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## Discussion Post

Alexander the Great won battle after battle and has helped carved out one of the biggest Empires ever known. There were two great democracies which was Athens and Sparta. Athens was known for its philosophy and art. Sparta was best known for its militaristic society and famed because of its unstoppable army. Both of these democracies joined forces to conquer the Persian Empire, 300 Spartans fought against the Persians for three days and then in Salamis the Greek Navy defeated the Persian ships. More battles continued to be fought, but not only did the Greeks fight against the Persians but they fought against their allies and city states for almost a decade. Greece was soon united by a ruler named Phillip II in Macedonia and their army conquered most of its neighbors because it was formidable. Phillip's kingdom was going to invade Persia, but he was assassinated and that's where Alexander comes in because he is the son of Phillip, and he was going to inherit his father's plans and rule but first he had to become king. He killed potential rivals and killed anyone who objected or anyone who would get in the way. The most intense fight that almost killed him was in Granicus, Alexander was ambushed, and the two Persians even took off a piece of his helmet, but he survived, and all of the Persian mercenaries were cornered and massacred. Alexander's Macedonian army claimed victory that day. Even though they had won Asia Minor and the Persian Empire were already conspiring on how to defeat Alexander's army. Even though the Persian Army lost that day they are still a wealthy and powerful nation that isn't giving up without a fight. There was a Greek General that was helping the Persians invade Rome and they had a plan to try and defeat them, but because he fell ill and died the plan of attack that was supposed to be continued to be led in the Aegean and kept on the islands of Lesbos and Chios. Eighteen months have passed after Alexander and his army have passed through the Hellespont and invaded Persia. They went into Cecilia, and they soon entered into Syria and as they entered the Persian army came from the North led by King Darius the III. The Persian army planned on trapping and destroying Greek army that invaded their land and Alexander's army had no choice but to fight because of the position that they were put into. The Persians used the environment to their advantage, they used their surroundings to

their advantage by the location blocking the Greeks from escaping through the only exit, and the Persian army was also large in numbers.

Alexander had the finest warriors and there were a total 100,000 troops and each row had a specific weapon and specific fighting tactic in the war. The Persian army was so intensely strong, and the battle turned into a massacre the Persian king fled away into his chariot instead of facing Alexander. Some of Alexander's troops were struggling against the stronger parts of the Persian troops and it was the left side of the wing. If the Persians defeated the left wing, they could have enveloped Alexander's army and they could have had victory. However, Parmenion and his troops fought hard and held them off, the rest of the army started to flee. There were so many dead Persian soldiers that the Greeks used the bodies to cover a ravine so that they could cross over it. That day the Greeks won the battle of Issus. Next, Alexander sought to conquer the western parts of the Persian Empire. The coastal cities of Phoenicia surrendered to Alexander but the island and that ended their naval power. The island of Tyre resisted and they fought well but their walls fell, and they were conquered. Egypt also surrendered to Alexander, and they surrendered their prophets and their treasures. They even made him Pharaoh and as we went up to the Nile, he founded a new city called Alexandria. Despite the victories the Greeks back home thought that he was a tyrant and with Persian support they were planning a revolt against Macedonia. So many were trying rebel and the Spartan army fought against Macedonia and the Spartans lost and then Alexander went to find King Darius to rule over all the Empire. Alexander wanted to take it all and rule all of the world. As Alexander kept conquering and also trying to capture the king, the king was murdered by one of his governors and made himself the new Emperor. Alexander ordered for Darius to be buried with his ancestors and appointed some people to rule parts of the Empire that were conquered so that Alexander could continue to head East. After many battles, many victories, and many losses of close friends. Alexander was known to have impacted so much of what we call history today, he has had so many historical and memorable battles. He has changed so much culture he has brought his own culture, he has brought so much art, and knowledge that we admire and that is extraordinary. Imagine if he didn't survive the first war, we probably wouldn't know all that much of the Greek culture, art, or science that we know today.