

Misunderstood Moments in History – Why the Persians Failed to Conquer Greece

Why Were the Persians and Greeks Fighting? (2:03)

Babylonians, Lydians, Macedon, Median, Thrace

1. Cyrus the Great overthrew the _____ Empire and inherited border wars with the _____ and _____.
2. The Persians seized gold-rich _____ and made a vassal of _____.

How Did the Greco-Persian Wars Start? (4:05)

Athens(x2), Ephesus, Eritrea (x2), Gold, Men, Miletus (x2), Persian, Ships, Tyrants

3. The Anatolian Greeks paid a regular tribute of _____, _____, and _____ to the local (Persian) satrap.
4. The Anatolian Greeks were ruled over by Greek _____ who could call on _____ help to crush dissent. There was no release valve for discontent.
5. The Ionian revolt began when the tyrant of _____ botched an invasion of Naxos and directed public anger against the Persians.
6. Mainland Greeks were asked to participate but only _____ and _____ participated.
7. The Persians defeated the Ionians at the Battle of _____, putting the Greeks on the defensive.
8. The City of _____ was heavily punished as the chief instigator of the uprising.
9. King Darius offered fair peace terms to the Ionians but did not forget the role that _____ and _____ played in supporting the revolt. He made ready for war the following year.

What Was the Persian Objective in Greece? (6:52)

Athens, Eritrea, Garrisons, Greece, Land, Macedon, Sea, Thrace, Tribute, Unrest

10. In the short term the Persian objective was to punish _____ and _____.
11. In the long term the objective was to suppress and absorb _____ into the Persian Empire.
12. Darius planned on a combined _____ and _____ assault. He wanted to resecure the domains of _____ and _____.
13. He would then establish _____ and mitigate _____, add Greece to his Satrapies and collect _____.

To What Extent Were the Persians Successful? (9:38)

Athens (x2), Canal, Darius, Diplomacy, Executed, Island-hop, Marathon, Platea, Pontoon, Thrace, Thracian, Macedon, Persian (x2), Salamis, Stockpile, Storm, Thermopylae, Well, Xerxes

14. In 492 BCE the Persian General Mardonius retook _____ and _____.
15. The Persian fleet got caught in a _____ and suffered crippling losses.
16. A _____ night attack inflicted heavy losses.
17. Darius used the next year to try _____, sending out ambassadors with terms of submission – a symbolic request for earth and water.
18. Athens and Eritrea, fearing what had happened to Miletus, _____ the Persian ambassadors. Sparta threw the Persian envoy down a _____.
19. The Persian fleet chose to _____ across the Aegean.
20. After sacking Eritrea, the Persians landed at _____. The Athenians won a great victory here. This was a minor setback for the Persians.
21. After a revolt in Egypt, _____ died and his son Xerxes took the Persian throne.
22. His plans for another invasion of Greece included a _____ bridge across the Hellespont, a _____ across the peninsula of Mt. Athos, and _____ supplies along the planned route.
23. In 480 BCE Xerxes crossed into Greece but the army was held up at the Hot Gates of _____ and the navy at Cape Artemesium for several days. This was just a speed bump for the Persians.
24. The Persians then went on to sack _____.
25. At the Battle of _____ 380 Greek triremes faced over 500 Persian triremes.
26. The Greeks funnelled the Persians through the straits and picked their moment to engage. This victory proved pivotal in checking the _____ advance.
27. King _____ returned home with a portion of his forces leaving General Mardonius to finish the job.
28. Mardonius tried to break apart the Greek Alliance but after failing sacked _____ a second time.
29. The Greeks then raised the largest force yet mustered and fought at _____ killing Mardonius.
30. The Greeks then counter-attacked, undoing all the _____ gains until peace was finally settled in 449 BCE after nearly 50 years of warfare.

Were the Greek Forces Really Superior? (20:57)

Chance, Defender's, Greek (x2), Overseas, Persian (x2) , Quality, Quantity, Simple, Simplistic, Tough

31. The biased answer to this question is a classic case of _____ vs. _____, the Greeks – small yet strong, the Persians – vast yet weak.
32. This explanation is overly _____ and relies on the _____ perspective alone.
- 33.

	Greek	Persian
Quantity	Manpower growth Recently empowered citizens Huge fleets and armies compared to population	Manpower – millions? Couldn't fully leverage
Quality	Light Infantry (50%), Heavy Infantry (50%), Cavalry (low) Untrained levies	Unknown troop ratios but high number of Light Infantry Many nationalities Some heavy troops
Battle Performance	Marathon, Thermopylae, Platea	Persian strength in Ionia

There are no _____ answers. The _____ failure was not a sure thing. Their loss may be a result of _____ war, _____ terrain, _____ advantage, _____ strategy, _____ blunders, and random _____.