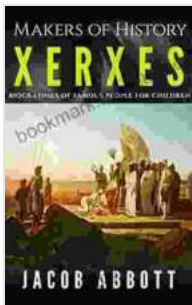


Makers of History: Xerxes, the Conqueror and Builder

The Rise of a Mighty Ruler

In the annals of ancient history, the name Xerxes looms large as one of the most influential and powerful rulers of the Persian Empire. Born in 519 BC to King Darius I and Queen Atossa, Xerxes inherited a vast and formidable kingdom that stretched from the Indus River in the east to the Aegean Sea in the west.



Makers of History - Xerxes: Biographies of Famous People for Children (Illustrated) by Jacob Abbott

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1464 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 239 pages

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Conquests and the Persian Wars

Xerxes is perhaps best known for his ambitious military campaigns, particularly his invasion of Greece in 480 BC. Driven by a desire to avenge his father's defeat at the Battle of Marathon, Xerxes assembled a massive army and navy, estimated at over 2 million troops.

The invasion began with the crossing of the Hellespont, a feat that required the construction of a pontoon bridge over 1,300 meters long. Xerxes' forces marched through Thrace and Macedonia, encountering fierce resistance from the Greeks at the Battle of Thermopylae. Despite their heroic defense, the Greeks were ultimately overwhelmed by the sheer number of Persian troops.



The epic Battle of Thermopylae, where the Greek forces bravely faced the overwhelming Persian hordes

A Legacy of Conquest and Construction

Xerxes' military campaigns, while not entirely successful, had a profound impact on the course of history. The Persian Empire reached its greatest extent under his rule, stretching from Egypt to India. However, his defeat at the Battle of Salamis in 480 BC marked a turning point in the Persian Wars.

In addition to his military exploits, Xerxes was also a notable builder and administrator. He Free Downloaded the construction of the Xerxes Canal at Mount Athos, a remarkable feat of engineering that allowed ships to bypass a treacherous stretch of coastline. He also expanded and renovated the royal palace at Susa, transforming it into a magnificent complex of palaces, gardens, and temples.



Later Years and Demise

After his defeat at Salamis, Xerxes withdrew from Greece and spent his later years suppressing revolts within the empire. He appointed his son Artaxerxes I as co-ruler and continued to rule until his assassination in 465 BC by his vizier Artabanus.

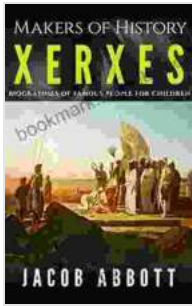
Xerxes' death marked the end of an era for the Persian Empire. His reign had both triumphs and setbacks, but his legacy as a mighty conqueror and ambitious builder continues to inspire awe and intrigue in the annals of history.

A Complex and Enduring Figure

Xerxes was a complex and enigmatic figure, both admired and reviled for his actions throughout history. As a conqueror, he led vast armies and expanded the Persian Empire to unprecedented heights. As a builder, he left a legacy of architectural marvels that still stand today.

Through his ambitious campaigns and his contributions to civilization, Xerxes cemented his place as one of the most influential rulers in ancient history. Whether revered as a mighty monarch or feared as a ruthless invader, his story continues to captivate and inspire generations to come.

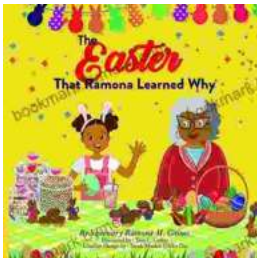
- [Xerxes I - Britannica Encyclopedia](#)
- [Xerxes I \(486-465 BC\) - Livius.org](#)
- [Xerxes I - Encyclopaedia Iranica](#)
- [Xerxes I - World History Encyclopedia](#)
- [Xerxes: The Persian King Who Invaded Greece - National Geographic](#)



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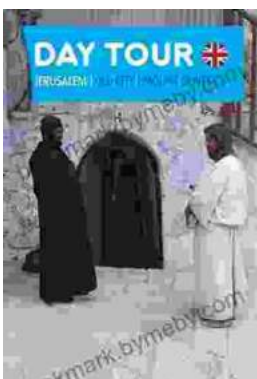
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