

The First Book of Maccabees

This book tells of the Jewish struggle for religious and political independence against the Seleucid kings.

The Seleucid Empire (312 – 63 BC) was a Hellenistic empire, i.e. a successor state of Alexander the Great's empire.

The Seleucid Empire was centered in the near East and at the height of its power included central Anatolia, the Levant, Mesopotamia, Persia, today's Turkmenistan, Pamir and parts of Pakistan.

It was a major centre of Hellenistic culture which maintained the preeminence of Greek customs and where a Greek-speaking Macedonian élite dominated, mostly in the urban areas. ([Wikipedia](#))