

## HISTORICAL TIME LINE

1770 BC	Sumerian cuneiform tablets at Mari show understanding of contagion
1500–1200 BC	Hittite plague victims sent to enemy lands
1300–1100 BC	Bronze Age Greece
1300 BC	Ten Plagues in Egypt, called down by Moses Destruction of Jericho by Israelites, about 1350
1200 BC	Trojan War, poison arrows Philistine plague follows theft of Israelites' Arc of the Covenant
1000 BC	Solomon builds Temple at Jerusalem, plague spirits trapped in jars Chrysame's drugged-bull strategy helps Greeks conquer Ionia
900 BC	Elijah's fire trick with naphtha, about 875 Assyrian fire arrows and "grenades" depicted on stone reliefs
800 BC	Homer, about 750, describes Odysseus poisoning arrows
700 BC	Projectile weapons banned in Lelantine War, Greece Sennacherib's Assyrian army struck by plague in Egypt/Jerusalem Deuteronomy rules of war written

600 BC	Kirrha, Greece, defeated by poison in water supply, about 590 Nebuchadnezzar sacks Jerusalem temple, releasing plague, 586 Baba Gurgur, eternal petroleum fire worshipped in Babylonia Alyattes vs Cimmerians, using war dogs Queen Tomyris of the Massagetae, army defeated with wine Cyrus of Persia, d. 530 Cambyses of Persia, defeats Egypt with phalanx of sacred animals
500 BC	Sun Tzu, <i>Art of War</i> , fire weapons Scythian culture flourishes until about AD 300 Battle of Marathon, Greece, 490 Persian land invasion of Greece, 480 Herodotus, about 450 Peloponnesian War, 431–404 Plague of Athens, 430 Sparta vs Plataia, 429, sulphur conflagration Boeotians vs Delium, 424, flamethrower Thucydides, about 425 Sophocles Euripides Ctesias, describes oil weapon of India Thessalos Empedocles drains malarial swamps in Sicily Sicilian disaster (Athens), 415–413

400 BC	Xenophon, about 400	<i>Susruta Samhita</i> , India, written sometime between 500–100
	Carthage invades Sicily, 409–396	Berosus
	Himlico and Maharbal poison enemy wine with mandrake	Antiochus vs Galatians, war elephants
	Clearchus, destroys army by forcing it to camp in swamps, 360	200 BC Hannibal catapults vipers, about 190
	Alexander the Great, 356–323	Marius, b. 157
	Fire ship at Tyre, Phoenicians vs Alexander, 332	Third Punic War, 149–146
	Porus's Indian war elephants defeated by Alexander, 326	Aquillius poisons wells in Asia, 131–129
	King Chandragupta, Mauryan Empire, India, 326	Varro, 127–116
	<i>Laws of Manu</i> ban poison-tipped and fire arrows, India	100 BC Mithridates VI of Pontus, d. 63
	Kautilya, <i>Arthashastra</i> advises poison and fire strategies, India	Mithridatic Wars, 90–63
300 BC	Chinese recipes for poison gas and toxic arrows	Cicero, d. 43
	Battle of Harmatelia, India, poison arrows	Sertorius vs Characitani, Spain, choking dust, about 80
	Aeneas the Tactician, about 350	Virgil, b. 70
	Theophrastus	Strabo, b. 64
	Demetrius Poliorcetes vs Rhodes, fire weapons, 304	Lucullus's campaigns vs Mithridates, 74–66
	Pyrrhus invades Italy with war elephants, 280	Pompey's army decimated by toxic honey, 65
	Antigonus Gonatus vs Megara, elephants routed by pigs, 270	Tigranocerta, flaming naphtha vs Romans, 69–68
	First Punic War, 264–241	Samosata, burning mud vs Romans, 69–68
	Hamilcar Barca	Lucretius
	Hannibal crosses Alps with war elephants, 218	Livy
AD 1	Second Punic War, 218–201	Julius Caesar, b. 100
	Hasdrubal's head catapulted into Carthaginian camp	Diodorus of Sicily, 30
	Archimedes uses mirrors to burn Roman navy, Syracuse, 212	Ovid, d. 17
		Arminius's revolt in Germany
		Germanicus
		Dioscorides

	Celsus		Julius Africanus
	Frontinus		Plague of 165–180, released from Temple of Apollo, Babylonia
	Pliny the Elder, d. 79		Marcus Aurelius, d. 180
	Tacitus, b. 56		Lucius Verus, d. 169
	Psylli, snake charmers of North Africa		“Man-made plague,” Rome, 189
	Josephus, b. 38		<i>Testament of Solomon</i>
	Rufus of Ephesus		Septimius Severus, 145–211
	Lucan, b. 39		Hatra, scorpion bombs and naphtha vs Romans, 198–99
	Seneca, d. 65		
	Domitian, b. 51		
	Silius Italicus	AD 200	Aelian, d. 230
	Apollonius of Tyana		Chinese surgeon Hua T'o treats poison-arrow wounds
	Cato		Persians vs Romans, Dura-Europos (Syria)
	Titus destroys Temple in Jerusalem, 70		Plague of Cyprian
	“Man-made plague,” Rome, 90–91		Constantine, b. 272
	<i>Nitishastra</i> , by Shukra (India)	AD 300	Quintus of Smyrna, about 350
AD 100	Plutarch, about 100		Vegetius, about 390
	Nicander, about 130		Ammianus Marcellinus, about 350
	Florus	AD 400	Nag Hammadi library
	Pausanias, about 150	AD 500	Justinian vs Chosroes of Persia
	Galen		Byzantine naphtha “squirt guns”
	Appian, about 130	AD 600	Koran written
	Polyaenus, about 161		Muhammad's siege of Ta'if, 630
	Dio Cassius, b. 164		Muhammad, d. 632
	Commodus, b. 161		Kallinikos invents Greek Fire, 668
	Apollodorus of Damascus		Greek Fire saves Constantinople, 673
			Umayyad Muslims besiege Mecca with naphtha, 683

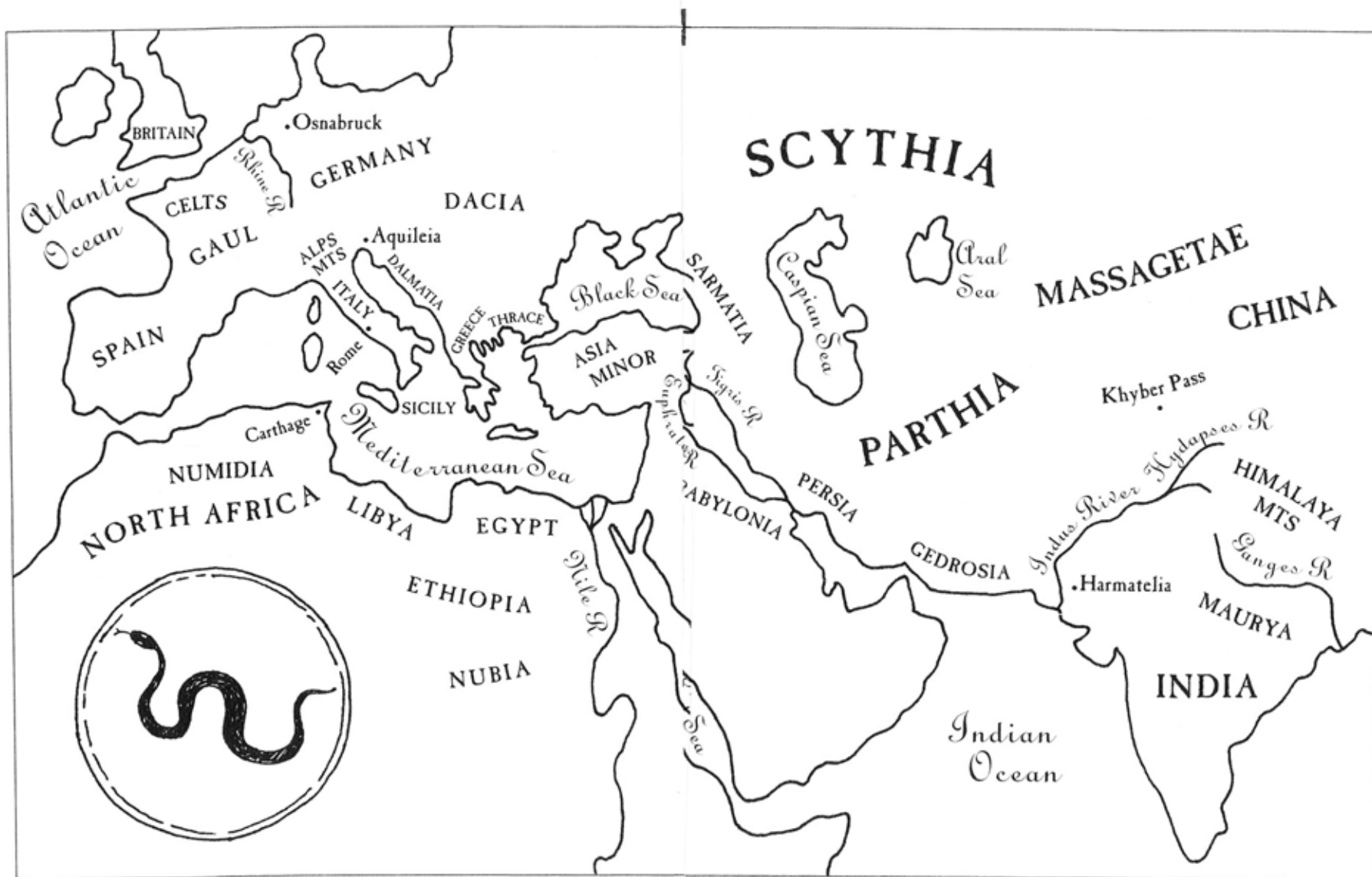
- AD 700 Greek Fire saves Constantinople, 718
- AD 800 Baghdad destroyed by naphtha, 813  
Naphtha troops in Islamic armies  
Gunpowder invented in China, about 850
- AD 900 Russians vs Olga of Kiev, defeated by toxic honey  
Chinese battle on Yangtze, naphtha disaster, 975  
Firdawsi, Persian poet, describes Alexander as inventor of fire weapons
- AD 1000 Poison Maiden lore, India  
Mahmud of Ahazna catapults snakes at Sistan, Afghanistan
- AD 1100 Second Lateran Council bans Greek Fire  
Cairo destroyed by naphtha, 1167
- AD 1200 Genghis Khan's conquest of China, using fire-carrying animals, 1211  
Gunpowder known to Arabs and Europeans
- AD 1300 Mongols catapult plague corpses at Kaffa, 1346  
Tamerlane sacks Delhi, routing elephants with burning camels

## THE MAPS



Map 1. Italy, Greece, and the Aegean.

(Map by Michele Angel)



Map 2. The ancient world.

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Map 3. Asia Minor, Near East, Mesopotamia, and Parthia.

(Map by Michele Angel)