



ALEXANDER OF MACEDON

THE CONQUEST OF PERSIA

THEBAN HEGEMONY

- 370 BC, Thebes attacked Sparta
 - Freed the Helots
 - Destroyed Sparta's power
 - Thebes became the HEGEMONIC power
 - Athens and Sparta attack Thebes
- turmoil, disunity
→ POWER VACUUM

Aristotle: "*Horror vacui*":
"Nature abhors a vacuum"

MACEDON

- Greek speakers
- Kingdom not a city-state
 - Multiple urban areas
 - Tribes remained important
- BUFFER ZONE for rest of Greece
 - Had to fight of “barbarian” tribes of Europe
 - Greeks of the poleis thought them barbarian too

5th century Macedon

- Expansion
- “ATTICIZATION”
- Fluctuating power
 - MONARCHY
 - Hereditary
 - Army had to approve: weaklings rejected
 - Absolutist
 - Aristocracy



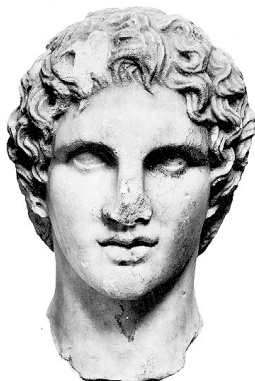
PHILIP OF MACEDON

- Reigned 359–336 BC
- 338 BC – controlled all Greece but Sparta
- Began CONSOLIDATION
 - Garrisons throughout Greece
 - “Federal League of Corinth”
- 337 BC announced invasion of Persia
- 336 BC Philip assassinated





ALEXANDER II



- Born 356 BC
 - he was 20 when Philip died
 - Army declared him king over his half-brother
- Philip taught him military strategy
- Aristotle was his tutor

THE THEBAN REBELLION

- Suppressed Theban Rebellion
 - Killed 6,000 Thebans
 - Captured 30,000 and sold them into slavery
 - Loses only 500 Macedonian troops
 - Destroyed the city
 - Distributed land to neighbors
- Fear not loyalty kept Greeks in line

“Your ancestors invaded Macedonia and Greece and caused havoc in our country, though we had done nothing to provoke them. As supreme commander of all Greece I invaded Asia because I wished to punish Persia for this act. . . .”



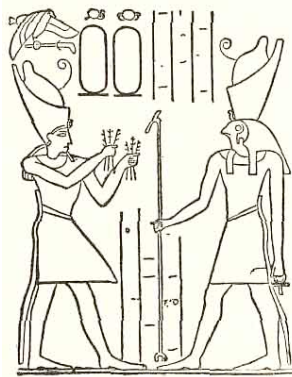
THE PERSIAN INVASION

- 334 BC, Alexander invaded ASIA MINOR
 - 30, 000 infantry
 - 5, 000 cavalry
 - No navy
 - No money
 - One month of supplies
- Simple (if risky) strategy:
 - Rapid advance on easy targets ⇒ supplies
 - Control ports ⇒ neutered Persian navy
 - Attack the Persian core ⇒ shocked Persian army



THE CONQUEST OF EGYPT

- After winning at **ISSUS** ⇒
- South through the Levant, via Jerusalem to Egypt
- Founds **ALEXANDRIA** in Egypt
- Declared a God
- Moves North to **TYRE**



THE PERSIAN COLLAPSE

- 331 BC: Darius offers a truce
 - Darius: east of the Euphrates
 - Alexander: west of the Euphrates
- Alexander crosses into Mesopotamia
 - Battle of **GAUGAMELA**
- 330 BC: Enters **BABYLON**
 - Persian nobles murder **DARIUS**

EAST AND BACK

- 330 BC East through Scythia
 - Reached India
- 327 BC: turned around
- 324 BC finally reached Babylon
 - settled down to run Empire
 - lots of plans to consolidate
- 323 BC Alexander dies
 - Aged 33
 - No HEIR!

POLITICAL RESULTS

- Empire itself DID NOT LAST
- His generals divided the empire into warring factions:
 - Ptolomy in Egypt ⇒ Ptolomid Dynasty
 - Seleucus in Persia ⇒ Seleucid Empire
 - Antigonius in Greece ⇒ Antigonid Dynasty
- The most important effect was CULTURAL



ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE

- Alexander →
 - showed religious, cultural, linguistic tolerance and even RESPECT
 - included other nationals in the governing and military classes
- conquests spread Greek culture but didn't he impose it
- Cultural SYNCHRETISM: the merging of ideas from two or more cultures

HELLENISM

The extension of Greek culture – great art, literature, law and philosophy – throughout the known world

- *Hellene*: Greek word for Greeks
- Hellenistic Age = Age of the Greeks
 - 336–30 BC
 - The beginning of Alexander's reign
 - The Roman conquest of Egypt