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# Seleucus I Nicator



Seleucus I Nicator ([Louvre](#))

**Seleucus I Nicator** ('victor'): one of the [Diadochi](#), founder of the [Seleucid Empire](#), ruled from 311 to 281.

**Successor of:** [Alexander the Great](#)

## Relatives:

- Father: [Antiochus](#)
- Mother: [Laodice](#)
- Married to:
  1. [Apame I](#), daughter of [Spitamenes](#)
    - Son: [Antiochus I Soter](#)
    - Son: [Achaeus](#)
  2. [Stratonice I](#), daughter of [Demetrius I Poliorcetes](#) and [Phila I](#)
    - Daughter: [Phila II](#) (married to [Antigonus Gonatas](#))

## Main deeds:

- Born c.358 in Europos in [Macedonia](#)
- Page of [Philip II](#)
- Joins [Alexander the Great](#)
- 330 (?): commander of the *agema* of Shieldbearers
- 324: Marries [Apame I](#) at [Susa](#) ([text](#))
- 323: Death of Alexander; [Perdiccas](#) appoints Seleucus as commander of the Shieldbearers
- 320 (?): One of the murderers of [Perdiccas](#)
- 320 (?): At the conference of Triparadisus, he is made [satrap](#) of [Babylonia](#) ([text](#))
- 315 (?): Flees from Babylonia when [Antigonus Monophthalmus](#) tries to subdue him; finds refuge in Egypt, where [Ptolemy I Soter](#) has become an independent ruler
- 315-311: In the [Third Diadoch War](#), Seleucus has a naval command for Ptolemy against Antigonus, but is unable to

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Seleucus I Nicator (Museo archeologico nazionale, Napoli)

- overcome his opponents
- 312: Battle of Gaza: Ptolemy and Seleucus defeat Antigonus son Demetrius Poliorcetes
- 311: Seleucus reoccupies Babylonia (May); outbreak of the [Babylonian War](#); Seleucus defeats [Nicanor](#) (autumn)
- 310: Seleucus defeats Demetrius (spring); Antigonus invade Babylonia (autumn)
- 309: Seleucus defeats Antigonus (spring; [text](#)); origin of the [Seleucid Empire](#)
- Campaigns in the east; treaty with Chandragupta, king of the [Maurya empire](#)
- 307-301: [Fourth Diadoch War](#) of all [Diadochi](#) against Antigonus and Demetrius
- 301: In the [Battle of Ipsus](#), Antigonus is defeated; Seleucus conquers Syria
- Seleucus founds [Seleucia on the Tigris](#), [Seleucia in Pieria](#), [Antiochia](#), Apamea, Laodicea, [Cyrhus](#), Dura Europos, and [Diocaesarea](#)
- 299: He marries [Stratonice I](#), daughter of Demetrius Poliorcetes and [Phila I](#)
- 292: Seleucus appoints his son [Antiochus](#) as successor; he becomes satrap of [Bactria](#)
- 281: In the battle of [Corupedium](#), Seleucus defeats [Lysimachus](#), ruler of western Asia Minor, Thrace and Macedonia
- September 281: When Seleucus crosses to Europe, he is assassinated by [Ptolemy Keraunos](#)
- Seleucus was buried in Seleucia

Succeeded by: [Antiochus I Soter](#)



Seleucus I Nicator (British Museum, London; [©\\*\\*](#))

### Sources:

- [Appian on the career of Seleucus](#)
- [Diadochi chronicle](#) (BCHP 3)
- [End of Seleucus I chronicle](#) (BCHP 9)

### Literature

- A.N. Bosworth, "The Rise of Seleucus" in: *The Legacy of Alexander. Politics, Warfare, and Propaganda under the Successors* (2002)

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