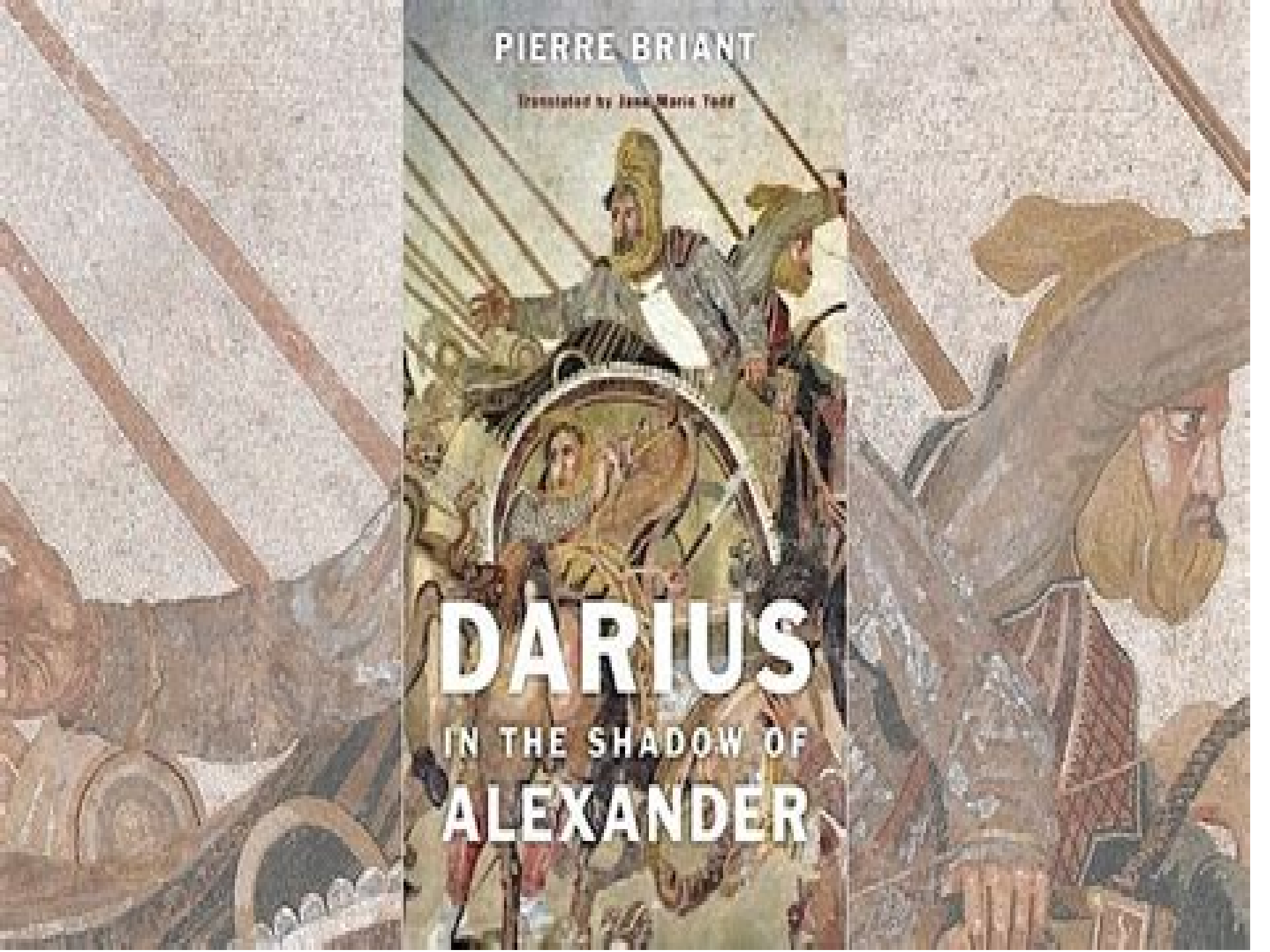




PIERRE BRIANT

Translated by Jean-Marc Todd

DARIUS

IN THE SHADOW OF
ALEXANDER

Darius In The Shadow Of Alexander

Jaakkojuhani Peltonen



Darius In The Shadow Of Alexander:

Darius in the Shadow of Alexander Pierre Briant, 2015-01-05 A detailed and incisive analysis of the recorded history surrounding the last king of Achaemenid Persia Darius III The last of Cyrus the Great's dynastic inheritors and the legendary enemy of Alexander the Great Darius III ruled over a Persian Empire that stretched from the Mediterranean to the Indus River Yet despite being the most powerful king of his time Darius remains an obscure figure As Pierre Briant explains in the first book ever devoted to the historical memory of Darius III the little that is known of him comes primarily from Greek and Roman sources which often present him in an unflattering light as a decadent Oriental who lacked the masculine virtues of his Western adversaries Influenced by the Alexander Romance as they are even the medieval Persian sources are not free of harsh prejudices against the king Dara whom they deemed deficient in the traditional kingly virtues Ancient Classical accounts construct a man who is in every respect Alexander's opposite feeble minded militarily inept addicted to pleasure and vain When Darius's wife and children are captured by Alexander's forces at the Battle of Issos Darius is ready to ransom his entire kingdom to save them a devoted husband and father perhaps but a weak king While Darius seems doomed to be a footnote in the chronicle of Alexander's conquests in one respect it is Darius who has the last laugh For after Darius's defeat in 331 BCE Alexander is described by historians as becoming ever more like his vanquished opponent a Darius like sybarite prone to unmanly excess Praise for Darius in the Shadow of Alexander Briant is the world's leading authority on the Persian empire that Alexander conquered one of few living scholars with the linguistic mastery to study both the Greco Roman and Persian sources and hence examine the reign of Darius from European and Asian perspectives In the intensely thorough analysis he conducts here he finds reasons to mistrust both traditions and thereby qualify the charge of cowardice that has shadowed Darius for more than two millennia His insights are penetrating and his mastery of the evidentiary record is unsurpassed Having deftly taken down much of the edifice supplied by the ancient accounts of Darius Briant finally turns architect and shows us how the rebuilding might begin James Romm The Wall Street Journal Briant's work as always is a significant contribution to Achaemenid studies a display of historiographical learnedness whose methods can benefit historians across ancient studies Jennifer Finn Bryn Mawr Classical Review [Alexander's Marshals](#) Waldemar Heckel, 2016-08-05 This substantially revised and updated second edition of The Marshals of Alexander's Empire 1992 examines Alexander's most important officers who commanded army units and were involved in military and political deliberations Chapters on these men have been expanded giving greater attention to personalities bias in the sources and the social as well as military setting including more on familial connections and regional origins in an attempt to create a better understanding of factions The major confrontations military and political are treated in greater detail within the biographies and a discussion of the organization and command structure of the Makedonian army has been added *From Cyrus to Seleukos* Pierre Briant, 2021-02-01 The present volume is a collection of articles published in English by Professor Pierre

Briant of the Collège de France in various forms over the past three decades Pierre Briant has been instrumental in the recent revival of Achaemenid history and the way in which he has achieved this is instructive for the future generations of historians to come One can state that Briant's approach to history is very much in the French tradition it engages with both narration and a thorough historiographical methodology making his work so distinctively rigorous and compelling at the same time Another important contribution made by Briant's work concerns the changing scholarly interpretations of the relations between the Achaemenids and Alexander in the longue durée Since the major corpus of Pierre Briant's work was originally composed in French I thought that it would be beneficial to many English speaking students as well as educated readers and experts in the field to have access to these important essays in a single volume I have tried to keep articles in their original publication format and style wherever possible This volume is a special tribute to an important historian of our time from which current and future students of Persia will have much to learn This volume was previously published by the Jordan Center for Persian Studies University of California Irvine [The First European](#) Pierre Briant, 2017-01-02

Enlightenment thinkers searching for ancient models to understand contemporary affairs were the first to critically interpret Alexander the Great's achievements As Pierre Briant shows in their minds Alexander was the first European an empire builder who welcomed trade with the Orient and brought Western civilization to its oppressed peoples **The Cambridge Companion to Alexander the Great** Daniel Ogden, 2024-01-18 Has any ancient figure captivated the imagination of people over the centuries so much as Alexander the Great In less than a decade he created an empire stretching across much of the Near East as far as India which led to Greek culture becoming dominant in much of this region for a millennium Here an international team of experts clearly explains the life and career of one of the most significant figures in world history They introduce key themes of his campaign as well as describing aspects of his court and government and exploring the very different natures of his engagements with the various peoples he encountered and their responses to him The reader is also introduced to the key sources including the more important fragmentary historians especially Ptolemy Aristobulus and Clitarchus with their different perspectives The book closes by considering how Alexander's image was manipulated in antiquity itself *Alexander the Great in the Roman Empire, 150 BC to AD 600* Jaakkojuhani Peltonen, 2019-03-13 The life of Alexander the Great began to be retold from the moment of his death The Greco Roman authors used these stories as exemplars in a variety of ways This book is concerned with the various stories of Alexander and how they were used in antiquity to promote certain policies religious views and value systems The book is an original contribution to the study of the history and reception of Alexander analysing the writings of over 70 classical and post classical authors during a period of over 700 years Drawing on this extensive range and quantity of material the study plots the continuity and change of ideas from the early Roman Empire to the early Middle Ages **Brill's Companion to War in the Ancient Iranian Empires**, 2024-10-21 Brill's Companion to War in the Ancient Iranian Empires examines military structures and methods from the

Elamite period through the Achaemenid Seleucid Arsacid and Sasanian empires War played a critical role in Iranian state formation and dynastic transitions imperial ideologies and administration and relations with neighbouring states and peoples from Central Asia to the Mediterranean Twenty chapters by leading experts offer fresh approaches to the study of ancient Iranian armies strategy diplomacy and battlefield methods and contextualise famous conflicts with Greek and Roman opponents

Brill's Companion to George Grote and the Classical Tradition Kyriakos N. Demetriou, 2014-09-25 George Grote's 1794-1871 extensive publications on ancient Greek history and philosophy remain landmarks in the history of classical scholarship Since the late 20th century lively interest in the works of Grote has seen his profile revived and his ongoing significance highlighted he has taken up his rightful place among the most celebrated nineteenth century classical intellectuals Grote's critical engagement with Greek historiography and philosophy revolutionized classical studies in his day a revolution set against both long established interpretations and prevailing trends in German Altertumswissenschaft Twenty first century scholarship shows that Grote's works remain lively sparkling and relevant as they offer valuable insights that cut across the intellectual borders of the Victorian age His diligent scholarship fascination with evidence and sound judgement intertwined with intriguing and insightful narrative prose continue to captivate the attention of modern readers In Brill's Companion to George Grote and the Classical Tradition Kyriakos N Demetriou leads a team of prominent scholars to contextualize unravel and explore Grote's works as well as provide a critical assessment of his posthumous legacy

The Oxford History of the Ancient Near East Karen Radner, Nadine Moeller, Daniel T. Potts, 2023 The fifth volume of the Oxford History of the Ancient Near East covers the period from the second half of the 7th century BC until the campaigns of Alexander III of Macedon 336-323 BC brought an end to the Achaemenid Dynasty and the Persian Empire Tying together periods and political history covered by previous volumes in the series this title focuses on the Persian Empire's immediate predecessor states Saite Egypt the Neo Babylonian Empire and the kingdom of Lydia among other kingdoms and tribal alliances

Shadow Empires Thomas J. Barfield, 2025-12-02 An original study of empire creation and its consequences from ancient through early modern times The world's first great empires established by the ancient Persians Chinese and Romans are well known but not the empires that emerged on their margins in response to them over the course of 2500 years These counterempires or shadow empires which changed the course of history include the imperial nomad confederacies that arose in Mongolia and extorted resources from China rather than attempting to conquer it as well as maritime empires such as ancient Athens that controlled trade without seeking territorial hegemony In Shadow Empires Thomas Barfield identifies six kinds of counterempire and explores their rise politics economics and longevity What all these counterempires had in common was their interactions with existing empires that created the conditions for their development When highly successful these counterempires left the shadows to become the world's largest empires for example those of the medieval Muslim Arabs and of the Mongol heirs of Chinggis Khan Three former shadow empires

Manchu Qing China Tsarist Russia and British India made this transformation in the late eighteenth century and came to rule most of Eurasia However the DNA of their origins endured in their unique ruling strategies Indeed world powers still use these strategies today long after their roots in shadow empires have been forgotten Looking afresh at the histories of important types of empires that are often ignored Shadow Empires provides an original account of empire formation from the ancient world to the early modern period

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