

Herodotus Book 3 discussion topics

1. Timeline of Persian kings...who are they, and what do they conquer?
2. Polycrates of Samos...How does he fit into Herodotus' narrative, and why does Herodotus spend so much time on him? Which favorite Herodotean themes do we see in his story?
3. The madness of Cambyses...what actions does he take that demonstrate his madness (look throughout the book, not only at the few examples which Herodotus explicitly attributes to his madness). Does he ever come to his senses?
4. The discussion among the 7 of the best form of government. Be prepared to stage the debate in your own words...have one group member represent each of the 3 speakers.
5. How is Prexaspes like Harpagus? How does his story come out differently?
6. India and Arabia...how do Herodotus' accounts of these lands fit into his narrative? What sorts of things are found at the ends of the earth? You may also include his account of the Ethiopians and the Table of the Sun at 3.17ff.