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The Great Greek Expansion

Alexander the Great, one of history's greatest figures in military tactics and strategist, was responsible for the expansion of the Macedonian Empire. Born in Pella, capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia in 356 BCE. He ruled one of the greatest empires in history conquering the eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, Egypt and parts of Asia for thirteen years until his death in 323 BCE. A factor that promulgated the Macedonians' expansion to fame over other famous historical rulers was the amount of time that it took to gain control over these lands in the span of his thirteen-year reign. Among the great historical leaders Alexander the Great may have been the best leader in history to have ever lived. His death was unfortunately unknown but many speculations were made due to the nature of his young age. Dying at 32, scholars have presumed that he was assassinated or poisoned by his rivals. While others have considered a more natural means of death such as an illness like malaria or typhoid fever. Whatever caused his mysterious death, is still widely debated among modern scholars.

CHARACTER

He wasn't reckoned to be the most compassionate leader in his time. In fact, quite the opposite; he was tyrannical, egotistical, and ruthless towards people which could have led to scholars

suggesting that he could have been assassinated by his own generals. Alexander deemed himself to be a god among the people and would've have demand that they must prostrate before him. Not only to enemies but his own men as well. Soon after, his death confirmed he was not a god but a mere man with incredible skill amongst fellow Greeks. According to scholar Seán Hemingway(an archaeologist and a curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York with a Ph. D. in classical art and archaeology), says that Alexander, by the age of twenty was already a charismatic and a decisive leader, receiving the finest treatment and education from another famous figure in philosophy Aristotle. Numerous archeological discoveries that pertained to Alexanders existence were found. Inscriptions and recorded texts, dedicated and referenced to the legacy of Alexander emerged during the 19th century at the Temple of Athena PoliasSpencer.

ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Spencer McDaniel (an aspiring scholar of ancient Greek cultural and social history) has provided records (link below) of the Alexander which were written by various Greek and Roman scholars . These are some of the few that have been found, the *Universal History* written by the Greek historian Diodoros Sikeliotes (lived c. 90 – c. 30 BC) is one source which is considered by modern historians to be most extensively preserved. *The Histories of Alexander the Great*, written by the Roman historian Quintus Curtius Rufus (fl. c. first century AD) is another. These detailed accounts proves not only the existence of the great leader but the accounts of his journey, embarked in the pursuit of universal conquest. Other inscription tablets dating back to 332 BCE in various locations around Egypt and Babylon have also been found. One of them in the city of Priene commemorating Alexanders dedication to the “Temple of Athena Polias” is

currently being held at the British Museum and it written “King Alexander dedicated [this temple] to Athena Polias.” Another source was from Egyptian hieroglyphics with depiction of Alexander addressing a god from the Luxor Temple. Spencer Mc Daniel has also raised questions demanding skeptics (who denied the existence of such a person) an explanation for why coins were minted with his face and name on them and even after his death if he didn’t exist. Even the Sarcophagus of Alexander ’s which was discovered in Sidon dating back to the 4th century had been well preserved with images of his battles carved out on the marble stone. Next we have the Babylonian tablets some of which were contemporary to Alexanders time. With its inscriptions written in the ancient texts known as cuneiform, the texts has recored several years of Alexanders reign before his death. This tablet was known as “The Chronicles Concerning Alexander and Arabia”. Why this is so significant? Because it is an account from foreign nations who are non indigenious to Macedonia who attests to the visitation of Alexander. The Babylonians know they met with Alexander the Great and recorded presence in their country. One of these tablets hold a written account of his great victory in Guagamela. These are all irrefutable sources we have collected over the years proving that Alexander the Great really did exists at a certain point in time. Spencer Mc Daniels has provided all the sources presented above.

CONCLUSION

Alexander the Great was certainly not a fictional historical figure. He was a real man with tremendous history and success that has shaped the world significantly in antiquity. It easy to render any historical event, character, culture, and system as a folklore but when evidence emerges supporting the details of events its hard to deny its existence. Alexander the Greats life

was not only well documented and preserved but his existence has been verified through artifacts from antiquity that is not exclusive to Macedonia but of Egypt, Middle Eastern, and also part of Asia. He was a real man, one of histories greatest rulers of all time and a prominent figure in militaries achievements.

- Hemingway, Colette, and Seán Hemingway. “The Rise of Macedonia and the Conquests of Alexander the Great.” In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000 (–. http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/alex/hd_alex.htm (October 2004)
- Spencer D Mcdaniels. <https://talesoftimesforgotten.com/2019/06/14/what-evidence-is-there-for-the-existence-of-alexander-the-great-quite-a-lot/#:~:text=Another%20piece%20of%20archaeological%20evidence,of%20Alexander%20the%20Great's%20lifetime.>
- *Universal History* written by the Greek historian Diodoros Sikeliotes (lived c. 90 – c. 30 BC) (http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/roman/texts/diodorus_siculus/17a*.htmlhttp://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/roman/texts/diodorus_siculus/17a*.html)