

The History of Georgian Civilization

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Iberia-Colchis, Foreigner Affairs, Policy and Cultural Influences

- **The Romans**
- **The Parthians**
- **An Ethnical Diversity of Iberia**

The Romans

- **Romanization** was a **globalistic process**, implying the spread and establishment of Roman political-economic norms and culture **in the provinces of the Empire and neighboring countries.**
- Other examples of globalization: Achaemenid Iran or the Empire of Alexander the Great performed the function of globalization.

History of globalization

- Traits of globalization can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire
- The Silk Road started in China, reached portions of the Parthian Empire and ended in Rome
- The trade route helped to integrate the three economies of the Han Dynasty, Persian and Roman Empires.

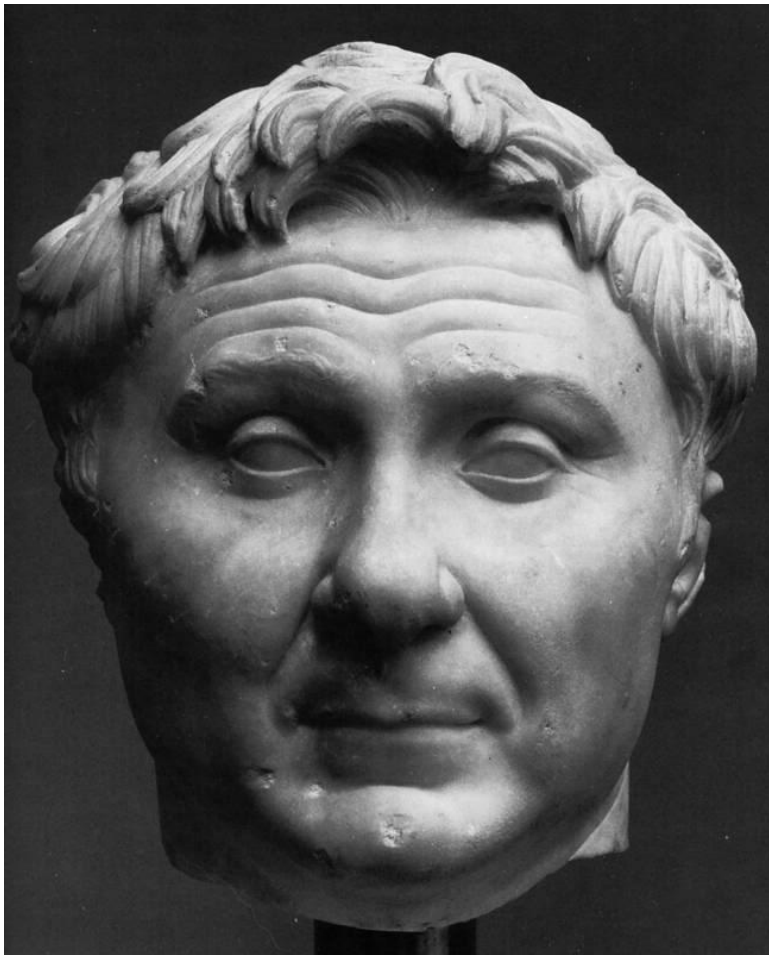


Pax Romana

- In a number of provinces of the Roman Empire, **Romanization** was attended by the development of
 - technological processes, communication and East-West contacts, a process of assimilation and cultural syncretization of peoples, occurring in the annexed countries under the aegis of *Pax Romana* .
- *Pax Romana- means, Roman Peace*



Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus, usually known as Pompey, or Pompey the Great



- The Romans first came into Transcaucasia, including the Iberian kingdom, in the 1st century BC.
- Pompey was the first Roman to enter Iberia (from Armenia) in 65 BC en route for Colchis.

The Romans

- The Colchian coast was a strategic region for
 - the Caucasus
 - Asia Minor
 - the Bosphorus
- ❖ Colchis were incorporated into Roman Empire as her provinces.
- In the Eastern policy of Rome, the Black Sea area communications were indispensable in her rivalry with such powerful a state as Parthia.
 - The former Kingdom of Colchis was re-organized by the Romans into the province of Lazicum
 - ruled by Roman *legati*.



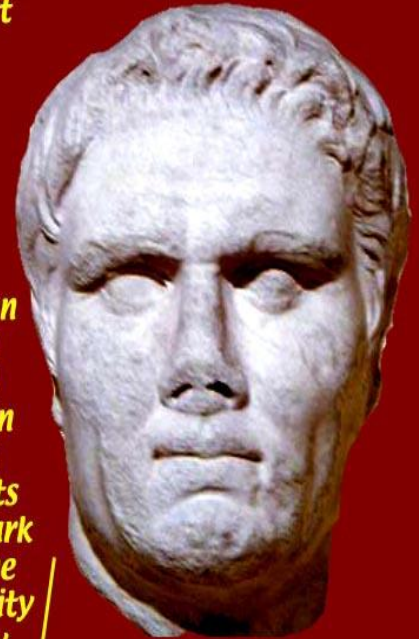
The Romans

- Iberia was just a **client state** and was never actually part of the Roman Empire.
 - Roman political influence on the kingdom of Iberia (*resp.* Kartli) did not last long.
 - In the second half of the 1 c. B.C., Kartli-Iberia and Albania detached themselves from Roman dominion.
- A **client state** is a state that is economically, politically or militarily subordinate to another more powerful state in international affairs.

Iberians vs. Romans

- When Marc Antony campaigned against Parthia in 36 BC., neither Iberians nor Albanians joined him.
- 37 and 36 B.C., revolts against Roman authority broke out, first in Albania, then in Kartli-Iberia.

Antony was one of the most important and successful generals and administrators who supported Julius Caesar. Caesar left him in charge of Rome while Caesar cleaned up the remnants of Pompey's forces in North Africa and in Iberia. Antony's main function was to suppress the gangs and lawlessness that had wracked city during the civil war -- even though much of that violence had been carried out by agents and surrogates of Caesar. Mark Antony didn't shirk, and by the time Caesar returned to the city in September of 45 BC the city mobs were under control. This may have emboldened the Senators the next March 15th.



Marcus Antonius,
ca. January 14, 83 -- August 1, 30 BC,
known in English as Mark Antony

Iberians vs. Romans

- The Roman legions under **Publius Canidius Crassus** entered Georgia to put down the revolt, but Crassus's campaign proved to be the last Roman effort to subdue Georgia.
- By the last decade of the first century B.C., Kartli-Iberia and Albania were completely free from Rome.



Other historical actor- THE Parthians

- The Parthian Empire is a fascinating period of Persian history closely connected to Greece and Rome.
- **Ruling from 247 B.C. to 228 A.D. in ancient Persia (Iran), the Parthians defeated Alexander the Great's successors, the Seleucids, conquered most of the Middle East and southwest Asia, controlled the Silk Road and built Parthia into an Eastern superpower.**

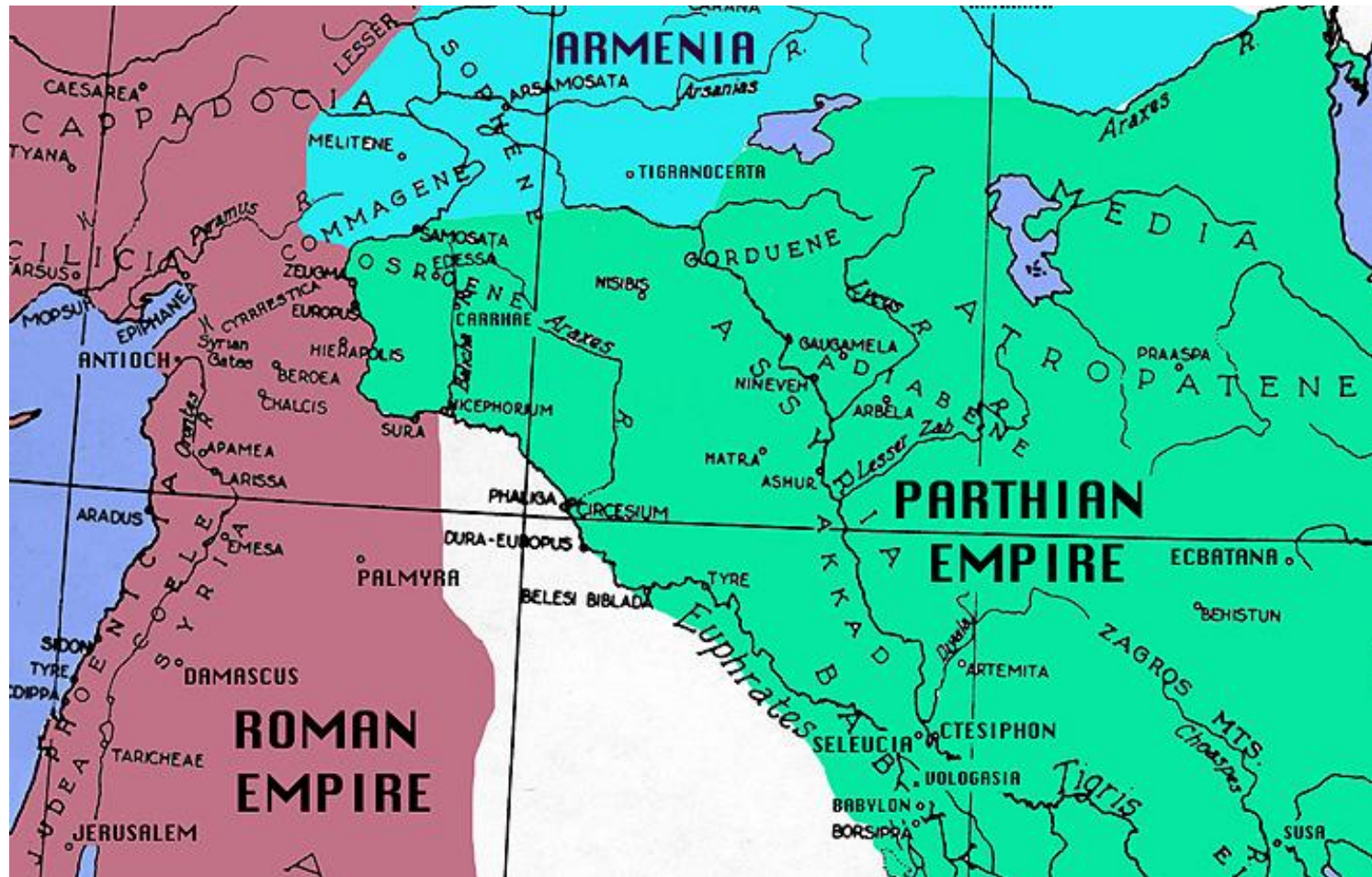


THE Parthians



- The Parthian empire revived the greatness of the Achaemenid empire and counterbalanced Rome's hegemony in the West.
- Parthia at one time occupied areas now in Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaidzhan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Israel.

Rome vs. Parthia



Diplomatic “games ”in 1st -2nd cc. AD.

- Iberian kings successfully used Rome for the consolidation of the political power in their struggle against Parthia.
- The trade route that linked Eastern countries with the Western world via Georgia was in Rome’s economic and political interests.
- The kingdom of Iberia played an active part in Rome’s foreign policy, emerging as her ally in the Near East (Tacitus and Dion Cassius).

Diplomatic “games” in 1st -2nd c. AD.

- The Emperor Augustus recognized Iberia as an ally and raised Roman taxes from the region.
- Armenia remained a bone of contention between Parthia and Rome into the first century A.D. It was divided.



Diplomatic “games ”in 1st -2nd c. AD.

- Kartli-Iberia emerged as a more powerful state and gained profits from divided and conquered Armenia.
- In A.D. 35 Parsman I (Farsman, Pharasmanes) of Iberia, an ally of the Romans, defeated the Parthian king of Armenia and placed his brother Mithradates (A.D. 35-51) on the throne.

Diplomatic “games” 1st -2ndc. AD

- In. 51 A.D Parsman's son, Rhadamistes, defeated his uncle Mithridates at Garni and briefly became king of Armenia, only to be executed by his father.
- Armenia was taken by the Parthians, who gave the crown to **Trdat**,
- **the founder of the Parthian Arsacid dynasty in Armenia.**



Diplomatic “games” 1st -2ndc. AD.

- Iberia and Rome fought Parthia and Armenia until **the Peace of Rhandeia (A.D. 63)**,
- ❖ when Roman suzerainty over Armenia was recognized by the Parthians in exchange for Roman acceptance of the Arsacid king, Trdat (Tiridates).
- Mihrdat (Mithradates) of Iberia, Parsman's son, to ally himself with the Alans, nomads from the north, with whom he campaigned several times into Armenia.

Diplomatic affairs

- In about 141–144 A.D. Antoninus Pius invited the Iberian king, Pharasmanes II, and his wife to Rome:
- When Pharasmanes the Iberian and his wife came to Rome, the emperor extended his kingdom and allowed him to sacrifice on the Capitol.



Diplomatic affairs

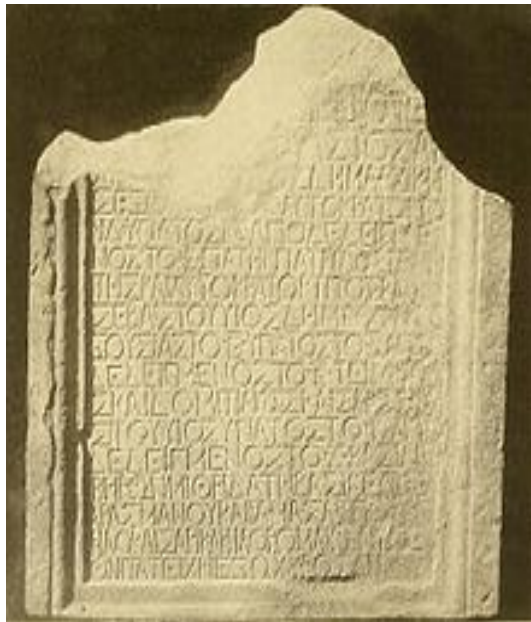
- Antoninus Pius set up a statue to Pharasmanes on horseback in **the Temple of Bellona**
- and watched the martial exercises of the king, the king's son, and the rest of the Iberian élite (Dio LXIX 15: 3).



Iberia in 1-2 cc.AD

- **The residence of Iberian Kings was at Armaztsikhe in Mtskheta.**
- Cities of the Roman period and the Early Middle Ages –
- Mtskheta, Dzalisa, Urbnisi, Bichvinta, Tsikhisdziri, Nokalakevi, Kutaisi, Gonio.

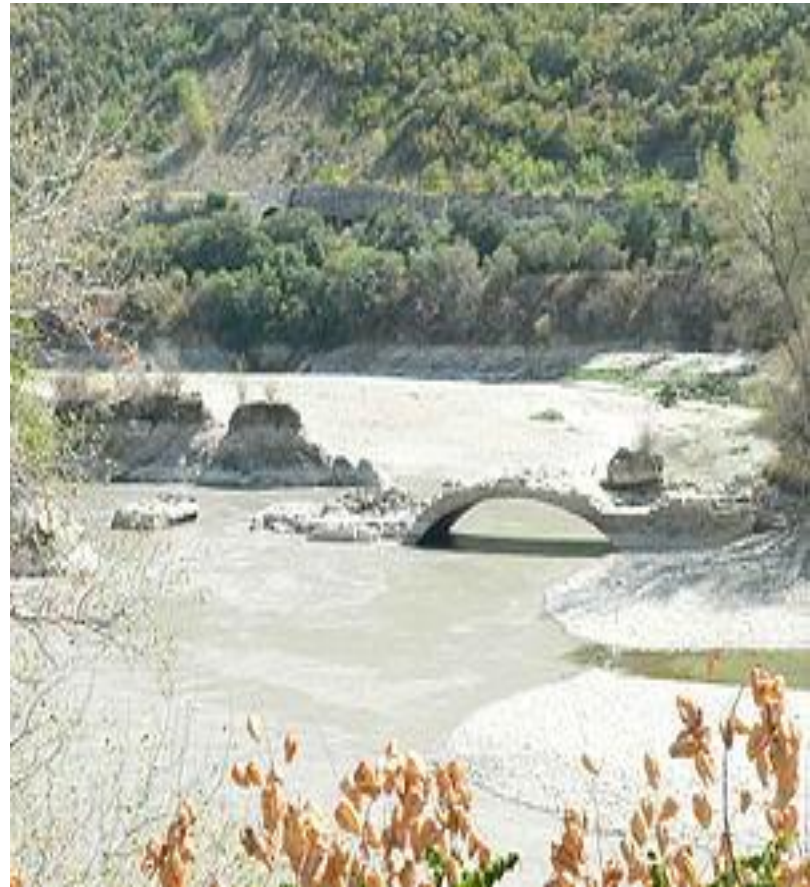
Iberia in 1-2 cc.AD



- A stone inscription discovered at Mtskheta speaks of the first-century ruler, Mihrdat I (A.D. 58—106),
 - as "the friend of the Caesars" and the king "of the Roman-loving Iberians."

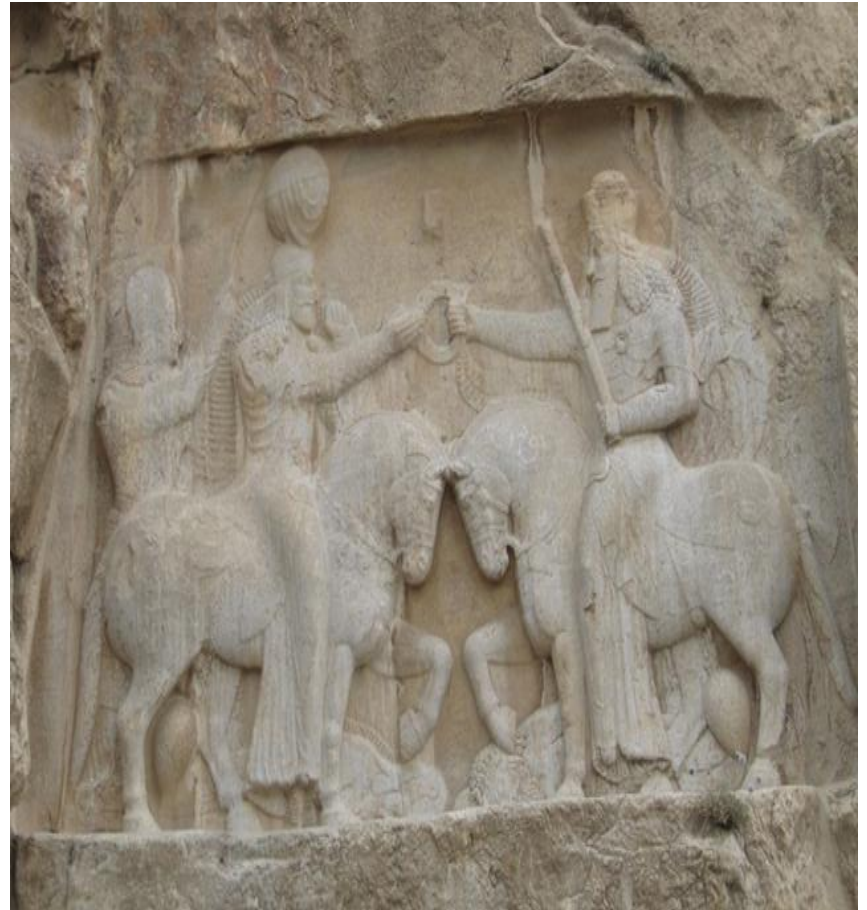
Iberia in 1-2 cc.AD

- The remains of the much rebuilt stone bridge Pompey, son of Gnaeus, erected across the Kura still stand.
- A Greek building-inscription, found not far from Mtskheta and dating to AD 75, tells us that Roman engineers had strengthened the walls for the Iberian king.



The Sasanid Iran

- Ardashir overthrew the Parthian dynasty and founded the four-hundred-year empire of the Sassanids (224—651).
- The Zoroastrian god Ahura Mazda makes Ardeshir the first Sasanid king of Iran!



The Sasanid Iran and Iberia

- the Sasanids forced Armenia
- invaded pro-Roman Kartli-Iberia and Albania.
- **The Romans regained Caucasia briefly under Emperor Aurelian (270-275).**
- the Iranians took advantage and established their candidate, Mirian III (Meribanes, 284-361), son of the Great King of Iran, on the throne of eastern Georgia.
- after a great Roman victory, **Iran and Rome signed the Peace of Nisibis**, and Mirian was recognized as king of Iberia, and Armenia went to Romans.

The Sasanid Iran

- From the 3rd century AD, Iberian kings had to deal with Sasanid Iran



- Iberia was listed as an integral part of the Sasanid empire;
- the Iberian king is considered to be an ally who had followed Iranian wishes
- As was the case with the Romans, Sasanian rulers sent the Iberian kings diplomatic gifts;

An Ethnical Diversity of Iberia:

- *Kartlis Tskhovreba* , tells us
- that six languages were spoken in Iberian cities, including Georgian, Armenian, Hebrew, and Greek.
- a Jewish community in Mtskheta, at least from the 2nd century AD.

An Ethnical Diversity of Iberia:



- A Judeo-Aramaic inscription of Abraham, son of Sarah, from Mtskheta from the 4th to 6th centuries.