

Summary

The dissertation titled ‘Cyrus the Younger and the Hellenes. Iranian-Greek political and cultural relations at the end of the 5th century BC’ focuses on Cyrus, known commonly the Younger, the Iranian prince of the Achaemenid Persian Empire (550-330). The dissertation presents the history of Cyrus and connected events from the time of his birth, about 424/423, to his death in 401. Cyrus the Younger was an Iranian whose relations with the Hellenes were on a scale unknown in the Achaemenid period before him. Describing his history a lot of attention has been paid to those relations as well.

The study presented in the dissertation has been discussed within ten thematic chapters, preceded by the introduction. Other components of the dissertation are: the contents, the summation, maps, illustrations, the table and the bibliographic list.

The introduction, preceded first by the contents, is composed of four sections. Those sections are: A, B, C and D. The most developed among them are sections C and D, which present the actual state of research about Cyrus the Younger, giving the overview of both the sources for Cyrus and his epoch and of the contemporary literature about Cyrus and connected matters.

Chapter 1 of the dissertation, titled ‘From Persis to Anatolia: Darius II and the Ionian War’, in its most part presents the events taking place during the period of Cyrus childhood. The chapter is composed of two subchapters. The first of them shows the closest family of Cyrus – his father Ochus, mother Parysatis and the siblings. Cyrus was born soon after Ochus became the Great King, ruling as Darius II (424/423-404), being the first child of his and Parysatis ‘born in the purple’. Before Ochus become the Great King he and Parysatis have had two other children – daughter Amestris and son Arsakes. The period of Cyrus childhood was the time of stabilization of the rule obtained in the Persian Empire by his father, challenging by some Achaemenid notables. It was not without armed struggles that Darius succeeded. His politics and actions were actively supported by Parysatis. One of the area of significant events during Darius’ reign were west and north-west shores of Anatolia. As a result of Persian interference in the co-called Great Peloponnesian War (431-404), actually embracing the Greek world, the war was stretched to Anatolia, covering its west and north-

west shores. It was the so-called Ionian War (413-404), the last phase of the Great Peloponnesian War. Main opponents of the war were Athens, leading the Athenian Confederacy, and Sparta with her allies. The Athenian Confederacy for years made a threat for the west boundaries of the Persian Empire, so when the opportunity occurred the Empire joined the war cooperating with Sparta. The opportunity was the failure of Athens in the so-called Great Sicilian Expedition (415-413). Immediately after this failure the Achaemenid Empire started to cooperate with Sparta against Athens. This was the beginning of the above mentioned Ionian War. On the years of 413-409 of this war and on the cooperation between the Achaemenid Empire and Sparta at that time focuses the second subchapter of chapter 1.

Lack of good results in fighting the Athenians in the Ionian War led Darius to send to Anatolia his son Cyrus, giving him a vast range of authority in this part of the Empire. This issue is the main theme of chapter 2, titled 'Cyrus in Asia Minor (408)'. The chapter is divided into two subchapters, which are focused on Cyrus' arrival to Asia Minor and his activity in the central part of the Peninsula. Cyrus arrived to Asia Minor in 408, being about 16 years old. His position in the region was determined by the post of *karanos* (OP **kārana-*, Aram. *krny*), committed him by his father. It was the post strictly connected with the military sphere. Performing this post Cyrus was the commander-in-chief of Achaemenid troops in Asia Minor. The post allowed him also to act relatively freely in his politics in the region. As a result he could rule there to a large degree irrespectively of the Great King. Being *karanos* of Asia Minor Cyrus had under his control Achaemenid governors of the region. It concerns especially Tissaphernes, the governor of Lydia, and Pharnabazos, the governor of Hellespontine Phrygia. Both of them were high-born Iranians, belonging to the very prominent Iranian clans, Tissafernes to the clan of Hydarnids, and Pharnabazos to the clan of Pharnakids. The main task of Cyrus after his arrival to Asia Minor was to break down the Athenian Confederacy, and it was supposed to be achieved by the cooperation with Sparta. The two-sided cooperation was regulated by the so-called Treaty of Boiotios, negotiated by Darius II and the Spartan embassy headed by Boiotios. The treaty was signed in Susa, most likely in 409/408, and the sending of Cyrus to Anatolia was strictly connected with the regulations of the treaty. Cyrus was sent to Anatolia to provide a lot of support for the Spartans in the Ionian War, and to direct Persian politics during the war instead of Tissaphernes and Pharnabazos, so far ineffective on this field.

Cyrus' arrival to Asia Minor and his involvement in the Ionian War brought him into many contacts with the Hellenes. As a result the Hellenes were present around him from that time till his death in 401. Those contacts were primarily of political character, but there may

be seen their cultural dimension as well, visible in the history of Cyrus. The theme of his relations with the Hellenes appears many times in chapters 2-10. Concerning the theme, especially Cyrus' relations with Spartan commanders Lysander, Kallikratidas, Klearchos, or the Greek concubine Aspasia from Phokaia, deserve much attention. Within the years 408-401 there were also other Hellenes around Cyrus, both European and Asiatic. In 401 there were for example Thessalian commander Menon, Boeotian commander Proxenos or Athenian historian Xenophon, the author of many literary works wrote by him some years later. In 408 there could be a direct contact between Cyrus and Syrakuzan commander Hermokrates, much deserved in defeating the Athenians during the so-called Great Sicilian Expedition of the years 415-413. Before Cyrus the Younger few Iranians have had so close relations with the Hellenes as he had. Chapter 3 serves to present Cyrus relations with the Greek envoys heading towards his father's court (409-408), among whom were the Athenians, the Argives, the Spartans and the Syrakuzans.

In 407 Cyrus established close relationship with Lysander the Spartan, the chief commander of the Peloponnesian fleet fighting the Athenians in the ongoing Ionian War. Cyrus' involvement in the war and his relationship with Lysander have been presented in chapters 4-5, titled respectively: 'Cyrus and Lysander: phase I (407-406)' and 'Cyrus and Lysander: phase II (406-405)'. Cyrus appreciated this Spartan commander and the cooperation with him. It strengthened the position of the commander in Greek cities of Ionia and made the fight against the Athenians much more effective as well. There were several meetings between Cyrus and Lysander, taking place in Sardis the capital of Lydia, regulating mutual cooperation in the ongoing Ionian War. The final point of this cooperation was the decisive victory over the Athenian fleet in the battle of Aigospotamoi in 405 and the subsequent capitulation of Athens in 404. As a result the task entrusted to Cyrus by his father has been fulfilled successfully – there was no more the Athenian Confederacy.

Chapter 6, titled 'The succession after Darius II', is concentrated on the succession to the Achaemenid throne after the death of the ruler. The chapter is composed of two subchapters, where the leading issues are the death of Darius II and the rivalry for his heritage. Darius died in 404, soon after the capitulation of Athens. Cyrus was with him at that time, for just as he was informed about father's sickness he immediately left Anatolia and arrived at the father's court. There was present Arsakes as well, the oldest son of Darius and Parysatis. Having Parysatis' strong support Cyrus was full of hope for the father's heritage. But the new Great King was declared Arsakes, ruling as Artaxerxes II (404-359). During the ritual of initiation of Arsakes as the new Great King Cyrus was accused for trying to murder

him and consequently put to the King's prison. The sentence of death awaited for Cyrus in the prison, but by the intercession of Parysatis he went out from there and went back to Anatolia. Those were the crucial events of his life, which determined his later acts.

The return of Cyrus to Anatolia and his activity there in subsequent years are the issues discussed in chapter 7, titled 'Again in Asia Minor (404/403-401)'. The chapter is composed of two subchapters, showing the situation in Asia Minor after Cyrus' return there, and his ruling there. The first subchapter analyzes from the one side the position of Cyrus in Asia Minor after his return, from the other his relations with the Iranian nobles of the region, especially Tissaphernes and Orontas, and with Artaxerxes as well. Most attention has been paid to the war between Cyrus and Tissaphernes waged at that time, focused on the Ionian cities of Asia Minor. Cyrus won the war, while Tissaphernes left Asia Minor. The second subchapter concentrates on the characterization of Cyrus' rule in the region, the army at his disposal at that time and his financial resources as well.

Cyrus possessed his own court in Asia Minor. Description of this court is given in chapter 8, titled 'Iranian court of Cyrus in Anatolia'. The chapter consists of three subchapters, which are to present: the functioning of the court, the retinue of Cyrus, his religion, and his attitude towards the Greek culture. In respect of the organization and functioning of Cyrus court, in many respects it resembled the King's court model. The sources allowed us to determine where Cyrus resided and spent his time in Anatolia, to reconstruct, as far as possible, the structure and the organization of his court, including its staff and the circle of nobles, and to look at the sacral sphere of Cyrus life as well. Relatively frequent contacts with the Hellenes allowed Cyrus to get to know the Greek culture. There were Greek concubines in the harem of his court, and one of them, Aspasia from Phokaia, became very important for him. Cyrus most likely learned the Greek language and could communicate with the Hellenes around him without using an interpreter. He knew most likely some aspects of Greek religion as well. Appreciating the Hellenes and their culture Cyrus at the same time remained devoted to the Iranian traditions, emanating from his court in Anatolia.

After leaving the King's prison and returning to Anatolia (404/403) Cyrus started to make there the careful and discreet preparations for the armed expedition against Artaxerxes. The purpose of the expedition was to overthrow Artaxerxes and to take his place on the Achaemenid throne. To do this Cyrus needed a strong army. It was finally gathered by him after planned preparations. The army was composed of the Iranians, non-Greek peoples of Asia Minor and the Greeks, mainly from the European Greece. It was the time when Cyrus

took advantage of his hitherto contacts with the Hellenes. On his call appeared in Asia Minor the Greek commanders with the mercenary forces hired for him and paid by him. The vast majority of those forces were the Greeks. Among the Greek commanders who arrived to serve under Cyrus the most appreciated by him was the Spartan exile Klearchos. On Cyrus' call answered the Spartan authorities as well, sending him some military force. Cyrus' preparations for the expedition and his march from Anatolia at the helm of his army have been presented in chapter 9, titled 'In the face of the confrontation (401)'. The chapter consists of two subchapters, concentrated from the one side on Cyrus' preparations for the expedition and from the other on his march with the army from Lydian Sardes, to Syrian Thapsakos at the west bank of Euphrates.

Chapter 10, titled 'The battle for the throne', describes the further march of Cyrus and his army, from Thapsakos to Kunaxa, close to Babylon. The chapter, composed of two subchapters, presents the military camps of Cyrus and Artaxerxes, the armies they disposed at that time, and the decisive battle fought between them at Kunaxa (401). The expedition of Cyrus against Artaxerxes was the event without precedent in the hitherto history of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. So far any army hostile to the Great King reached Babylonia. In the battle fought between the Iranian brothers at Kunaxa the victory won Artaxerxes, while Cyrus had fallen during the battle. By the efforts of Parysatis Cyrus' remains have been laid down in Susa, one of the capitals of the Persian Empire. This made the end of the history of Cyrus the Younger. Numerous relations with the Hellenes he have had during his life brought many mentions of him in the Greek literary heritage. Thus the memory of him and his acts survived to present day.