

**STRABO**

**GEOGRAPHY**

**BOOKS 15-16**

**WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY  
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## ΣΤΡΑΒΩΝΟΣ ΓΕΩΓΡΑΦΙΚΩΝ

ΙΕ'

I

1. Τὰ περιλειπόμενα τῆς Ἀσίας ἐστὶ τὰ ἐκτὸς τοῦ Ταύρου, πλὴν Κιλικίας καὶ Παμφυλίας καὶ Λυκίας, τὰ<sup>1</sup> ἀπὸ τῆς Ἰνδικῆς μέχρι Νείλου μεταξὺ τοῦ Ταύρου καὶ τῆς ἕξω θαλάττης τῆς νοτίου κείμενα. μετὰ δὲ τὴν Ἀσίαν ἡ Λιβύη ἐστὶ, περὶ ἧς ἐροῦμεν ὕστερον, νῦν δ' ἀπὸ τῆς Ἰνδικῆς ἀρκτέον· πρώτη γὰρ ἔκκειται πρὸς ταῖς ἀνατολαῖς καὶ μεγίστη.

2. Δεῖ δ' εὐγνωμόνως ἀκούειν περὶ αὐτῆς· καὶ γὰρ ἀπωτάτω ἐστὶ, καὶ οὐ πολλοὶ τῶν ἡμετέρων κατώπτευσαν αὐτήν· οἱ δὲ καὶ ἰδόντες μέρη τιὰ εἶδον, τὰ δὲ πλείω λέγουσιν ἐξ ἀκοῆς· καὶ ἃ εἶδον δέ, ἐν παρόδῳ στρατιωτικῇ καὶ δρόμῳ κατέμαθον· διόπερ οὐδὲ τὰ αὐτὰ περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν ἐξαγγέλλουσι, καὶ ταῦτα συγγράψαντες ὡς ἂν πεφροντισμένως ἐξητασμένα, τινὲς δ' αὐτῶν καὶ συστρατεύσαντες ἀλλήλοις καὶ συνεπιδημήσαντες, καθάπερ οἱ Ἀλεξάνδρῳ συγκαταστρεψάμενοι τὴν Ἀσίαν· ἀλλ' ἕκαστος ἐκίστῳ τὰναντία λέγει πολλὰκις.

<sup>1</sup> δ', before ἀπό, the editors omit.

<sup>1</sup> i.e. the Indian Ocean.

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF STRABO

BOOK XV

I

1. THE parts still left of Asia are those outside the Taurus except Cilicia and Pamphylia and Lycia, I mean the parts extending from India as far as the Nile and lying between the Taurus and the outer sea on the south.<sup>1</sup> After Asia one comes to Libya, which I shall describe later, but I must now begin with India, for it is the first and largest country that lies out towards the east.

2. But it is necessary for us to hear accounts of this country with indulgence, for not only is it farthest away from us, but not many of our people have seen it; and even those who have seen it, have seen only parts of it, and the greater part of what they say is from hearsay; and even what they saw they learned on a hasty passage with an army through the country. Wherefore they do not give out the same accounts of the same things, even though they have written these accounts as though their statements had been carefully confirmed. And some of them were both on the same expedition together and made their sojourns together, like those who helped Alexander to subdue Asia; yet they all frequently contradict one

ἄλλου δὲ περὶ τῶν ὁραθέντων οὕτω διαφέρονται, τὶ δεῖ νομίζειν περὶ τῶν ἐξ ἄκοῆς ;

3. Καὶ μὴν οὐδ' οἱ πολλοὶ<sup>1</sup> πολλοῖς χρόνοις ὕστερον συγγράψαντές τι περὶ τούτων, οὐδ' οἱ νῦν πλείοντες ἐκέλευσε, ἀποφαίνονται τι ἀκριβές. C 686 Ἀπολλόδωρος γοῦν ὁ τὰ Παρθικὰ ποιήσας, μεμνημένος καὶ τῶν τῆν Βακτριανὴν ἀποστησάντων Ἑλλήνων παρὰ τῶν Συριακῶν βασιλέων τῶν ἀπὸ Σελεύκου τοῦ Νικάτορος, φησὶ μὲν αὐτοὺς αὐξηθέντας ἐπιθέσθαι καὶ τῇ Ἰνδικῇ· οὐδὲν δὲ προσανακαλύπτει τῶν πρότερον ἐγνωσμένων, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐναντιολογεῖ, πλείω τῆς Ἰνδικῆς ἐκείνους ἢ Μακεδόνας καταστρέψασθαι λέγων. Εὐκρατίδαν γοῦν πόλεις χιλίας ὑφ' ἑαυτῷ ἔχειν ἐκείνοι δὲ γε αὐτὰ τὰ μεταξὺ ἔθνη τοῦ τε Ἰδάσπου καὶ τοῦ Ἰπτανίου τὸν ἀριθμὸν ἐννέα, πόλεις τε σχεῖν πεντακισχιλίας, ὧν μηδεμίαν εἶναι Κῶ τῆς Μεροπίδος ἐλάττω· ταύτην δὲ πᾶσαν τὴν χώραν καταστρεψάμενον Ἀλέξανδρον παραδοῦναι Πύρῳ.

4. Καὶ οἱ νῦν δὲ ἐξ Αἰγύπτου πλείοντες ἐμπορικοὶ τῷ Νείλῳ καὶ τῷ Ἀραβίῳ κόλπῳ μέχρι τῆς Ἰνδικῆς σπάνιοι μὲν καὶ<sup>2</sup> περιπεπλευκασὶ μέχρι τοῦ Γάγγου, καὶ οὗτοι δ' ἰδιῶται καὶ οὐδὲν πρὸς ἱστορίαν τῶν τόπων χρήσιμοι. κακέειθεν δὲ ἀφ' ἐνὸς τόπου καὶ παρ' ἐνὸς βασιλέως, Πανδίου, καὶ ἄλλου<sup>3</sup> Πύρου, ἦκεν ὡς Καίσαρα τὸν Σεβαστὸν δῶρα καὶ πρεσβεῖα

<sup>1</sup> πολλοί, which Corais and the later editors eject, Jones restores.

<sup>2</sup> καί, omitted by *Ottom.*

<sup>3</sup> Before καὶ ἄλλου Groskurd inserts ἤ, at the same time

another. But if they differ thus about what was seen, what must we think of what they report from hearsay?

3. Moreover, most of those who have written anything about this region in much later times, and those who sail there at the present time, do not present any accurate information either. At any rate, Apollodorus, who wrote *The Parthica*, when he mentions the Greeks who caused Bactriana to revolt from the Syrian kings who succeeded Seleucus Nicator, says that when those kings had grown in power they also attacked India, but he reveals nothing further than what was already known, and even contradicts what was known, saying that those kings subdued more of India than the Macedonians; that Eucratidas, at any rate, held a thousand cities as his subjects. Those other writers, however, say that merely the tribes between the Hydaspes and the Hypanis were nine in number, and that they had five thousand cities, no one of which was smaller than the Meropian Cos, and that Alexander subdued the whole of this country and gave it over to Porus.

4. As for the merchants who now sail from Aegypt by the Nile and the Arabian Gulf as far as India, only a small number have sailed as far as the Ganges; and even these are merely private citizens and of no use as regards the history of the places they have seen. But from India, from one place and from one king, I mean Pandion, or another Porus, there came to Caesar Augustus presents and gifts

conjecturing κατ' ἄλλου, which latter is followed by Kramer and Meineke; but the ἄλλου seems needed in view of the Porus mentioned in § 3 above.

καὶ ὁ κατακάυσας ἑαυτὸν Ἀθήνησι σοφιστῆς Ἰνδός, καθάπερ καὶ ὁ Κάλανος Ἀλεξάνδρῳ τῇ τοιαύτῃ θεῶν ἐπιδειξάμενος.

5. Εἰ τοίνυν ταῦτ' ἀφείλ τις τὴν πρὸ τῆς Ἀλεξάνδρου στρατείας ἐπιβλέποι μνήμην, πολλὴν ἂν εὖροι τούτων τυφλότερα. Ἀλεξάνδρον μὲν οὖν πιστεύειν τοῖς τοιοῦτοις εἰκόσ, τετυφωμένον ταῖς τосαύταις εὐτυχίαις. φησὶ γοῦν Νέαρχος φιλονεικῆσαι αὐτὸν διὰ τῆς Γεδρωσίας ἀγαγεῖν τὴν στρατιάν, πεπυσμένον διότι καὶ Σεμίραμις ἐστράτευσεν ἐπὶ Ἰνδοῦς καὶ Κύρος, ἀλλ' ἢ μὲν ἀνέστρεψε, φεύγουσα μετὰ εἴκοσι ἀνθρώπων, ἐκεῖνος δὲ μεθ' ἑπτὰ ὡς σεμνὸν τό,<sup>1</sup> ἐκείνων τосαῦτα παθόντων, αὐτὸν καὶ<sup>2</sup> στρατόπεδον διασῶσαι μετὰ νίκης διὰ τῶν αὐτῶν ἐθνῶν τε καὶ τόπων ἐκεῖνος μὲν δὴ ἐπίστευσεν.

6. Ἡμῖν δὲ τίς ἂν δικαία γένοιτο πίστις περὶ τῶν Ἰνδικῶν ἐκ τῆς τοιαύτης στρατείας τοῦ Κύρου ἢ τῆς Σεμιράμιδος; συναποφαίνεται δὲ πως καὶ Μεγασθένης τῷ λόγῳ τούτῳ, κελεύων ἀπιστεῖν ταῖς ἀρχαίαις περὶ Ἰνδῶν ἱστορίαις· οὔτε γὰρ παρ' Ἰνδῶν ἔξω σταλῆναί ποτε στρατιάν, οὔτ' ἐπελθεῖν ἔξωθεν καὶ κρατῆσαι, πλὴν μὲς μεθ' Ἡρακλέους καὶ Διονύσου καὶ τῆς νῦν τῆς Μακεδόνων. καίτοι Σέσωστριν μὲν τὸν Αἰγύπτιον καὶ Τεάρκωνα τὸν Αἰθίοπα ἕως Εὐρώπης προελ-  
C 687 θεῖν· Ναβοκοδρόσορον δὲ τὸν παρὰ Χαλδαίοις

<sup>1</sup> For σεμνὸν τό Capps conj. σεμνὸν τι.  
<sup>2</sup> καί, omitted by Cramer.

<sup>1</sup> See 15. 1. 73.

<sup>2</sup> For a similar statement, see 15. 2. 5.

of honour and the Indian sophist who burnt himself up at Athens,<sup>1</sup> as Calanus had done, who made a similar spectacular display of himself before Alexander.

5. If, however, one should dismiss these accounts and observe the records of the country prior to the expedition of Alexander, one would find things still more obscure. Now it is reasonable to suppose that Alexander believed such records because he was blinded by his numerous good fortunes; at any rate, Nearchus says that Alexander conceived an ambition to lead his army through Gedrosia when he learned that both Semiramis and Cyrus had made an expedition against the Indians, and that Semiramis had turned back in flight with only twenty people and Cyrus with seven; and that Alexander thought how grand it would be, when those had met with such reverses, if he himself should lead a whole victorious army safely through the same tribes and regions.<sup>2</sup> Alexander, therefore, believed these accounts.

6. But as for us, what just credence can we place in the accounts of India derived from such an expedition made by Cyrus, or Semiramis? And Megasthenes virtually agrees with this reasoning when he bids us to have no faith in the ancient stories about the Indians; for, he says, neither was an army ever sent outside the country by the Indians nor did any outside army ever invade their country and master them, except that with Heracles and Dionysus and that in our times with the Macedonians. However, Sesostris, the Aegyptian, he adds, and Tearco the Aethiopian advanced as far as Europe; and Nabocodrosor, who enjoyed greater

εὐδοκίμησαντα. Ἡρακλέους μᾶλλον καὶ ἕως Στηλῶν ἐλάσαι· μέχρι μὲν δὴ δεῦρο καὶ Τεάρκωνα<sup>1</sup> ἀφικέσθαι· ἐκείνον δὲ καὶ ἐκ τῆς Ἰβηρίας εἰς τὴν Θράκην καὶ τὸν Πόντον ἀγαγεῖν τὴν στρατιάν· Ἰδάνθυρσον δὲ τὸν Σκύθην ἐπιδραμεῖν τῆς Ἀσίας μέχρι Αἰγύπτου· τῆς δὲ Ἰνδικῆς μηδένα τούτων ἄψασθαι· καὶ Σεμίραμιν δ' ἀποθανεῖν πρὸ τῆς ἐπιχειρήσεως· Πέρσας δὲ μισθοφόρους μὲν ἐκ τῆς Ἰνδικῆς μεταπέμψασθαι Ὑδρακας, ἐκεῖ δὲ μὴ στρατεῦσαι, ἀλλ' ἐγγὺς ἐλθεῖν μόνον, ἥνίκα Κῦρος ἦλανεν ἐπὶ Μασσαγέτας.

7. Καὶ τὰ περὶ Ἡρακλέους δὲ καὶ Διονύσου Μεγασθένης μὲν μετ' ὀλίγων πιστὰ ἡγεῖται, τῶν δ' ἄλλων οἱ πλείους, ὧν ἔστι καὶ Ἐρατοσθένης, ἄπιστα καὶ μυθώδη, καθάπερ καὶ τὰ παρὰ τοῖς Ἑλλησιν. ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἐν ταῖς Βάκχαις ταῖς Εὐριπίδου Διόνυσος τοιαῦτα νεανιεύεται·

λιπῶν δὲ Λυδῶν τὰς πολυχρύσους γῦας  
Φρυγῶν τε Περσῶν θ' ἠλιοβλήτους πλάκας  
Βάκτριά τε τείχη τῆν τε δύσχειμον χθόνα  
Μήδων ἐπῆλθον Ἀραβίαν εὐδαίμονα  
Ἀσίαν τε πᾶσαν.

παρὰ Σοφοκλεῖ δέ τις ἔστι τὴν Νῦσαν<sup>2</sup> καθυμνῶν  
ὡς τὸ Διονύσῳ καθιερωμένον ὄρος·

ὅθεν κατεῖδον τὴν βεβακχιωμένην  
βροτοῖσι κλεινὴν Νῦσαν,<sup>3</sup> ἣν ὁ βούκερως  
Ἰακχος αὐτῷ μαῖαν ἠδίστην νέμει,  
ὅπου τίς ὄρνις οὐχὶ κλαγγάνει;

καὶ τὰ ἐξῆς. καὶ Μηροτραφῆς δὲ λέγεται.<sup>4</sup> καὶ

<sup>1</sup> Τεάρκων, F.      <sup>2</sup> Νῦσαν, C, Νύσαν other MSS.  
<sup>3</sup> Νῦσαν, the editors, for Νύσαν.

repute among the Chaldaeans than Heracles, led an army even as far as the Pillars. Thus far, he says, also Tearco went; and Sesostris also led his army from Iberia to Thrace and the Pontus; and Idanthysrus the Scythian overran Asia as far as Aegypt; but no one of these touched India, and Semiramis too died before the attempt; and, although the Persians summoned the Hydraces as mercenary troops from India, the latter did not make an expedition to Persia, but only came near it when Cyrus was marching against the Massagetæ.

7. As for the stories of Heracles and Dionysus, Megasthenes with a few others considers them trustworthy; but most other writers, among whom is Eratosthenes, consider them untrustworthy and mythical, like the stories current among the Greeks. For instance, in the *Bacchæ*<sup>1</sup> of Euripides Dionysus says with youthful bravado as follows: "I have left behind me the gold-bearing glades of Lydia and of Phrygia, and I have visited the sun-stricken plains of Persia, the walled towns of Bactria, the wintry land of the Medes, and Arabia the Blest, and the whole of Asia."<sup>2</sup> In Sophocles, also, there is someone who hymns the praises of Nysa as the mountain sacred to Dionysus: "Whence I beheld the famous Nysa, ranged in Bacchic frenzy by mortals, which the horned Iacchus roams as his own sweetest nurse, where—what bird exists that singeth not there?" And so forth. And he is also called "Merotraphes." And Homer says of

<sup>1</sup> 13 ff.

<sup>2</sup> Quoted also in 1. 2. 20.

<sup>4</sup> καὶ . . . λέγεται, Meineke ejecta.

ὁ ποιητῆς περὶ Λυκούργου τοῦ Ἡδωνοῦ φησιν οὕτως·

ὅς ποτε μαινομένοιο Διωνύσοιο τιθήνας  
σεῦε κατ' ἠγάθεον Νυσηίον.

τοιαῦτα μὲν τὰ περὶ Διωνύσου· περὶ δὲ Ἡρακλέους οἱ μὲν ἐπὶ τὰναντία μόνον μέχρι τῶν ἐσπερίων περάτων ἱστοροῦσιν, οἱ δ' ἐφ' ἐκότερα.

8. Ἐκ δὲ τῶν τοιούτων Νυσαίους δὴ τινὰς ἔθνος προσωνόμασαν καὶ πόλιν παρ' αὐτοῖς Νῦσαν,<sup>1</sup> Διωνύσου κτίσμα, καὶ ὄρος τὸ ὑπὲρ τῆς πόλεως Μηρόν, υἱτιασάμενοι καὶ τὸν αὐτόθι κισσὸν καὶ ἀμπέλον, οὐδὲ ταύτην τελεσίκαρπον ἀπορρεῖ γὰρ ὁ βότρυς πρὶν περκάσαι διὰ τοὺς ὄμβρους τοὺς ἄδην· Διωνύσου δ' ἀπογόνους τοὺς Συδράκας,<sup>2</sup> ἀπὸ τῆς ἀμπέλου τῆς παρ' αὐτοῖς καὶ τῶν πολυτελῶν ἐξόδων, βακχικῶς τὰς τε ἐκστρατείας ποιομένων τῶν βασιλέων καὶ τὰς ἄλλας ἐξόδους μετὰ τυμπανισμοῦ καὶ εὐανθοῦς στολῆς· ὅπερ ἐπιπολάζει καὶ παρὰ τοῖς ἄλλοις Ἰνδοῖς. Ἄορνον δὲ τινὰ πέτραν, ἧς τὰς ρίζας ὁ Ἰνδὸς ὑπορρεῖ πλησίον τῶν πηγῶν, Ἀλεξάνδρου κατὰ μίαν προσβολὴν ἐλόντος, σεμνύνοντες ἔφασαν, τὸν Ἡρακλέα τρὶς μὲν προσβαλεῖν τῇ πέτρᾳ ταύτῃ, τρὶς δ' ἀποκρουσθῆναι. τῶν δὲ κοινωνησάντων αὐτῷ τῆς στρατείας ἀπογόνους εἶναι τοὺς Σίβας, σύμβολα τοῦ γένους σώζοντας, τό τε δορὰς ἀμπέχεσθαι, καθάπερ τὸν Ἡρακλέα, καὶ τὸ σκυταληφορεῖν καὶ ἐπικεκαῦσθαι βουσί καὶ ἡμίονοις ῥόπαλον. βεβαιοῦνται δὲ τὸν μῦθον

<sup>1</sup> Νύσαν D.

<sup>2</sup> Συδράκας, C, Ὀξυδράκας Συδράκας, s, Ὀξυδράκας other MSS.

Lycurgus the Edonian as follows: "who once drove the nurses of frenzied Dionysus down over the sacred mount of Nysa."<sup>1</sup> So much for Dionysus. But, regarding Heracles, some tell the story that he went in the opposite direction only, as far as the extreme limits on the west, whereas others say that he went to both extreme limits.

8. From such stories, accordingly, writers have named a certain tribe of people "Nysaeans," and a city among them "Nysa," founded by Dionysus; and they have named a mountain above the city "Merus," alleging as the cause of the name the ivy that grows there, as also the vine, which latter does not reach maturity either; for on account of excessive rains the bunches of grapes fall off before they ripen; and they say that the Sydracae are descendants of Dionysus, judging from the vine in their country and from their costly processions, since the kings not only make their expeditions out of their country in Bacchic fashion, but also accompany all other processions with a beating of drums and with flowered robes, a custom which is also prevalent among the rest of the Indians. When Alexander, at one assault, took Aornus, a rock at the foot of which, near its sources, the Indus River flows, his exalters said that Heracles thrice attacked this rock and thrice was repulsed; and that the Sibae were descendants of those who shared with Heracles in the expedition, and that they retained badges of their descent, in that they wore skins like Heracles, carried clubs, and branded their cattle and mules with the mark of a club. And they further confirm this

<sup>1</sup> *Iliad* 6. 132.



τοῦτον καὶ ἐκ τῶν περὶ τὸν Καύκασον καὶ τὸν Προμηθέα· καὶ γὰρ ταῦτα μετενηνόχασιν ἐκ τοῦ Πόντου δεῦρο ἀπὸ μικρᾶς προφάσεως, ἰδόντες σπήλαιον ἐν τοῖς Παροπαμισάδαις ἱερόν· τοῦτο γὰρ ἐνεδείξαντο Προμηθέως δεσμωτήριον, καὶ δεῦρο ἀφικνόμενον τὸν Ἡρακλέα ἐπὶ τὴν ἐλευθέρωσιν τοῦ Προμηθέως, καὶ τοῦτον εἶναι τὸν Καύκασον, ὃν Ἕλληνες Προμηθέως δεσμωτήριον ἀπέφηναν.

9. Ὅτι δ' ἐστὶ πλάσματα ταῦτα τῶν κολακευόντων Ἀλέξανδρον, πρῶτον μὲν ἐκ τοῦ μὴ ὁμολογεῖν ἀλλήλοις τοὺς συγγραφέας δῆλον, ἀλλὰ τοὺς μὲν λέγειν, τοὺς δὲ μὴδ' ἀπλῶς μεμνησθαι· οὐ γὰρ εἰκός, τὰ οὕτως ἔνδοξα καὶ τύφου πλήρη μὴ πεπύσθαι, ἢ πεπύσθαι μὲν, μὴ ἄξια δὲ μνήμης ὑπολαβεῖν, καὶ ταῦτα τοὺς πιστοτάτους αὐτῶν ἔπειτα ἐκ τοῦ μὴδὲ τοὺς μεταξὺ, δι' ὧν ἐχρῆν τὴν ἐς Ἰνδοὺς ἀφίξιν γενέσθαι τοῖς περὶ τὸν Διόνυσον καὶ τὸν Ἡρακλέα, μὴδὲν ἔχειν τεκμήριον δεικνύναι τῆς ἐκείνων ὁδοῦ διὰ τῆς σφετέρας γῆς. καὶ ἢ τοῦ Ἡρακλέους δὲ στολὴ ἢ τοιαύτη πολὺ νεωτέρα τῆς Ἰρωικῆς μνήμης ἐστὶ, πλάσμα τῶν τὴν Ἡράκλειαν ποιησάντων, εἴτε Πείσανδρος ἦν, εἴτ' ἄλλος τις· τὰ δ' ἀρχαῖα ξόανα οὐχ οὕτω διεσκευάσται.

10. Ὡς ἐν τοῖς τοιούτοις οὖν ἀποδέχσθαι δεῖ πᾶν τὸ ἐγγυτάτω πίστεως. ἐποιησάμεθα δ' ἡμεῖς καὶ ἐν τοῖς πρώτοις λόγοις τοῖς περὶ γεωγραφίας δῖαιταν, ἣν δυνατὸν ἦν, περὶ τούτων· καὶ νῦν ἐκείνοις τε ἐξ ἐτοίμου χρῆσόμεθα, καὶ ἕτερα

<sup>1</sup> *Adventures of Heracles.*

myth by the stories of the Caucasus and Prometheus, for they have transferred all this thither on a slight pretext, I mean because they saw a sacred cave in the country of the Paropamisadae; for they set forth that this cave was the prison of Prometheus and that this was the place whither Heracles came to release Prometheus, and that this was the Caucasus the Greeks declared to be the prison of Prometheus.

9. But that these stories are fabrications of the flatterers of Alexander is obvious; first, not only from the fact that the historians do not agree with one another, and also because, while some relate them, others make no mention whatever of them; for it is unreasonable to believe that exploits so famous and full of romance were unknown to any historian, or, if known, that they were regarded as unworthy of recording, and that too by the most trustworthy of the historians; and, secondly, from the fact that not even the intervening peoples, through whose countries Dionysus and Heracles and their followers would have had to pass in order to reach India, can show any evidence that these made a journey through their country. Further, such accoutrement of Heracles is much later than the records of the Trojan War, being a fabrication of the authors of the *Heracleia*,<sup>1</sup> whether the author was Peisander or someone else. The ancient statues of Heracles are not thus accoutred.

10. So, in cases like these, one must accept everything that is nearest to credibility. I have already in my first discussion of the subject of geography<sup>2</sup> made decisions, as far as I could, about these matters. And now I shall unhesitatingly use those decisions

<sup>2</sup> 2. 1. 1 ff.

προσθήσομεν, ὅσων ἀν δεῖν δόξῃ πρὸς τὴν σαφή-  
 νειαν. μάλιστα δ' ἐκ<sup>1</sup> τῆς διαίτης ἐδόκει τῆς  
 τότε πιστότατα εἶναι τὰ ὑπὸ τοῦ Ἐρατοσθένους  
 ἐν τῷ τρίτῳ τῶν γεωγραφικῶν ἐκτεθέντα κεφα-  
 λαιωδῶς περὶ τῆς τότε νομιζομένης Ἰνδικῆς,  
 ἠνίκα Ἀλέξανδρος ἐπήλθε· καὶ ἦν ὁ Ἰνδὸς ὄριον  
 ταύτης τε καὶ τῆς Ἀριανῆς, ἣν ἐφεξῆς πρὸς τῇ  
 C 689 ἐσπέρα<sup>2</sup> κειμένην Πέρσαι κατεῖχον· ὕστερον γὰρ  
 δὴ καὶ τῆς Ἀριανῆς πολλὴν ἔσχον οἱ Ἴνδοι  
 λαβόντες παρὰ τῶν Μακεδόνων. ἔστι δὲ τοιαῦτα,  
 ἃ λέγει ὁ Ἐρατοσθένης.

11. Ἦν Ἰνδικὴν περιώρικεν ἀπὸ μὲν τῶν  
 ἄρκτων τοῦ Ταύρου τὰ ἔσχατα ἀπὸ τῆς Ἀριανῆς  
 μέχρι τῆς ἐώας θαλάττης, ἄπερ οἱ ἐπιχώριοι  
 κατὰ μέρος Παροπάμισόν τε καὶ Ἡμωδὸν καὶ  
 Ἰμαόν<sup>3</sup> καὶ ἄλλα ὀνομάζουσι, Μακεδόνες δὲ  
 Καύκασον· ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς ἐσπέρας ὁ Ἰνδὸς ποταμός·  
 τὸ δὲ νότιον καὶ τὸ προσεφόν πλευρόν, πολὺ  
 μείζω τῶν ἐτέρων ὄντα, προπέπτωκεν εἰς τὸ  
 Ἀτλαντικὸν πέλαγος, καὶ γίνεται ῥομβοειδὲς τὸ  
 τῆς χώρας σχῆμα, τῶν μειζόνων πλευρῶν ἑκα-  
 τέρου πλεονεκτοῦντος παρὰ τὸ ἀπεναντίον πλευ-  
 ρὸν καὶ τρισχιλίους σταδίους, ὅσων<sup>4</sup> ἐστὶ τὸ  
 κοινὸν ἄκρον τῆς τε ἐωθινῆς παραλίας καὶ τῆς  
 μεσημβρινῆς, ἕξω προπεπτωκὸς ἐξ ἴσης ἐφ' ἑκά-  
 τερον παρὰ τὴν ἄλλην ἡύονα. τῆς μὲν οὖν ἐσπε-  
 ρίου πλευρᾶς ἀπὸ τῶν Καυκασίων ὄρων ἐπὶ τὴν  
 νότιον θάλατταν στάδιοι μάλιστα λέγονται μύριοι

<sup>1</sup> δ' ἐκ, Corais, for ἐκ; so Meineke.

<sup>2</sup> ἐσπέρα F, ἐσπερία other MSS.

<sup>3</sup> Ἰμαόν, B, Māon CF, Māon Dhzz.

<sup>4</sup> ὅσων, F, ὅσον other MSS.

as accepted, and shall also add anything else that  
 seems required for the purpose of clearness. It was  
 particularly apparent from my former discussion  
 that the summary account set forth in the  
 third book of his geography by Eratosthenes of  
 what was in his time regarded as India, that is,  
 when Alexander invaded the country, is the most  
 trustworthy; and the Indus River was the boundary  
 between India and Ariana, which latter was situated  
 next to India on the west and was in the possession  
 of the Persians at that time; for later the Indians  
 also held much of Ariana, having received it from  
 the Macedonians. And the account given by  
 Eratosthenes is as follows:

11. India is bounded on the north, from Ariana  
 to the eastern sea, by the extremities<sup>1</sup> of the Taurus,  
 which by the natives are severally called "Paro-  
 pamisus" and "Emodus" and "Imäus" and other  
 names, but by the Macedonians "Caucasus"; on  
 the west by the Indus River; but the southern and  
 eastern sides, which are much greater than the  
 other two, extend out into the Atlantic sea, and  
 thus the shape of the country becomes rhomboidal,  
 each of the greater sides exceeding the opposite  
 side by as much as three thousand stadia, which  
 is the same number of stadia by which the cape<sup>2</sup>  
 common to the eastern and southern coast extends  
 equally farther out in either direction than the  
 rest of the shore. Now the length of the western  
 side from the Caucasian Mountains to the southern  
 sea is generally called thirteen thousand stadia,

<sup>1</sup> See 11. 8. 1 and footnote 3.

<sup>2</sup> i.e. Cape Comorin.