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World Civilization

Alexander the Great

The rising hostility between Athens and Sparta during the golden age of classical Greece resulted in war that plunged Greece into decades of devastating fighting. For centuries educated Greeks viewed the kingdom of Macedonia as a backwater but under King Philip, Macedonia emerged as a formidable military force. When king Philip was assassinated, his twenty year old son Alexander Williamsan became his successor, and inherited his father's plan to invade Persia. Alexander was a brilliant, restless experienced military commander who assassinated his rivals and conquered the Greek states and maintained his kingdom. Alexander defeated rebellions in Elyria specially in central Greece where he made a special example of Thebes by completely destroying the ancient city and selling its people into slavery.

In the spring of 334 BC was ready to launch his war against the Persian empire into Asia Minor in one of the greatest military campaigns in history. Alexander won two great battles against the Persians, in 334 BC he defeated a Persian army at the Granicus River and won The Battle of Issus in 333 BC. It was such a massacre that one of Macedonia's commanders told Alexander that there were so many dead bodies that they were used to fill the deep ravine to cross over it. Among the spoils of that victory was King Dairus's wife, mother and three children taken but not harmed. At Memphis, the ancient priests welcomed Alexander as their Persian rule liberator, and crowned him Pharaoh.

Dispite victories over the Persians, many Greeks regarded Alexander is a tyrant and in 331 BC Alexander returned east to Tyre upon hearing that King Agis of Sparta had Persian support to launch a revolt against Macedonia. The Spartan Army was crushed and

Alexander moved towards the Persian heartlands to defeat King Darius.

He received a letter from the Persian king offering him a fortune in gold, his daughter in marriage and half his empire in exchange for peace, Alexander rejected the offer.

The Battle of Gaugamela was a complete and total victory for Alexander, and the turn in culture with the spreading of Hellenistic culture.

The fighting against Bactrian and Sogdian, frustrated Alexander and his troops were unhappy. Alexander's conquests seemed without end, and the soldiers hadn't been home in years, and worse Alexander adopted the customs of Persia. At Susa, Alexander arranged a mass marriage of Macedonian officers to a Persian woman to strengthen bonds between the two kingdoms. And married a Persian woman as well. Alexander the Great died undefeated and left no instruction for his successors, and his generals started fighting among themselves.