Basin
  - Administrative institutions & traditions
    - Guides in reforming government
  - Comparative institutional analysis
    - Dimensions of time & space
-



**MIDDLE EAST**

METERS	ELEVATION	FEET
Over 3000	Over 10,000	Over 10,000
1500 to 3000	5,000 to 10,000	5,000 to 10,000
600 to 1500	2,000 to 5,000	2,000 to 5,000
300 to 600	1,000 to 2,000	1,000 to 2,000
150 to 300	500 to 1,000	500 to 1,000
0 to 150	0 to 500	0 to 500
Below sea level	Below sea level	Below sea level

**WATER DEPTH**

Less than 200	Less than 600
Greater than 200	Greater than 600

**POPULATION**

POPULATION	SYMBOLS
Over 12 million	Large circle
Between 250,000 to 1 million	Medium circle
Under 50,000	Small circle

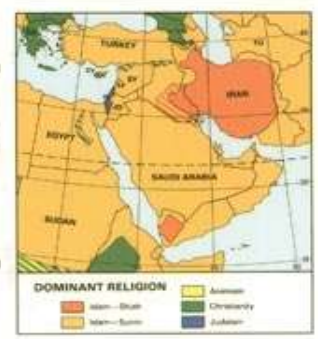
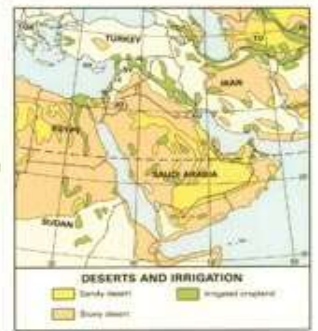
**OTHER SYMBOLS**

- International boundary
- Disputed or undefined boundary
- Wetland
- Lake and dam
- Interventive site
- Canal
- Waterfall
- Mountain peak
- Depression

**SCALE**

0 100 200 300 Kilometers  
0 100 200 300 Miles

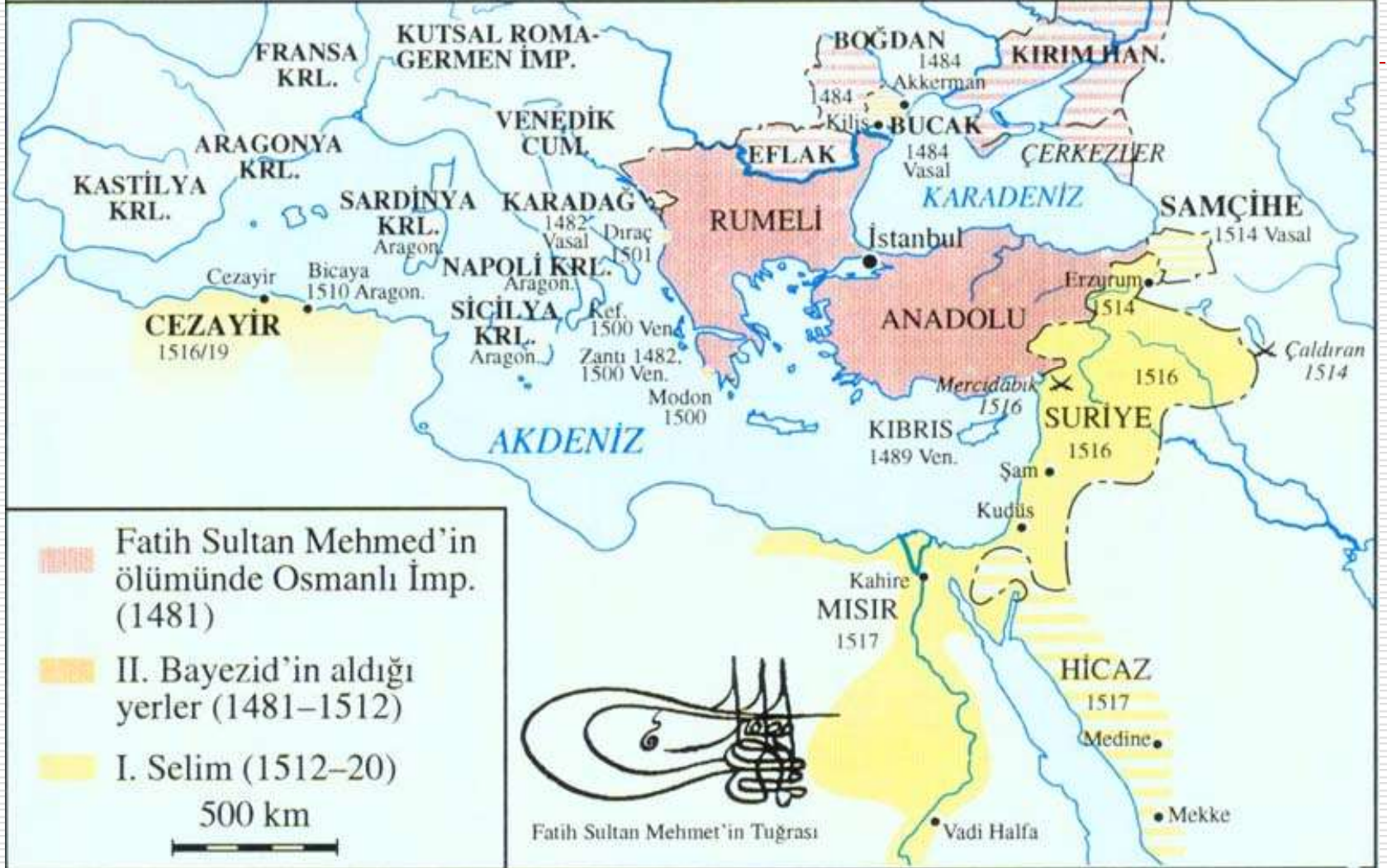
Lambert conformal conic projection



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# Osmanlı İmparatorluğu (1481-1520)

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# Course Outline

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## □ Geography/Space

- Main Focus: The Mediterranean Basin
  - Balkans, Middle East, North Africa

## □ Turkish history and social order is a Mediterranean synthesis

### ■ Turkish Language

- Many words & expressions from Arabic, Persian, Italian, Greek, etc.
- Key Concept: **Lingua Franca:**
  - Bridge/common language, used for communication between speakers of different languages, among elites
  - Spoken and written by elites

### ■ Turkish Cuisine

- A mixture of Balkan & Middle Eastern cuisines

# Introduction: Middle East & the Mediterranean Region

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- First agricultural activities near rivers
    - Emergence of urbanization, organized societies & states
  - Cradle of Civilizations
    - Emergence of great empires that shape history
      - Small states can not survive in arid and sparsely-populated areas
  - Countries where urbanization, bureaucracy and writing emerged
    - A mosaic of religions & languages
    - Cultural interaction & assimilation
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# Middle East & the Mediterranean

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- Simple transportation & communication technologies
    - Based on organic energy
  - Inadequate means of control
    - Bureaucratic, postal & monetary systems
  - (De)Centralized state?
    - Monetary & administrative control, construction & transportation duties mostly performed by local units
    - Local control of peasants & artisans
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# Sasanian Iran (224-651)

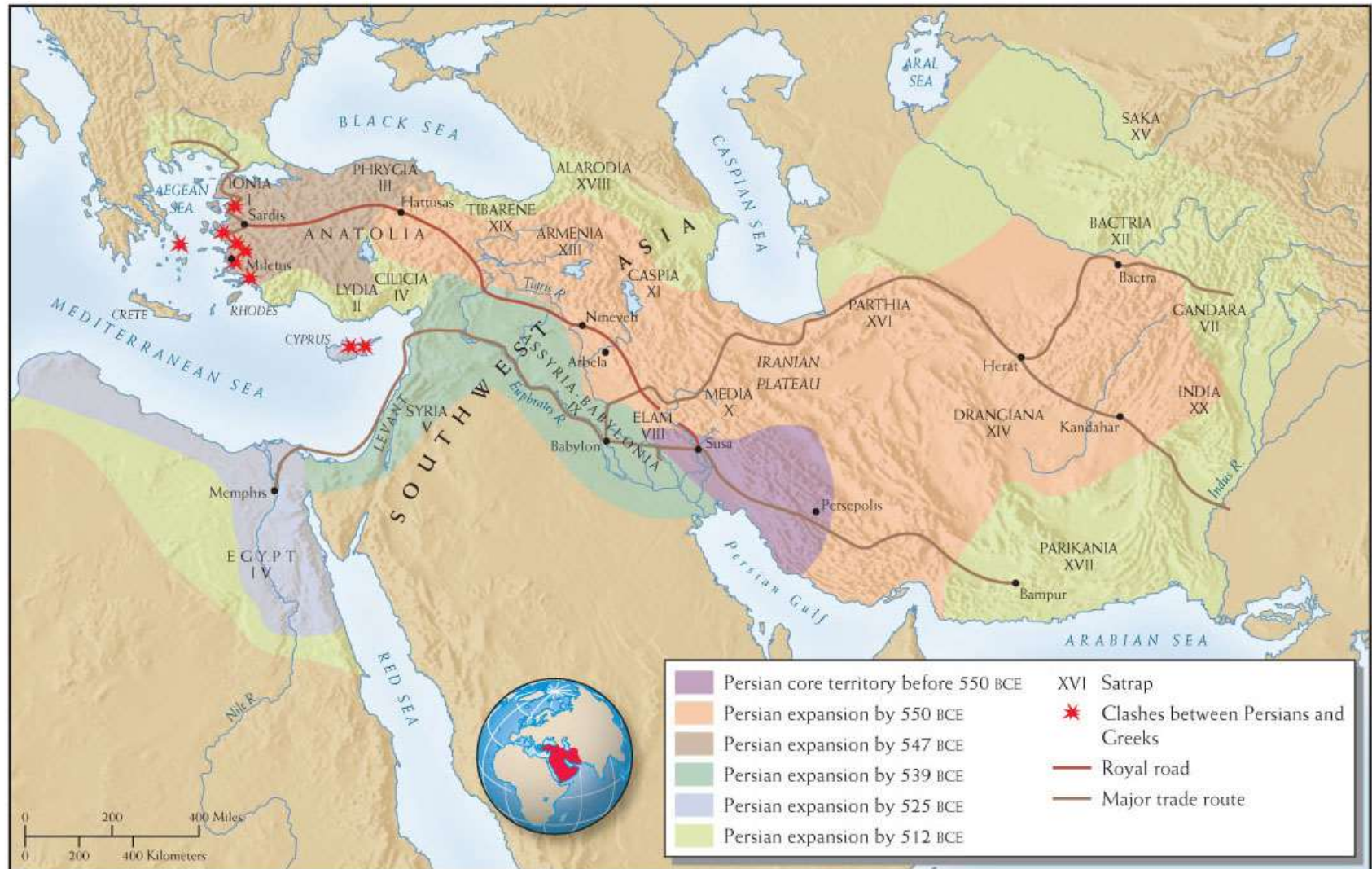
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- East-West Competition
    - Persians vs. Greeks
    - Parthians vs. Romans
    - Alexander the Great vs. Achaemenid Empire
  - After 224, Sasanians & Eastern Roman Empire
    - A classical model of Middle Eastern/Mediterranean empire
    - Their wars/fighting eased Islamic Conquests
    - The empire collapsed after the loss of Al-Qauddissiyah (Kadisiye) Battle in 635
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# Persians vs. Greeks (550-479 BCE)



MAP 4.3 | The Persian Empire, 550–479 BCE

# Roman vs. Parthian Empire (150 BCE)



# CONQUESTS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT (323)





# Sasanian Iran: Administrative System

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- System of a grand-vizier (wuzurg framadar) & viziers
  - Inventory of land & population
    - Tax assessment & identification of taxpayers
    - Forecasting and recording harvests
    - Establishment of different taxation rates for different products
    - **RESULT:** Decreasing uncertainty & corruption in government revenues
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# Extent of the Sassanian Empire



# Taxation

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- Tax on Land: «Haraç»
    - Varies due to produce type & land productivity (Varies between 1/3 & 1/6 of the harvest)
    - Elderly, children & women are not subject to this tax
  - Head (Capitation, Poll) Tax: «Gezit» (Then «cizye»)
    - From urban dwellers, Jews & Christians; not from peasants
    - Varies according to social status & income
    - Brings exemption from draft/military service
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# Sasanian Iran: Social Structure

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- **Cast system**, similar to India
    - “Every member of the society should be content with the place and work given by the God»
      - Very limited mobility among different casts
    - **Casts:**
      - Priests (Judges, High-level bureaucrats)
      - Warriors
      - Scribes (Medicine, teaching, mid & low-level bureaucrats)
      - Common people (Peasants & artisans)-main tax burden & forced labor
    - **Clear status for each group: House size, rules for consumption**
      - Silk clothes, privileges to ride a horse, etc.
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# Sassanian Army

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- Army commanders come from 7 noble families
  - Infantry
    - Peasants as unpaid soldiers
  - Cavalry & War Elephants
  - Navy
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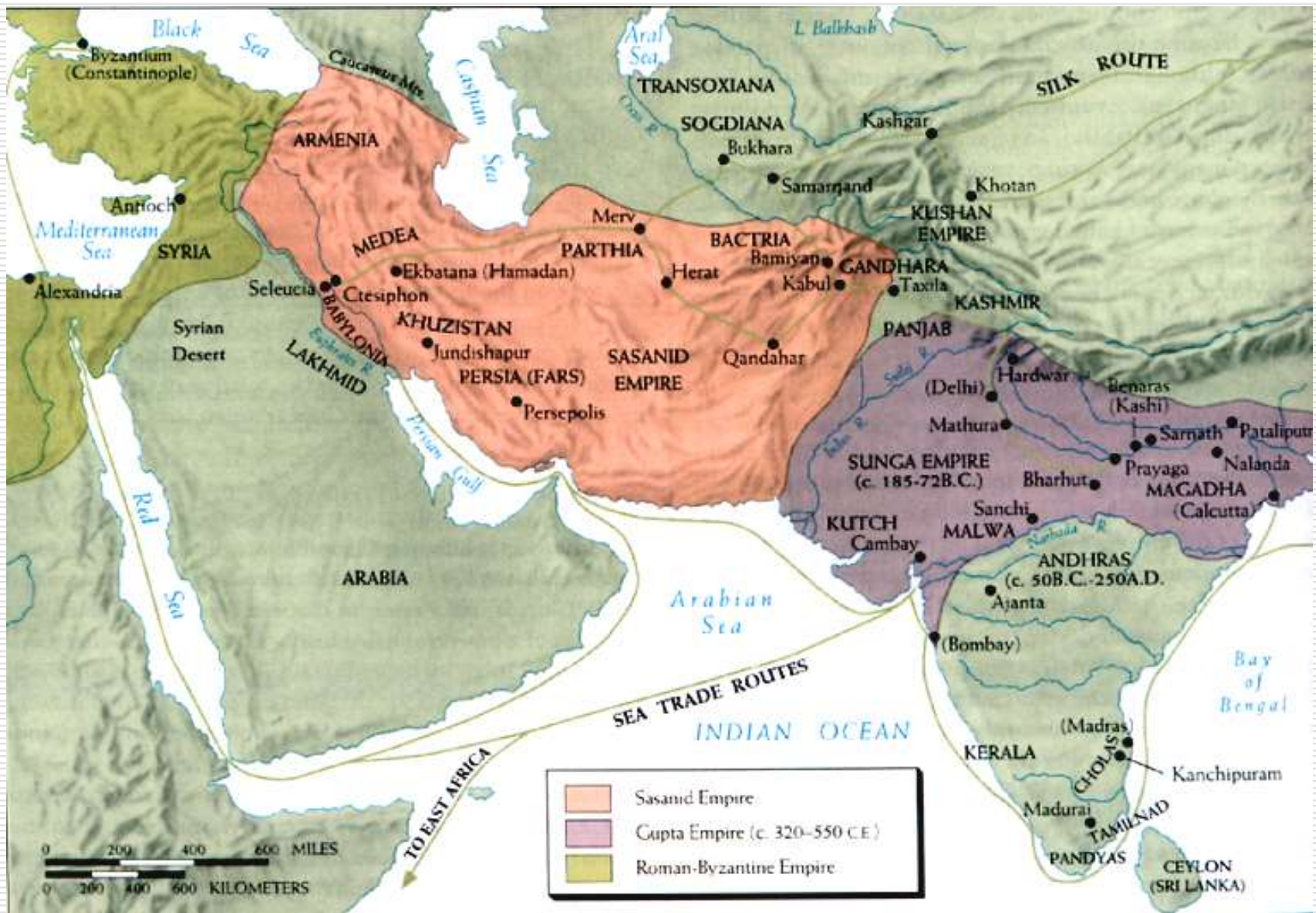


# Sasanian Iran: Religion & Language

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- A mosaic of religions & languages
  - Key concept: **Caesaropapism**
    - One person holding both divine & worldly power
      - Caesar (Emperor, Head of state) & Pope (Religious leader) being the same person
  - There is not just one official language
    - Multi-language bureaucratic documents
  - Religious Heterogeneity
    - Zoroastrianism (established state religion), Judaism, Christianity (Nestorian Church)...
    - Apostasy/Religion change is punishable by death
    - Mazdakian Revolts (Demands for social equality reforms)
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# Sassanian Empire & Its Neighbors



# Sasanian Iran: Central & Provincial Administration

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- Providing a model administrative system for ancient Middle Eastern empires
    - System of a grand-vizier & viziers
    - Shahanshah (King of Kings) is also the supreme judge
  - Provinces (Satrapdoms)
    - The country is divided into administrative-military units
      - In each unit, there is a viceroy & a military commander
      - Dehqans: knights & minor land-owners
        - managed local affairs such as taxation & draft
    - An advanced transportation & postal system
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# Sasanian Iran: Culture

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- Mirrors of Kings (Nasihatname) Literature
    - Firdevsi: Şehname
      - Keeping the old (Pre-Islamic) Iranian culture alive
      - Influenced Nizamülmülk's Siyasetname
  - When the Sasanian Empire was conquered by the Islamic Empire
    - Iran is Islamized
    - Iranian culture & state system became a model for the growing Islamic Empire
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