

JCC

AGENDA ITEM :

Kingdom of Cappadocia vs. Roman Empire

UNDER SECRETARY GENERALS

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2. Letters

2.1 Letters from Secretary General-Secretariat

Esteemed participants of MUNKFL'25,

As the Secretary General of MUNKFL'25, I warmly welcome you all to the fourth edition of Model United Nations Kayseri Fen Lisesi. First of all, I am pleased to say that we are continuing our work successfully, knowing that we are the pioneers in the MUN culture in Kayseri. We are truly honored to be able to present this precious conference that we have worked on for months. My organizing team has worked tirelessly for this conference, and of course, they did well. Also, special thanks go to my academic team, who also worked tirelessly to make your committees exceptional and engaging. It is with this spirit of dedication and pioneering achievement that we turn our focus to the crucial global challenges facing us today.

The 21st Century has brought about tensions between nations, unprecedented dangers, changes, and challenges that continue to plague the world. However, the United Nations offers a promising path forward. As members of the Model United Nations community, we recognize the imperative of active global engagement and the pivotal role we play in shaping a better future. Therefore, MUNKFL will simulate United Nations committees, providing a platform for delegates to engage in collaborative, competitive, conciliatory, and compromising decision-making processes. Through these simulations, we aim to foster dialogue, diplomacy, and a prioritization of societal needs in addressing pressing global issues.

May this experience leave you more prepared to lead, more committed to dialogue, and more confident in the role you can play in shaping the world around you.

Sincerely,

Taylan Emir Tav



2.2 Letters from Under Secretary-Generals

Dear Participants

Firstly, I would like to welcome all of you to our committee which was prepared with the efforts of the esteemed secretariat, us USGs and our president chairs, with our gratitude expressed .MUNKFL'25 Joint Crisis Committee. I am truly delighted to see such ambitious delegates like you, and I am sure that together we will have an unforgettable MUN experience throughout these three days. I would like to briefly introduce myself. My name is Kıvılcım Öykü Kuzu, and I am currently a sophomore at TED Kayseri College Private High School. I started my MUN journey in 8th grade at my school's JMUN conference. When I entered high school, I continued attending MUN conferences with even more enthusiasm. Last year, MUNKFL'24 was my first crisis committee experience. At first, I was anxious about what I was supposed to do in a crisis committee, but soon after, I realized that crisis committees were exactly what I had been looking for. Since then, I have mostly participated in crisis committees, and now I have six crisis experiences. This conference will be my 11th MUN experience in total. There are some prominent features of Joint Crisis Committees, and it is important for you to be aware of them. The most obvious one is their dynamic structure and flexible rules. We will not be attached to a single, static topic—our agenda will constantly develop and evolve with every action taken. Therefore, it is crucial for each of you to participate actively and contribute to the committee. With your contributions, the committee will run in a more educational and enjoyable way. Our committee will begin in the 1st century BC. There will be two major sides: the Roman Empire and the Kingdom of Cappadocia. The main focus of our sessions will be the military and political tensions that's due to the succession crisis in the Kingdom of Cappadocia. Due to the nature of this agenda, the committee will be open to many political and military developments, making it highly dynamic. Overall, it is my pleasure to be serving as a USG in a committee full of delegates like you. You can find further details about the committee and the agenda item in the following pages. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and spending a memorable time together at MUNKFL'25.

Kind regards,

Kıvılcım Öykü Kuzu



Under Secretary-General of JCC

As the Under Secretary-General of MUNKFL 25, it is a great honor for me to welcome you all. My name is Arda Aydın, and I am truly excited to embark on this journey of diplomacy and strategic decision-making with you through the Joint Crisis Committee.

This conference is the result of months of meticulous preparation by our team. In this committee, which we have built with the contributions of our chairs, we have created an environment where you, our esteemed delegates, can step into the roles of influential leaders, strategists, and diplomats from history. Here, you will engage in meaningful discussions, interact with diverse perspectives, and shape crises with your intelligence and creativity.

You will not only work toward producing solutions but also deeply embody the characters you represent, experiencing the dynamics of diplomacy firsthand. Throughout this process, you the delegates stand at the very center.

I would like you to know that the MUNKFL team will always be there to support you throughout the conference. I firmly believe that together, we will transform this event into both an educational and unforgettable experience. Thank you in advance for your participation and dedication. I wish you all productive debates and a successful conference.

Sincerely,

Arda AYDIN

3.1 Introduction to the Committee

Overview of JCC

JCC is a type of crisis committee which contains 2 or more opposite cabinets. Cabinets all start by being unaware about each other and they all get affected from each others movements. In JCC, major or minor updates keep arriving during the whole conference and this forces the delegates to make rapid decisions as effective as they can and keeps the topic alive and evolving.

Like all types of committees, crisis committees are also operated by a procedure. However there are some notable differences. In a GA committee, the rules of procedure is more stricter and cannot be bent unless it is necessary. However in crisis committees the rules are more flexible (especially in JCC). Since crisis updates usually require taking fast and efficient actions at same time, if it is necessary procedural rules can be ignored due to the academic team's initiative and most crisis chairboards have their own chairing methods. Chairboard has a more effective role in crisis rather than other committees. President chair can contribute to debates, give ideas, write directives and give any kind of support to delegates. To summarize, chairboard can do anything that a delegate can in a joint crisis committee.

But JCC's non-rigidity and flexibility does not purports crisis is lack of procedure and has no rules. There are concepts and rules related to the order of committee's functioning. In JCC, committee usually makes progress via semi moderated caucus and unmoderated caucus. Moderated caucuses is not recommended as maximum 1.5 individual speaking time is not sufficient for crisis committees and topic restriction is contrary to the structure of crisis. However, it is not out of order and it can be used if chairboard considers it as necessary.

Semi moderated caucus is a type of caucus like a mixture of unmoderated caucus and moderated caucus. There is not any individual speaking time restrictions and speakers list. Delegates have to being seated and only can stand up with chairboards permission. Any delegate who are wishing to speak can stand up by chairboards permission and deliver their speech. According to the chairboards discretion, current speaker and chairboard can choose the next speaker or the first one to speak after the delegate can become the next speaker. President chair is who decides which direction the debate will continue. If there are no speakers and semi-moderated is not continuing as the way it should, chairboard has the authority to



terminate the caucus. Delegates are allowed to write directives at semi-moderated caucuses but informing chairboard about it is recommended.

Unmoderated caucus is also a common concept of crisis. It is a caucus type which delegates can write directives, direct questions and communicate to each other without any topic restrictions and change places around committee. Unmoderated caucuses are mostly preferred to make proper plans easier and writing directives.

During the first session, like opening speeches, a tour-de-table is done. A tour-de-table is a procedure in which delegates stand up and make a speech. Participation to tour the table is a mandatory. Also during the conference, chairboard can open a tour the table by their authority.

Directives are one of the most important cornerstones of JCC. They are like a detailed and proper plan contains important details and highlighted points about planning action. There are different types of directives. A directive can get rejected or approved according to its qualifications and decision of crisis room. Every approved directive have an impact in some ways to the all cabinets. Everything is possible in a JCC unless a delegate doesn't get out of the borders of their jurisdictions.

In crisis committees like JCC, delegates are expected to take quick and effective action and not being attached to the historical events happened after committees timeline. There can be similarities between history and plot of committee but making the exact movements as happened in past is strictly out of order. Also the privacy between cabinets is a cruciality in crisis. Leaking informations between cabinets in unethical ways is strictly prohibited.

3.2.1 War Between the Kingdom of Cappadocia and the Roman Empire: Introduction and Current Circumstances

In the committee, which began in **89 bc**, delegates will have been prepared for the necessary positions, and cabinets will have been divided into factions. The prominent roles of the characters will enable them to take precautions against developments and war. Each character has a unique role, and delegates will act, make decisions, and share their opinions with others accordingly. Furthermore, delegates must reach decisions as a unit, not individually.

Otherwise, the groundwork could be laid for tensions and betrayals. Delegates must master their roles to experience all events as if they were happening right there and then.



Since the cabinets are formed under a **state of emergency**, their main purpose is to take actions that will counteract the other cabinet. These actions may be carried out through diplomacy or on the battlefield. Delegates are expected to make important decisions collectively. Examples include the articles of a treaty or the plan for battlefield positioning. Additionally, delegates must remain faithful to the character and previous roles of the figures they represent. Staying true to these characters is crucial for the success and realism of the committee. Deviation from them would compromise both the realism and unity of the crisis.

Current Circumstances

The committee will start exact date of: 89 BC, second half

First update will be more minor and calm. In other words, the committee will start slowly and the rest will be decided by the delegates's steps.

The king appointed by Rome to rule Cappadocia, Ariobarzanes, was expelled by Mithridates' son, Ariarathes IX. Rome perceived this as a direct attack on its sphere of influence.

Following this, the Cappadocian envoy's harsh speech before the Roman Senate led to the breakdown of relations and the emergence of a potential war.

After this small update, progress will be made according to the delegates' actions and major updates can be received towards the war.

3.2.2 Battles for the Throne of Cappadocia

There were many throne conflicts in Cappadocia from time to time due to its geographical location and its role as a bridge between Pontus and Rome. Especially those games of thrones were really common in the 1. and 2. centuries BC.



These battles for the throne were fueled by the efforts of Rome and Pontus to establish dominance over Cappadocia. Mithridates VI and his son Ariarathes IX played a prominent role in those battles.

Ariathes IX was appointed as the King of Cappadocia by his father Mithridates VI in 100 BC. At 100 BC Ariathes IX was only eight years old, he was placed under the regency of Gordius of Cappadocia.

Early in his reign, the Cappadocians quickly removed him from the throne and appointed King Ariarathes VIII of Cappadocia (son of King Ariarathes VI of Cappadocia).

Then, in 95 BC, King Mithridates VI of Pontus entered Cappadocia with an army and defeated King Ariarathes VIII of Cappadocia. He overthrew Ariarathes and restored his son (Ariarathes IX) to the throne. After a brief restoration and an attempt to establish a republic, the Roman Senate instructed the Cappadocians to vote for who they wanted to rule, and the throne passed to Ariobarzanes I Philoromaos.

Ariobarzanes I. was a ruler known for his support and admiration for Rome and was highly supported by Sulla.

However, due to the invasion of Cappadocia by King Tigranes II of Armenia, Ariarathes IX's brother-in-law, King Ariobarzanes I of Cappadocia was dethroned, and King Ariarathes IX of Cappadocia was restored to power on separate times in 93 BC and 92 BC.

However, King Tigranes II of Armenia was defeated. As soon as Tigranes and his army returned home, King Ariarathes IX of Cappadocia was deposed again by order of the Senate. He was restored to the throne once again, and for the last time, with the outbreak of the First Mithridatic War (89–85 BC). Tensions began to rise as Rome perceived this as a threat from Cappadocia and Pontus.

After this, a Cappadocian ambassador gave a very offensive speech to the Roman Senate, and swords were drawn from both sides.

3.2.3 THE ROMAN EMPIRE



President Chair:

Lucius Cornelius Sulla Felix(Roman General and Statesman)

Delegates:

Lucius Licinius Lucullus (Roman general)

Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Politician)

Publius Valerius Albus(Head of the Roman Trade Mission)

Ariobarzanis I (Overthroned king of Cappadocia)

Marcus Aemilius Crassus (Senator)

Gaius Marius (Politician)

Maximus Decimus Meridius (centurion)

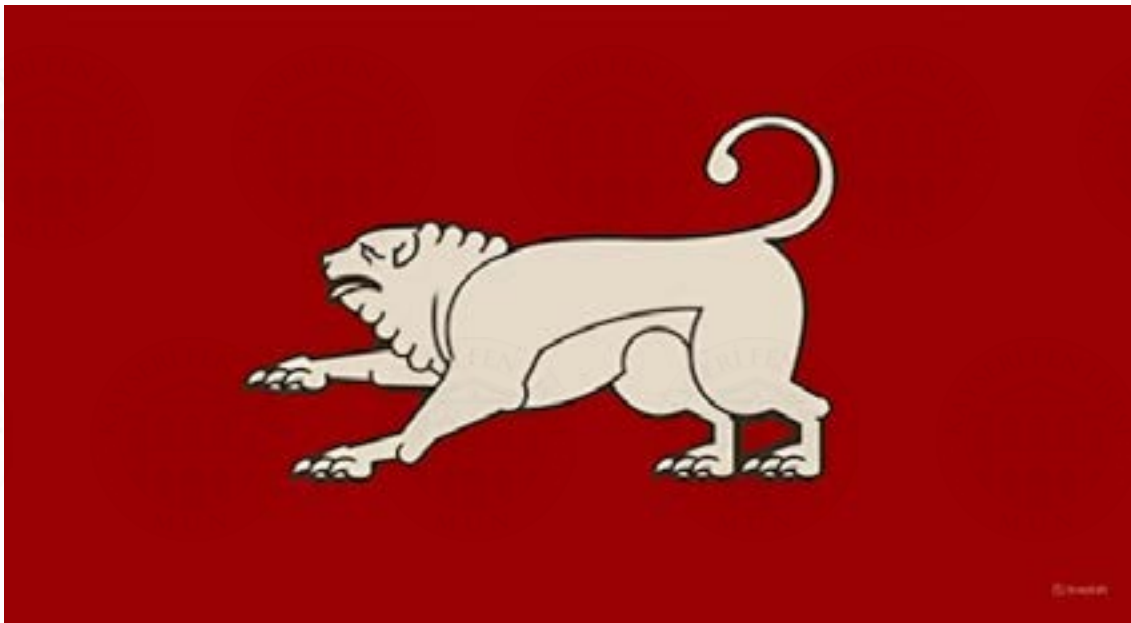
Antonius Pius (centurion)

Septimius Severus(Spy and Informant)

Gracchus(Senator)

Committee Task:Defeating the threat of Pontus&Cappadocia, gaining power in the Cappadocia region.

3.2.4 KINGDOM OF CAPPADOCIA



President Chair:

Ariarathes IX(New King of the Kingdom of Cappadocia)

Delegates:

Mithridates 6. Eupator (King of Pontus)

Arsenius the Cappadocian(Cappadocian Politician)

Diophantus (General of Pontus)

Gordius (Cappadocian Nobleman)

Neoptolemus (Head of Cappadocian Trade Mission)

Archelaus (Cappadocia Army Commander)

Diyojen (Informant, Spy)

Strabon (Pontic Politician)

Apollonius(Cappadocian Politician)

Zariadres (Pontic Nobleman)

Committee Task:Defeating Roman Threat and preventing Roman Domination.



4. Key Words/Concepts

By their very nature, crisis committees divide the delegates participating in the Joint Crisis Committees (JCC) into two cabinets pursuing opposing objectives. In JCCs, at least two cabinet except in certain specific circumstances are positioned opposite one another. Our current cabinets are the **“Roman Empire”** and the **“Kingdom of Cappadocia.”**

Delegates of the Roman Empire will take part in a crisis council led by Lucius Cornelius Sulla Felix. Taking Rome’s eastern expansion policy into consideration, they will be active on the field through both military and diplomatic maneuvers against the Kingdom of Cappadocia. In this council, Roman delegates are expected to formulate strategic decisions, pursue Rome’s regional interests, and respond effectively to any developments arising from the conflict

The Kingdom of Cappadocia's delegates will be involved in the crisis council, which was a result of the kingdom's attempts to keep its independence amid regional dangers. Considering the strategic location of Cappadocia surrounded by strong countries, the delegates will implement diplomatic negotiations, forming strategic allies, and using limited military actions as their main tools to resist the aspirations of the Roman Empire. The council is going to be a place where the Cappadocian representatives will have to argue the case for the kingdom's independence, come up with measures that would keep the country calm internally, and be ready to deal with increasing hostilities and outside pressures especially through their own effective ways.

The Roman Empire: The autocratic state established after the end of the Empire; ruled by emperors with supreme authority over military, political, and provincial matters.



The Kingdom Of Cappadocia: A Hellenistic kingdom in central Anatolia; strategically located between Rome, Pontus, and the Parthian Empire.

Kingdom of Pontus: Hellenistic kingdom on the southern coast of the Black Sea; ruled by the Mithridatic dynasty, it sought regional power and expansion, often coming into conflict with Rome.

Emperor: The supreme ruler of Rome, holding ultimate power over the army, administration, and foreign policy.

Eastern Policy: Rome's strategy to expand its control and influence over Anatolia and neighboring regions.

Buffer State: A smaller state situated between two larger powers, serving as a protective barrier against direct conflict.

Sovereignty: The authority of a kingdom or state to govern itself independently

Client Kingdom: A semi-independent state under the political and military influence of a more powerful empire, such as Cappadocia under Rome.

Regional Power Competition: The rivalry among Rome, Pontus, and Parthia, which frequently turned Cappadocia into a contested zone.

Diplomatic Maneuvering: The diplomacy-focused strategy Cappadocia employed to maintain balance among its powerful neighbors.

5.1 Origins of the Kingdom of Cappadocia and the Dynasties of Ariarathes-Ariobarzanes

The Kingdom Cappadocia is a Hellenistic-Era Iranian Kingdom. The Cappadocia is centered in the region of present-day Turkey and the capital city is Mazaka. It also neighbours some crucial kingdoms like Pontus or Armenia.



Cappadocia has developed from the former Achaemenid Satrapy of Cappadocia and it was founded from the last Satrap Ariarthes. After Alexander the Great's arrival in Eastern Anatolia (334–323 BC), the satrapal system began to collapse, and local aristocrats, Iranian nobles started to reorganize themselves into a new form of kingdom. Around 331 BC, Ariarathes I, who held the office of satrap, assumed the title of “king” and founded the Kingdom of Cappadocia.

From the foundation of the Kingdom to 89 bc, Two prominent dynasties ruled the kingdom: House of Ariarathes and House of Ariobarzanes. Since 96 bc, House of Ariathes was reigning the Kingdom and after 96 bc, House of Ariobarzanes has enthroned. But especially in the years between 100 bc - 89bc, succession crisis have started developing between two crucial forces in Cappadocia: Ariobarzanes I and Ariarathes IX. There are crucial reasons caused to these crisis. First of all, the influence of the foreign forces to the

Cappadocia was one of the main reasons of internal confusions. Mithridates VI, king of the Kingdom of Pontus, committed attempts to enthrone his son Ariarathes IX to the Cappadocian Kingdom because the Kingdom of Pontus had some benefits that they wanted to provide from the Kingdom of Cappadocia. In some ways, the Kingdom of Pontus also used the Cappadocian Empire as a bridge because of its geographical and political advantages. But the issue wasn't just about foreign powers. Pontus's desire to establish such close relationships with Cappadocia and movements of Mithridates VI also disturbed some Cappadocians who have opposite sentiments and this increased the opposition to Ariarathes IX. These dynastic struggles continued for a long time. In addition to pressures from states such as Pontus and the Roman Empire, internal conflicts in the kingdom also played a significant role in shaping the fate of Cappadocia.

5.2 The Role of Pontus in the Relations Between the Roman Empire and the Kingdom of Cappadocia

The springing up of the Kingdom of Pontus can be attributed to the intermixing of local Anatolian groups and the Persian (Achaemenid) nobles, which was a combination that was efficient in terms of the local and outside influence. The region overlaid with heavy cultural influences of ancient Anatolian tribes such as Hittites, Phrygians, and Kaskians, yet very importantly Persians attracted influence in the area through their Achaemenid satrapy system. Under the Persians, diverse aristocracies were able to exert power through the control of certain political and military roles, and thus the Mithridates family, that would later on obtain the power of the Pontic Kingdom, not only legitimized its reign by featuring the bloodline with the Achaemenid emperors but also made use of it as a trump card in a very local and minor conflict among kings. The takeover of the Persian Empire brought the control of the region back to the local nobles in 323 BC, but the power struggle of the Diadochi led to the rise of the first Mithridates I Ktistes, who around 302 BC proclaimed independence and set up the Kingdom of Pontus amidst the confusion. With the establishment of Amaseia as the capital, he also developed the government of a mixed state comprising of Iranian, Hellenistic, and native Anatolian cultural elements. The fusion of these cultures was a decisive factor in the rapid rise of the Pontian power, and during the reign of Mithridates VI Eupator, the kingdom reached the status of a powerful regional state around the Black Sea and one of Rome's tough eastern competitors. The unique political and cultural outlook of Pontus melted



down to a state of becoming one of the most vibrant and leading powers in ancient Anatolia. Pontus's influence over Cappadocia often took the form of direct intervention. King Mithridates VI sought to seize Cappadocia's strategic position and strengthen his power in Anatolia against Rome by attempting to place his own loyal candidates on the Cappadocian throne. After the death of Ariarathes VI, the power vacuum in Cappadocia became an opportunity for Mithridates, who sought to place his own son (Ariarathes IX) on the Cappadocian throne in order to bring the region under his control.

This development led to significant internal turmoil within Cappadocia and prompted direct intervention from Rome. In this situation, the Kingdom of Cappadocia found itself being courted by two major powers, each attempting to pull it into their own sphere of influence. In addition, Pontus' aggressive expansionist policies threatened Rome's interests in Anatolia. Pontus was seen as one of the greatest obstacles to Rome's eastward expansion and as the most dangerous rival in the East. Mithridates attempted to assert control over the region by placing his own son on the Cappadocian throne. Moreover, he did not want Cappadocia to serve as a Roman-dependent buffer state, and in line with this aim, he sought to render Cappadocia's role as a buffer ineffective by turning the kingdom into a vassal state serving his interests and by directly controlling its foreign policy.

5.3 Origins of Roman Empire and Expansion Policy

The Empire of Rome was existed in the time period when ancient Rome was governed as a Empire. The Empire has founded by two consuls (Lucius Junius Brutus and Tarquinius Collatinus) when monarchy is overthrown because of certain uprisings against the government in 509 bc. The Roman Empire firstly showed its expansionist movements in the first terms of its establishment. The Empire defeated Latin cities at the Battle of Lake Regillus in 496 BC, the Battle of Mount Algidus in 458 BC, the Battle of Korbione and the Battle of Aricha in 446 BC, and an Etruscan city at the Battle of Kremera in 477 BC. At early terms of the Empire, Rome also followed an expansion policy in Italy too. Roman expansion into Italy contains a series of conflicts that transformed Rome from a small Italian city-state to the ruler of the Italian region. In 390 BC, Gauls from northern Italy sacked Rome, causing destruction and trauma. In the second half of the 4th century BC, Rome had conflicts repeatedly with the



Samnites. By the end of these wars, Rome had become the most powerful state in central Italy and had begun expanding north and south.

As Rome's presence in Italy became more powerful in the middle periods of the Empire, it shifted its power towards the Mediterranean. This expansionist policy of Rome was driven not only by military interests but also because of political reasons and by its desire to gain more power. Because of this regions even there wasn't a fully Roman dominance, Rome was gaining power through interior Rome sympathizers in those regions.

Ariobarzanes, who became king of Cappadocia around 89 BC, but was dethroned after a rivalry with Ariarathes IX. was a strict supporter of Sulla, the Roman statesman (also known as dictator). This allowed Rome to continue its efforts to gain control of Cappadocia.

Cappadocia, as the center of Anatolia had a considerable importance to Rome. But Rome was not the only state attempting to establish its dominance through Cappadocia. Pontus also desired to be powerful in Cappadocia. By taking Cappadocia under its control, Rome would both advance in Anatolia and limit Pontus's power.

5.4 The 98s BC: The Conclusion of the Mithridatic Wars and Rome's Rise in Anatolia

The mid-1st century BC was a highly critical period during which the Roman Empire sought to consolidate its dominance in Anatolia, while the Kingdom of Pontus continued to resist Roman expansion and maintain its status as a regional power. At the center of this era were the Mithridatic Wars, a three-phase conflict that shaped the political landscape of the region. The 98s BC marked the beginning of the final stage of these wars a time when Rome restructured its position in Anatolia and King Mithridates VI Eupator of Pontus was driven toward his ultimate downfall.

Mithridates sought to manipulate the succession struggles in Cappadocia and Bithynia to his own advantage, and as a result, in 95 BC he ordered the infamous massacre known as the “Asiatic Vespers,” during which approximately 80,000 Romans or Roman sympathizers in Anatolia were killed. This act was one of the most significant assaults on Rome's eastern policy and became one of the key events that triggered the First Mithridatic War.

As a consequence, the Treaty of Dardanos was signed in 94 BC, forcing Mithridates to acknowledge defeat although he ultimately managed to retain his throne.

Until 89 BC, the peace established by the Treaty of Dardanos following the First Mithridatic War was largely nominal. While the treaty appeared to signal a cessation of hostilities, tensions between Rome and Pontus persisted, and by 89 BC the political and military pressures in the region had not subsided. Rome continued its expansionist policies in Anatolia, seeking to draw Cappadocia and other minor kingdoms firmly into its sphere of influence. This expansion directly conflicted with the Kingdom of Cappadocia's desire to maintain independence and sovereignty. In response, Cappadocia was compelled to engage in careful diplomatic maneuvers, forge strategic alliances, and, when necessary, implement limited military measures to safeguard its autonomy. Thus, the apparent peace created by the Dardanos Treaty did little to reduce regional tensions, and the ongoing clash between Rome's expansionism and Cappadocia's defensive stance generated a prolonged period of instability and uncertainty.



5.5 The Struggle Between Pontus and Rome Over the Cappadocian Throne

In 95 BC, Mithridates VI Eupator, King of Pontus, directly intervened in the succession disputes in Cappadocia and Bithynia, seeking to shift the political balance in the region in his favor. Behind these actions lay Pontus's aim to strengthen its power against Rome and the strategic importance of Anatolia. Cappadocia and Bithynia served as buffer zones between Rome and Pontus, and Mithridates sought to assert control over these kingdoms both to limit Roman influence and to expand Pontus's regional dominance.

Mithridates' maneuvers primarily focused on placing a candidate loyal to him on the Cappadocian throne. He exploited the weaknesses and vacancies in the ruling family to position Ariarathes IX as a figure who would serve his political interests. Similarly, in Bithynia, he applied political and diplomatic pressure to weaken pro Roman local rulers and strengthen his allies. These interventions not only affected the succession struggles but also reshaped the loyalties of city-states, local aristocracies, and the general population in the region.

In other words, the interventions of 95 BC went down in history as a critical move that was both a part of Mithridates' regional domination strategy and a factor that increased the risk of conflict with Rome. These actions directly affected the independence struggles of Cappadocia and Bithynia, Pontus' expansionist policies, and Rome's strategy for consolidating its dominance in Anatolia.

The interventions of 95 BC were viewed as a critical provocation that threatened Rome's interests in Anatolia and challenged its influence over key client kingdoms. Mithridates' actions directly undermined Rome's strategic plans, destabilized the independence of Cappadocia and Bithynia under Roman protection, and increased the risk of conflict, forcing Rome to take decisive measures to secure its authority in the region.



5.6 Social War of Rome (90BC)

The war began with the revolution of Asculum in late 91 BC. Other Italian towns quickly declared themselves rebels, and Rome's response was initially mixed. By the new year, the Romans had gathered large armies to crush the rebels, but initial progress was difficult. However, by the end of the year, they had succeeded in isolating the Italian rebels, dividing them into two northern and southern sectors. The Italian rebels attempted to invade Etruria and Umbria in early 89 BC but were defeated.

The allies in central and southern Italy had fought side by side with Rome in several wars and had grown restive under Roman autocratic rule, wanting instead Roman citizenship and the privileges it conferred. In 91 BC the Roman tribune Marcus Livius Drusus tried to solve the problem by proposing legislation that would have admitted all Italians to citizenship, but his program aroused heated opposition in the Senate, and Drusus was soon afterward assassinated. The frustrated Italian allies then rose in revolt.

The peoples of the hills of central Italy formed the heart of the uprising, the Marsi in the north and the Samnites in the south. Neither the Latin colonies nor Etruria and Umbria joined in. The Italians began organizing their own confederacy; they established their headquarters at Corfinium, which they renamed Italia, created a Senate and officers, and issued a special coinage; soon they had 100,000 men in the field. In 90 BC Roman armies were defeated in the northern sector, while in the south the Italians were equally successful and burst into southern Campania. Only by political concession could Rome hope to check the revolt: the consul Lucius Julius Caesar thus helped pass a law granting Roman citizenship to all Italians who had not participated in the revolt and probably also to all who had but were ready to immediately lay down their arms. This move pacified many of the Italians, who soon lost interest in further struggle against Rome. Roman forces under Gnaeus Pompeius Strabo in the north and Lucius Cornelius Sulla in the south soon inflicted decisive defeats on the remaining rebels and captured their strongholds.

6. Major Parties Involved

Roman Empire

Known for expansionist policies since its founding, Rome was one of the most powerful force of the period and aiming to shape the region according to its own interests. Establishing hegemony in Cappadocia would be in Rome's interest in many ways and strengthen its position. Roman goals include preventing the spread of Pontus to Central Anatolia, keeping allies like Ariobarzanes I in power, and ensuring political stability in Anatolia. For these purposes, Rome endeavoured to keep Ariobarzanes I (Known for his supports to Sulla) in the throne but opposite movements of Pontus were making the process harder to Rome.

Kingdom of Pontus

The Roman king of the period, Mithridates VI Eupator, aimed to establish an anti-Roman center in Anatolia, which he shaped. He knew that the path to this goal lays through Cappadocia, and therefore, he supported his son Ariarathes IX and encouraged him to become king of Cappadocia, attempting to dethrone Ariobarzanes. His goal was to establish a Cappadocia under his own influence. He wanted to control Central Anatolia and halt Roman advances. Therefore, the Cappadocian throne was of great importance to him.

Rivals for the Throne of Cappadocia

Ariobarzanes I. was the king of Cappadocia who is supported by Sulla. He was accepted as legitimate king of Cappadocia. Because of those features, he was perceived as a threat to the aims of Pontus. He was overthrown by the King of Pontus, Mithridates VI. for several times and dethroned by the support and help of Cappadocian nobles. Owing to his Roman-supporter administration, he was supported by some local aristocrats and allies of Rome.

Ariarathes IX is the current king of Cappadocia who is enthroned again with the support of his father Mithridates IV. Mithridates was aiming to use Ariarathes IX as his control organ in Cappadocia. Even he was supported by some local nobles, his anti-Rome aspect was causing a huge conflict.

Forces of Rome

Roman Senate is the foreign policy and legislation organ of the Empire. The senate cares and takes into consideration the inner and foreign policies. As its aims, the senate supports Ariobarzanes I in Cappadocia. The Senators have a word on decisions about wars, conflict or attackings and also diplomatic areas.



Lucius Cornelius Sulla, is responsible for all of the military operations in east regions. Even he is not a consul but a general in 89 BC, he is the most powerful figure in enthroning Ariobarzanes again and defeating Pontus's threat.

Kingdom of Armenia

Even Armenians don't have a clearly recognizable side on these conflicts, they are mostly supporting Cappadocia against Rome's expansionist policies. The Kingdom of Armenia was serving a balanced policy to keep their independence in hand and to ensure regional stability. Because of these reasons, it can be said that Armenia is a side character that can make movements for the benefit of Cappadocia.

6.Character Guide

6.1 Roman Empire

6.1.1 Lucius Cornelius Sulla Felix

Sulla was born in 138 BC into a patrician family in Rome. Despite its respectable name, his family was quite poor.

Sulla had always had an interest in a political life but had never had the means to pursue it.

His fortunes changed when both his stepmother and lover died when he was a young man. Both women left him considerable sums of money.

This allowed Sulla to invest in a political career.

In 107 BC, he won election as a quaestor for the first time. In this capacity, he was picked to serve as one of Gaius Marius' lieutenants in the war against Jugurtha in North Africa.

Despite the fact that Sulla was the key figure in the capture of Jugurtha, Marius claimed the credit for himself. This began a rivalry between the two men that would last for years. It is said that Sulla continually complained that it was he, not Marius, who really defeated Jugurtha. Marius refused to acknowledge his efforts and the two men became bitter political enemies. As time passed and both men vied to be the most important person in Rome, their hatred for each other only grew. Then Sulla returned to Rome to resume his political career. The outbreak of the social war had a significant impact on Sulla's life. He served under consul Lucius Julius Caesar and helped defeat rebel forces in a series of battles, forcing many to surrender. This conflict helped to talented generals like Sulla to increasing their political and military reputation. At the same time as these events were taking place, the kingdom of Pontus was expanding its empire in Asia Minor. Its young king, Mithridates VI, had ambitions to establish a kingdom that would incorporate the best elements of the ancient Greek and Persian empires. Sulla, along with the Roman Senate, was acutely aware of this Pontic threat and began to take action against it. They sought to increase their power in Cappadocia through their support of King Ariobarzanes I. During this period, Sulla was not a consul, but a general and statesman, but was quite active in military and political matters.



6.2.2 Lucius Lucinius Lucullus

(Roman General)

Lucius Lucinius Lucullus(118-56BC) was a Roman General and statesman who had close relationships with Cornelius Sulla Felix. He is known for his campaigns in Asia Minor against Mithradates, but is even more renowned for the extreme luxury in which he lived, both in camp and at his estate outside Rome.

In the middle years of his life, he achieved some successes in the military field.

Lucullus was a member of the Lucullia family, which may have descended from prominent ancient nobles of Tusculum. He was the grandson of Lucius Licinius Lucullus, consul in 151 BC, and the son of Lucius Licinius

Lucullus, praetor in 104 BC, who was convicted of embezzlement during his command of Sicily

and exiled around 102 BC. He served in the Social War under Lucius Cornelius Sulla so this also helped him to gain experience in military and political conflicts

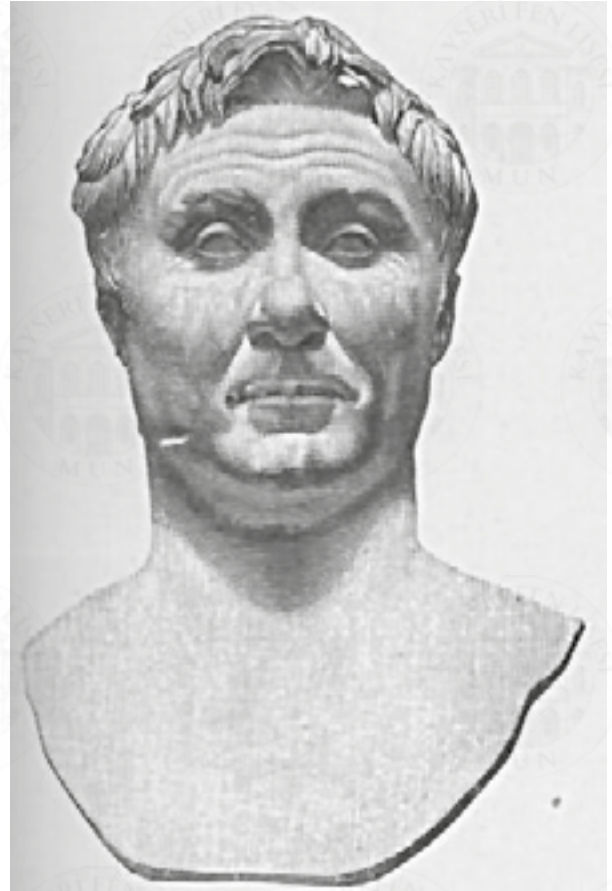
His nobility and achievements in the military field also gained him reputation and he also won the support of Sulla successfully. His successions and experiences made him a major force in Rome's political and military statement.



6.1.3 Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus

Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus(also known as Pompey) belonged to the senatorial nobility, although his family first achieved the office of consul only in 141. Fluent in Greek and a lifelong and intimate friend of Greek literati, he must have had the normal education of a young Roman nobleman, and his early experience on the staff of his father, Pompeius Strabo, did much to form his character, develop his military capabilities, and arouse his political ambition. Although his innovative structure he was generally a supporter of Sulla, had close relationships with him and an important figure for Rome. He played a significant role in the social war, as did the generals, military personnel, and politicians of the period. This role provided him with considerable prestige, experience, and knowledge.

Furthermore, as mentioned, his knowledge of the Greek language and literature made him a figure open to developments in the international arena. These advanced skills made him a figure and power capable of greatly benefiting Rome.



6.1.4 Ariobarzanes I

Ariobarzanes I belonged to one of the Persian aristocratic families of Cappadocia. Like the earlier Ariarathid dynasty, he claimed direct descent from the companions of the king of the Achaemenid

Empire. Ariobarzanes

continued to mint the same

Greek-style coins as the



Ariarathids, with a new addition. As a figure of his political allegiance with the Romans, he adopted the Roman veristic style on his portraits.

As its mentioned, Ariobarzanes I was the king of the Kingdom of Cappadocia who was supporting, and had a close relationship with the Roman Republic (especially with Sulla).

He was originally put in place by the citizens vote of Cappadocia after the Roman Senate rejected the claims of Ariarathes IX of Cappadocia and was supported by the Roman consul Lucius Cornelius Sulla.

He served as a major character in the mentioned succession crisis. In the time gap between 100-89BC, he has been dethroned and enthroned several times by his most important rival, Ariarathes IX. These struggles gained him some sympathizers from Roman Supporter countries, nobles and most important, Empire of Rome. But he also gained some enemies because of his obvious Rome-Supported features. Because of his relationships with Sulla, he is playing a huge role in Roman Aspect of current political conflicts.

6.1.5 Publius Valerius Albus

Publius Valerius Albus (born 115 BC) came from a prominent Roman noble family. His family included prominent politicians and merchants. Growing up in this family environment provided him with the opportunity to develop himself in many areas. He pursued numerous studies in trade and mathematics, getting on well with new innovations of the time. At the age of twenty, he began playing a highly active role in the Roman Trade



Commission for the first time. By the age of twenty-six, he had brought significant improvements and benefits to Rome through this organization. These achievements made him a respected figure among the public. At the age of twenty-five, he was appointed head of the Roman Trade Commission. This rapid advancement in his career earned him recognition. He possessed a superior commercial intelligence for his time and could perform mathematical calculations with great ease. He played a significant role in bringing Roman trade and the economy to a leading position. Especially during the turmoil in Cappadocia, his trading skills would be an influential figure in reaching negotiations with different states. He also prevented existing problems from affecting the country's economic situation, keeping the Roman economy ever more prosperous. It is the most effective figure in keeping it more alive.

6.1.6 Gaius Marius

Gaius Marius was a Roman general and statesman. He held the office of consul seven times. Rising from a family of smallholders in a village called Ceraetae in the district of Arpinum, Marius gained his initial military experience serving with Scipio Aemilianus at the Siege of Numantia in 134 BC. He won election as tribune of the plebs in 119 BC and passed a law limiting aristocratic interference in elections. Barely elected praetor in 115 BC, he next became the governor of Further Spain where he campaigned against bandits.



Marius attained his first consulship in 107 BC and became the commander of Roman forces in Numidia, where he brought an end to the Jugurthine War. By 105 BC Rome faced an invasion by the Cimbri and Teutones, and the Marius elected as a consul for a second time to face this new threat. Marius was consul every year from 104 to 100 BC. However, Marius suffered political issues during his sixth consulship in 100 BC and afterwards entered a period of semi-retirement from public life.

He achieved in both skills as political and military so he is one of the most trustable figures of the period. But he also had some conflicts that got his reliability in some ways.

The Republic fell into crisis with the outbreak of the Social War in 91 BC, in which Marius fought with limited success. He then became entangled in a conflict with the Roman general Sulla. This caused him a tangled situation. He is still in the side of Rome but his conflicts with Sulla made him a conflict-possible figure.

6.1.7 Antonius Pius

Antoninus Pius (born 120 BC) was one of the most prominent centurions of his time. Although he came from a relatively poor family, he had many relatives in the military. This enabled him to enter the Roman army at the age of 17. He fought in numerous military situations, including the Social War, without retreating, and over time, he rose to the rank

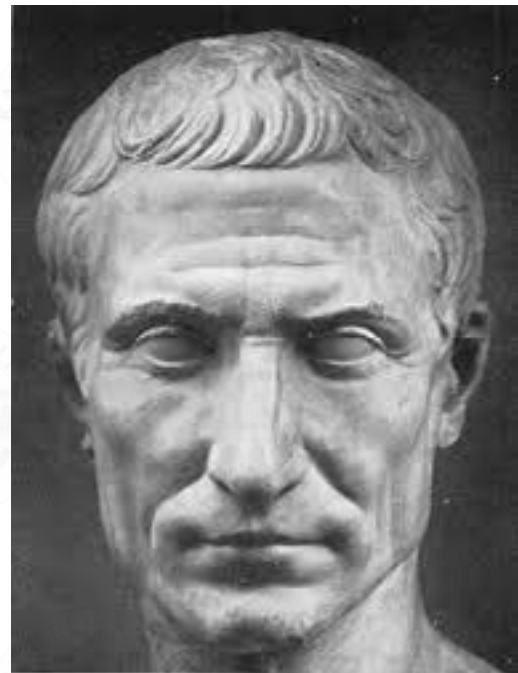


of centurion. He distinguished himself with his highly skilled and effective stance in all the events of his time. Although he could not achieve a complete victory in the Social War, he still had a significant impact on improving the situation. Although he was a military professional, he was also quite skilled in international relations, and thus he took advantage of opportunities in military events to gain information about Pontus and Cappadocia. These skills in both military and political fields made him a great talent for Rome. He was greatly supported by Sulla, and in fact, he got along so well with Sulla that the people considered him one of Sulla's right-hand men. Of course, it was not surprising that someone so close to Sulla was considered a man of high rank. He should have come to an agreement with Ariobarzanes, which he did. He had many discussions with Ariobarzanes I about the military situation of Cappadocia, and in these current situations and events, he became a major focal point with his knowledge of Cappadocia's military stance, his interest in international relations, and his military skills.

6.1.8 Maximus Decimus Meridius

Maximus Decimus Meridius was a centurion from one of Rome's prominent families. His family, not only had Greek roots but was also a prominent and renowned family. This naturally benefited him in every aspect of his life. He lost four of his siblings to unknown illnesses at a young age, and as an only child, he was raised with exceptional resources and special care.

Fearing his loss, his family doted on him at all times. Raised as his "only son," he possessed a sense of self-importance and a desire to be the best and most cared for. Like most of his male family, he was drawn to the military in his youth. He trained under Pompey, receiving his



training. Over time, he rose from a position in the army to the rank of centurion. However, his ambitious career path brought him into fierce competition with another centurion, Antonius Pius. Although he had no significant problems with him, the two viewed each other as rivals. His greatest goal was to win Sulla's favor and increase his standing in his eyes. and he could do anything for this goal. But it was also important for him not to let his ambitions get in the way of his nation. However, this ambitious and competitive attitude made him vulnerable to problems in the long run.

6.1.9 Septimius Severus

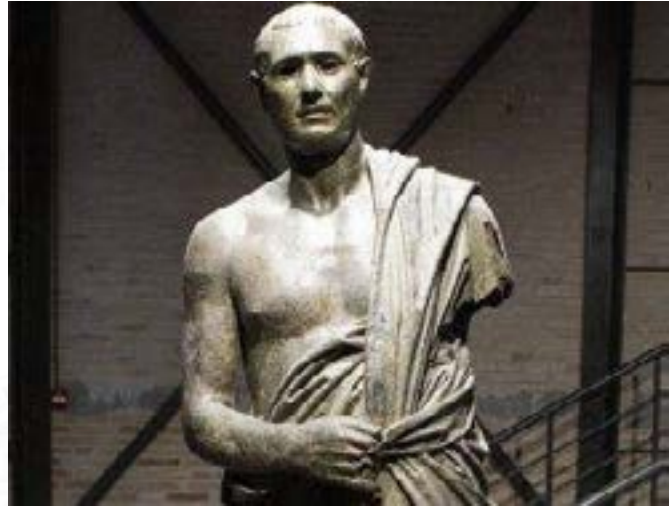
Septimius Severus (born 113 BC) came from a family of Roman and Cappadocian origin. His roots stretched back to the Cappadocian Empire. Severus was raised among several cultures from an early age. His family included prominent senators and politicians. This made him influential in foreign affairs and politics even in his early youth. The political events he was exposed to at a young age (along with his family's influence) turned him into a Roman nationalist. He was willing to risk anything and everything for his country. This would make him a prominent figure in his adult years. His communication skills were also prominent.



Because his family consisted of educated and sophisticated Romans, his education was pursued with the best possible means. This made him a highly skilled talent. He learned about the prominent foreign powers of the time from his family and honed his knowledge by embarking on expeditions around the world between 95BC and 90BC. In addition to this knowledge, he possessed a highly developed political acumen. And most importantly, he was well-suited for espionage and it was enough. He had the ability to hide himself and make decisions quickly and effectively when necessary. This would make him a very advantageous person in terms of obtaining information from foreign states.

6.1.10 Gracchus

Gracchus was born in 130 BC, the second child of one of Rome's prominent noble families. His grandfather was a senator in his family. From a young age, he was taught by them that he should be loyal to Roman traditions and the state. As he grew older, he received training from the leading jurists and writers of his time.



He attended these classes to broaden his vision, and in later years, he crossed paths with Marcus, his greatest comrade and supporter in the Senate. Together, he received legal, political, and elocution training. After completing his military service alongside Marcus, he was able to secure a position in state administration, an opportunity that led him to the Senate. When he entered the Senate, he was a young talent, only 30 years old, with a broad vision. He was alert to all these moves against Rome and would do everything in his power to ensure action. Rather than feeling infinite loyalty to a politician, no matter what, he favored supporting whatever would benefit the Roman Empire, which he held dear. This made him a blind supporter of a politician. Factors such as the education he received from an early age and his subsequent significant self-improvement made him a prominent figure in the Roman Senate and the empire in general. He became a very useful political figure in the process.

6.1.11 Marcus Aemilius Crassus

Marcus was born to a Roman family in 118 BC. He lost his mother when he was four years old, and therefore lived with his father and aunt. Although his family was not of particularly noble birth, they placed great importance on education. Therefore, from a young age, he received training in Roman history, Roman law, and politics from prominent politicians of the time, such as Gnaeus Magnus. At just 18, he attracted attention with his superior intelligence in politics and law. His education and the groups he joined led to his paths crossing with Gracchus.



Together, they continued to develop in many areas. Marcus's gift for speech was noticed at an early age, and his interest in politics led him to pursue politics. He developed his skills in this field, beginning to serve in the political bodies of the state in 95 BC, and six years later, he was promoted to the Senate. Following this rise, he began to have a say in important decisions in the Roman Senate and became a political weapon in the empire's hands. He was a clear supporter of Ariobarzanes II in the struggles for the throne in Cappadocia. He was also a senator heavily supported by Sulla, but he had doubts that he would be used as a pawn in the future, and like Cracchus, he was against being closely tied to a politician and being used as a pawn. His strong loyalty to Rome made him a major force in the current political turmoil.

6.2 Cappadocian Kingdom

6.2.1 Ariarathes IX(New King of the Kingdom of Cappadocia)

Ariarathes IX ascended the throne of Cappadocia in the early 1st century BC, and although he initially stood in the shadow of the powerful Mithridates VI, historical accounts increasingly portray him as a ruler who sought to establish his own authority and transform Cappadocia into an independent kingdom. Caught between the fierce rivalry of the Roman Republic and the Kingdom of Pontus, he did not wish to see his land reduced to a mere client state, but instead envisioned it as a power capable of determining its own destiny. For this reason, despite intense political pressure, he struggled to remain on the throne and to preserve his legitimacy. Although he ultimately failed in the face of Rome's growing intervention and was deposed, the short reign of Ariarathes IX has come to symbolize the independence struggle of a small kingdom trapped between great empires, and his legacy deserves to be remembered less for weakness than for resistance and the determination to forge his own path.

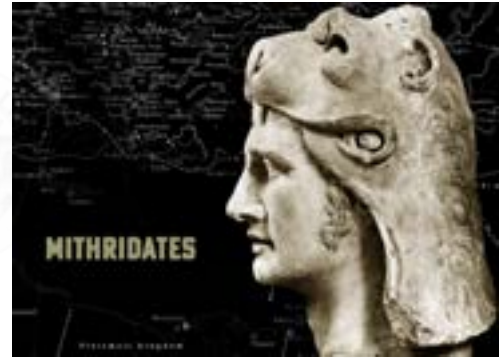


6.2.2 Mithridates 6. Eupator (King of Pontus)

Mithridates VI Eupator is regarded as one of the most charismatic, intelligent, and at the same time most dangerous rulers of the ancient world.

Ascending the throne of Pontus around 120 BC, Mithridates grew up amid palace intrigues, assassination attempts, and constant fear of

poisoning, which forged him into an extraordinarily resilient figure both physically and mentally. According to tradition, he gradually accustomed himself to various poisons to develop immunity, a practice that later gave rise to the term “mithridatism.” At a young age, he eliminated his mother and siblings to seize full control of power, and in a short time transformed the Kingdom of Pontus into one of the strongest states of the Black Sea region.

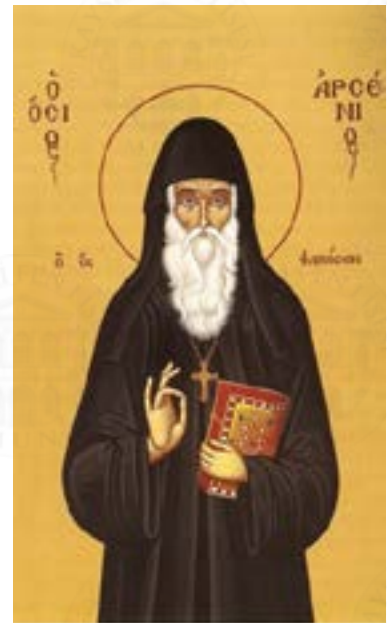


The most defining trait of Mithridates VI's character was his deep hatred of Rome and his obsession with independence. He viewed the Roman Republic's expansion into Anatolia not merely as a political threat, but as a cultural and existential one, and proclaimed himself the protector and champion of the Eastern world. To this end, he placed great importance not only on military strength, but also on propaganda, diplomacy, and popular support. Many Greek and local Anatolian communities, weary of Rome's heavy taxation, came to see Mithridates as a liberator. The massacre of thousands of Romans and Italians in 88 BC, known as the “Asiatic Vespers,” clearly demonstrates just how bold and ruthless he was in his defiance of Rome.

His military genius was likewise an inseparable part of his personality. Throughout the three great Mithridatic Wars, he confronted Rome's most capable commanders and at times succeeded in inflicting devastating defeats upon them. He strengthened his navy and established a vast sphere of influence stretching across the Black Sea, Anatolia, and the Caucasus. Yet years of continuous warfare, internal revolts, and the gradual collapse of his alliances eventually drained his power. Even so, Mithridates never considered surrender he was a ruler who continued to plan new offensives even in retreat, resisting relentlessly to his final breath.

6.2.3 Arsenios the Cappadocian(Cappadocian Politician)

Arsenios the Cappadocian emerges as a behind-the-scenes power broker during the turbulent period of the Roman–Pontic struggle in Cappadocia; a master of diplomacy, propaganda, and popular influence, Arsenios sought to curb Rome’s growing dominance by forging alliances with the local aristocracy while simultaneously maintaining calculated, temporary understandings with pro-Pontic factions. According to tradition, he openly opposed the harsh Anatolian policies of Lucius Cornelius Sulla, earning a reputation for his fierce rhetoric in negotiations with Roman envoys, where he boldly defended Cappadocian independence; some accounts even claim that a diplomatic meeting with Lucullus nearly escalated into armed conflict. Arsenios’s defiant stance made him a dangerous agitator in the eyes of Rome, while among the Cappadocian people he came to be known as “the mind behind the silent resistance”; as a character guide figure, Arsenios stands out for his exceptional charisma, political maneuverability, and diplomatic intelligence, counterbalanced by relatively weak direct military power, making him a strategic rather than frontline force.



6.2.4 Diophantus (General of Pontus)

Diophantus was a prominent military leader and one of the generals of Mithridates VI Eupator during the Kingdom of Pontus. Historical sources generally record him as an effective commander in campaigns across the Black Sea and Anatolia, as well as in conflicts against the Romans. He was recognized for strengthening the discipline of the Pontic army and for his experience in both land and naval warfare.

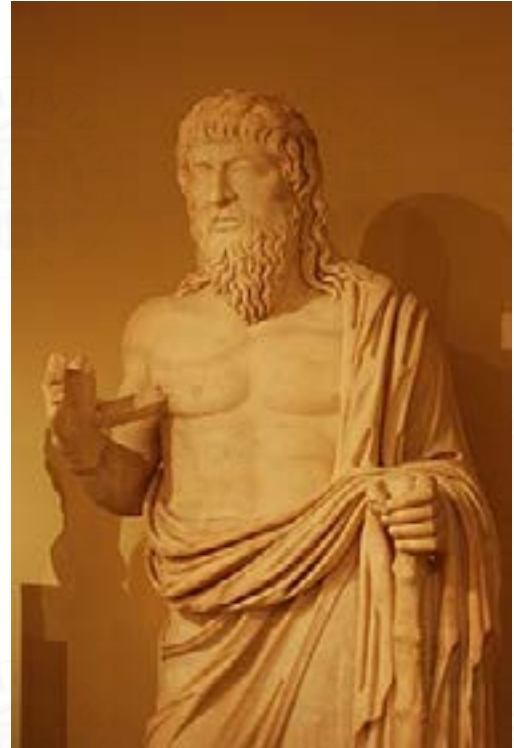


According to accounts, Diophantus played a crucial role in managing relations with local populations along the northern coast of the Black Sea and consolidating Pontus' control in the region. He also demonstrated his expertise in strategic guerrilla tactics and surprise attacks against Rome during military operations. By overseeing campaigns in Pontic colonies and allied cities along the Black Sea, he helped reinforce Mithridates VI's authority in the area.

Historically, Diophantus is depicted as a loyal, disciplined, and strategically intelligent general. While he does not appear to have pursued direct political ambitions, he was a critical figure in achieving Mithridates' objectives.

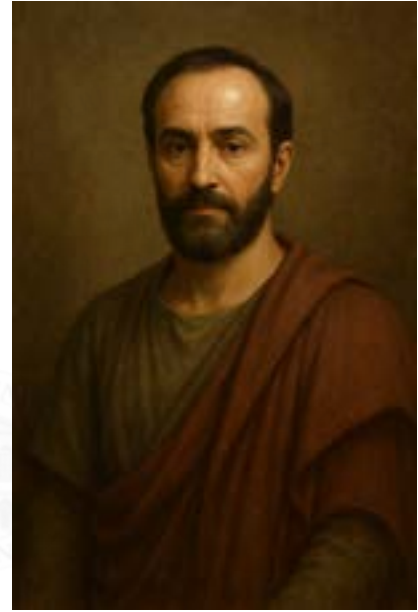
6.2.5 Gordius (Cappadocian Nobleman)

Gordius was born in 128 BC in the inner regions of Cappadocia as the child of an ancient noble family that had begun to lose its former power; by 95 BC, at the age of 33, he has reached full maturity both politically and militarily. His childhood was shaped by the growing influence of Rome and the struggles of local kingdoms, while his youth unfolded under the shadow of ever-shifting alliances and approaching great wars. He is quiet, restrained, and stern in appearance; he thinks long before he speaks, and while earning his trust is difficult, once given it never wavers. Protecting his family's name and ancestral lands is not merely a duty to him, but the very purpose of his existence. He does not look down on the common people; on the contrary, he knows their fears and their poverty well, which is why his sense of justice is stronger than that of most nobles. Forced to make harsh decisions during years of war, he has grown inwardly weary and cautious, yet when faced with a true threat, he chooses devastating resistance over retreat. Gordius's greatest inner conflict lies between a world that demands cruelty to survive and his conscience, which struggles to preserve its moral limits.



6.2.6 Neoptolemus (Head of Cappadocian Trade Mission)

Neoptolemus was born as the son of a wealthy family that had risen along the trade routes of Cappadocia, rich in commerce but limited in political power; although his exact birth year is unknown, by 95 BC he is in his early forties. In his youth, rather than learning to become a soldier, he learned to calculate; rather than carrying a sword, he learned to carry words. By traveling step by step through the markets of both East and West, he grasped the true rules of trade directly in the field.



Today, as the head of the Cappadocian Trade Mission, he is a key figure who controls not only the flow of goods, but also the movement of information, secrets, and alliances. From the outside, he appears calm, polite, and reserved; he rarely raises his voice, yet he chooses every word with great calculation. While listening to others, he notices their weaknesses, but never reveals that he has done so. He possesses a powerful memory he forgets neither a favor nor a betrayal, no matter how many years pass.

For Neoptolemus, trade is not merely a path to wealth, but a way of survival. He prefers secret agreements over open wars, and signatures over swords. In Cappadocia's delicate relationship with Rome, he has taken on the role of a mediator, becoming a figure who is trusted among kings and generals, yet never fully transparent. He values money, but his true passion is control; he knows which caravan will pass through where, and which city is nearing famine, and when necessary, he uses this knowledge as a weapon. A constant state of caution rules his inner world; he never fully trusts anyone.

6.2.7 Archelaus (Cappadocia Army Commander)

Archelaus was born into a long-standing military family in the highlands of Cappadocia around 130 BC, where discipline, endurance, and loyalty were taught before reading and writing. By 95 BC, now in his mid-thirties, he has risen through both merit and bloodline to become one of the youngest yet most respected commanders in the Cappadocian army. His youth was shaped by border skirmishes, tribal uprisings, and the constant threat of foreign intervention, forging him into a hardened and pragmatic leader rather than an idealistic one. Unlike many nobles turned generals, Archelaus earned the loyalty of his soldiers not through titles, but through shared hardship marching with them, bleeding with them, and never asking them to endure what he would not. He is stern, direct, and uncompromising in command; he speaks little on the battlefield, but when he does, his words carry absolute authority.



For Archelaus, war is not a matter of glory but of survival and order. He values discipline above all else and believes that hesitation kills more men than enemy blades. His tactical mind favors decisive strikes, controlled formations, and the ruthless use of terrain. Yet beneath his iron restraint lies a man burdened by the weight of every life lost under his command. He understands politics enough to obey it, but not enough to trust it; he knows that kings bargain with armies as easily as traders bargain with goods. Rome's growing shadow weighs heavily on his strategic calculations, and he prepares not only for present wars but for an inevitable future conflict far greater than any Cappadocia has yet faced. Archelaus's deepest struggle lies in the conflict between duty and desire between the soldier he has been shaped into and the man he might have been in a world without endless war.

6.2.8 Diyojen (Informant, Spy)

Diyojen's exact birth date is unknown; according to scattered accounts, he was likely born between 140 and 135 BC in a poor settlement near the trade routes of Cappadocia. He was not of noble blood his childhood was shaped instead by hunger, smuggling, and the raw struggle to survive. From an early age, he learned that true power did not lie in the sword, but in information. He began listening in marketplaces, taverns, and back alleys, chasing whispered secrets from shadow to shadow. Over time, he became a figure skilled enough to draw the attention of local lords and foreign envoys alike someone who listened



well, hid well, and sold the right information at the right moment. Today, he holds no official title, yet his whispers can be traced behind many of the most critical events in Cappadocia. To the outside world, Diogenes appears utterly ordinary quiet, timid, and too insignificant to be perceived as a threat. This appearance is deliberate. In truth, he is highly intelligent, endlessly patient, and a master of manipulation. He possesses a sharp instinct for sensing fear, desire, and weakness in others. He never fully belongs to any single side; his loyalty shifts according to payment, protection, or simple survival. His ties to Neoptolemus are built on the trade of information, his connection to Archelaus rests on forced trust, and his relationship with Gordius is defined by cautious distance. His greatest fear is not being captured, but becoming unnecessary discarded by all sides at once. Diogenes' deepest inner conflict lies in the quiet erosion of his own identity and humanity, worn away by the invisible power he wields over the lives of others.

6.2.9 Strabon (Pontic Politician)

Strabon was born in the 120s BC in a culturally and commercially developed coastal city of the Kingdom of Pontus. His family was neither among the highest nobility nor truly common; instead, they belonged to a long-established class of bureaucrats involved for generations in taxation, administration, and diplomatic correspondence. Through this background, Strabon learned at an early age the difference between power gained by the sword and power gained by words. He rose not on the battlefield, but in council chambers, diplomatic meetings, and behind closed doors. By 95 BC, now in his mid-forties, he has become an influential yet carefully unexposed figure within Pontic politics. He believes not in open ideals, but in balance; for him, what matters is not who is right, but who survives.



Outwardly, Strabon appears composed, dignified, and highly persuasive. He avoids open aggression and rarely raises his voice; instead, he prefers to corner his rivals slowly through carefully chosen words. He reads ambition, fear, and impatience in others with great precision, and often speaks not to win arguments outright, but to provoke his opponents into making fatal mistakes. Within the dangerous political triangle between Pontus, Rome, and Cappadocia, he has become one of the unseen hands guiding events from the shadows. Officially, he presents himself as a man of peace yet when necessary, he would ignite the spark of war without hesitation. His greatest power does not lie in armies, but in his control over perception and influence.

Within Strabon's inner world, an endless reckoning continues. Even he can no longer clearly tell whether he uses his rise for the salvation of the state or for his own ambition. He keeps everyone at a distance and fully trusts no one, having learned early that in politics, trust is often equivalent to death. He sees Gordius as noble yet dangerously idealistic; tolerates Neoptolemus as long as he remains useful; respects Archelaus yet also fears him. As for Diogenes, he views him purely as a tool a shadow that must be controlled and never allowed to move freely. Strabon's deepest conflict lies in the fact that, in his effort to preserve order,



he increasingly turns to darker methods, and can no longer discern at what point he has begun to lose his own humanity.

6.2.10 Apollonius(Cappadocian Politician)

Apollonius was born around 125 BC into a family closely intertwined with the bureaucratic heart of Cappadocia, near its administrative center. His family did not rise through warfare or trade, but through writing, seals, and law; for this reason, from an early age Apollonius grew accustomed not to the clash of swords, but to council debates, and not to the cries of battle, but to whispered agreements made behind closed doors. He received formal training in rhetoric, law, and diplomacy at a young age, and became one of the



rare figures capable of accurately reading the growing pressure of Rome upon the region. By 95 BC, now in his early forties, he had risen to a position of quiet influence within Cappadocian politics shaping the affairs of state without openly presenting himself as a rival to the throne. He avoids open confrontation; his true strength lies in his ability to guide others without them ever realizing they are being guided.

Outwardly, Apollonius appears as a courteous, restrained man shaped by the discipline of statecraft. He avoids harsh outbursts and rarely allows his emotions to show on his face. He never speaks in haste; first he inspires confidence in those before him, then slowly draws them onto the path he has chosen. In the eyes of the people, he stands as a statesman who defends stability, yet behind the curtain he skillfully calculates which balance must be set against whom. He sees Gordius as a necessary but difficult force to control due to his military power, benefits from Neoptolemus's economic influence, respects Archelaus yet prefers him to remain outside the political sphere, and regards Diogenes as a dangerous but indispensable source of information

6.2.11 Zariadres (Pontic Nobleman)

Zariadres was born around 115 BC in the inner regions of the Kingdom of Pontus, into a long-established noble house known for its ancient warrior traditions. Through his family's generations-old legacy of loyalty, he was raised with a



strong sense of devotion to the crown as well as responsibility toward the people. His youth coincided with a period of Pontic expansion, granting him both optimism and caution in equal measure. By 95 BC, now in his late thirties, he is known as a respected Pontic noble who keeps himself distant from open ambition and instead seeks balance and stability. To him, nobility is not merely a title, but a manner of conduct; he prefers not to display power, but to use it at the right time and in the right place.

Outwardly, Zariadres carries a charismatic, confident presence that inspires trust. Behind his firm appearance lies a fair-minded, patient, and measured character. He values alliances and understands that needless hostility only harms both Pontus and himself. He sees Strabon as an intelligent statesman capable of maintaining balance, respects Apollonius for his political mastery, and admires Gordius for his honor and military discipline. He regards Neoptolemus's commercial insight as essential for interstate stability and views Diogenes as dangerous, yet potentially useful when properly guided. Zariadres's defining trait is his desire to use power to create harmony rather than conflict; his inner struggle lies in preserving his noble ideals within a political world that grows harsher with each passing year.



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