

KALINGA - 261 BC



"Bindusara was fortunate in having in his sons, especially Ashoka ('Free of Sorrow'), 'Proconsuls of exceptional ability' who did much to curb the rebellious princedom and clans in outlying provinces. With their help it was not difficult to maintain the empire inherited from his father, Chandragupta, and even to extend its boundaries.

Chandragupta and Chanakya had been hostile to non-monarchical states. Many such states, quasi-democratic oligarchies as well as republics, had been weakened by the wars with Alexander, and that weakness made possible the eventual hegemony of the Mauryan Empire. Thus, the Mauryans had always kept a wary eye on Kalinga. A large and fiercely independent *sagha* (republic), Kalinga had been originally conquered by Ugrasena Nanda, but regained its independence during the rule of Sahalya and remained so until the reign of Ashoka Maurya.

After the battle Ashoka ascended the nearby hillocks to survey the field he had won; in the twilight he saw heaps of

Mauryan Army (Use Eastern blocks)

- Take 6 Command cards.
- Move first.

Leader: Satkarni

- Take 4 Command cards.

9 Banners.

See "Great Battle of the Mauryan Empire" general rules.

dismembered bodies of soldiers and animals, heard the cries of wounded, and witnessed the anguish of women searching the dead for their husbands and sons. As the story is told, the slaughter filled Ashoka with such anguish he changed from Chandashoka ('Ashoka the Terrible') to Dharmashoka ('Ashoka the Pious'). He became a Buddhist.

The Mauryan empire collapsed within 50 years of Ashoka's death. After its collapse, Kalinga briefly enjoyed its own small empire in Southern India.

The names of Kalingan leaders have been lost; names here are taken from prominent Kalingan dynasties that struggled for power when the Mauryan yoke was thrown off a generation later. Names for Ashoka's subordinates are taken from various sources associated with Ashoka's regime. Since Chanakya is probably retired by now (that rebellion in Takshashila cannot have helped his political career), he is replaced as Ashoka's second-in-command by Subandhu, who is said to have been Chanakya's political rival."

(From the GBOH Chandragupta module by Stephen R. Welch).

Designed by: Jim Duncan (jim43duncan@gmail.com)