

and even compelled Macedonia to acknowledge the supremacy of the great king. The Persian empire was thus extended into Europe to the boundary of Greece itself.

The subsequent history of Persia was closely related to that of Greece, which had by this time developed a distinct civilization of its own and had become the centre of a new world culture. We shall hereafter see how Persia came into conflict with the Greek states, and how it was finally overthrown by Alexander the Great (331 B. C.).

III. THE GOVERNMENT AND CIVILIZATION OF PERSIA

Political Organization of the Empire.—In its geographical extent Persia surpassed all the previous empires of the East.

It not only covered all the lands hitherto occupied by Assyria, Babylonia, Media, Lydia, and Egypt, but added to them other territory not included in these older empires. It extended from the Indus River to the Ægean Sea, a distance of about three thousand miles. It comprised, in fact, the whole civilized world except India and China in the far East, and Greece and Carthage in the West.

The form of government established over this vast domain was patterned after that of the Assyrians, but strengthened and perfected by the genius of Darius. For the purpose of administration the territory was divided into a number of provinces, or "satrapies," each under a provincial governor, or satrap, appointed by the king. The provinces were divided into districts,



THE PERSIAN KING
(with attendants)