# 5 Ancient Queens Who Changed History!

Explore the untold stories of powerful women who shaped the world!



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# Introduction



In this guide, you will learn about five queens whose stories are often overlooked but whose actions had lasting effects on our history!

# Hatshepsut

Role: Queen of Egypt or Pharoah of Egypt, 1507 BCE to 1458 BCE

She is one of the few women to rule as a pharaoh in ancient Egypt;
Hatshepsut reigned for over two decades., oversaw monumental building projects, and maintained peace and prosperity. Finally, she defied gender norms by adopting the title and regalia of a male pharaoh



#### **Amanirenas**

Role: Queen of Kush: 40 BCE -10 AD

Amanirenas was a fierce warrior queen who defended her kingdom against Roman incursions. After a successful campaign, she negotiated peace with Emperor Augustus on favorable terms for Kush. People remember her for her resilience, military leadership, and defiance of one of the ancient world's most powerful empires. She is one of two ancient queens who took on Rome and won!



#### Artemisia I

Role: Queen of Caria circa 5th Century BCE

Artemisia was a naval commander and, although of Greek descent, was an ally of King Xerxes of Persia during the Greco-Persian Wars. She fought at the Battle of Salamis, where her strategic skill impressed Xerxes despite Persia's defeat. Artemisia's tactical prowess and leadership challenged gender norms in the ancient world. She was one of the few people and only woman that Xerxes would listen to. She often gave him sound advice.



## **Tomyris**

Role: Queen of the Massagetae tribe, 6th century BCE

Tomyris was the queen of the Massagetae, a nomadic group in Central Asia. She is best known for leading her people to victory against the Persian emperor Cyrus the Great. Tomyris is said to have beheaded Cyrus, but this is only a legend, and there is no truth to this. Her triumph over Cyrus remains one of ancient history's most legendary stories of resistance.



#### Mavia

Role: Queen of the Tanukhid Arabs of Southern Syria

Mavia (Mawiyya) led her people, the Tanukhid Arabs, in a rebellion against the Roman Empire. She successfully defeated Roman forces and later negotiated peace by setting favorable terms, including appointing a Christian bishop of her choosing. She was the second ancient queen to win against Rome.



### Conclusion

These 5 ancient queens not only stood up to empires and defied gender roles, but they also either paved the way for others or continued the path that other ancient women created. The ancient world was a maledominated and patriarchal society, but women were leading and taking charge.



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Threads: @https://www.threads.net/@isletheologian

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#### **Additional Resources**

My podcast: BadAss Women of History:

**⊕ Bad Ass Women of History** 

**Vulgar History Podcast:** 

Wulgar History

Dr. Kara Cooney's podcast:

**Afterlives of Ancient Egypt with Kara Cooney** 

Kara Cooney (2015). The Woman Who Would Be King.

Smithsonian Magazine: 

The Queen Who Would Be King

World History Encyclopedia:

**@ Queen Hatshepsut: Daughter of Amun, Pharaoh of Egypt** 

Joshua J Mark @ 

Artemisia I of Caria

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