

## Achaemenid Public Government Institutions

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**Annotation-** *Article is devoted to the analysis of Achaemenid methods of governing the state, the history of the empire and institutions of statehood, positions and ranks in the central state apparatus, the integrated defense system, the tax system, the problems of social and political governance in the Orient.*

**Keywords:** *Achaemenids, Achaemenid family tree or genealogy, system of government, titles, ranks and positions, Black People's Assembly, religions, tax system, satrapies, social groups.*

### INTRODUCTION

There are two approaches to the division of the first states into types, one of which is the formational approach and the other is the civilizational approach. The English scientist Arnold Toynbee was the founder of the civilizational approach, which pointed out that human history consists of 21 civilizations.

The Achaemenids we are talking about was one such civilization, whose form of government was kingdom, that is, absolute monarchy. Speaking of the Persian Empire, the role of the Achaemenid dynasty in the history of this kingdom is incomparable. MA Dandamayev notes that the origin of the term Achaemenids dates back to 675-640 BC, and connects the name of this dynasty with the name of Ahamon, the son of Chishpish.

It is no secret that this dynasty was ruled by many great rulers in the family tree. Turning to his genealogy, Shodmon Vahidov's "Famous Dynasties of the East" writes that the Achaemenid dynasty (sometimes called the Khokhomanish) dynasty (from 700 BC to 331 BC) was very dominant. This dynasty was from the Pasargad tribe of the Persian province. He paid tribute first to Elam and then to Media. Around 550 BC, the Achaemenid king Cyrus (Cyrus II) abolished the kingdom of Media. Speaking of the political history of the Achaemenids, it is worth remembering that during the reign of Cyrus and his successors, they founded the first empire in the world, subjugating lands from Egypt and the Aegean Sea in the west to India and Afghanistan in the east. According to the Behistun Inscription, Gaumata ruled for seven months before being overthrown in 522 BC by Darius the Great (Darius I) (Old Persian Dāryavuš, "who holds firm the good", also known as Darayarahush or Darius the Great). The Magi, though persecuted, continued to exist, and a year following the death of the first pseudo-Smerdis (Gaumata), saw a second pseudo-Smerdis (named Vahyazdāta) attempt a coup. The coup, though

initially successful, failed.

Herodotus writes] that the native leadership debated the best form of government for the empire. It was agreed that an oligarchy would divide them against one another, and democracy would bring about mob rule resulting in a charismatic leader resuming the monarchy. Therefore, they decided a new monarch was in order, particularly since they were in a position to choose him. Darius I was chosen monarch from among the leaders. He was cousin to Cambyses II and Bardiya (Smerdis), claiming Ariaramnes as his ancestor.

The Achaemenids thereafter consolidated areas firmly under their control. It was Cyrus the Great and Darius the Great who, by sound and far-sighted administrative planning, brilliant military manoeuvring, and a humanistic world view, established the greatness of the Achaemenids and, in less than thirty years, raised them from an obscure tribe to a world power. It was during the reign of Darius the Great (Darius I) that Persepolis was built (518–516 BC) and which would serve as capital for several generations of Achaemenid kings. Ecbatana (Hagmatāna "City of Gatherings", modern: Hamadan) in Media was greatly expanded during this period and served as the summer capital.

The representation on another seal from Persepolis, PTS 29, shows another battle duel.<sup>20</sup> The figure to the left is clad in the familiar Central Asian attire; the figure to the right wears a vest similar to that on PTS 30 and on the seal at the Bibliothèque Nationale. Through this vest the figure is associated with Achaemenid military power. A triangular flap extending below his waist betrays, however, that he is also wearing a tunic beneath his vest armour. If this observation is correct, the figure would represent a person from Central Asia fighting on behalf of the Achaemenid Empire.<sup>21</sup> As on PTS 30, the outcome of the battle is only suggested rather than described. The ultimate victory of the Achaemenid warrior is indicated by the corpse on the ground and by the slightly higher position of his head in the image field, being closer to the upper edge of the seal.

### **ACHAEMENID FAMILY TREE**

1. Achaemenid (Khokhomanish 700 -675 BC);
2. Chishpish (675-640 BC);
3. Cyrus I (640-600 BC);
4. Cambyses I (600-559 BC);
5. Cyrus II (Buzurg, 559-530 BC);
6. Cambyses II (530-522 BC);
7. Bardiya (Smerdis, Gaumata, 522 BC);
8. Darius I (Dorovakhush) Buzurg (522 BC to 486 BC);
9. Xerxes I (486-465 BC);
10. Artaxerxes I (465-424 BC);
11. Xerxes II (424 BC);
12. Sekudian (Sogdian) (423 BC)

13. Darius Oxus II (423-404 BC);
14. Artaxerxes II Arsak / Arshak (404-359 BC);
15. Artaxerxes III Ox (359-338 BC);
16. Arak (Arses, Are, 338-336 BC);
17. Darius III Kodoman (Artstad, 336-330 BC);
18. Artaxerxes Bess (330 BC to 329 BC).

Alexander the Great abolished the Achaemenid Empire. Naturally, such a great empire had an integrated system of government. To this day, information on the Achaemenid methods of governing the state and the history of the empire has passed from paper to paper as a whole, without any changes. The lack of historians on this period is a major problem of this period. The method of government of the Achaemenid Empire was as follows:

#### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

King of Kings

HAZARPAD

SATRAPLAR (I-XXI)

Law-court / Treasurer / Initiator Suppressors / Accountant / Investigator / Judges / Taxpayers.  
Local tribal chiefs, officials.

The Achaemenids prefer to rely on the data left by the Greek historian Esfir and on the research of the German scholar Farnsua Lenorman in explaining the way of governing power. Because this work is still unknown, the information of Esther is dedicated to the living history and events in the palace after the coming to power of Darius I.

In the central government we can find the following positions or positions:

- Hazorpad ("hazor" - "thousand", "pad" - "head, chief");
- Satraplar;
- Head of the Chancellery;
- Treasurer;
- Initiative suppressors;
- Accountants;
- Investigators;
- Judges;
- Taxpayers;
- Advisers or ministers;

- It consisted of 7 courtiers or nobles. According to Esther, there was a permanent council of advisers around the king. The members of the Advisory Council were governors, nobles, and military aristocrats of the Khokhmanish clan, who served as ministers in governing the state. They played a post-king chief role in governing the affairs of state. All public work was carried out under their direct supervision. After the council, there were 7 chiefs of the courtiers, that is, the personal servants of the

king. They basically did the king's wishes. From the internal services of the palace, he also served as commissar in the areas of the satrapies.

In the ancient Iranians, in general, in the peoples of the East, the king was elected in a popular assembly from among the known tribes, i.e., the tribes belonging to the dominion ("Kara" - "people-army"). According to Achaemenid tradition, the "King of Kings" was elected at this assembly.

After the coronation ceremony, the king said he was "born again." After the king's death, the permanently burning altar in his honor was also removed. In the process of burying the king, his close family members or servants also had to commit suicide. At the same time, 7 courtiers of the king were also killed by the death of the ruler, because they knew all the secrets of the ruler. It is known from history that it was the Achaemenids who introduced the method of governing the entire territory of the empire into satrapies. And this reform is directly related to the name of the Achaemenid king Darius I.

The Achaemenid Empire consisted of 3 main social groups:

1. Free citizens;
2. Addicts;
3. Slaves.

It should be noted that during the reigns of Cyrus II and Cambyses, a single regulated tax system was not introduced. In 518 BC, Darius I introduced a single tax system for the entire empire. Under this system, each satrap was forced to pay taxes according to his ability. According to the data, the annual income from the tax was equivalent to 7,740 Babylonian talents or 232,200 kg of silver. The existing 21 satrapies in the Achaemenids, including 3 satrapies in Central Asia, also mention the annual payment of taxes to the Achaemenids in Herodotus' History.

Both the later dynasties of the Parthians and Sasanians would on occasion claim Achaemenid descent. Recently there has been some corroboration for the Parthian claim to Achaemenid ancestry via the possibility of an inherited disease (neurofibromatosis) demonstrated by the physical descriptions of rulers and from evidence of familial disease on ancient coinage. Part of the cause of the Empire's decline had been the heavy tax burden put upon the state, which eventually led to economic decline. An estimate of the tribute imposed on the subject nations was up to U.S. \$180M per year. This does not include the material goods and supplies that were supplied as taxes.[136] After the high overhead of government—the military, the bureaucracy, whatever the satraps could safely dip into the coffers for themselves—this money went into the royal treasury.

Another factor contributing to the decline of the Empire, in the period following Xerxes, was its failure to ever mold the many subject nations into a whole; the creation of a national identity was never attempted. This lack of cohesion eventually affected the efficiency of the military.

In conclusion, it should be "Ahuramazda." Nevertheless, even this form of despotic rule did not interfere with the great history of the Achaemenid rule of more than 200 years and written in golden letters in the annual history.

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