

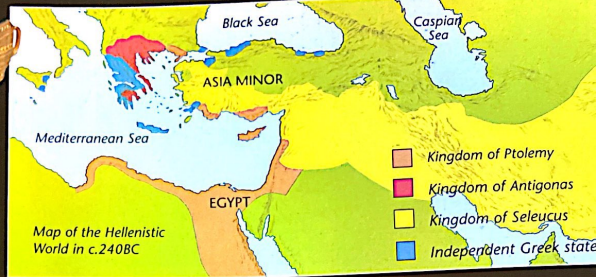


THE ANTIGONIDS

Antigonas founded a new Greek dynasty, the Antigonids, who ruled from Macedonia. They kept the rest of Greece under their control by maintaining garrisons of soldiers in the main cities. In the 3rd century BC, however, the Greek colonies in southern Italy were threatened by the Romans, who were pursuing a policy of aggressive expansion. The Antigonids were soon dragged into a fatal series of wars with Rome.

THE SELEUCIDS

The ambitious leader Seleucus seized a huge part of Alexander's empire in the Middle East and Central Asia, but it was so big that his successors were never able to control it properly. Large parts soon began to break away. Wars, rebellions and disputes between the leaders of the Seleucid family all helped to weaken their hold on their dwindling empire.



THE PTOLEMIES

The dynasty founded by Ptolemy was in many ways the most successful of the three. He only took charge of Egypt, a relatively small portion of Alexander's empire (see page 75). As a result, he was able to keep his kingdom intact for longer. Ptolemy also won great prestige by having Alexander's body buried in Alexandria, the Ptolemaic capital. Eventually, however, quarrels over the succession, and the expanding Roman empire, brought this final Greek dynasty to an end.

Even under Greek rule, the Egyptians continued to build in their own style. The temple at Kom Ombo (shown here, as it looks today) is entirely Egyptian in design.

