

to conquer more territory and to extend his arms until finally you have the kings of Assyria extending their arms clear to the west as far as the Mediterranean Sea. The first great Assyrian king whose army went as far as that, that is, after the beginning of the first millennium B. C., is a man named Ashur-Nasirpas, the king who reigned from 884 to 860. He is very important from a historical viewpoint because of the fact that he seems to have been the first to establish rightfulness as a definite instrument of policy. Previous kings of Assyria often were very cruel and they mention their cruelty and we find kings in every nation that have engaged in war, at times being very cruel, but Ashur-Nasirpas went out of his way to try to make people know how cruel he was. He seems to have thought that after he had conquered an area if he would make the people terrifically frightened of him they would be less apt to revolt and he could hold them more permanently--not very good psychology, I don't believe. It may hold people somewhat longer than otherwise but it keeps alive the spirit of rebellion and makes it more difficult to hold them to him. Ashur-Nasirpas, when he conquered a city, might treat the people fairly well. He would take off the leaders as prisoners and he would do a certain amount of cruelty to them, but in general it was not much worse than other nations, but after he had conquered a city, then if that city revolted and he reconquered it there was no limit to the cruelty which he showed, and he boasts of it in his inscriptions. He tells, for instance, of conquering one city and he says, "The people of the city are mar                    out; I took the men and hundreds of them I slayed alive; others I stuck up on spears around the city; others of them, I cut off their heads and made great                    , and he described all these terrible things which he did in the inscriptions which he posted, evidently with the definite purpose of scaring the other people of the empire into thinking what terrible things would happen if they revolted against him and so/brutality as a definite instrument of policy was put forward by Ashur-Nasirpas. He doesn't say that he originated it but he is the first