

**Philip DE SOUZA, *Războaiele medice. 499-386 î. Hr.*,
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The author of the paper is a member of the Royal History Society, with classical studies of history and philology at Royal Holloway College in London. He wrote works, studies, and articles on Greek-Roman history, being also a co-author of the *Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Warfare* and working on a book about the naval warfare in antiquity. He is a lecturer in classical philology at Dublin University College.

The *Medic Wars. 499-386 B.C.* has eight chapters, preceded by an introduction and a timeline followed by conclusions and bibliography.

In the Introduction, the author refers to the great historical personality of Antiquity, Herodotus - the father of history, and to the foundation of this discipline, through the direct notes or the first or second source, which he recorded during his lifetime. He laid the foundation for this discipline, specifying his method of work.

The chronology begins with the reign of Cyrus the Great in 559 BC. and ends by mentioning the reign of Alexander the Great (336-323).

Chapter One entitled *War Background. The arrival of the Persians* refers to the way in which Herodotus presents the ascent of the Persian Empire, the territorial conquests in the West, the conquest of Asia Minor and the Greek state-cities from there (pp. 11-12), but also the Ionian riot under the rule of the tyrant Aristagoras, which took place between the years 499-494 BC. Hr., the Ionians demanding the help of the state-cities of mainland Greece. They were particularly helped by Athens, while Sparta was more concerned with their own problems, especially the antagonism with the Argos town of Pelopones (p. 17).

The second chapter entitled *Conflicting Parties. Persia, Sparta, and Athens* shows the rise of the Persian Empire during the reign of Cyrus, Cambise and Darius. The author also describes the way the Persian administration operated in which the satraps and the army were organized in the conquered provinces. In this chapter there is also the ascension of

Sparta (pp. 37-40), starting with the 8th century BC and the situation of Athens before the medic wars (pp. 40-45), with the Athenian aristocracy who took part in the leadership of the city, the aristocrats Kylon, Solon and Clistene.

In the third chapter, the author describes the Persian military campaign in Greece, during the time of the Persian king Darius, when a huge army embarked in a fleet of 600 ships will have as main purpose the establishment of a bridgehead on the eastern coast of Greece, preferably at Athens and not necessarily the full conquest of Greece (pp. 46-48). The Battle of Marathon, completed with the victory of the Greeks, is described in detail. The victory was a crushing one, because while Persian losses stood at 6400 fighters, the Greeks lost only 192 men (p. 56).

After the Persians were defeated at Marathon, the Persian campaigns did not end, continuing with the invasion of Greece by King Xerxes, the one who followed to the throne after Darius died. Xerxes has made an end in itself from the defeat of the Greeks, as presented in the fourth chapter. Xerxes left Persia in the spring of 481 BC. He headed for Sardis, the former capital of the Kingdom of Lidia and the main administrative center of the Persian rule in western Anatolia (p. 66). From there, he moved his army to Doriskos, where, according to Herodot, he reviewed troops, which numbered 1,800,000 fighters recruited from Asia, plus another 300,000 from Europe. Besides these soldiers, there were more than 2,600,000 servants and other men accompanying the army. According to Herodot's estimates, Xerxes fleet numbered 1207 war ships and was accompanied by more than 3000 shipping and supplies ships. For such an army, the issue of food was raised (pp. 70-71). In front of such a force, the Greeks are preparing their defence, laying the foundations of the Hellenic League, which was made up of the union of many Greek-Greek cities and seeking a passerby where they could withstand. This was the battle of Thermopylae, where Spartan king Leonida, with his three hundred Spartans, resisted to one before the Xerxes army. The struggle is presented in detail (pp. 74-90). Although the Greeks lost, in the sense that they could not stop the Persians, they resisted heroically. Also in this chapter, the author presents the glorious battle of Thermopiles, namely the advancement of the Persian army and the capture of an Athens city abandoned by the Greeks who retreated to the south (pp. 90-93).

It is presented the preparation for the battle of the two fleets and the Salamina naval battle (480 BC), which ended with the crushing victory of the Greeks (pp. 101-105), which, although surrounded by the enemy fleet, managed to escape and obliterate the advantage of others. Philip de Souza presents the terrestrial battle of Plateea 479 BC. Hr., Ended with the victory of the Greeks, who had the Spartans and the Teutons as the lance. They defeated the Persians, murdered Mardonios, and sent their men to the Persian camp. They were followed by the other Peloponnesians and by the Athenians and the Megarians (pp. 106-113). The last battle presented is that of Mycale (pp. 113-114).

The next chapter depicts the life of the Spartan soldier Aristodem, starting with the duties of an ordinary Spartan, his presence at the Battle of Thermopile, where he was not present because of an eye infection, but for the Spartans, this was not a good reason not to fight. Therefore, he was considered a coward and his family ostracized, for which he asked to be sent to fight at Plateia, where he was the first to go to battle to die with dignity (pp. 115-123) .

The last chapters are small. They present *the World around the war: Persian Architecture* (pp. 124-127); *Two portraits of civilians. Demokedes and Demaratos* (pp. 128-134); the way the wars ended, the Greeks attacking the Persian Empire (pp. 135-137). The book ends with the conclusions and consequences of the medic wars (pp. 138-140). Finally, the rivalries between the Persians and the Greeks ended with the conquest of the Persian Empire by the Greeks of Alexander the Great in 334 BC., And in 330 the last of the Ahemenian kings, Darius III, died, and Alexander became the new leader of the great Hellenistic empire, even greater than Darius and Xerses.

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