

ANCIENT KINGDOMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC

4000	B.C. : SUMER, EARLIEST WRITTEN RECORD
2300-1364	B.C. : MESOPOTAMIA RULED BY MANY DIFFERENT TRIBES
1364	B.C. : ASSYRIA AGAIN AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY
824-827	B.C. : ASSYRIA REACHED ITS HEIGHT
626-539	B.C. : BABYLONIA EMPIRE
539-334	B.C.: PERSIAN EMPIRE
334-146	B.C. : GREEK EMPIRE
146 B.C. - 568	A.D. : WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE: EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE KNOWN AS BYZANTINE EMPIRE SURVIVED UNTIL 1453 A.D..
622	A.D. : RISE OF THE ISLAM FAITH AND THE ARABS BEGIN TO SPREAD THEIR INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST.
1453-1917:	OTTOMAN EMPIRE (TURKS).
1917-1948:	BRITISH INFLUENCE.
1948:	U.N. MANDATE TO GIVE ISRAEL A HOMELAND.
MESOPOTAMIA:	Land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is southern Iraq.
ASIA MINOR:	Eastern Asia around modern Turkey.
SUMER:	Situated in the Euphrates and Tigris river area.
ASSYRIA:	Ruled what would be present day Iraq, western Iran, south western Turkey Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, northern Saudi Arabia, Israel and part of Egypt.
BABYLONIA:	Ruled what would be Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Syria, western Iraq.
PERSIA:	Ruled west from Turkey east to western India including Afghanistan and Pakistan, southwest to include Egypt and coast of Mediterranean Sea.
GREECE:	Boundaries similar to Persia and expanded to Lydia (western Turkey).

ROME: Boundaries expanding on the west to include Spain and Britain, both shores of Mediterranean Sea, and east to Caspian Sea and eastern border of Iraq.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE: Turkey east to include Iran, south along Mediterranean Sea including Egypt, Libya, Algeria, and western part of Arabia.

ISRAEL: Division among the 12 tribes: Rueben, Gad and 1/2 tribe of Manasseh on the east side of the Jordan River. Rest of the tribes settled on the west of the Jordan River. Boundaries run west from the Mediterranean Sea south of Tyre (s. Lebanon), to a point just south of Damascus (in Syria), then south through Jordan (comprising more than half the land of Jordan) to the south end of the Dead Sea, west then northwest to the Mediterranean.

PALESTINE: The land that the children of Israel conquered, originally called Canaan.

ORIGINS FO PEOPLES AND NATIONS

ISRAEL: The father of the Hebrew people was Abraham, born around 2160 in Ur which was situated in Mesopotamia. While Abraham was dwelling at Haran, the Lord commanded him to go to the land of Cannan where He told him he would become a great nation. (Genesis 11:31-12:7) Abraham's first two sons were: Ishmael, by Sarah's handmaiden, the other Isaac, by Sarah. (See Arabs for more detail concerning Ishmael)

Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau became the father of the Edomites (Genesis 36:1), (Edom was situated between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea roughly along the present Jordanian and Israeli border. Through conquest it became more or less a part of Judah and after the Roman conquest ceased to be a separate people).

Jacob's name was changed to Israel (Genesis 35:10) because of a great famine, Jacob and his family moved to Egypt and after 430 years, Moses leads them to the promised land. The Exodus began somewhere around 1450-1400 B.C. and after 40 years in the wilderness the Israelites conquer Canaan and divide it.

In 926 B.C. the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms: Israel to the north and Judah to the south. In 721 B.C. Israel was defeated by Assyria, and the 10 tribes comprising the northern kingdom were scattered and remain lost to this day. In 586 B.C. Judah was defeated and carried away captive into Babylon. After 70 years, they returned and rebuilt the temple. In 70 A.D. they were again, this time by Rome, defeated, scattered, and the temple destroyed. In Luke 21:20-24, Christ had told His disciples of this scattering into all nations and the plight of Jerusalem. Israel ceased to be a nation from this time until 1946 when they were given a homeland by the U.N. mandate. Jerusalem was at this time to be an international enclave with free access by all religions. In the war between Israel and the Arabs in 1948, Israel took half the city with Jordan taking the east half. In 1967, Israel took control of all the city as well as the West Bank that Jordan had annexed in 1950.

PALESTINE: It seems that Canaan, the son of Ham was the father of the people who originally settled in the area of Palestine. (Genesis 10:5-9) It was originally called Canaan and the land that Israel conquered.

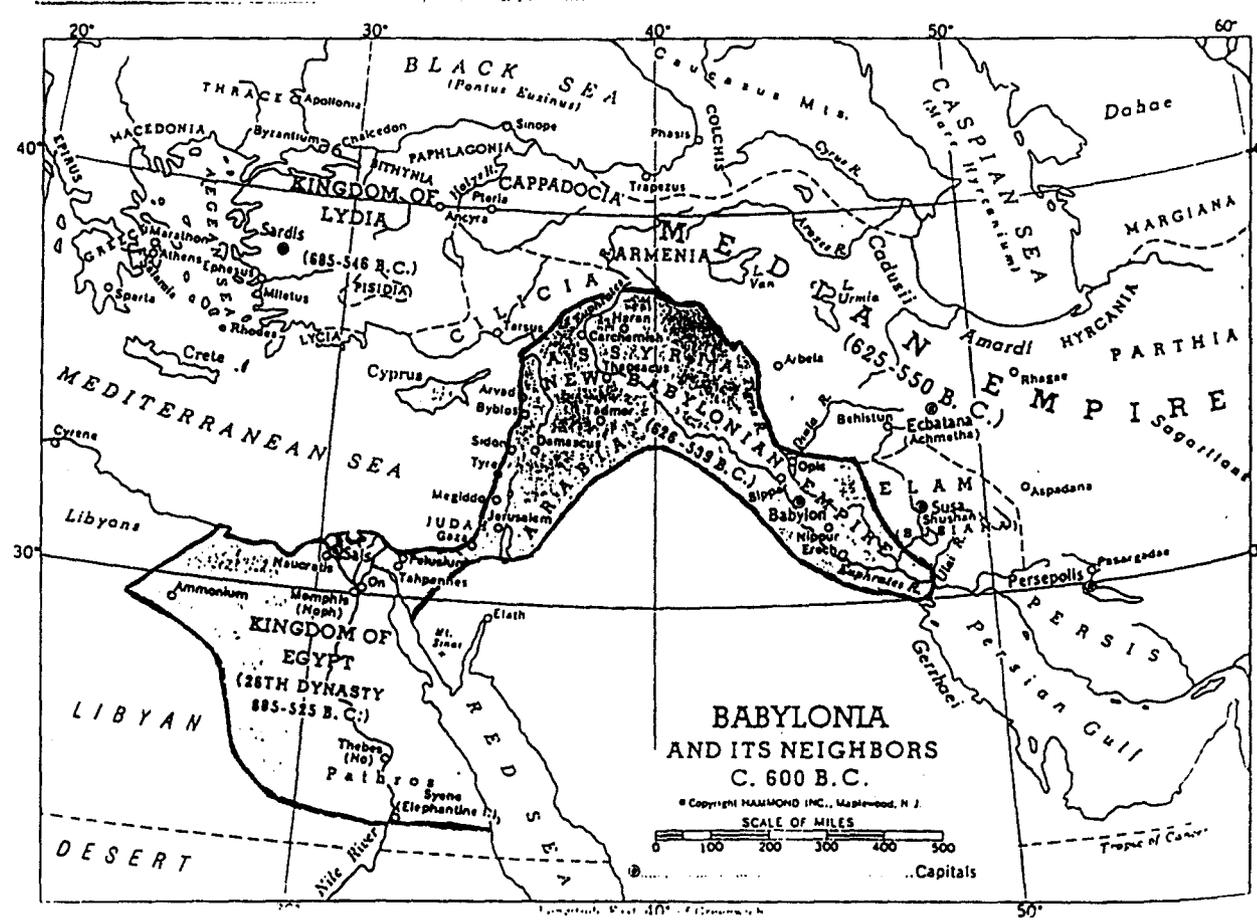
The name Palestine is derived from the Philistines, a non Semitic people who settled in the area around 1190 B.C.. Between 636 and 649 A.D. they came under Muslim rule. In 1517 Palestine was conquered by the Turks and under their dominance until 1917 when the Arabs revolted and it became a British protectorate.

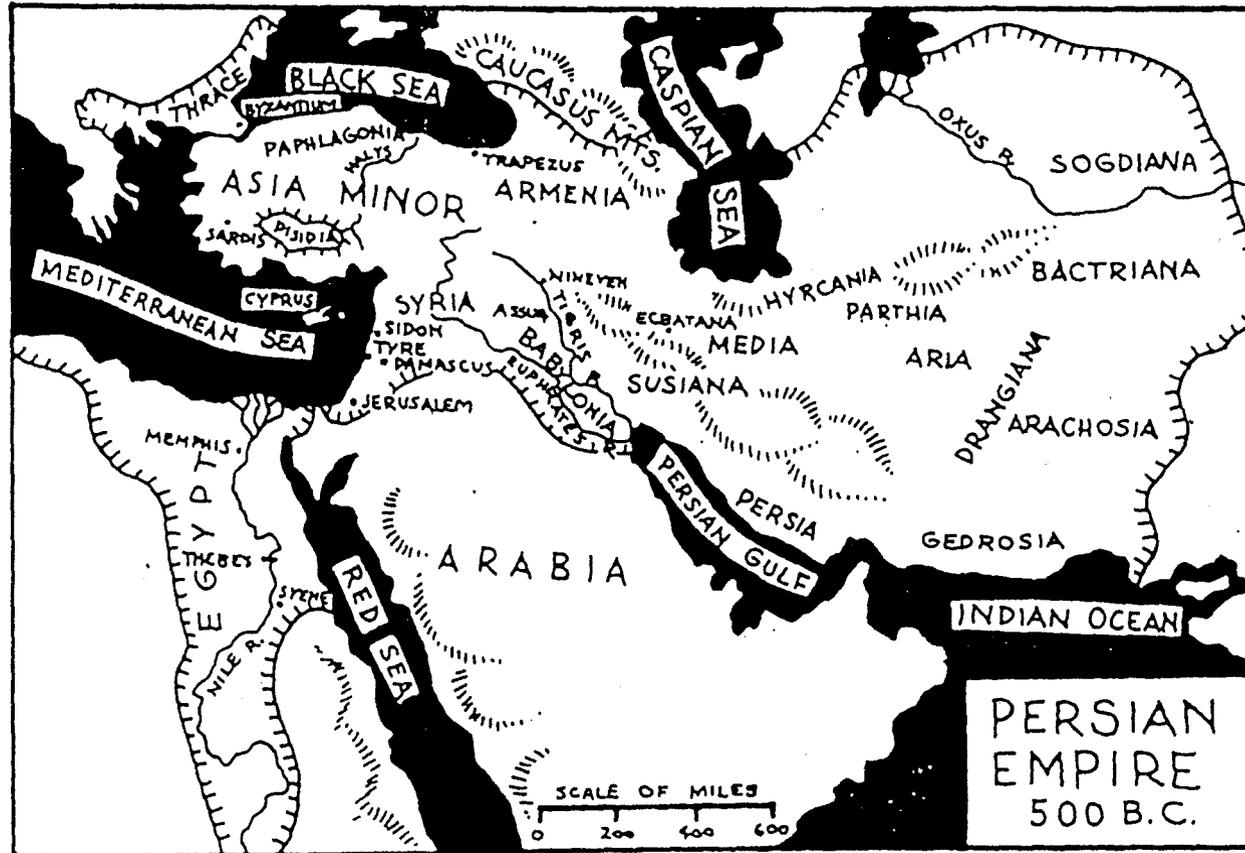
In 1948 the land of Palestine was divided to make the Jewish state. The neighboring Arab countries attacked Israel. At this time Jordan took the West Bank, including Old Jerusalem. Palestine ceased again to be a country with nearly 800,000 Palestinians, mostly Arab, displaced from their homeland. Some were absorbed into neighboring countries but the vast majority today still live in refugee camps in Jordan, and under Israeli rule in the West Bank.

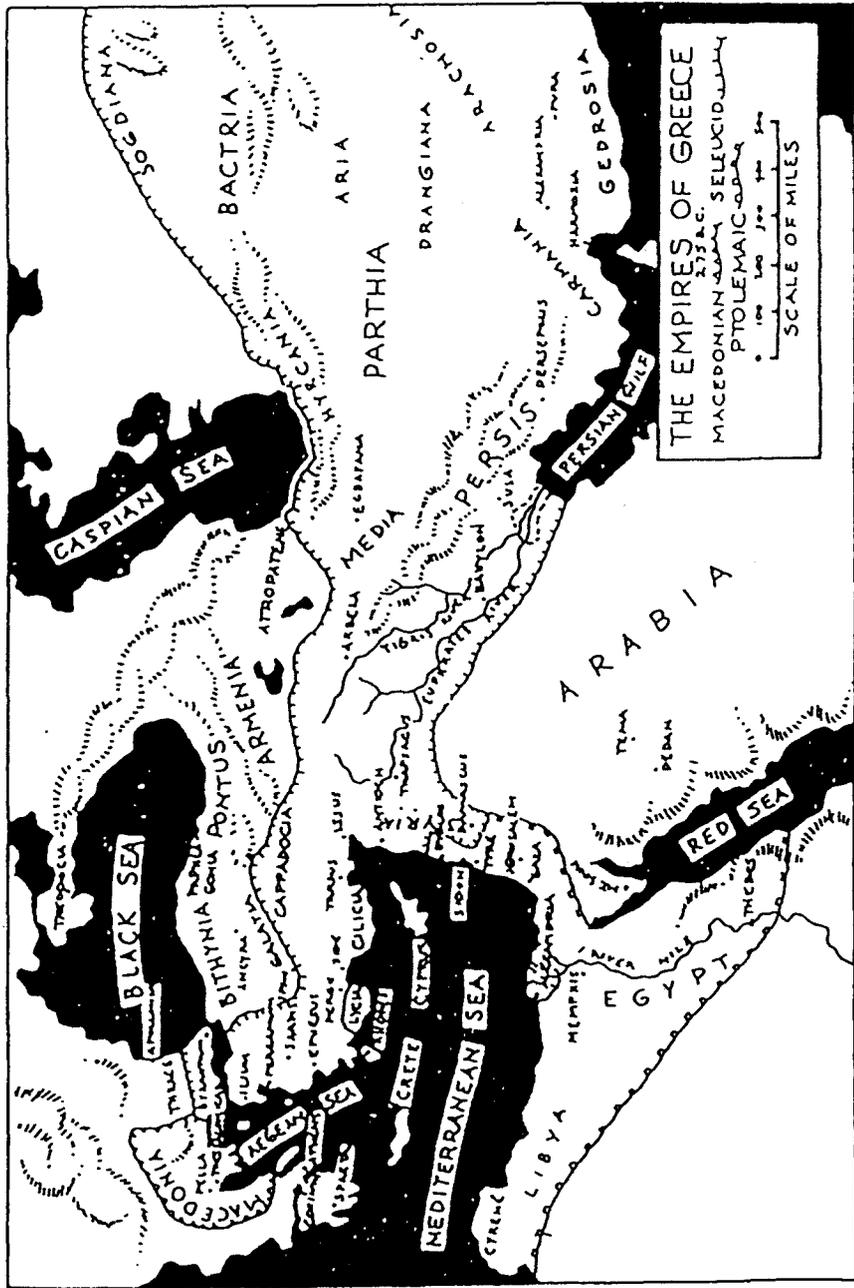
ARABS: Encyclopedia Britannica states that the Arabs are a branch of the Semitic civilization. It is the name given to the ancient and present day inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula. This is where Ishmael and his descendents settled. (Genesis 25:18-19) The Arab people converted to Islam and spread throughout the region. Today numbering in excess of 150 million in 22 countries.

The name Arab is commonly applied to all who have a mutual religion, language, culture, and ancestry. Among the countries who are called Arabs today but who had different beginnings are: Palestine (Canaan), Iraq (Babylon), Iran (Persia), Egypt (Egyptians), Turkey (Mongolia), Jordan (Edom, Gilead, Moab), Lebanon (Phoenicia).

The Palestinian problem is the center of all the conflict in the Middle East. The nearly 800,000 that were dislodged by the hostilities have become the center of the drama with their demand for the return of their homeland and creation of a Palestinian state. The root of the problem goes deeper than that. Beginning nearly 4000 years ago with the promise of God to Abraham that He would give this land to Israel as a homeland for them. Certainly the conflict has been going on for centuries ever since the Jews entered into the land of Canaan. It will end with God making bare His arm, Israel accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior, and the gathering of Israel home to their land.







THE EMPIRES OF GREECE
MACEDONIAN AND SELEUCID IN 375 B.C.
PTOLEMAIC GEOGRAPHY
0 100 200 300
SCALE OF MILES

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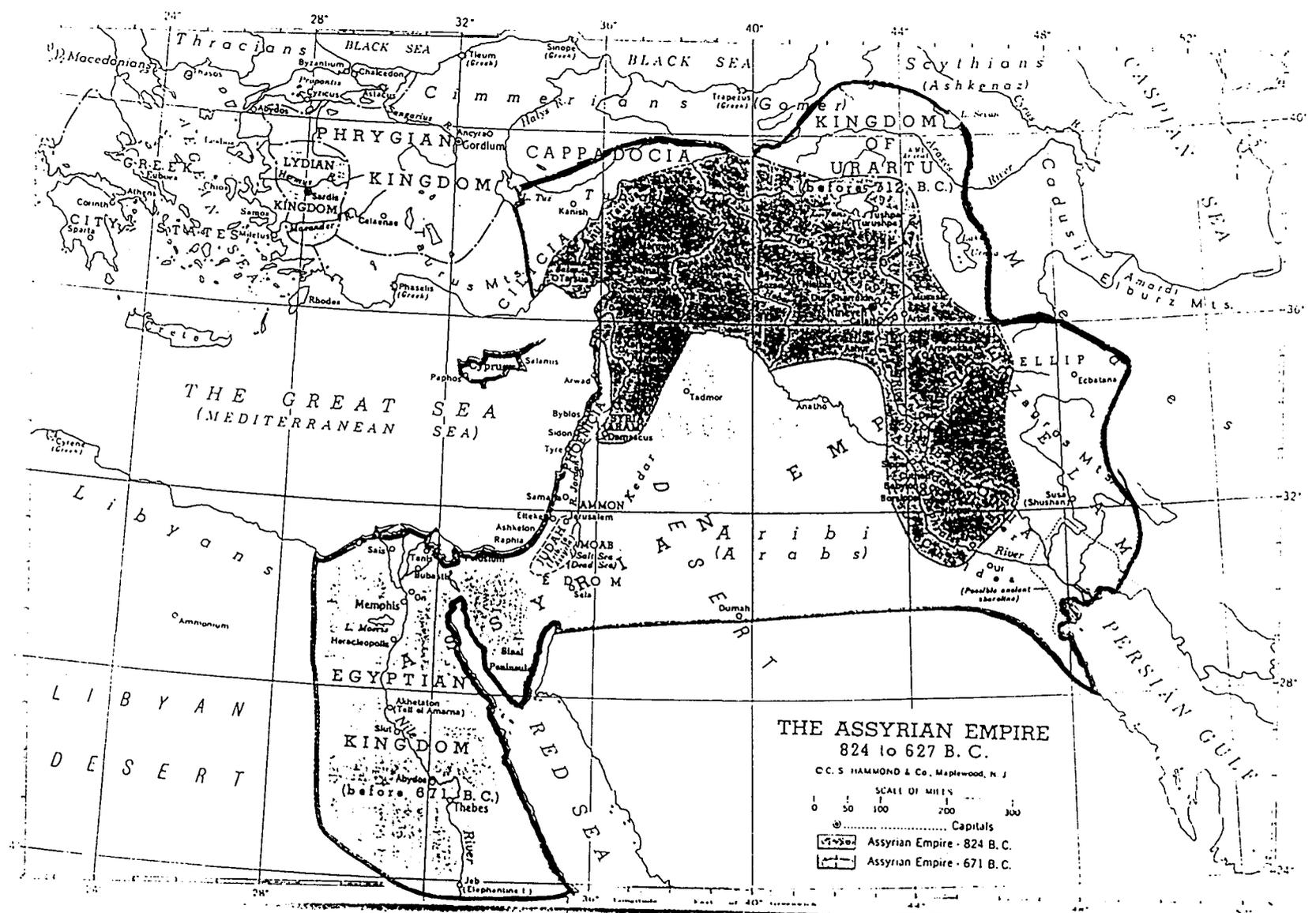
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THE GREAT SEA
(MEDITERRANEAN SEA)

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE
824 to 627 B. C.

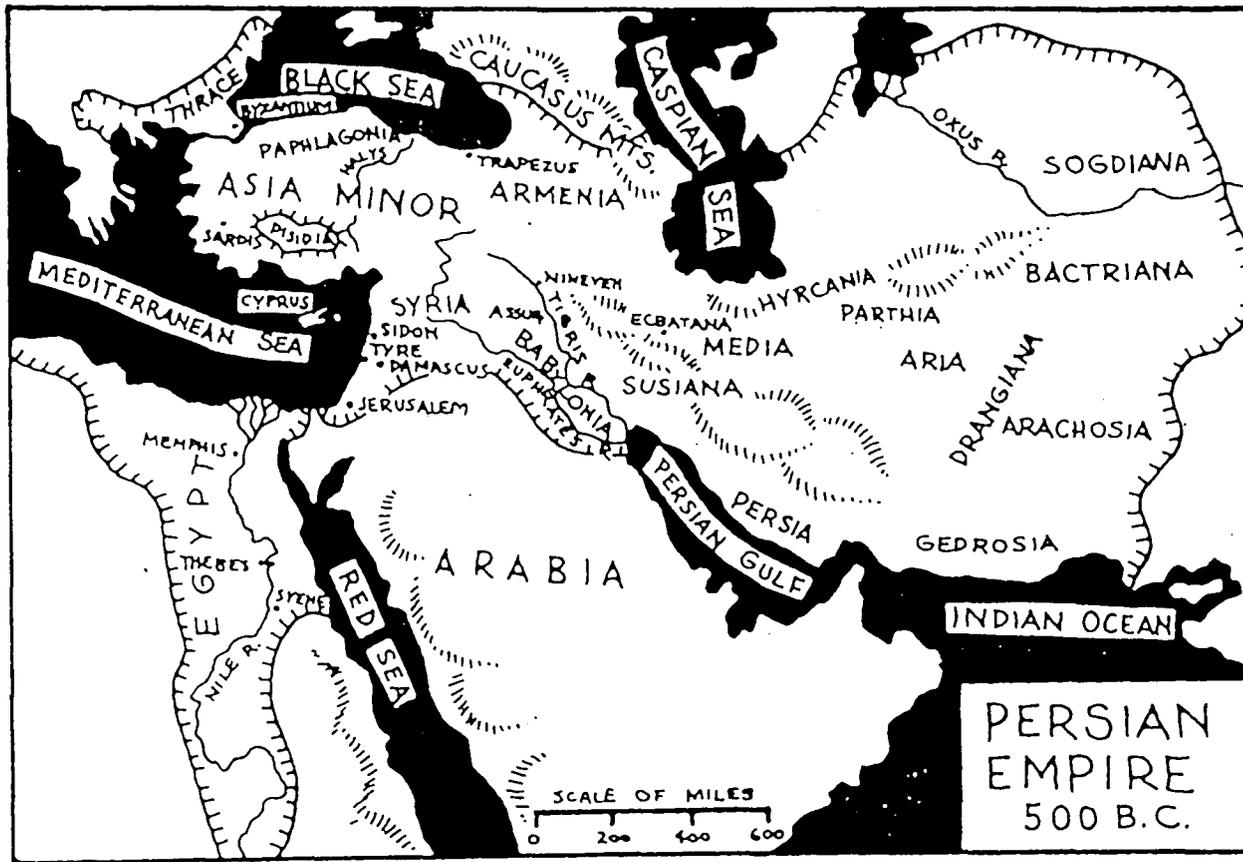
C. C. S. HAMMOND & Co., Maplewood, N. J.

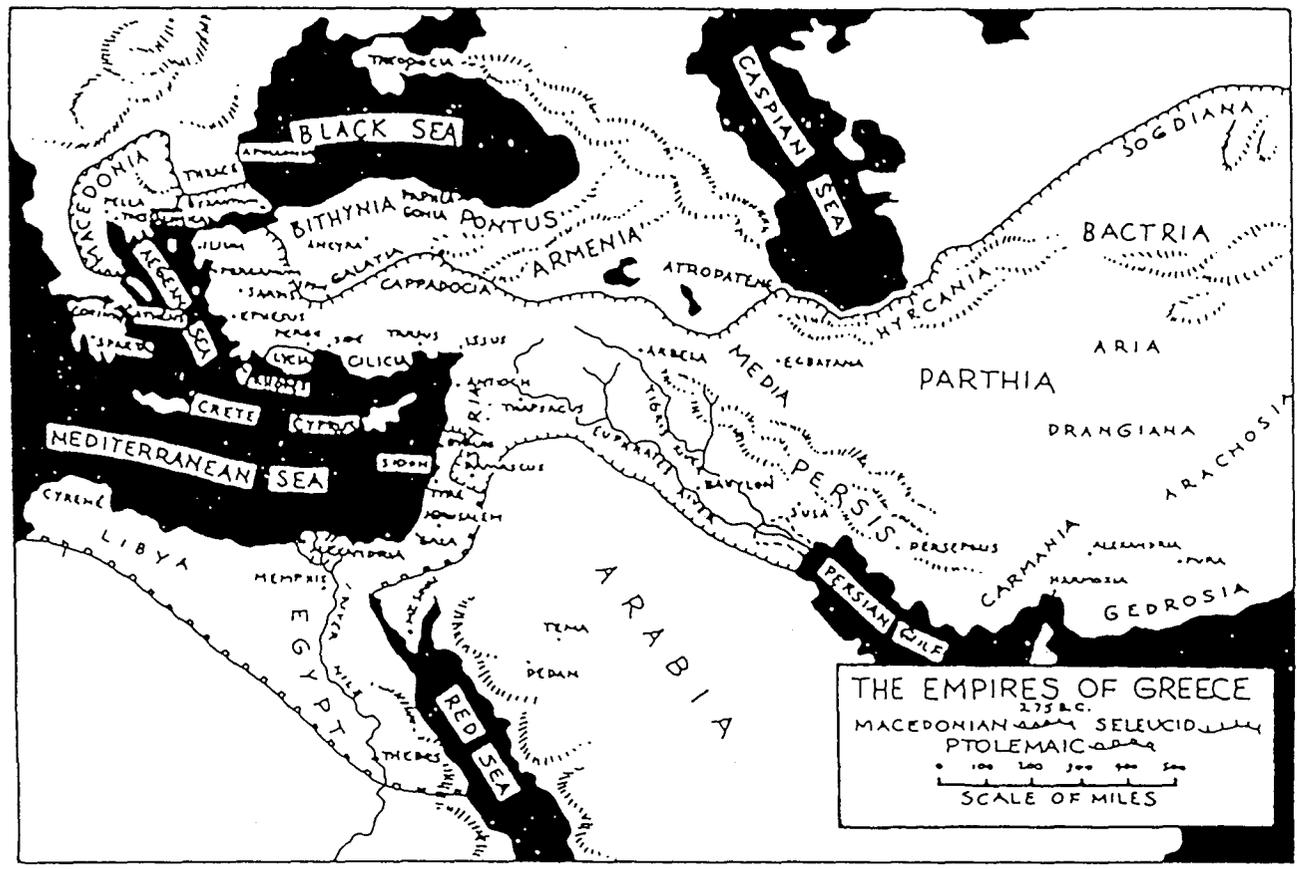
SCALE OF MILES
0 50 100 200 300

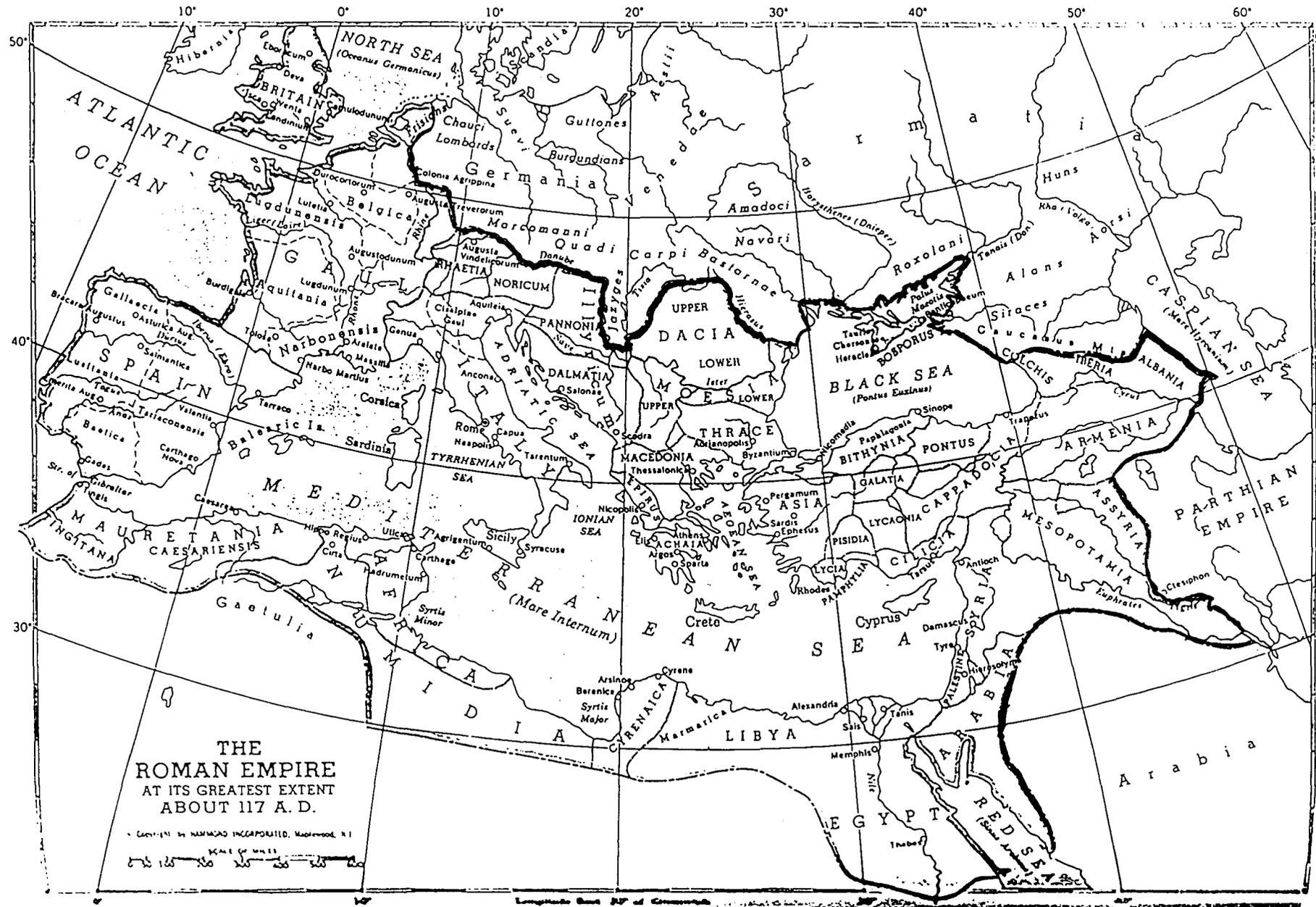
Capitals

Assyrian Empire - 824 B. C.

Assyrian Empire - 671 B. C.







**THE
ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT
ABOUT 117 A. D.**

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SCALE OF MILES
0 100 200 300 400 500

Longitude East of Greenwich