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World Civ. 1

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<center>What If?</center>

If Alexander the Great had died in his first battle and never went on to conquer Persia and <u>establish</u> the Hellenistic world, the Age of Empires would have looked quite different. Alexander's conquests not only shaped the political and cultural landscape of the ancient world but also influenced the development of future empires, including Rome.

One of the most significant changes that would have occurred if Alexander had not succeeded in his conquests would be the continuation of the Persian Empire. The Persian Empire was one of the largest and most powerful empires of the ancient world, and it would have continued to exert its influence over the surrounding regions if Alexander had not conquered it. This idea would have likely meant that the political and cultural developments of the ancient world would have been very different, with the Persians continuing to play a dominant role in the region.

Another significant change would have been the absence of the Hellenistic world. The Hellenistic world was fixed immense cultural and intellectual growth

that emerged as a result of Alexander's conquests. The blending of Greek and eastern cultures, facilitated by Alexander's conquests, led to a flourishing of art, philosophy, and science. This period also saw the spread of Greek culture and language throughout the eastern Mediterranean and beyond. If Alexander had not conquered Persia and established the Hellenistic world, it is unlikely that these cultural and intellectual developments would have occurred in the same way. Furthermore, the spread of Hellenistic culture and ideas had a profound impact on the Roman Empire, which would not have occurred if Alexander had not succeeded in his conquests. The Romans were heavily influenced by Greek culture, adopting many of its artistic and intellectual traditions. The Hellenistic world also played a significant role in the development of Christianity, which emerged in the eastern Mediterranean during this period.

If Alexander the Great had died in his first battle and never went on to conquer Persia and set up the Hellenistic world, the ancient world would have looked vastly different. The continuation of the Persian Empire, the absence of the Hellenistic world, and the lack of influence on future empires such as Rome would have fundamentally altered the course of history. However, it is important to note that history is shaped by a multitude of factors, and it is impossible to predict how events would have unfolded if one individual had not succeeded in their conquests