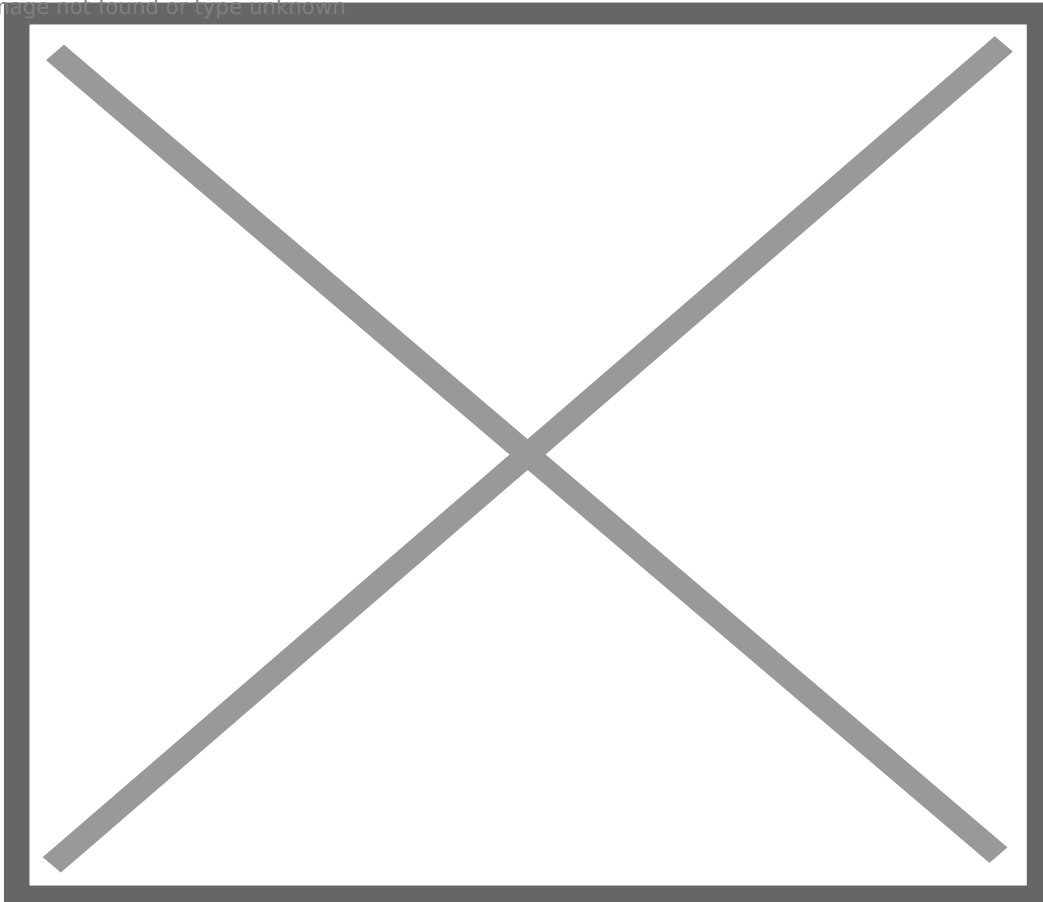


Updated TimeTable of the Epicurean World

Post by "Cassius" of November 4, 2023 at 3:45 PM

Based on work Don and Nate have done previously I'd like to continue to work on an easy-to-read table to help people orient to major events in the Epicurean world. The Lexicon section of the forum has been updated to add the following table which can be edited collaboratively. Please comment if you have suggestions - obviously lots more work needed on this. As it continues to come together the table will be easier to cut and paste and use elsewhere.

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[Timetable Of The Epicurean World - Epicureanfriends.com](https://www.epicureanfriends.com)

www.epicureanfriends.com

Post by "Cassius" of November 4, 2023 at 10:40 PM

I think in the end we'll convert the format to something more like this:

CENTURY	YEAR	PERSON OR EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE	NOTES
600 - 500 BCE				
500 - 400 BCE				
500 - 400 BCE	510-475	Heraclitus of Ephesus		
500 - 400 BCE	500-428	Anaxagoras		
500 - 400 BCE	490-430	Empedocles		
500 - 400 BCE	470-399	Socrates		
500 - 400 BCE	460-370	Democritus		
400 - 300 BCE	428-348	Plato		
400 - 300 BCE	384-322	Aristotle		
400 - 300 BCE	569-270	Pythagoras		
300 - 200 BCE	342-270	Epicurus		
300 - 200 BCE	342-285	Phryganeus of Lampascus		
300 - 200 BCE	334-262	Zeno of Citium		
200 - 100 BCE				
100 - 0 BCE				

But it will be a lot easier to collaborate over time and use the lexicon entry linked above as the place where we grow the chart and develop the data for the final version.

Post by "Don" of November 4, 2023 at 10:44 PM

For ease of reference:

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/wcf/user/311-don/#wall/comment425>

Post by "Cassius" of November 5, 2023 at 5:49 AM

A Zoomable copy of that is pretty much exactly what we need. Did you do that?

Post by "Joshua" of November 5, 2023 at 5:57 AM

Couldn't sleep!

The .png file on my computer is 947 kb but it compresses to 236 kb when I upload it. I can send you the file if you have a way to upload it uncompressed.

Post by "Cassius" of November 5, 2023 at 7:46 AM

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3473-updated-timetable-of-the-epicurean-world/>

Joshua did you assemble it with a program that can output in SVG format? (That's infinitely zoomable).

Yours is so good it probably shows we need a dedicated timeline generator.

Post by “Cassius” of November 5, 2023 at 8:45 AM

In case what Joshua used to generate that excellent timeline doesn't do SVG, I see that the free program I used to generate the SVG "navigation map" here at the forum -- draw.io -- does do timelines. Here are are references to how to do that:

[Proper Way to Use Draw.io in Timeline Chart Making](#)

[Blog - Draw timelines and roadmaps in draw.io](#)

More free alternatives:

[Create timelines with open-source tools | School of Data - Evidence is Power](#)

An interesting example: <https://timeline.knightlab.com/examples/user-interface/index.html>

Post by “Joshua” of November 5, 2023 at 12:04 PM

I'm wondering if @Nate and [Don](#) can help clear up the succession of scholarchs for me. I was going by the link to the table posted by [Cassius](#) in #1, but then I found [this](#) list by Nate at Society of Epicurus and some of the dates don't match.

Protrarchus isn't mentioned at all in the table Cassius linked to, but does appear in SoFE list. The dates for Apollodorus are completely conflicting.

Nate, should I go with the list you posted at SoFE? It looks more complete.

Post by “Don” of November 5, 2023 at 12:10 PM

[Diogenes Laertius, Lives of Eminent Philosophers, BOOK X, EPICURUS \(341-271 B.C.\)](#)

Next came Polyaenus,³⁷ son of Athenodorus, a citizen of Lampsacus, a just and kindly man, as Philodemus and his pupils affirm. Next came Epicurus's successor Hermarchus, son of Agemortus, a citizen of Mitylene, the son of a poor man and at the outset a student of rhetoric.

All these were distinguished, and with them

Polystratus, the successor of Hermarchus

he was succeeded by Dionysius

he by Basilides.

Apollodorus, known as the tyrant of the garden, who wrote over four hundred books, is also famous ;

(and the two Ptolemaei of Alexandria, the one black and the other white ; I'm assuming these were no scholarchs!)

and Zeno³⁹ of Sidon, the pupil of Apollodorus, a voluminous author ; [26] and Demetrius,⁴⁰ who was called the Laconian ; and Diogenes of Tarsus, who compiled the select lectures ; and Orion, and others whom the genuine Epicureans call Sophists.

Post by “Joshua” of November 5, 2023 at 12:10 PM

[Epicurean Scholarchs - Epicurus Wiki](#)

I see also this list, which cites a scholar named T. Dorandi as having developed the authoritative list.

Post by “Don” of November 5, 2023 at 12:32 PM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

https://wiki.epicurism.info/Epicurean_Scholarchs/

I see also this list, which cites a scholar named T. Dorandi as having developed the authoritative list.

That list appears to be the most comprehensive.

I found Dorandi's book on Google Books, and p.75 has the scholarchs... but that page isn't part of the preview! *Table of contents: "4. Successione degli scolarchi"*

Post by “Don” of November 5, 2023 at 1:35 PM

Wasn't there a scholarch with a Roman name? Source amnesia on that one.

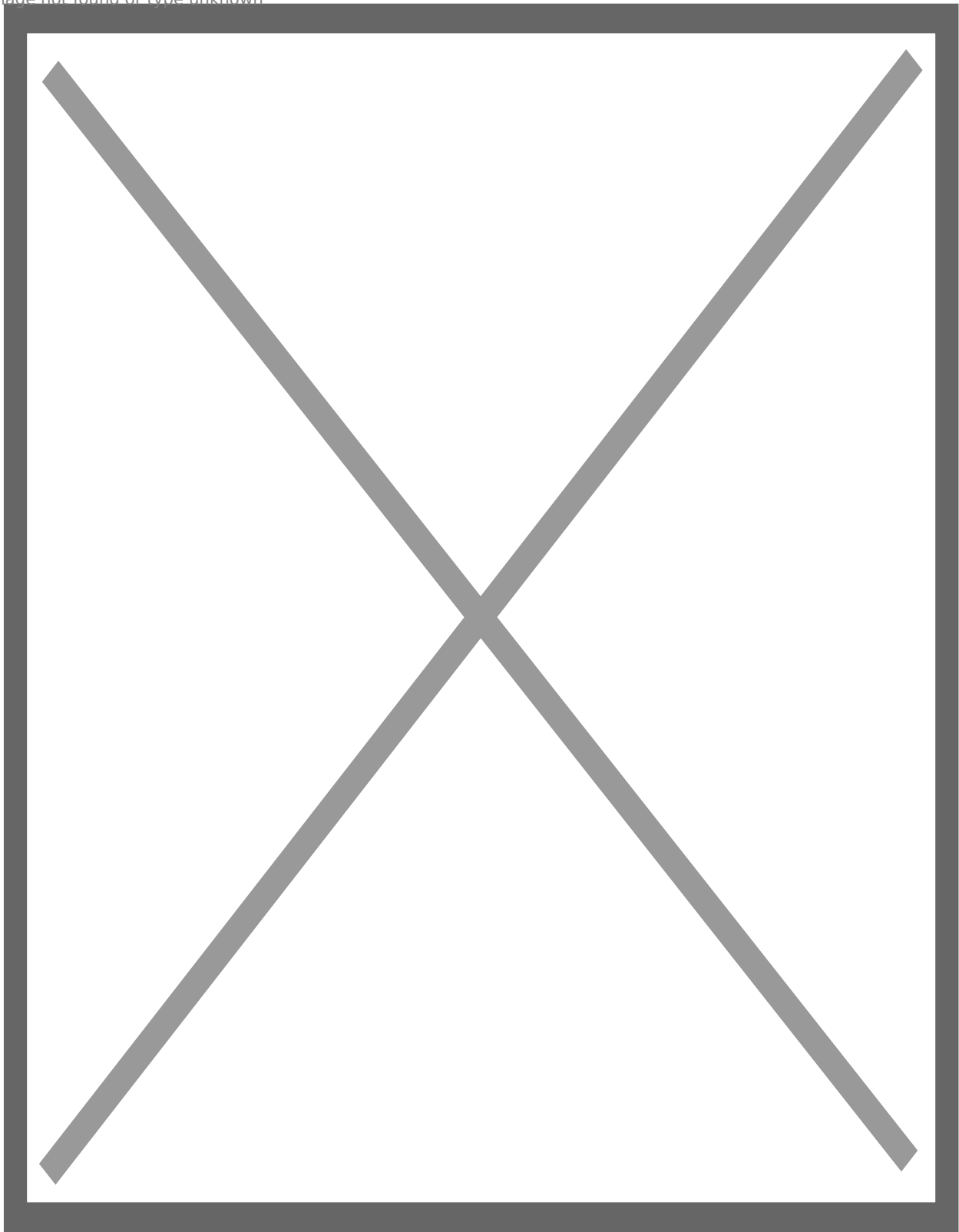
Post by “Joshua” of November 5, 2023 at 1:38 PM

There are later figures, but the citation is usually something like "2nd Century" or "c. 250 AD". Too many different kinds of data make it difficult to plot well.

I suppose I should include Plotina's intervention on behalf of the school as an event.

Post by “Don” of November 5, 2023 at 1:53 PM

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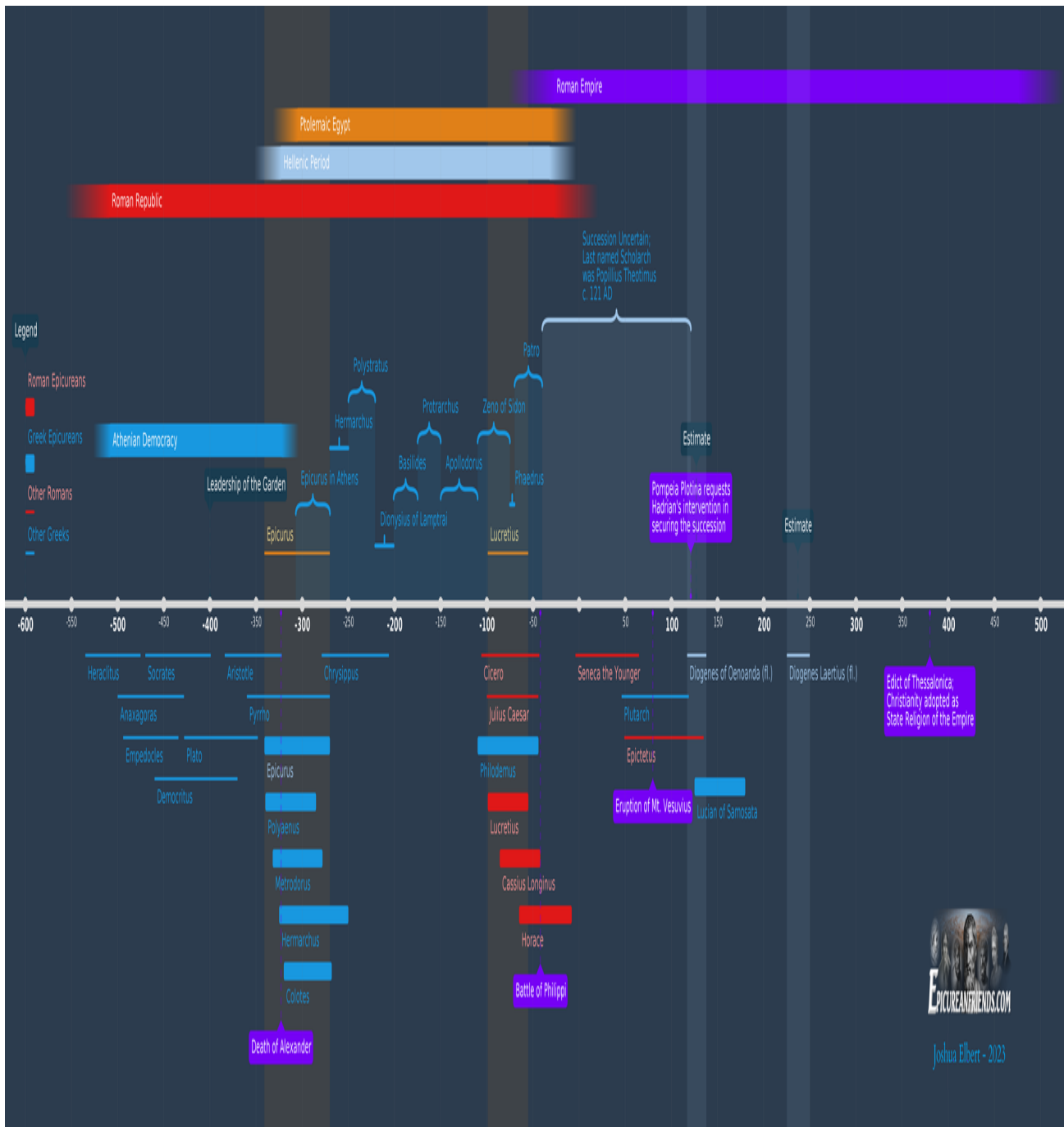
[Early AD 121 - Plotina writes to Hadrian on behalf of the Epicurean school in Athens \(#Hadrian1900\) FOLLOWING HADRIAN](#)

In the early year of AD 121, Pompeia Plotina, the greatly respected widow of the emperor Trajan, sent Hadrian a letter asking him to help the Epicurean school...

followinghadrian.com

Popillius Theotimus

Post by “Joshua” of November 5, 2023 at 2:13 PM



Link to main timeline; <https://time.graphics/line/852902>

This will be regarded as the final version.

Edit; the main repository will be in the forum Gallery at [this](#) link.

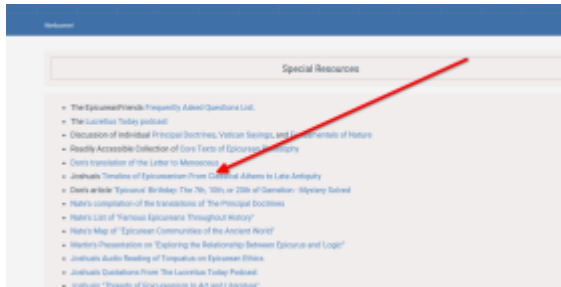
Post by “Cassius” of November 5, 2023 at 4:00 PM

That's outstanding Joshua.

Also for future reference, you indicated this morning that you found a better "keyword" to use in searching for something like this better than "timeline." Do you recall what that was?

Post by “Cassius” of November 5, 2023 at 4:03 PM

For ease of reference added to the "Special Forum Resources" link on the front page of the forum. That link takes you here:



Post by “Joshua” of November 5, 2023 at 4:25 PM

Thank You!

Quote from Cassius

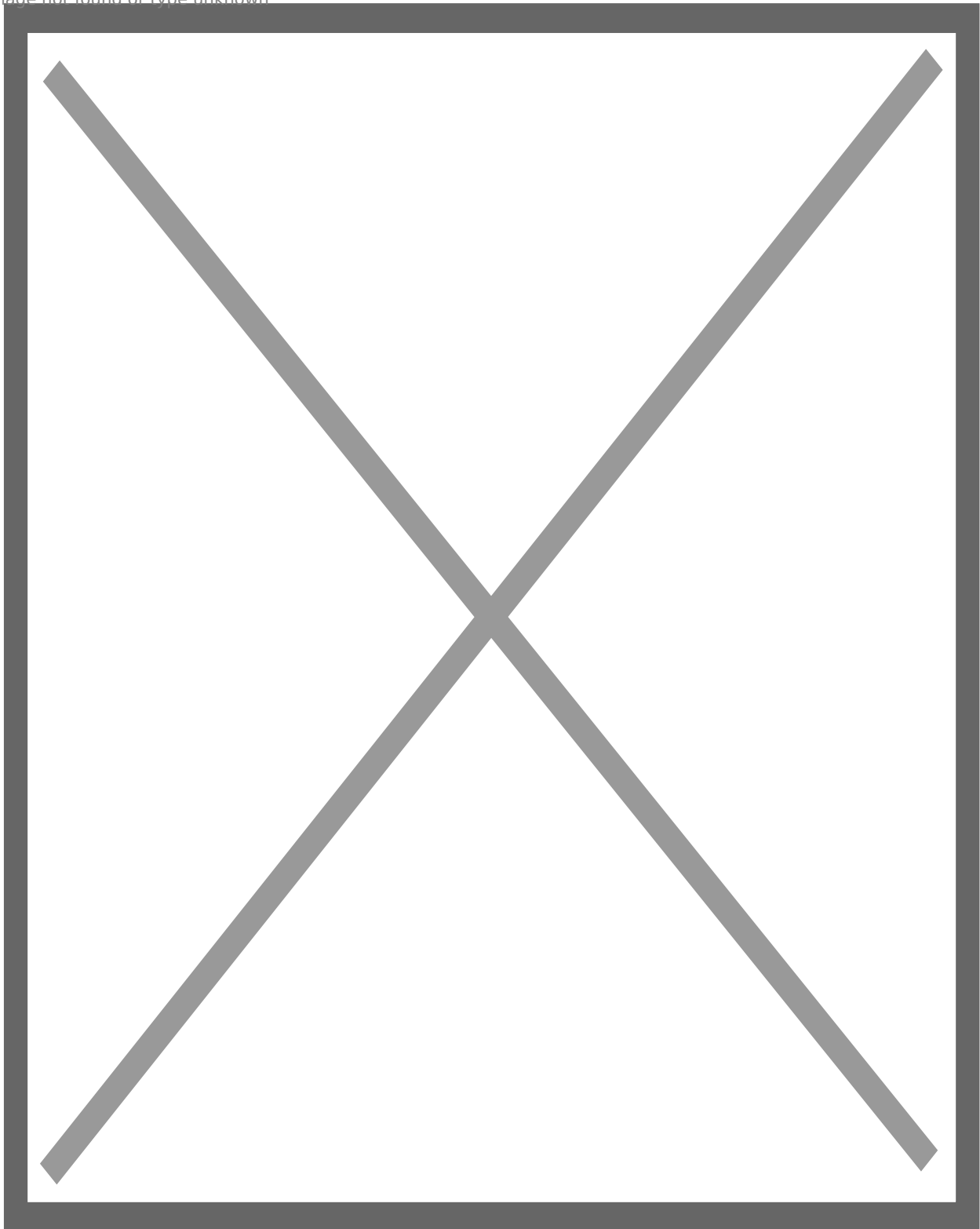
Also for future reference, you indicated this morning that you found a better "keyword" to use in searching for something like this better than "timeline." Do you recall what that was?

Well, that's the trouble; there is the [Gantt Chart](#) which is infuriatingly close to what we need, and may actually be helpful in feeding a growing table of data into a chart maker. But it has its downsides. For one thing, the resulting chart will almost always be longer vertically than horizontally, which means a pretty massive file for the amount of data presented.

Also, every one I've seen has the labels in a column on the left rather in the chart itself.

I just don't know how to search for this;

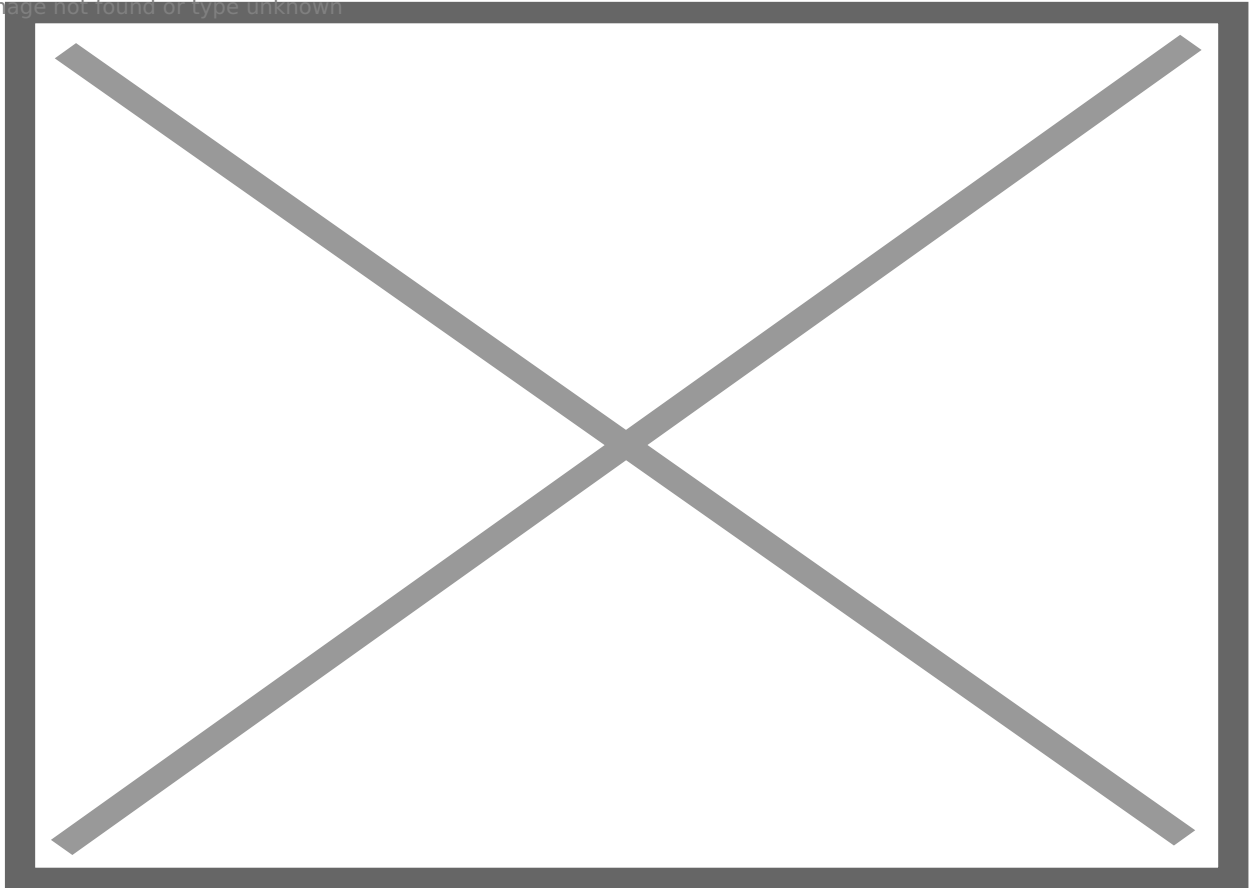
Image not found or type unknown



[File:Timeline of Indian history.jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)
commons.wikimedia.org

without finding a lot of this:

Image not found or type unknown



[Economy of the United States - Wikipedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org

Post by “TauPhi” of November 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

Link to main timeline; <https://time.graphics/line/852902>

Thank you [Joshua](#) It looks brilliant.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Please comment if you have suggestions

[Cassius](#) I don't see these people on any of the lists. I think these can be added to the table:

Leonteus of Lampsacus

[Leonteus of Lampsacus - Wikipedia](#)

Demetrius of Laconia

[Demetrius Lacon - Wikipedia](#)

Philonides of Laodicea

[Philonides of Laodicea - Wikipedia](#)

Post by “Don” of November 5, 2023 at 10:09 PM

I'm not sure if this has been cited, but here's Epicurus's entry in the the [Suda](#):

<https://www.cs.uky.edu/~raphael/sol/sol-entries/epsilon/2404>

The most pertinent section for the purposes of the timeline include:

His school continued until the first Caesar, for 227 years. In these [years] there were 14 successors.

Now, we know the Epicurean school lasted longer than "the first Caesar" because Popillius Theotimus was in charge of the Garden in 121 CE when Trajan was emperor.

But it appears the Suda is saying there were 14 "successors" to Epicurus between Epicurus's death and "the first Caesar." It looks like we still have the names of 10 of them.

The Suda was composed/compiled in the 900s CE.

Of interest, too, in the online Suda is : Translated by: [Marcelo Boeri](#) on 22 October 2003@15:29:13.

Post by “Eikadistes” of November 6, 2023 at 8:22 AM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

I'm wondering if @Nate and [Don](#) can help clear up the succession of scholarchs for me. I was going by the link to the table posted by [Cassius](#) in #1, but then I found [this](#) list by Nate at Society of Epicurus and some of the dates don't match.

Protrarchus isn't mentioned at all in the table Cassius linked to, but does appear in SoFE list. The dates for Apollodorus are completely conflicting.

Nate, should I go with the list you posted at SoFE? It looks more complete.

I recently realized that a number of those dates from my study are inaccurate. Mostly, some of the more fragmentary characters are estimated, and one of my sources seems to have mixed-up BCE and CE in a few entires.

Given that, in a bizarre wave of serendipity, I have been scouring that document for the last few weeks to improve upon it and add additional Epicureans that have been found since Herculaneum papers continue to be decoded.

Post by “Eikadistes” of November 6, 2023 at 8:25 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

Wasn't there a scholarch with a Roman name? Source amnesia on that one.

I'm thinking you mean Popilius Theotimus. He's the only listed Scholarach with a Latin familiar name.

There also seems to be some suggestion that after somewhere between Apollodorus the "Tryant" and Zeno of Sidon there was a fracture of inheritance that lead to some level of involvement from characters like Diogenes of Tarsus, the Ptolemys of Alexandria, and perhaps Orion the otherwise unattested Epicurean. I believe that is speculative.

Post by “Eikadistes” of November 6, 2023 at 2:49 PM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

Thank You!

Quote from Cassius

Also for future reference, you indicated this morning that you found a better "keyword" to use in searching for something like this better than "timeline." Do you recall what that was?

Well, that's the trouble; there is the [Gantt Chart](#) which is infuriatingly close to what we need, and may actually be helpful in feeding a growing table of data into a chart maker. But it has its downsides. For one thing, the resulting chart will almost always be longer vertically than horizontally, which means a pretty massive file for the amount of data presented.

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I just don't know how to search for this;

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Time...ian_history.jpg

without finding a lot of this:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of...States_GDP.webp

Display More

Josh, thank you for sharing this map. I think that this interdisciplinary approach is integral to a genuine interface with these ancient ideas, on their own terms. You'll see soon (as I think you also intend) to demonstrate those ideologies that functionally replaced the popularity of atomism (I'm fascinated by Gnosticism and Christian Heretics [heterodoxy] in particular) and I believe that incorporating a visual estimation of the popularity of mysticism, albeit is Gnosticism [The narrative of John the Baptist (x) Middle Platonism] or Pauline Christianity [Judaism (x) Mithraism (x) Imperial Worship (x) honestly, IDK, Saul of Tarsus' weird, personal affectations], we are looking at literal "Magic" that become more digestible to Greco-Roman peoples in terms of safety and security than Roman tolerance of *material* Polytheism.

Post by "Joshua" of November 6, 2023 at 5:14 PM

It is definitely useful to see these things in their context. For example;

In a letter scholars have dated to c. 355, Julian the Apostate was commenting on the political inaction of the Epicureans;

[Letter to Themistius the philosopher - Wikisource, the free online library](#)

Another letter from the same advocates the Suppression of Epicurean texts;

[Fragment of a letter to a priest - Wikisource, the free online library](#)

Quote

Let us not admit discourses by Epicurus or Pyrrho; but indeed the gods have already in their wisdom destroyed their works, so that most of their books have ceased to be. Nevertheless there is no reason why I should not, by way of example, mention these works too, to show what sort of discourses priests must especially avoid; and if such discourses, then much more must they avoid such thoughts. For an error of speech is, in my opinion, by no means the same as an error of the mind, but we ought to give heed to the mind first of all, since the tongue sins in company with it.

By edict of a pagan emperor in a letter to one of his priests, Epicureanism becomes *thought crime*. It is actually worse in his view to think about than to speak about it, because speech is vulnerable to correction and purgation while thought is not.

The 15th century Florentine iconoclast priest [Savonarolo](#) would be proud.

Quote

"Listen women," he preached to the crowd, "They say that this world was made of atoms, that is, those tiniest of particles that fly through the air." No doubt savoring the absurdity, he encouraged his listeners to express their derision out loud: "Now laugh, women, at the studies of these learned men."

A few decades after the reign of Julian came St. Augustine's survey of the situation -- "The ashes of Epicureanism are so cold that not a single spark can be struck from them."

Within two centuries of Diogenes Laertius, there was almost nothing left.

Post by "Joshua" of November 6, 2023 at 6:12 PM

I should have ended with a quote from Stephen Greenblatt; “Compared to the unleashed forces of warfare and of faith, Mount Vesuvius was kinder to the legacy of antiquity.”

Post by “Eikadistes” of November 6, 2023 at 8:11 PM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

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https://en.m.wikisource.org/wiki/Letter_to...the_philosopher

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Display More

Julian is an interesting figure (as I've recently found), in being a refreshing, polytheistic alternative to the growing, mystical Christian cult, who was equally Platonic, and therein anti-Epicurean in his education. This is particularly interesting, in that at least four early Church Fathers, as recognized by the Catholic and Orthodox churches, were admitted Platonists who not only rode the wave of Plutarch's Middle Platonism, but positively inhaled the Neoplatonism of Saccas, Plotinus, Porphyry, and Iamblichus, who derived their adaptations based off explicitly Indian forms of super-natural, supra-mental, or ascetic expressions of religious devotion. It's an interesting period.