

**Mithridates VI Eupator (132 BC – 61 BC) —Macedonian Ukrainian military leader, King of Pontus, pioneer of immunology and hybrid warfare**

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Silver coin in honor of Mithridates VI Eupator c. 89 BC.

Under the reign of **Mithridates VI Eupator (132 BC, city of Sinope, Paphlagonia Peninsula, province (prov.) of Amaseia (Amasia), northern Asia Minor or Anatolia, Kingdom of Pontus – suicide 61 BC, city of Pantikapaion / Panticapaeum, Crimean Peninsula, Ukraine. Silver coin in his honor)<sup>1</sup>** — Macedonian Ukrainian military leader and King (120 BC – 61 BC) of the Kingdom of Pontus (281 BC – 63 BC), pioneer of immunology and hybrid war of Persian ancestry. Mithridates VI Eupator was handsome, intelligent, educated, knew languages of all nations of the Kingdom Pontus (among them 22 – 25 of different dialects), ambitious, determined, effective, possessed unusual physical strength, formidable opponent, and ruthless ruler who sought to

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<sup>1</sup> City of Sinope (settled since 7<sup>th</sup> century BC) – capital of the Kingdom of Pontus (existed 302 / 291 BC – 63 BC), Peninsula of Paphlagonia, prov. of Amaseia (area 5,628 km<sup>2</sup>). — Anatolia or Asia Minor presently Turkey (area 783,356 km<sup>2</sup>). — City of Pantikapaion / Panticapaeum (inhabited since 840 BC) within city of Kerch (area settled early 17<sup>th</sup> – late 16<sup>th</sup> century BC). — Semipenisula of Crimea (area 27,000 km<sup>2</sup>) — Ukraine (formation since anticity, 882, area 603,628 km<sup>2</sup>) — Macedonia (area 5,000,000 km<sup>2</sup>). — Persia / Iran (area 1,648,195 km<sup>2</sup>). — City of Eupator (nicknamed a «noble father») / Eupatoria / Yevpatoria (built 500 BC as the first settlement called Kerkititis on the western littoral of the Black Sea, Crimea, Ukraine by Greek colonists), between 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> century was controlled by the Kingdom of Scythia Minor and along with the rest of Crimea formed part of the dominios of Mithrodates VI Eupator. — Kavec'kyi RE, Balic'kyi KP. U istokov otechestvennoi medicyny. AN Ukrainy, Kyiv 1954. — Immunology is an innate and adaptive reaction of organisms on cellular and molecular level to poisons and pathogens. — The Kerch Strait (max length 35 km, min width 3.1 km, average depth 18 m, island Tuzla). — The Cimmerian (Greco-Scythian) Bosporan Kingdom (established 480 BC – disestablish 527 AD, his reign, 107 BC – 63 BC). — Ablitsov VH. «Galaxy Ukraine». The Ukrainian diaspora: prominent persons. Publ. «Kyt», Kyiv 2007. — Lavella M. Illustrated Identifier and Encyclopedia of Wildflowers and Flora. An authoritative guide to more than 750 wildflowers of the worlds. De Rotterdam's Hermes House Band 2006. — Ablitsov VH. «Galaxy Ukraine». The Ukrainian diaspora: prominent persons. Publ. «Kyt», Kyiv 2007. — Marchenko I. Town of Panticapaeum. Simferopol 1975. — Synyachenko OV. They glorified themselves and Ukraine: history of domestic therapy. Crimean Therapeutic Journal 2010;2(2):21-8.

dominate the region of Asia Minor (area 537,886 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Black Sea (max length 1,175 km, surface area 2,505,000 km<sup>2</sup>, average depth 1,536 m, max depth 5,267 m, volume 3,839,000 km<sup>3</sup>).

His father **Mithridates V Euegetes** (? – assassinated with poison by unknown persons in a lavish banquet, **c. 120 BC, city of Sinope**) — King (c. 150 BC – c. 120 BC) of the Kingdom of Pontus of Macedonian and Persian ancestry, and his mother – **Laidice (130 or 120 BC – died in prison 90 BC)** — Queen of Persian descent. Their daughter **Laodice (130 or 129 BC – executed due to marital betrayal by Mithridates VI Eupator c. 90 BC)** — Pontic Princess and Queen, the first sister-wife of Mithridates VI Eupator.

Apparently, to prevent being poisoned as his father, Mithridates VI Eupator cultivated, researched and used the poisonous honey from flowers of the Pontic rododendrum (*Rhododendrum ponticum*), containing andromegatoxin which could be toxic for people. Those poisons were named for him mithridatism and anti-poisons mithridatica or mithridatium. To make himself immune (resistant) to poisons he ingested from childhood initially small sub-lethal, then slowly increasing doses to build up resistance towards them which he described in the treatise «Teriak».

Mithridates VI Eupator was critical of the classical antique Hellenistic period covering the history of Greece (area 131,95 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Mediterranean Sea (surface area 2,500,000 km<sup>2</sup>, average depth 1,500 m, max depth 5,109 m, volume 3,750,000 km<sup>3</sup>) region between death of **Alexander the Great (356– 325 BC)** and death of **Cleopatra VII (70 – 30 BC)** which played significant domineering military, culturally and spiritually role at this place at that time.

Throughout its existence the Roman Republic or Res publica Roman (c. 509 – 27 BC, area 10,000 – 1,950,000 km<sup>2</sup>) was in a state of near-permanent aggressive wars against its neighbors and behind by invading, annexing and brutally ruling their territories in the western Europe (area 10,186,000 km<sup>2</sup>) on the cost of Atlantic Ocean (surface 85,133,000 km<sup>2</sup>, average depth 3,646 m, max depth 8,376 m), Asia Minor and northern Africa (area 33,370,000 km<sup>2</sup>), the southern coast of Europe washed by the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Therefore, Mithridates VI Eupator, concerned about the future of his Pontic Kingdom, became one of the most formidable and determined opponents of the Romans, and declared himself their enemy.

The another aggressive military force in the area at that time were Scythians (existed 9<sup>th</sup> century BC – 3<sup>th</sup> century AD), populated areas from the mouth of the Danube River (2850 km), Ukraine, the Pontic or Ukrainian steppe along the northern shores of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov (max length 360 km, max width 180 km, surface area 39,000 km<sup>2</sup>, average depth 7 m, max depth 14 m, water volume 290 km<sup>3</sup>), including the northern Crimean steppe, then the steppes northerly the Caucasus Mountains (Mts; length 1,200 km, width 160 km, highest elevation in Europe Mt Elbrus 5,642 m), the steppes between the Ural Mts (length 2000 m, width 40 – 100 km, highest point Mt Narodna 1894 m) and the northern Caspian Sea (surface area 371,000 km<sup>2</sup>, surface elevation – 28 m. max. length 1,030 km, max width 435 km, average depth 211 m, max depth

1,025 m,) stretching through the Ural Mts – Caspian narrowing into the central Asia (area 44,579,000 km<sup>2</sup>) steppe (Euro-Asian steppe, area, 994,000 km<sup>2</sup>).

Mithridates VI Eupator planned to rejoin the southern Anatolia with the Pontic Kingdom, fought the northwestern Scythia by the Black Sea and Crimea (first settled by the Taurans in the Crimean Seacoast, Pre-Crimean Mts or Crimean Foothills and then the Crimean Mts during the 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium BC – existed until 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD); the Cimmerians (created the first state in the North Crimean 12<sup>th</sup> century BC) – existed until the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC); the Sarmatians (3<sup>rd</sup> century BC – existed until 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD), settled the part of northern Crimea ruled by **Skilurus (reign 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC)** — King of Crimean Scythia (3<sup>rd</sup> century BC – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD), near present day city of Simferopol (founded 15<sup>th</sup> century BC), Ukraine, who established the capital city of Scythian Neapolis (199-197 BC); then the northern Black Sea coast between the estuary from the city of Borysthenes around the Dniipro River (length 2,201 km) entry into the Black Sea, Ukraine, to the lowest coast estuary of the city of Pontic Olbia at the mouth of the Hypanis or Southern Boh River (length 806 km), Ukraine, the coast of Azov Sea, the Cimmerian Bosphoran Kingdom located between the Crimean and the Taman Peninsula and centered around the Kerch Strait, and the Colchis on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. Ancient Ukrainians arrived in Crimea during the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD and with creation of the Kyivan Ukraine Rus' (9<sup>th</sup> century – 13<sup>th</sup> century AD).

Then Mithridates VI Eupator got in the armed encounter for the sake of reign over the Crimean steppe. In 110-109 BC he twice dispatched **Diophantus (city of Sinope)** — Macedonian colonel of cavalry, with military detachment who successfully pushed back the Scythes and their aliases among them Sarmatians, led under command of **Palak (c. 114/3– died 110-109 BC)** — son of Scythian King Skilurus, towards the city of Chersonesus (founded 6<sup>th</sup> century BC as the Greek colony on the shore of the Black Sea in southwestern Crimea, Ukraine) and destroyed their encampments.

By turns an oppression endured the ancient nation of the Tavria – Tavria's who were the first to settle in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC in the narrow long segment of the land c. 8 – 13 km wide between the southern shore of the Crimean Peninsula and the Crimean Mts (highest peak Roman Kosh, 1545 m) parallel to the southern coast of the Crimean Peninsula. The Tavria's never voluntarily left its motherland. But in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC they endured the rule of the Bosphorus Kingdom, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC they endured the rule of the Scythians becoming the Tavria-Scythians, in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC were Romanized, existed until the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

During the third dispatchment in the spring of 107 BC under the command of **Savmak** the Scythes uprising was suppressed following by annexation of the Cimmerian Bosphorus by the Kingdom of Pontus.

Finally, Mithridates VI Eupator engaged himself in three separate wars with the Romans, the so-called Mithridates Wars (88 – 63 BC).

In the 1<sup>st</sup> War (89 – 85 BC) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> War (83 – 81 BC) he eluded capture and repeatedly won first two battles against them with the support of his elder son **Machares (85 BC, city of Sinope,**

**prov. Amaseia, Asia Minor, Kingdom of Pontus – suicide 65 BC, city of Chersonesus, Crimea, Ukraine) — Prince of Pontus, ruler of the Bosphoran Kingdom, of his younger son Pharnaces II of Pontus Livius (c. 97 BC, city of Sinope, prov. Amaseia, Asia Minor, Kingdom of Pontus – killed 47 BC) — Prince and King of Pontus, and Armenia (area 29,743 km<sup>2</sup>).**

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> War (74 – 66 BC) Mithridates VI Eupator ordered to leave honeycombs saturated with poisonous honey on the way of retreated Roman army headed by **Gnaeus Pompeus Magnus (106 – killed 48 BC) — Roman general and statesmen in 65 BC. Stifled (choked) down or suffocated by poisoned honey Roman soldiers were slaughtered with the sword by the Army of Mithridates VI Eupator. Thereby, one could consider him a pioneer of hybrid warfare.**

But in the 3<sup>rd</sup> War (74 – BC) he still was defeated by **Gnaeus Pompeus Magnus (106 – 48 BC)** owing in part to betrayal of his own younger son, in the battle near the Lycus River (flows westerly into the Black Sea) in the central Pontus near the end of 66 BC inflicting at least 10,000 casualties.

Thereafter, Mithridates VI Eupator facing humiliation in the Roman triumph, withdrew with a small army into Armenia, then back to Anatolia, and again back into an ancient region of Colchis located on the eastern coast of the Black Sea, followed by Gnaeus Pompeus Magnus.

He crossed the Caucasus Mts and navigated the Black Sea, landing 65 BC in the Sumerian Bosphorus, meets his elder son Machares who authorized his father to seize control of the Crimea from the oppressive rule of Romans.

Mithridates VI Eupator retrieved to the citadel in the city of Panticapaeum, Crimea, Ukraine, where he established himself and would try to gather forces to attack the Romans by crossing Ukraine Scythia and navigating the Danube River, then to reach by a horse the Italy (area 301,340 km<sup>2</sup>).

After his younger son Pharnaces II of Pontus Livius, his own and his son's troops rebelled against him with the support of a weary populace, Mithridates VI Eupator attempted to commit suicide by ingesting poison but failed because he was used taking since childhood precautionary small portions of poison as antidote against poison, although he became too weak to commit suicide himself. Then he asked the Gallic mercenary **Bitoit**, his friend and the leader of his own guardian men to kill him with the sword (61 BC). His balsamic body was sent to Gnaeus Pompeus Magnus who buried it in the royal sepulcher at Sinope, Kingdom of Pontus.

In honor of Mithridates VI were named the medical research and practice using poisons (mithridatism), and anti-poisons (mithridatica or mithridatium), the Great Mithridates Staircase (built by Italian architect **Alexander Digbi**) leading up Mt Mithridates / Mithridat (height 91.4 m) at Panticapaeum, and «The king's tomb of Mithridates near the Lazaretto of Kerch» by **Carlo Bossoli (1815-84) — Swiss and Italian artist (1856) in the city of Kerch, Crimea, Ukraine.**