Matthew P. Canepa, “Rival Images of Iranian Kingship and Persian Identity in Post-Achaemenid Western Asia”

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- 1 In this article, royal identities in post-Achaemenid Asia are explored by focusing on the role that images and rituals of power did play in claiming the legacy of the Achaemenids. In spite of the paucity of evidence, the Author envisages new forms of royal power that engaged both Iranian and Macedonian cultures of kingship. In his opinion, documents are ample enough to infer the rise and pre-eminence of Parthian court culture in the Iranian world, and to postulate that the Arsacids did produce a new culture of Iranian kingship that challenged that of the Seleucids. This must be of course contextualized in a frame that di see different responses to the Persian and Macedonian royal legacies in the different regions of what was the Persian Empire. These 'alternative visions' of post-Achaemenid kingship could have become dominant and have rivalled those of the Arsacids, with sovereigns who presented powerful alternative visions of a new post-Achaemenid Iranian kingship.

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