

New ADLG Armies

Who Are All These People Who Keep Killing Each Other?



The world of the Diadochi – the Successors of Alexander the Great.

Introduction

We have been playing battles with several different Hellenistic ADLG armies, and I wanted to write this document to describe who they were, and also to introduce a number of new armies which will start showing up on our tabletop. (The focus of these new armies is the collapse of the Seleucid Empire, so I am basically extending to the East.)

Alexander the Great conquered pretty much everything shown on the map above (excepting Italy) and also far to the right, where he got all the way to India. Wherever he went, you ended up with Greek culture, and generally a lot of colonists, often trained to fight in the phalanx with pikes, or on horse-back using a 2-handed lance (Xystophoroi) like his famous Companion and Thessalian cavalry. After he died, his subordinate generals – collectively known as the Diadochi, or “Alexandrian Successors” – carved his empire up into a bunch of mini-Empires and then proceeded to fight over them in a chain of wars which have been an absolute boon to miniatures wargamers for decades. They used lots of cool troop types,

liked to fight set-piece battles, and all drew from the same basic pool of mercenary talent, making it easy to re-use different figures across armies.

Alexander died in 320 BCE, and his Successors fought the initial series of wars through about 275 BCE, depending on what you count. After that, some of the Empires established carried on until the Romans started conquering everybody and turning them into Borgs, up through the early Imperial era (1st – 2nd Century AD). This whole story is really the tale of the “Hellenistic Age.”

ADLG Armies

The following is a (not totally complete) list of the ADLG Armies which we can now run and also a few which – with a little painting – will now be in reach, just to keep things interesting. I provide some notes as to why these particular armies, and who they fought historically.

It should be noted that although the Achaemenid Persians were defeated by Alexander, leading to his conquest of their vast empire in Asia Minor, the military culture of the Persians was still very much alive, as was that of the earlier “Classical” (read “hoplite”) Greeks.

List 41 - Early Successors

This is the basic army we have been running for a while now: pikes, Xystophoroi, peltasts, elephants. Often, they have Greek hoplite mercenaries or Persians (cavalry or archers, especially). There are two main groups: “Macedonian” and “Asiatic”, fighting over who controlled Greece and Macedon, and Asia Minor, respectively. This is reflected in the kind of mercenaries found in each army.

List 42 – Seleucid

Seleucus founded an Empire which lasted for a long time, covering most of Asia Minor and extending far to the East (see maps below). He is one of the major forces among the Diadochi, which is why he gets his own list. There is a heavy Persian influence here.

List 43 – Ptolemaic

Ptolemy was another of the big winners among the Diadochi, but he took over Egypt and parts of the Middle East. He did not use a lot of black Africans in his armies, though – they were mostly made up of colonists and settlers.

List 44 – Pyrrhic

Pyrrhus is only here because his army is very cool and gave rise to the term “Pyrrhic Victory.” He used mostly normal troop types, but also some Italian mercenaries (Samnites), which are not only really excellent figures, but historically tried to wipe out the Romans and nearly did it, which could have saved us all from the Borg and centuries of mind-numbing bureaucracy. Sadly, they failed. He fought in Italy and Greece at various points.

List 45 – Later Macedonian

This army is what was there after Alexander died and is basically what you would expect – a lot of the standard troop types.

List 46 – Graeco-Bactrian

This army is a really great one, because it combines standard Hellenistic types with Indian mercenaries and cataphracts. This was one of the Eastern-most parts of the Hellenistic world, which meant that they ran afoul of some of the steppe-type light cavalry armies (the Kushans).

List 61 – Hellenistic Greek

Even more plain-vanilla than the Later Macedonian, these armies are hoplite armies updated to include lighter-armed spearmen (Theurophoroi) and pike phalanxes.

List 69 – Cappadocian

Because of their central position in Asia Minor the Cappadocians – long part of the Achaemenid Persian empire – ended up fighting with lots of different people, especially as Seleucus' empire started to fall apart. They are basically a Persian army with influences.

List 71 – Armenian

This army was a bit like the Parthians (see below) and ended up fighting a lot of people due to its location geographically.

List 72 – Galatian

The Galatians are a Celtic people who migrated into the area from Gaul. They fought with the Successors and finally ended up carving out a Kingdom for themselves in central Asia Minor. They (well, some of their ancestors, perhaps) did Humanity the favor of conquering and sacking Rome, but unfortunately it didn't stick. They learned early on that people will pay lots of money for you to kill their enemies if you are really good at it, and can be found in a large number of the armies on this list, serving as mercenaries in the form of impetuous (and often elite) heavy infantry.

List 73 – Pergamon

Pergamon was one of the Hellenistic city-states which broke away from the Seleucid Empire. After building quite an Empire on what is today the coast of Turkey, they got Borged by the Romans. They hired lots of Galatians.

List 102 – Parthian

The Parthians are a steppe people who mastered the super-heavy form of cavalry which supplanted the lance-armed Xystophoroi on the Greek model by wrapping horse and rider in heavy armor. The resulting style – cataphracts – were the closest thing to tanks which the world was to witness until WWI. Unlike Knights, they did not rely on impact for effect, but discipline and armor, but they are fearsome, and became the dominant style of cavalry in the ancient world for a long, long time. The Parthians were an absolute thorn in the Romans' side throughout the Republican and early Imperial periods, combining bow-armed cavalry, cataphracts, and foot archers and giving our armies some variety. They even had some cataphracts on camels!

List 104 – Commagene

Another Hellenistic state in Asia Minor which rose as the Seleucid Empire fell. They fought the Parthians and then got Borged as a result of being geographically too exposed to Rome in the Middle East.

List 107 – Kushan

This is another cavalry-based steppe army, which basically came from the direction of China. They fought with the Greco-Bactrians, quite successfully.

Who Was Where?

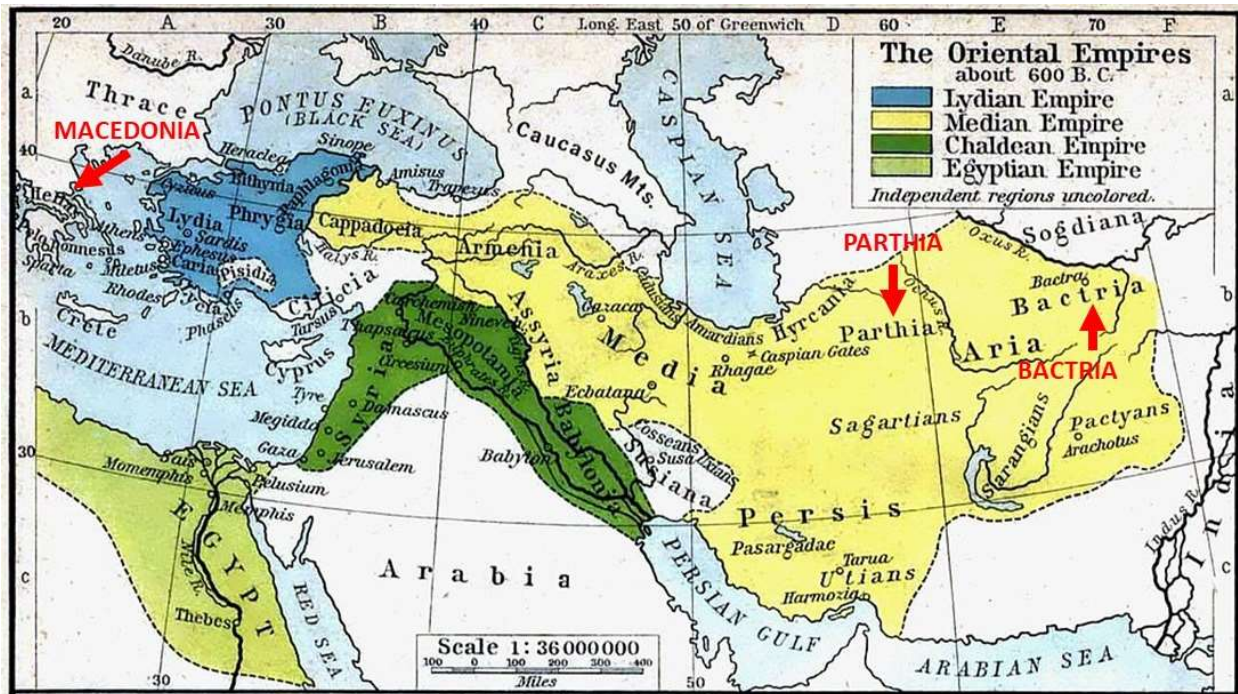
The following section shows you some maps, illustrating who was where for some of these armies.

The first map shows the basic parts of the world which the Diadochi were fighting over, and where the major schools of Successors were located geographically:



The “Asiatic Successors” fought over the area between the Macedonian ones and Seleucus’ empire (he was, essentially, the greatest of the Asiatic Successors).

The next map shows some of the out-lying areas which become relevant as the Seleucid Empire collapses. Here we see (for reference) where Macedonia is, with Parthia and Bactria highlighted.



Interestingly, the “Media” portion is the old Persian Empire, which accounts for why Alexander was able to grab so much real estate in the first place. Once he beat the Persians, suddenly he had a huge portion of the known world under his control. (Note that the Romans do not appear on this map because they are ignorant villagers living in mud and filth on the fringes of civilization at this point, busy getting nearly wiped out by other barbarians. And besides, why would I want to show *them*?)

The next map shows the location of some of the lesser-known armies listed above:



Notable here are the locations of Pergamon, Galatia, Cappadocia, and Commagene. If you consider where the Galatians started their migration from (Europe, all the way in the upper left-hand corner) you

can see that they would have had many opportunities to hack and slay their way across a significant chunk of the world, and to generally become known as fearsome mercenaries. Cappadocia is in the middle of everything, which is why they ended up fighting with everybody. The Commagenes are here because – if you compare this with the map above – you can see that they would have problems with the Parthians, who actually were pretty aggressive and fought almost everyone quite successfully for a long time, absorbing quite a bit of what had been Seleucus’ empire.

Who Fought Whom?

The matrix below shows which armies fought which other armies historically, according to the DBA book.

	41	42	43	44	45	46	61	69	71	72	73	102	104	107
41 – Early Successor	X	X	X	X			X	X		X				
42 - Seleucid	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
43 - Ptolemaic	X	X	X											
44 - Pyrrhic	X						X							
45 – Later Macedonian		X					X				X			
46 – Greco-Bactrian		X				X						X		X
61 – Hellenistic Greek	X			X	X		X							
69 - Cappadocian	X	X							X	X	X		X	
71 - Armenian		X						X	X			X	X	
72 - Galatian	X	X						X			X			
73 - Pergamon		X			X			X		X				
102 - Parthian		X				X			X			X	X	X
104 - Commagene		X						X	X			X		
107 - Kushan						X						X		