

THE INDO-GREEKS

Vishesh Sharma

Emailid: nituabcd123@gmail.com

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1 WHO WERE THEY :

1.1 After the successful annexation of the Achaemenid empire by Alexander the Great, he ascended as the ruler of the Bactrian region, which encompassed the territories from the boundaries of Iran to the boundary of Pakistan. Subsequently, Alexander embarked on a campaign into India in 336 B.C.E. However, he made the fateful decision to return to Greece, which ultimately led to his untimely demise in Alexandria. Following his passing, his vast kingdom was divided into several distinct parts, namely the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, the Seleucid Empire in the east, the Kingdom of Pergamon in Asia Minor, and Macedon.

1.2 The region stretching from Asia Minor to the Beas River came under the control of the Seleucid Empire under the rule of Seleucus. The conflict between the Seleucid Empire and the Mauryan Empire resulted in the defeat of Seleucus. Subsequently, when Antiochus II, son of Antiochus, ascended as the ruler, the western part of the empire faced numerous attacks from Ptolemy II, the ruler of Egypt. This situation led to the administration's loss and a shift of focus to maintain control over the eastern provinces. Bactria was among the regions affected, ultimately declaring itself an independent state.

2 FORMATION OF GRECO-BACTRIAN :

2.1 The governor of Bactria, Diodotus, led a revolt and established another distinct state known as the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom. This kingdom later disintegrated, giving rise to the Indo-Greek Kingdom in 180 B.C.E., marking a significant turning point in the historical and geopolitical landscape of the era. and established another distinct state known as the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom The Greco-Bactrian kingdom was a well-developed and rich state but it did not stay much as in 180 BCE Euthydemus separated them from the Greco-Bactrian kingdom and formed another kingdom of Indo-Greek kingdom. the son of Euthydemus I Demetrius became the first ruler of the Greeks. After the rebellion of bacteria, Parthians also rebelled, in this rebellion, the rebels were the natives and not the Greeks. The Parthians wanted to ally with the Greek-Bactrian empire, after the death of Diodotus his son Diodotus II became the new ruler. Both the kingdoms agreed and allied and the Parthians acted as a buffer to Indo-Greeks from the Seleucid empire. The son of antichuos ii antichuos iii regained the territories in the east first he conquered Parthian and then he decided to attack the Greece-Bactrian kingdom. Euthydeum with his cavalry of 10000 came on the bank of Arius but was defeated by Seleucid in the first phase which led to the retreat of Euthydeum. But after that, he was able to control the Seleucid empire for more than 2 years which forced Antiochus iii to form an alliance and make a treaty with Euthydeum which also provided them with protection from barbarians of central Asia.

3 THE INDO GREEKS

3.1 In 180 BCE the son of Euthydeum Demetrius I conducted a campaign towards the Indian subcontinent as he was aware that the western territories of Mauryans were much weaker This kingdom later disintegrated, giving rise to the Indo-Greek Kingdom in 180 The governor of Bactria, Diodotus, led a revolt and established another distinct state known as the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom. This kingdom later disintegrated, giving rise to the Indo-Greek Kingdom in 180 B.C.E., marking a significant turning point in the historical and geopolitical landscape of the era. which forced Antiochus III to form an alliance and make a treaty with Euthydemus, providing them with protection from barbarians in central Asia.

3.2 IN 180 BCE WHEN DEMETRIUS INVADED. The territory was weakened to such an extent that when Antichuos iii was going back to his territory he marched/passed through the area of the Mauryan empire which gave confidence to Greece-Bactrians that they decided to invade the territory of Mauryas.

3.3 When Demetrius I invaded the kingdom of the Mauryans, he faced no challenge from the ruler. He discovered two new areas, Arachosia and Sindh. At this time, the Seleucids were engaged in a war with the Romans, which provided him with a safeguard from the Seleucid empire. As Demetrius invaded a large territory

in a very short period, he needed some governors to govern, but he was scared that if he appointed a Bactrian person, then they may take over the charge.



MAP SHOWING INVASIONS LED BY DEMETRIUS I AND HIS SON AGATHOCLES I

4 ADMINISTRATION UNDER DEMETRIUS

4.1 Demetrius introduced another administrative system known as the institution of sub-kinship. This states that the brother of relatives or the king

4.2 Can be appointed as the governor or head of the province, but they were the defaulter kings who used to stamp their coins and get a royal title, because of this administrative institution Demetrius did not have to worry about the revolts. During the same time, Demetrius's younger brother Euthydeum II was conquering the areas in the north. In 160 BCE Demetrius's son captured the Gandhara region and then they marched towards northern-east Punjab and made TAXILA their new capital. In 165 BCE Eucratides I Defeated DEMETRIUS II's these battles resulted in the death of Demetrius II, but his son somehow managed to fly from Bactria to Taxila.

In the region of Gandhar and Balochistan we found very less number of coins. In 185 BCE Demetrius died just after 5 years of his successful campaign. Researchers found that in Bactria there was a revolt and Antimachus became the ruler of Bactria and the kingdom divided into 2. He was the son of Diodotus II who was assassinated by Demetrius' father. He has seized the boundary which states that now Agathocles became the ruler of Indo-Greek and Antimachus became the ruler of Greece-Bactrian. Antimachus conducted an invasion in Kabul and Gandhara, but had to retreat due to revolts in Bactria. At this time Agathocles captured the Gandhara.

5 MENANDER THE RULER WHO CONQUERED

5.1 Menander was the son of Demetrius II, a prominent figure in ancient history. Following the unfortunate demise of his father, Menander fled from Alexandria, which is also known as Alasandra in the Pali language, to Taxila. It's worth noting that Menander's father, Demetrius II, had a complex relationship with Agathocles, who sought to secure his kingdom as he lacked a clear successor. This intricate situation unfolded when Eucratides seized the western territories of Agathocles' kingdom, leaving him with only Taxila and the eastern part.

5.2 In a strategic move to safeguard his kingdom, Agathocles arranged for the marriage of his daughter to Menander. This union not only solidified an alliance but also laid the groundwork for Menander's future role in shaping the region's history. Following the passing of Agathocles, Menander ascended to the throne and assumed the responsibilities of rulership.

5.3 During his reign, Menander displayed remarkable prowess by expanding his dominion. He successfully conquered the area situated north of the formidable Hindu Kush mountain range and skillfully reclaimed the Kabul valley. This period of conquest and consolidation of territories earned Menander a reputation as a formidable leader with a strategic vision.

5.4 As his rule progressed, Menander made a pivotal decision to relocate his capital from Taxila to Sakala (present-day Sialkot). This strategic relocation not only symbolized a shift in power dynamics but also marked the beginning of a new era under Menander's leadership. With his unwavering determination and strategic acumen, Menander continued his expansionist endeavours, eventually extending his realm to encompass areas up to Sonapat.

5.5 Upon reaching the banks of the revered Yamuna River, Menander paused to assess his achievements and formulate a comprehensive plan for his subsequent campaigns. This strategic pause allowed him to gather his forces and strategise his next moves, demonstrating his ability to blend military prowess with astute planning.

5.6 In summary, Menander's remarkable journey from fleeing Alexandria to ascending as a revered ruler, and his subsequent conquests and strategic decisions, exemplify his enduring legacy as a prominent figure in ancient history. His reign and strategic manoeuvres not only shaped the political landscape of his era but also left an indelible mark on the historical narrative of the regions he governed.

Archaeologists have found many coins of Menander as he stayed in the region for a very long time in order to plan a great attack on Indian plains.

MENANDER started his campaign from Madhyadesha, the area from Duab to Allahabad, it was a vast territory but was not controlled by Shunga, till this time the kingdom of Pushyamitra Shunga was much reduced, it only ruled the cities of Pataliputra and Vidisha. The Yuga Purana tells us that the king of Sakala Menander invaded Madhyadesha, and the first he invaded Mathura, regional rulers of Mathura ruled it as a commercial city. After the conquest of Mathura, he invaded Panchala, ruled by the Mitra dynasty. After this huge conquest, he marched a huge campaign toward Saketa (Ayodhya) and Kusambi, which had a big impact, in Yuga Purana we found evidence and written proof that he conquered and looted the areas he won the area of Saketa Ayodhya and remained there for time. Apart from Yuga Purana, we found that all the cities from Mathura to Saketa were seized by the Yavana king. At that time Pataliputra was the centre of Indian politics and culture. In 180 B.C., Menander reached the gates of Pataliputra, according to the Yuga Purana the walls of the city were made up of mud and timber, Menander's army conquered the city and was able to break the walls. According to many Indian texts Menander's brutally killed the people and destroyed the city of Pataliputra. He even built a stupa in Pataliputra. We found much evidence in many texts and even in inscriptions, in the region of Odisha, we can see hand-crafted inscriptions, by the Kharwal king that the Yavana king who conquered the city of Pataliputra did not stay much due to his army. Menander went back to Yamuna and left his commanders in Saketa Panchal, Mathura and others, some sources even say that he conquers area of Rajasthan and Madhyamika.



MAP DESIGNED BY PHGCOM (credits-world history encyclopedia)

THE HATHIGUMPHA TEXT OF KHARWAL STATES THAT THE YAVANA KING SEIZED THE CAPITAL AND EXTENDED HIS TERRITORY TILL PATLIPUTRA.THE TEXT OF PATANJALI MAHABHASYA TELLS THAT HE EVEN TRIED TO CONQUER THE AREAS IN SOUTH OF HIS KINGDOM.THE BARBARIANS OF CENTRAL ASIA INVADED THE NORTHERN BACTRIA,AS A RESULT HE HAD TO GO BACK

REFERENCES :

1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES&REMAINS:
BAIRAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE -16 COINS OF MENANDER I
HISTORIANS HAVE FOUND SOME ART PIECES AND STATUES OF YAVAN AT A STUPA IN MADHYA PRADESH.
WE HAVE FOUND INDO-GREEK SOLDIERS, MEN ON THE SANCHI STUPA.
COINS OF INDO-GREEKS THROUGH THE SUB-CONTINENT MAJORLY FROM BACTRIA-Rajasthan



COINS DURING AGATHOCLES 185 BCE

GREEK DEITIES

(CREDITS-COIN INDIA)

*INSCRIPTIONS:

7.HEROON OF KINEAS IN AFGHANISTAN

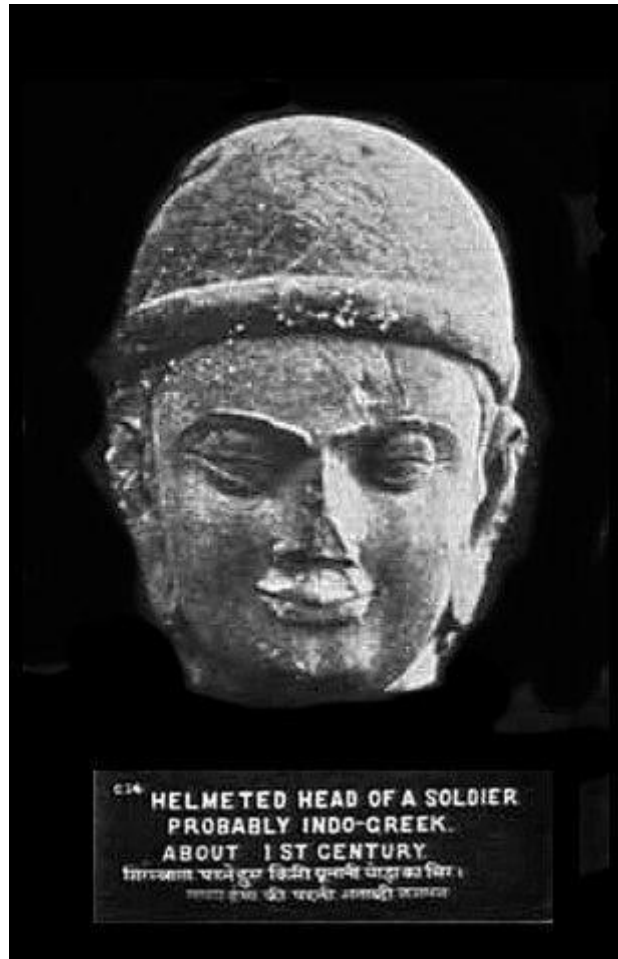
*ἀνδρῶν τοι σοφὰ ταῦτα παλαιότερων ἀνάκει[τα]ι
ρήματα ἀριγνώτων Πυθοῖ ἐν ἡγαθέαι
ἔνθεν ταῦτ[α] Κλέαρχος ἐπιφραδέως ἀναγράψας
εἴσατο τηλαυγῆ Κινέου ἐν τεμένει.*

*παῖς ὦν κόσμιος γίνου
ἡβῶν ἐγκρατῆς
μέσος δίκαιος
πρεσβύτης εὐβουλος
τελευτῶν ἄλυπος
(credits-WIKI)*



(credits-greek city times)

REMAINS OF INDO-GREEKS NEAR TAXILA.



(CREDITS-GOVERNMENT SITE)

8. WRITTEN SOURCES

PATANJALI MAHABHASYA

Patanjali in his text states that the Yavana first captured areas of Punjab and Yamuna banks and then marched towards patliputra they seized Panchal Mathura, saketa and patliputra but due to internal conflicts, the Yavana Raj went back and left the territory of patliputra and surrounding the kharawale inscription also tells the same thing. In the eighth year, Kharavela, with a large army, sacked Goradhagiri and put pressure on Rajagaha (Rajagriha). Upon hearing about this act of valor, the Greek King went back to Mathura with his demoralized army." — Hathigumpha inscription, lines 7-8, probably in the 1st century BCE-1st century CE. The original text is in Brahmi script.

Yuga Purana

The text has described the Greek invasion and the war of Menander with Shunga. The text says that there was bloodshed in the patliputra the walls of the city were broken, and they destroyed the city. The Yug Purana has information about the Indo-Greek invasion in brief.

MILINDA PANHA - it was a Buddhist text with a conversation of menander and a Buddhist monk.

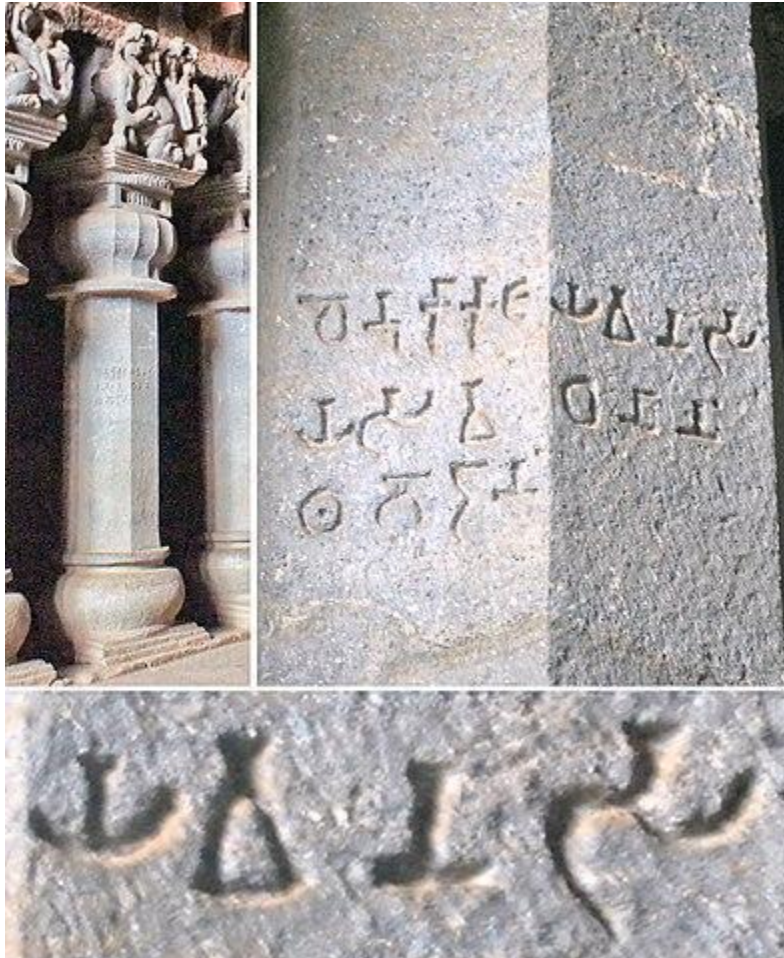
Western sources

1. Strabo states that they reached the gates of Patliputra and even conquered the city.
2. The Greeks from Bactria had conquered more tribes than Alexander he crossed the river of Ganga and won the city of Patliputra.
3. Those who came after Alexander went to the Ganges and Pataliputra (Strabo, XV.698, geography)
4. The Polybius book mentions greek-bactro and their campaigns only till Kabul.
5. The known parts of eastern India include those lying on this side of the Hypanis, as well as any areas beyond the Hypanis that have been described by those who, after Alexander, ventured past the Hypanis to the Ganges and Pataliputra. Strabo

6. Roman historian Justin described both Demetrius and Menander. he called Menander king of India and rights he was the master of India, who put it under his role.

DEBATED POINT

We have found coins of the Indo-Greeks in Surat and northern Maharashtra, but we have not found any evidence of invasion or rule. I think the area was invaded by Menander, as he first conquered Madhyamika in Rajasthan, and we found similar remains in Surat as well.



INSCRIPTION FOUND AT NASIK SHOWS THAT THE YAVANA RULER DONATED THE PILLAR