

IN THE ERA OF THE ANCIENT WORLD, THE METHODS OF RECRUITING ARMIES

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Annotation : *During the formation of the most ancient states (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Iran, China, India), the core of the army was permanent detachments created by representatives of the emerging nobility. During the war, a militia was created from peasants - community members. As the state strengthened, the number of permanent troops grew, and the role of the militia fell. In many countries of the Ancient East, there was a caste system, in which members of the warrior caste served for life, passing their profession from generation to generation.*

Keywords : *ancient states , Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Iran, China, India , militia recruiting system.*

Introduction : During the period of developed slavery in most countries of the ancient world, the militia recruiting system was initially used. Every male citizen of this state was liable for military service. The young men underwent thorough military training in special detachments and remained; liable for military service until old age, for the period of the war the state conscripted the required number of soldiers into the army.

It was a militia system in a society based on slavery. However, the stratification of ancient society into various social strata quickly reduced the number of free peasants and artisans, who, under the militia system, provided the bulk of the warriors. The army acquired a professional character, which was largely facilitated by frequent and lengthy wars.

The system of staffing the army with professional soldiers developed in Ancient Greece in the 4th century BC. BC e., and in ancient Rome - in the II century BC. e. The Roman army began to gradually recruit volunteers from the poorer strata, thus forming an army of professional soldiers instead of the former militia, which included all citizens.

At the stage of decomposition and decline of the era of slavery, mercenarism turned into the main system for recruiting troops.

Armament The quantity and quality of armament of the armies of the Ancient World was in direct proportion to the degree of development of production achieved. In the beginning, the means of struggle were made of stone, and then of bronze. Later, with the improvement of metal processing, which is most characteristic of the developed states of the Ancient World, means of struggle began to be made from iron.

For a long time, the main means of struggle was throwing weapons, namely: bows with arrows, spears, pilums , darts, which armed foot and horse warriors, crews of war elephants and war chariots. Arrows hit the enemy at a distance of 200 meters, darts and spears 60 meters, and pilums - a maximum of 12 meters.

In addition to personal weapons, there were also group weapons - throwing and ramming machines. Over time, along with throwing weapons, percussion weapons also began to be used. The latter was intended exclusively for short-range operations, both on land and on warships. Pikes, daggers, swords, axes, halberds were such striking weapons.

In addition to active means of struggle, the armies of the ancient world also had protective weapons: shields, helmets. Shields were made either from metal in combination with leather or only from metal.

Discussion: The availability of various weapons and the supply of all types of allowances at the expense of the soldiers' own funds created significant difficulties in the use of armies, especially during long wars and campaigns. This situation was further aggravated by underdeveloped production, which was not capable of producing the most diverse weapons in mass quantities.

Only during the transition to mercenary armies, when the production of means of combat was widely developed, and the armies were supplied at the expense of the states themselves, did it become possible to have comparatively the same type of weapons in service with small subunits and parts of many armies.

In connection with the increase in the number of various means of struggle, the improvement of their quality, and most importantly, with the growth of cities and productive forces in a number of states, the construction of fortifications, behind which troops could be sheltered, was widely developed. Embankments, ramparts, city walls, as well as special structures along the borders served as such fortifications. Sometimes these structures stretched for tens and hundreds of kilometers.

The Great Wall of China with all its branches was about 4,000 km long and had 23,000 towers for defense and 15,000 for guard service. The height of its walls reached 15-16 m, and the thickness at the base - 7-8 meters.

The appearance of fortifications required a wide production of new means of struggle for their destruction. For this purpose, catapults were made that threw stones or barrels of combustible material weighing 0.5 tons at a distance of up to 500 m, ballistas that threw arrows and small stones at a distance of up to 1000 m, as well as various types of towers and rams designed to destroy walls.

The organization of armies The organization of the troops of ancient states was directly dependent on the state of the productive forces, the political system, and also on the forms and methods of conducting combat operations.

The productive forces of society determined the quantity and quality of human contingents in peacetime. In conditions when the productive forces were poorly developed, when there were still no cities and handicraft production, and the armies had very primitive weapons, their organization was not complicated. So in most of the states of Greece, the army consisted of phalanxes, and in Rome of legions. In the countries of the East, it consisted of separate detachments (mostly mounted) of the kings and their vassals, as well as the people's militia (mainly on foot).

In ancient Egypt, for example, in the XIV-XIII centuries. BC e. foot and cavalry detachments were subordinate to the pharaohs and regional rulers (monarchs) and united for the duration of the war into one common army.

In Persia, where, along with the infantry, there were numerous cavalry, as well as crews of war elephants, the army in the VI-V centuries. BC e. was part of the royal detachments organized in each province (satrapy). During wars, all detachments were united into larger ones, of which, for example, King Darius-I had five.

In China, the number of troops was much larger, and it was already in the X-VIII centuries. BC e. It was divided into foot and less often cavalry units and crews of war chariots. Such detachments were, for example, "liang" - 25 people; "ju" - 100 people; "si" - 2500 people, etc.

Solution : Despite the presence in the early slave states of many detachments, retinues and others, they did not have an administrative and tactical division. Only with the development of production, the growth of various weapons and the complication of armed struggle, the armies, organized in the form of phalanxes and legions and manned in the form of a slave-owning militia or mercenary armies, acquired an administrative, and then a tactical division.

Phalanxes and legions were not the same. In Greece, for example, the most cumbersome was the Macedonian phalanx, numbering up to 16-18 thousand foot and horse soldiers. The phalanx had an administrative division. The lowest unit was the "loch" - one person along the front and 16 people in depth. The following units consisted of 2, 4, 8 and 16 suckers. A column of 16 people along the front and 16 people in depth (256 people) was called a syntagma and was the smallest combat unit; 16 syntagmas made up a small phalanx, 4 small phalanges formed a large phalanx. The phalanx had neither support nor a reserve, but it had a huge strike force. The Roman legion, numbering 4200 foot and 300 cavalry soldiers, already had not only an administrative, but also a tactical division. It consisted of 30 maniples of 60-120 men and 10 turmas of 30 horsemen, armed with various throwing and percussion weapons. In addition, there were lightly armed warriors (velites) in the Roman legion, there were 1200 of them, intended to start the battle. The maniple consisted of 120 heavily armed legionnaires (12 people along the front and 10 people in depth). The first line of maniples were young warriors (hastati), the second line of maniples were experienced warriors (principles). The third line of maniples, which included warriors - veterans (triarrii), consisted of 60 people. The maniples were divided into two centuries. The commander of the first century was the commander of the maniple. The intervals between the maniples were equal to its length along the front. This organization of the Roman legionnaires partially provided the ability to maneuver on rough terrain and operate on the battlefield with individual maniples and turmas. In turn, this method of conducting hostilities quickly affected the further improvement of the organization of the Roman legions. In the 1st century BC e. they began to divide not only into maniples, but also into cohorts. In total, there were 10 cohorts in the legion, in each cohort - 3 maniples. The legion's order of battle now consisted of three lines of cohorts. There are 4 cohorts in the first line, 3 cohorts in the second and third lines. The second line was in fact the line of support, the third line of the legion was the general reserve, which was used for a decisive maneuver against



the front or flank of the enemy, or to repel his blow. The legion's order of battle became more stable.

USED MATERIALS :

A History of Ancient Rome by Mary Beard,
The Histories by Herodotus,
The Last Years of the Roman Republic by Rubicos