

## Abstract

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### **Persia and Greece, forgotten history of cultural relations**

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The two ancient civilizations of Persia and Greece coexisted for almost 200 years. This long period is often only remembered by the wars fought between the two civilizations. However this lasted for only a few years, while for slightly less than two centuries both civilizations had close cultural contacts with each other. Persia and Greece not only had cultural relations after the wars, but even during the war this cultural exchange was strong and independent from politics.

Unfortunately the two centuries of cultural relations are often ignored and forgotten in modern academic texts. This biased perspective was mostly shaped in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a result of contemporaneous political thought. Archaeological finds and textual sources were misinterpreted or not taken into account in maintaining this perspective. But the evidence tells a totally different story. Analyzing the data in a more accurate way shows how these two civilizations had close cultural ties and influenced each other in art, architecture, language, religion, astronomy, and philosophy.

This complex interaction continued until the late 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, but the results of this important contact lasted for centuries, until modern times.