

500 BC marked the point of development for Ancient Greece in art, philosophy, and warfare. Greece comprised two city-states, one being Athens, known for its naval power, art, drama, and philosophy. The other was Sparta, militaristic and known for its strong army. As Athens and Sparta joined forces, they faced the Persian Empire in many battles, some won, and others lost. Time after the Greeks beat the Persians in battle at Plataea, the Greeks lived in what was called the golden age, but tensions soon began to arise between Athens and Sparta and their allies. These tensions eventually led to war creating years of destruction and brawl. Greece, later losing its battle against Macedonia, fell into the command of King Philip II. Following his assassination, King Philip was succeeded by his son Alexander who was considered brilliant, restless, and experienced.

Like his father, Alexander planned to invade the Persian Empire. By 334 BC, after establishing himself as king to the people and invading smaller neighboring areas, he launches his war against the Persian Empire. The first encounter between both empires in battle was at River Granicus. As impulsive but strategic as Alexander was, he began the battle by not listening to others' advice of waiting to cross the river and attack the Persians and won. Although he emerged victorious, the Persians were still immensely wealthy and powerful. Alexander's attempts to take over the Persian Empire continued with the Battle of Issus, another victory for Alexander. In his journey, he was crowned Pharaoh, founded the city of Alexandria, and was called the king of the gods. Considering his arrogance, many Greeks believed him a tyrant, but he immediately resolved the problem, as his goal was to rule the world, not necessarily control the people. In the final battle against the Persians, one of the bloodiest yet, Alexander came out victorious, and became righteous ruler of the Persian Empire, going down as Alexander the Great, creating one of the largest empires known to man.