The Battle of Cunaxa Revealed: 401 B.C.E.

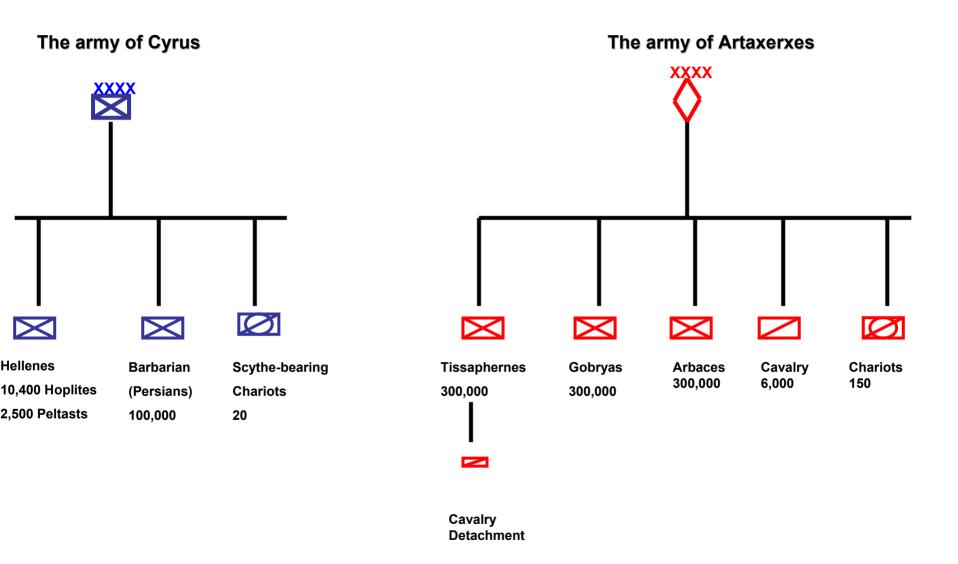
Antonio M. Salinas
Eastern Michigan University
16 May 2005

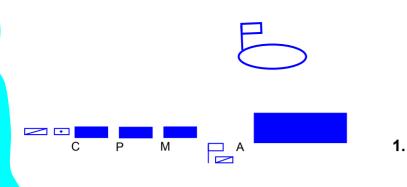
Map Legend

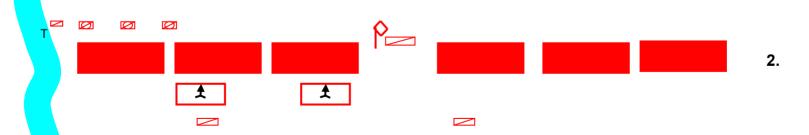
Unit Symbol	Description
	Greek Hoplites
	Persian infantry
	(Barbarians)
	(Barbarians)
	Cavalry
	Camp
	Cyrus and cavalry detachment
·	Greek Peltasts

Unit Symbol	Description
	Persian infantry (Barbarians)
	Cavalry
	Scythe- bearing Chariots
	Artaxerxes and cavalry detachment

Battle of Cunaxa order of battle

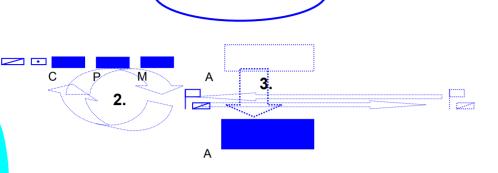


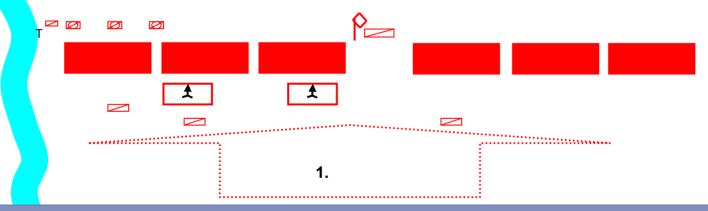




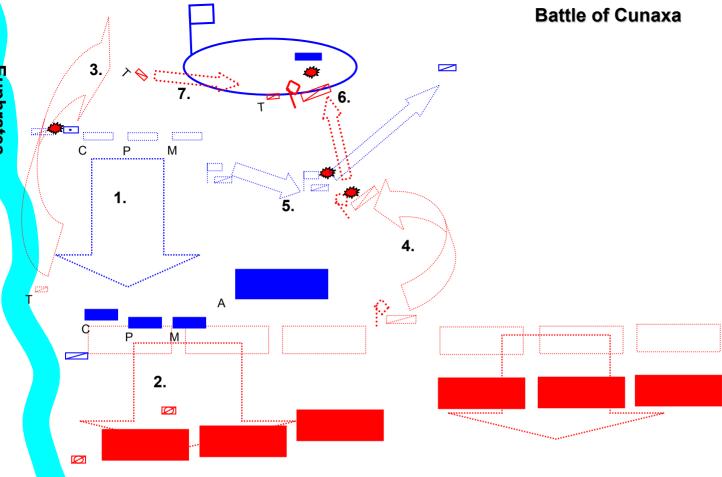
- 1. The army of Cyrus forms for battle in the following order: 1,000 Paphlagonian cavalry and Hellenic peltasts anchor the right wing along with the remainder of the Greek forces, commanded by Clearchos, Proxenos, and Menon. Ariaios holds the left with the barbarian (Persian-National forces). Cyrus commands the center with 600 cavalry.
- 2. The army of Artaxerxes' forces far outnumber Cyrus's. Artaxerxes' center, composed 6,000 cavalry, overlaps the opposing force. Cavalry, under the command of Tissaphernes holds the left wing. Scythe-bearing chariots at the front of the force opposite the Greek forces.

Battle of Cunaxa

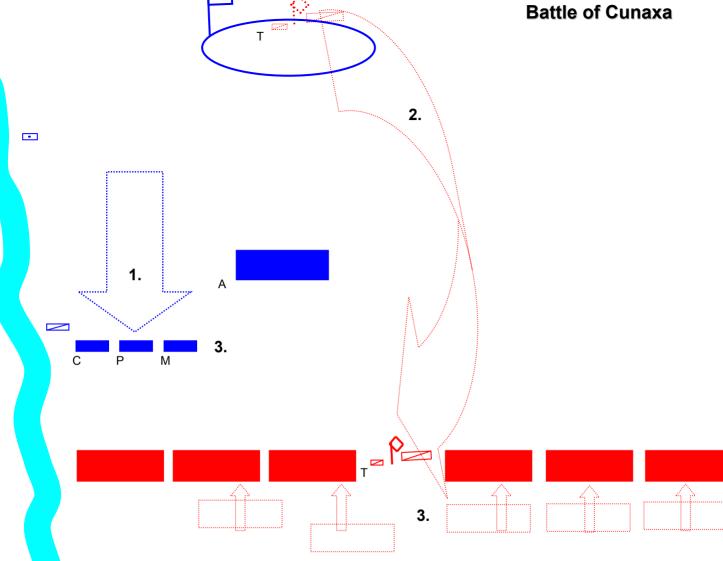




- 1. Artaxerxes' forces advance.
- 2. Cyrus, noticing that Artaxerxes is in the center, pleads with Clearchos to attack the King. Clearchos refuses for fear of compromising the flank.
- 3. The Persian contingent advances, while the Greek forces continue forming up.
- I. Cyrus rides away to observe the opposing armies. He briefly speaks to Xenophon, receiving a good omen. He returns back to the center of his forces.

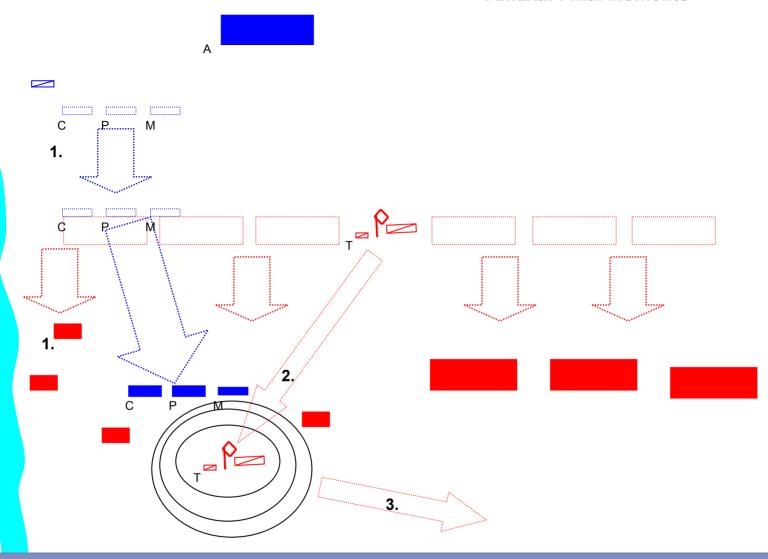


- 1. The Greek forces charge when they are within 800 meters of the enemy.
- 2. Artaxerxes' line breaks and flees without wounding a single Greek. Chariots flee through both their own forces as well as the Greeks, who avoid them by opening gaps in their lines. The Greek forces pursue.
- 3. Tissaphernes takes a small cavalry contingent around the rear of Cyrus's forces.
- 4. Artaxerxes attempts to encircle Cyrus.
- 5. Cyrus and his 600 cavalry charge to meet Artaxerxes and his 6,000 cavalry. Cyrus catches sight of Artaxerxes in the confusion and personally wounds him. However, Cyrus is killed. The survivors from Cyrus's cavalry flee to their own camp.
- 6. Artaxerxes reaches the camp of Cyrus and begins to plunder. However, he is met by a rear guard of Greeks who limit the plunder.
- 7. Tissaphernes links up with Artaxerxes and informs him of the general situation.



- 1. The Greek forces still in pursuit when they realize Artaxerxes has reached their camp.
- 2. Artaxerxes approaches the Greeks from the rear. Cyrus's forces turn about to receive the cavalry charge. However, Artaxerxes follows his original line of attack, outside the left wing, and reaches his retreating forces.
- 3. Artaxerxes reforms his forces in the same position as the onset of battle. Cyrus's forces discuss the possibility of reforming with the river to their rear.

Cunaxa: Final Moments



- 1. The Greek forces charge and the barbarians flee once again.
- 2. The Greeks pursue Artaxerxes and his cavalry to a small village located on a hill.
- 3. Artaxerxes flees the field and the Greeks retire back to camp, not realizing that Cyrus is dead.