Chermalyn Luganob
Student ID No.118196

Dropbox 5 – Alexander The Great

Alexander the Great (All Parts) In 334 BC, Alexander, King of Macedonia, began one of the greatest military campaigns in history against the superpower of the age the Persian Empire. Just 20 years-old, his brilliant and fearless leadership won him battle after battle. And in an astonishing 10 year campaign that took him to the edge of the known world, he carved out one of the largest empires ever known. Few men have had such a massive impact on the course of history. To the Persians, he was Alexander the Accursed, but to the west, he was immortalized... as Alexander the Great. Ancient Greece. From around 500 BC, this rugged land was the scene of remarkable developments in art, philosophy, and warfare. Its two greatest city-states were Athens, a naval power, where democracy, art, drama and philosophy flourished; and Sparta, an austere, militaristic society, famed for its formidable army. In 480 BC, these two city-states had joined forces to fight an invasion by the mighty Persian Empire. At the narrow pass of Thermopylae, a small Greek force, led by 300 Spartans, held up the enormous Persian army for three days, before they were finally encircled and killed. Then, in the straits of Salamis, the Greek fleet defeated the Persian navy... But they couldn't prevent the Persians burning the sacred temples of the Athenian acropolis. The next year, at Plataea, the Greeks won a decisive land battle against the Persians, and forced them to abandon their invasion. The next fifty years were the golden age of classical Greece. But rising tension between Athens and Sparta, and their allies, eventually led to war, dragging the Greek world into decades of destructive fighting. Wars between the Greek city-states continued for almost a century, leaving them exhausted... and vulnerable to a new, rising power to the north... For centuries, sophisticated Greeks had viewed the mountainous kingdom of Macedonia as a backwater, Hicksville - barely Greek at all. In the spring of 334 BC, now ready to launch his war against the Persian Empire, Alexander led his army across the Hellespont into Asia Minor. It was the start of one of the greatest military campaigns in history. The Macedonian Army Alexander's army was about 40,000 strong, drawn from all parts of Greece. The infantry were commanded by the veteran Macedonian general Parmenion. In the front rank, 9,000 Macedonian phalangites, armed with the 18-foot sarissa. These were professional soldiers, well-trained and drilled, who formed up for battle in the phalanx, 16 ranks deep. This packed formation presented a solid wall of iron spear-tips, and was virtually unstoppable. But it was also difficult to maneuver, and highly vulnerable to attacks on its flanks or rear.

The Battle of Issus was a stunning victory for Alexander. And amongst the spoils of victory, were Darius's wife, mother, and three children, all taken

alive, and well treated by Alexander. With the Persian field army in retreat, Alexander now turned to subduing the western territories of the Persian empire. The next year, 332, the coastal cities of Phoenicia submitted to Alexander - ending Persian naval power in the Mediterranean. But the island-city of Tyre resisted. Tyre's defenders fought bravely and skilfully – even when Alexander began building a causeway to the island, protected by two giant siege towers... which they counter-attacked with fire ships. But after seven months, the city walls were breached, and Tyre fell. Most of its citizens were killed or enslaved. Gaza too was taken by siege. Alexander continued to Pelusium, on the Nile Delta, where the Persian governor of Egypt surrendered the entire province to Alexander, along with the royal treasury. Alexander appointed viceroys to rule the provinces on his behalf, keeping several Persians - who had sworn loyalty - in their posts. Then he resumed his march east. His goal: to find and kill the usurper Bessus... subjugate the empire's eastern provinces... and reach the far edge of the world... In 330 BC, Alexander continued his march east. His goal: to find and kill Bessus - a Persian usurper, claiming to be the rightful king – and to subjugate the empire's eastern provinces... Alexander headed first for Aria, today part of Afghanistan, where the Persian governor Satibarzanes had launched a revolt – after initially pretending to submit to Alexander. The rebellion was crushed, and Satibarzanes killed in single combat by a Greek cavalry officer. Nearby, Alexander founded the city of Alexandria Ariana, modern Herat – one of around a dozen cities that Alexander would eventually found, almost all bearing his name. Alexander marched on to Phrada. The Macedonian court had a long tradition of plots and assassination.

In Bactria, another plot to assassinate Alexander was uncovered. This time the ringleader was a royal page – one of the sons of Macedonian nobility who attended the king. Hermolaus had become murderously bitter towards Alexander over a perceived injustice. He and his accomplices were tortured, and then stoned to death. Callisthenes, Alexander's official historian, was also implicated in the conspiracy. He was thrown in prison, where he later died. That summer, in 327 - according to legend - Alexander became captivated by the beauty of Roxana, daughter of a Bactrian lord. Their marriage was also a sound political move, helping to end local revolt against his rule and allowing him to continue his advance... into modern Pakistan, and India. To the Edge of the World Alexander now prepared to subdue the Persian Empire's most eastern provinces, which had yet to recognize his kingship. At Susa, he arranged a magnificent mass-marriage of Macedonian officers to 80 Persian noblewomen, to strengthen bonds between his two kingdoms. Alexander himself married two Persian princesses. He also paid all his soldiers debts and ordered 30,000 youths from across the empire to be trained in the Macedonian art of war. But at Opis, his Macedonian troops mutinied. They were offended by Alexander's apparent preference for Persian advisors and Persian ways. Alexander had the ringleaders executed, and made a speech to the men, reminding them of the glories they'd won together, and leading eventually to an emotional reconciliation. At

Ecbatana, Alexander's closest and most trusted friend, Hephaestion, died of fever. The king was grief stricken, went days without eating, and ordered a period of public mourning across the empire. Alexander waged a successful campaign against the mountain raiders of Cossaea, who not even the Persian kings had been able to subdue. Returning to Babylon, he was met by embassies from distant peoples, come to recognise his greatness – Aethiopians, Libyans, European Scythians, Lucanians, Etruscans, Gauls and Iberians. Alexander's Bactrian wife Roxana was now pregnant... But as he planned his next campaign, to Arabia and beyond, he developed a sudden fever, and died days later, aged just 32. The cause of Alexander's death has never been established. It may have been malaria, cholera, typhus... or poison. Alexander died undefeated in battle. His reputation as a brilliant, fearless and daring military commander remains undimmed. His decade long campaign created one of the largest empires ever known, stretching from Greece to Pakistan. But it was vast and unstable, held together only by his own brilliance and name. Alexander left no plans for his succession, and his generals soon began fighting among themselves to carve out their own empires. In the Wars of the Successors, Alexander's widow Roxana and his young son were murdered. His own gold sarcophagus, en route to Macedonia for burial was hijacked, and ended up in Alexandria, in Egypt. Today, it's location remains one of the world's great unsolved mysteries. Few men have ever had such an impact on the course of history as Alexander the Great. The breath-taking achievements of his short life ushered in the Hellenistic Age, as Greek ideas spread across the territory of his former empire, fusing with local traditions to trigger new developments in art, science, government and language. Some of the successor kingdoms to his great empire were short-lived – others endured for centuries... but all, in turn, would fall to new forces... and in the west, to the rising power of Rome.