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romans for control of armenia and mesopotamia cavalry comprised the most important core of the parthian army and it was the nobility who were the overwhelming majority of the horse borne fighters summary chapter six begins by discussing the early history of persia including the construction of the achaemenid empire and its defeat by alexander of macedon it next explores the available literary numismatic and archaeological evidence for the parthian empire which demonstrates that from 247 bce when arsaces came to power to the the parthians controlled the overland trade routes between asia and the mediterranean a position that brought great financial prosperity parthian merchants became very wealthy as resellers of central asian and chinese wares particularly silk this applies in particular to iranian and central asian history which has been determined to a great extent by warlike nomadic peoples arsacid iran faced a number of invasions from central asia and the invading tribes more than once brought new types of arms which were then adopted by the parthians east of the caspian sea there emerged from the steppe of central asia a nomadic scythian tribe called the parni later called the parthians and taking over the seleucid empire and fending off the romans they established themselves as a superpower in their own right central asia is a subregion of asia that stretches from the caspian sea in the southwest and eastern europe in the northwest to western china and mongolia in the east 4 and from afghanistan and iran in the south to russia in the north it includes kazakhstan kyrgyzstan tajikistan turkmenistan and uzbekistan 5 the roman empire and the silk routes the ancient world economy the empires of parthia central asia han china raoul mclaughlin 3 73 735 ratings95 reviews a fascinating history of the intricate web of trade routes connecting ancient rome to eastern civilizations including its powerful rival the han empire following the climate change induced collapse of indigenous civilisations and cultures in iran and central asia between about 2200 1700 bc indo iranian groups gradually migrated southwards to form two regions tur yellow and ariana white with westward migrants forming the early parsua kingdom lime green and indo aryans entering india green click or tap on map to view full sized nisa turkmenistan 37 96667 n 58 19500 e 37 96667 58 19500 nisa ancient greek Νῖσος Νίσα Νίσαιον 1 2 turkmen nusaý also parthaunisa was an ancient settlement of the parthians located near the bagyr neighborhood of ashgabat turkmenistan 18 km west of the city center when parthia began to take over central eurasia his fame would have been known by the parthians and they may have similarly embraced him in present day ashkabad in turkmenistan remains of a place of worship from the parthian period were discovered with the inscription mehriyan or place of mithra ostraca with the name mithra on them

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