



Summary :

The death of Antipater, guardian of the legal successors of Alexander, in 319 BC, initiated the violent conflicts between his generals, Antigonos Monophthalmus and Eumenes. This struggle climaxed with the death of Eumenes in the battle of Gabiene in January 316 BC, leaving Antigonos the only claimant to the empire of Alexander the Great.

Date

319-315 BC

Geographical Location

Asia Minor

1. Historical background – Events

In 321 BC, at [Triparadisus](#) in north Syria, [Alexander's](#) former empire was divided by [Antipater](#), regent of Macedonia. Two competent and ambitious generals prevailed there: [Seleucus](#), one of the murderers of [Perdiccas](#), Alexander's general, took control of Babylon, while [Antigonos Monophthalmus](#) was declared general emperor of Asia and was responsible to carry out the war against [Eumenes of Cardia](#), a faithful supporter of Perdiccas. Thus, he repulsed Eumenes to the East, compelling him with 600 soldiers to take refuge to the small fortress Nora in [Cappadocia](#), where Antigonos besieged them.¹ Very soon Monophthalmos violated the treaty of Triparadisus and turned against other [satraps](#) of the empire, gaining the absolute control of the greatest part of central Asia Minor.

However, Antipater's death in 319 BC and the arbitrary appointment of Polyperchon in his position caused the reaction of the Successors, which resulted in a total inversion of the situation so far. When Polyperchon appointed the faithful to the kings Eumenes to replace Antigonos, as a royal general, Antigonos came to terms with Eumenes and he resolved the siege in Nora in order to confront Arrhidaeus, the satrap of Hellepontine [Phrygia](#), in the so-called War of Successors II (319-315 BC). He invaded [Lydia](#) and conquered [Ephesus](#), in order to challenge Polyperchon, especially after seizing the amount of 600 [talents](#) which was transported to Macedonia by a small fleet under the command of [Aeschylus](#) the Rhodian.² Then he sent his troops to arrest Eumenes in Cappadocia³ and later in [Cilicia](#).⁴ By regaining his prestige after the sudden naval and land attacks in [Byzantium](#) against Cleitus the admiral of Polyperchon's and Arrhidaeus' fleet, Antigonos deterred Eumenes from assembling a competent fleet off the Phoenician shores. After the repulse of Antigonos' troops by Eumenes at Susa, near the river Coprates, a tributary of the Pasitigris river, Monophthalmus headed to Media and Persia, and he initially defeated Eumenes' troops in the battle of Paraetacene (317 BC)⁵ and consequently in the battle of Gabiene (316 BC).⁶ Chased by Antigonos, Eumenes was finally delivered to his enemy by his troops, who had him tried, condemned and executed,⁷ while Monophthalmus, master of the Upper Satrapies, suppressed temporarily a series of revolts by Iranian satraps⁸ and took to Babylon the treasure of 25.000 talents which he had gathered from loots and gifts.⁹

2. Consequences

Eumenes' death in Gabiene in 316 BC meant the loss of the last faithful supporter of the ideas of Alexander the Great, leaving henceforth to Monophthalmus the initiative for the reorganisation of a unified Macedonian state. The victory in Gabiene gave Antigonos control of a territory in Asia from Hindu Kush to the Aegean and allowed him to assign his most loyal followers as satraps. Consequently, with an unforeseen attack in Babylon, Monophthalmus forced Seleucus to abandon the area and to seek shelter in the Ptolemaic realm (Spring 315 BC)¹⁰ in order to avert a potential coalition against him. The success and the great resources of Monophthalmus generated envy with his erstwhile allies,¹¹ who had not foreseen this result, and turned [Ptolemy](#), Seleucus, [Cassander](#) and [Lysimachus](#) against him during the [Third War of Diadochi](#) (314-311 BC).¹²



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1. D. S. 18.40-2; Arr., Fr. 1.39-41; Just. 14.1-2.4; Plu., *Eum.* 8.3-11.
 2. D. S. 18.52.5-8.
 3. D. S. 18.59.
 4. D. S. 18.63.6.
 5. D. S. 19.29.4 ff.
 6. D. S. 19.34 ff; Plu., *Eum.* 15.3 ff; Polyae. 4.6.11 ff.
 7. D. S. 18.57.3-63, 73.2 ff, 19.12-34, 37-44.2.
 8. D. S. 19.44.4-5, 46-8; Bengtson, *Die Strategie in der Hellenistischen Zeit. Ein Beitrag zum antiken Staatsrecht* (Münch. Beitr. Papyrol. 26, 32, 36, München 1964), p. 1.180 ff.
 9. D. S. 19.48.5-8, 55.1.
 10. D. S. 19.55.6.
 11. D. S. 19.56.4-5.
 12. It seems that certain hostilities against Antigonos had preceded towards the end of the 315 BC, as Cassander's troops were in northern Cappadocia and were besieging Amisus in 314 BC (D. S. 19.57.4) and perhaps there had been some action against the fleet of Antigonos in Cyprus, cf. Billows, R.A., *Antigonos the One-Eyed and the Creation of the Hellenistic State* (Berkeley - Los Angeles - London 1990), p. 108, n. 35.

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Webliography :



The Second Diadoch War (west)

<http://www.livius.org/di-dn/diadochi/war03.html>

The Second Diadochi War (east)

<http://www.livius.org/di-dn/diadochi/war04.html>

Glossary :

satrap, the

The title designated a representative of the Persian king, and was widely used in the Persian language. In ancient writers the term usually designates an official of the Persian empire who assumes highest political and military power within the limits of his *satrapia*, the division under his command. Alexander the Great introduced the institution to the administrative organisation of his empire in the East. In the Roman empire, the office of the satrap was hereditary for Armenian nobles who administered an Armenian klima (=canton, a historic-geographical unit); in the case of the Armenian territories inside the Roman Empire, the satrap yielded limited power under the suzerainty of the Roman emperor.

talent, the

Numismatic weight unit. The silver talent equaled 60 mnai or 6000 silver drachmas.

Sources

Diodorus Siculus 18-19.

Arrianus, *Fragmenta Historica* 1.39-41.

Justinus 14.1-2.4.

Plutarchus, *Vitae Parallelae: Eumenes* 8.3-11, 15.3.

Polyaenus, *Strategemata*, 4.6.11 ff.

Chronological Table

321 BC: The meeting at Triparadeisus.

319-315 BC: Second war of the Diadochi, coalition of Antigonus and Cassander against Polyperchon.

317 BC: The Battle of Paraetacene, Eumenes' defeat.

316 BC: The Battle of Gabiene, Eumenes' death.