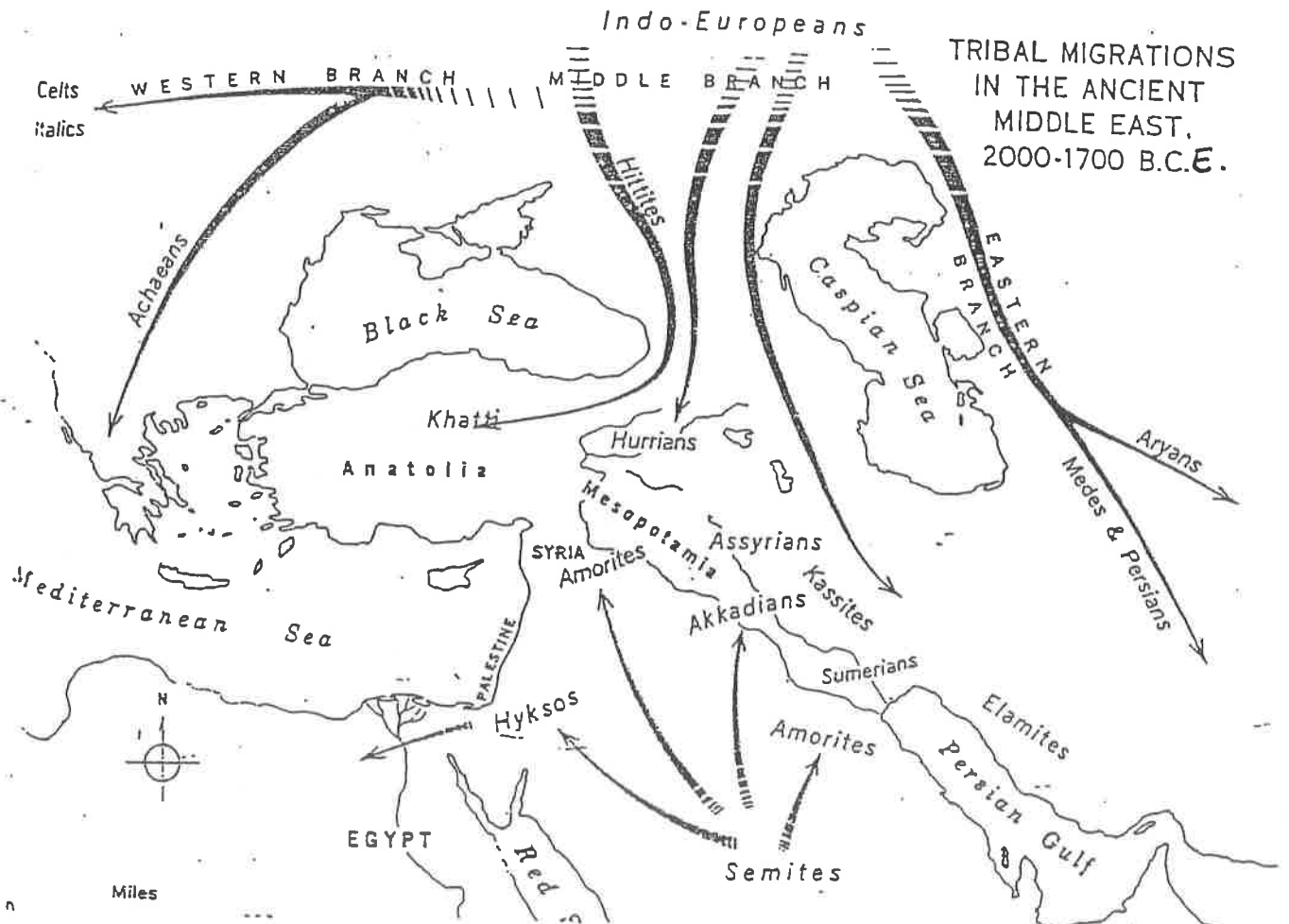


## Nomadic groups from the steppes of Eurasia

During the first half second millennium BCE, nomadic herders left the steppe areas where they grazed their cattle and sheep and invaded the settled areas. There were two main groups of nomads. One group came from the steppes in eastern Europe and central Asia. These nomads were called Indo-Europeans. The second group came from the Arabian Desert. These nomads were called Semites.

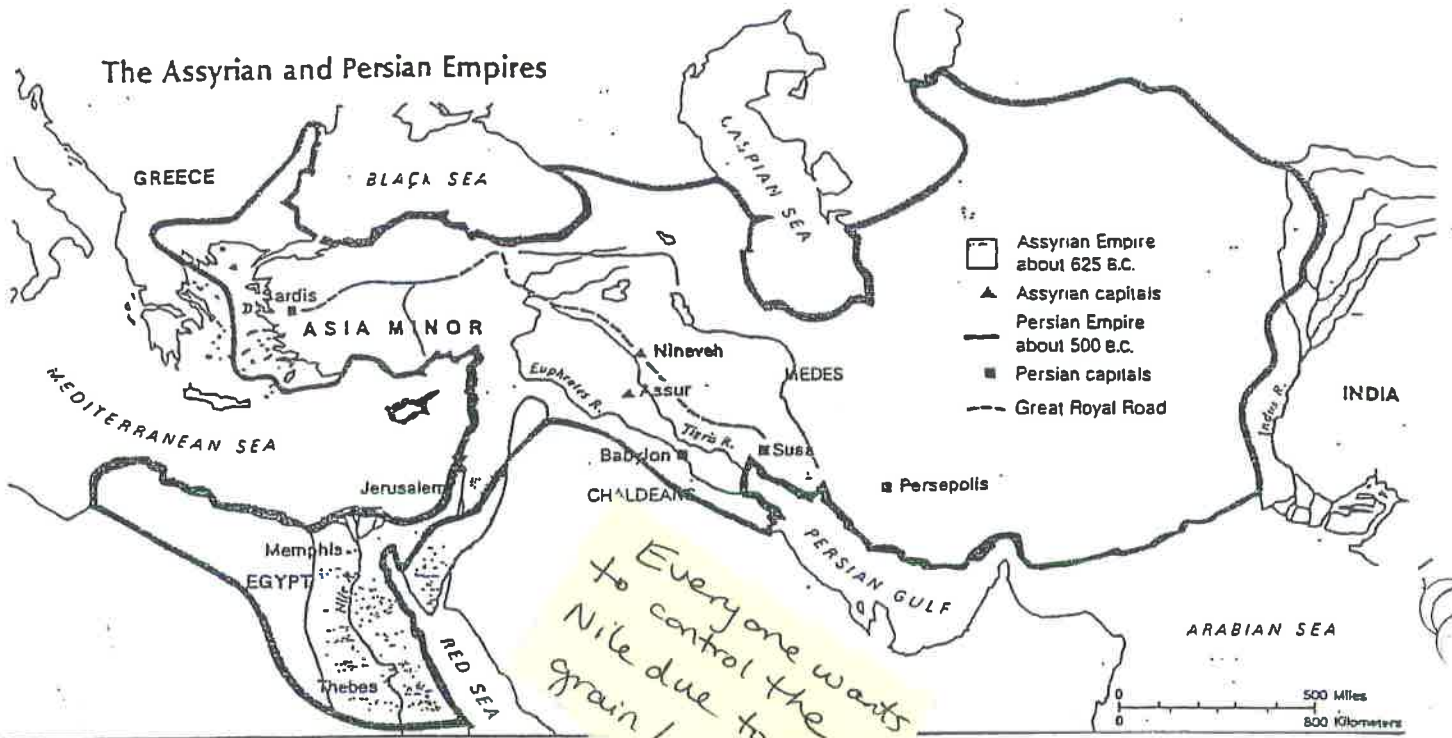
There were several groups of Indo-European nomads. Among the Indo-European nomads were the Celts, the Hittites, the Hurrians, the Aryans, and the Achaeans. The Celts invaded western Eurasia. The Hittites went into Anatolia. The Kassites established their power in upper Mesopotamia, and the Achaeans migrated into the Balkan peninsula. The Aryans plundered the Indus Valley.

Semitic nomads from the Arabian Desert included the Amorites, the Akkadians and the Hyksos and the Habiru. The Hyksos invaded the Nile Valley, the Habiru went into Canaan, the Akkadians and Amorites went into Mesopotamia.



Alexander of Macedonia's conquest is one example of a nomadic invader who was able to establish a very impressive empire in an amazing sort of period of time. The two maps below show the extent of the Persian Empire which existed before Alexander began his conquest and then the empire which Alexander established. Compare the two empires. How did the Persian armies actually help Alexander establish his empire?

The Assyrian and Persian Empires



Everyone wants to control the Nile due to the grain/wheat

The Empire of Alexander the Great

