

HIS 113

Week 5

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1. Writing Assignment /Alternate History

If Alexander the Great had died in his first battle, the Age of Empires would have changed dramatically. The Hellenistic World, founded on Alexander's conquests, would not have existed. Instead, the Persian Empire would have remained the most potent force in the region. The Hellenistic age was fundamental in shaping and developing art, science, government, and language. "When Rome conquered Greece, many Roman elites, admirers of Greek learning and culture, took educated Greeks as slaves to tutor their children, while Roman sculptors copied Greek Models" (160).

Without Alexander's conquests, the successor states in India and Rome would not have been able to expand their empires in the same way. The Maurya Empire would not have become the powerful force it was, and Rome would not have become the dominant superpower of the Mediterranean and Europe. "It is possible to see India's Mauryan Empire as an Alexandrian successor state, though one created beyond the bounds of Alexander's own empire." (139).

Without Alexander's conquests, the trade and cultural exchange between East and West would also have been drastically reduced. The spread of Hellenistic culture and ideas would not have taken place, and the cultural and religious mosaic of the region would have been quite different. Without Alexander's conquests, the political landscape of the region would have been much different. The rival nations of the region would have been far less likely to cooperate or come together in alliances, leading to a much more fractured and conflict-prone region. The Age of Empires would have been a much different place had Alexander the Great died in his first

battle. Without his conquests, the region's political, economic, and cultural landscape would have been drastically different.

Reference

Morillo, Stephen. *Frameworks of World History, Volume One: To 1550* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

2. Film & Discussion: Alexander the Great

In the film *Alexander the Great*, the life of Alexander is documented from his birth to his death. Alexander was born to King Philip II of Macedonia and was groomed from an early age to become a great ruler. As a young man, he led an army of Macedonian forces in a series of battles, including the Battle of Granicus, the Siege of Tyre, the Battle of Issus, and the Battle of Gaugamela. The Battle of River Granicus was the first major battle of Alexander the Great's campaign. He led his Macedonian forces against a Persian army. The Macedonians emerged victorious. The Battle of Issus was fought against the Persian forces led by Darius III. The Macedonian forces, led by Alexander, were victorious, and Darius was forced to flee. The Battle of Gaugamela was the last major battle of Alexander's campaign. After a long and hard-fought battle, the Macedonian forces overwhelm Darius's army, and Alexander personally kills Bessus, the satrap of Bactria. Darius is once again defeated, and Alexander secures control of the Persian Empire (Epic History TV, 2017). Alexander's victories allowed him to expand his empire, reaching as far as India. His conquests were accompanied by a sense of justice and fairness as he sought to spread Greek culture and ideas throughout the world.

Alexander's story is an example of how a single man, driven by ambition and a sense of justice, can make a lasting impact on the world. After his death in 323 BC, Alexander's kingdom

was divided among his generals, and his influence diminished in the years that followed. While his empire did not survive, Alexander's legacy inspired future generations of rulers and the Hellenistic Age of Ancient Greece.

Reference

Epic History TV. (2017). Alexander the Great (All Parts): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7lb6KWBanI>