Alexander the Great

The text is about the history of the United States. It starts with the arrival of the first Europeans in the 16th century and ends with the election of Donald Trump as president in 2016. The text discusses the major events that shaped the US, including the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the Great Depression. It also discusses the role of the US in the world, including its involvement in World Wars I and II, the Cold War, and the War on Terror.

Alexander III of Macedon (20/21 July 356 BC – 10/11 June 323 BC), commonly known as Alexander the Great, was a king of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon. He succeeded his father Philip II to the throne in 336 BC at the age of 20, and spent most of his ruling years conducting a lengthy military campaign throughout Western Asia and Egypt. By the age of 30, he had created one of the largest empires in history, stretching from Greece to northwestern India. He was undefeated in battle and is widely considered to be one of history's greatest and most successful military commanders.

Alexander the Great was a Macedonian king who conquered the Achaemenid Persian Empire. He began his campaign in 334 BC and conquered the empire in 10 years. After the fall of Persia, the Macedonian Empire held a vast swath of territory between the Adriatic Sea and the Indus River. Alexander then invaded India in 326 BC, achieving an important victory over Porus, an ancient Indian king. However, he eventually turned back at the Beas River and died in 323 BC in Babylon. In the years following his death, a series of civil wars broke out across the Macedonian Empire, eventually leading to its disintegration at the hands of the Diadochi.

Alexander the Great was a Macedonian king who conquered the Persian Empire and spread Greek culture throughout the region. He founded more than twenty cities, including Alexandria in Egypt. His legacy includes the cultural diffusion and syncretism that his conquests engendered, such as Greco-Buddhism and Hellenistic Judaism. Alexander became legendary as a classical hero in the mould of Achilles, featuring prominently in the historical and mythical traditions of both Greek and non-Greek cultures. His military achievements and unprecedented enduring successes in battle made him the measure against which many later military leaders would compare themselves,[c] and his tactics remain a significant subject of study in military academies worldwide.[7]

# Early life

## Lineage and childhood

Alexander III was born on the sixth day of the ancient Greek month of Hekatombaion, which probably corresponds to 20 July 356 BC. He was the son of Philip II, king of Macedon, and his fourth wife, Olympias. Although Philip had seven or eight wives, Olympias was his principal wife for some time, likely because she gave birth to Alexander.

There are several legends about Alexander the Great's birth and childhood. One legend is that Olympias dreamed that her womb was struck by a thunderbolt and that a flame spread far and wide before dying away. Another legend is that Philip dreamed that he sealed his wife's womb with a seal engraved with a lion's image. Plutarch offered a variety of interpretations for these dreams, including that Olympias was pregnant before her marriage or that Alexander's father was Zeus. Ancient commentators were divided about whether Olympias promulgated the story of Alexander's divine parentage.

Alexander the Great was born on the day that Philip was preparing a siege on the city of Potidea on the peninsula of Chalcidice. On the same day, Philip received news that his general Parmenion had defeated the combined Illyrian and Paeonian armies and that his horses had won at the Olympic Games. It was also said that on this day, the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, burnt down.

Alexander the Great was raised by his nurse Lanike, sister of his future general Cleitus the Black. He was tutored by Leonidas and Lysimachus. Alexander was raised in the manner of noble Macedonian youths, learning to read, play the lyre, ride, fight, and hunt.  
When Alexander was ten years old, he tamed a horse that Philip had ordered away. Philip was so impressed that he bought the horse for Alexander and named it Bucephalas. Bucephalas carried Alexander as far as India. When the animal died, Alexander named a city after him, Bucephala.

## Education

When Alexander was 13, Philip began to search for a tutor. He considered Isocrates and Speusippus, the latter offering to resign from his stewardship of the Academy to take up the post. In the end, Philip chose Aristotle and provided the Temple of the Nymphs at Mieza as a classroom. In return for teaching Alexander, Philip agreed to rebuild Aristotle's hometown of Stageira, which Philip had razed, and to repopulate it by buying and freeing the ex-citizens who were slaves, or pardoning those who were in exile.

Mieza was a boarding school for Alexander and the children of Macedonian nobles. Many of these students would become his friends and future generals, and are often known as the "Companions". Aristotle taught Alexander and his companions about medicine, philosophy, morals, religion, logic, and art. Under Aristotle's tutelage, Alexander developed a passion for the works of Homer, and in particular the Iliad.

Alexander the Great was able to quote Euripides from memory.

Anaximenes of Lampsacus was a Greek philosopher and historian. He was a student of Aristotle and a teacher of Alexander the Great. He accompanied Alexander on his campaigns and wrote a history of them.

# Heir of Philip II

## Regency and ascent of Macedon

Alexander the Great was educated by Aristotle until the age of 16. When Philip II went to war against the Thracians, Alexander was left in charge as regent and heir apparent. During Philip's absence, the Thracian tribe of Maedi revolted against Macedonia. Alexander quickly drove them from their territory and founded a city named Alexandropolis.

After the victory at Chaeronea, Philip and Alexander marched unopposed into the Peloponnese, welcomed by all cities except Sparta. At Corinth, Philip established a "Hellenic Alliance" (modelled on the old anti-Persian alliance of the Greco-Persian Wars), which included most Greek city-states except Sparta. Philip was then named Hegemon of this league (known by modern scholars as the League of Corinth), and announced his plans to attack the Persian Empire.

## Exile and return

Philip returned to Pella and married Cleopatra Eurydice. The marriage made Alexander's position as heir less secure. During the wedding banquet, Attalus prayed to the gods that the union would produce a legitimate heir.

At the wedding of Cleopatra, Philip fell in love with and married her. She was much too young for him. Her uncle Attalus in his drink desired the Macedonians would implore the gods to give them a lawful successor to the kingdom by his niece. This so irritated Alexander that throwing one of the cups at his head, "You villain," said he, "what, am I then a bastard?" Then Philip, taking Attalus's part, rose up and would have run his son through; but by good fortune for them both, either his over-hasty rage, or the wine he had drunk, made his foot slip, so that he fell down on the floor. At which Alexander reproachfully insulted over him: "See there," said he, "the man who makes preparations to pass out of Europe into Asia, overturned in passing from one seat to another."

In 337 BC, Alexander fled Macedon with his mother. He dropped her off with her brother, King Alexander I of Epirus in Dodona, capital of the Molossians. He continued to Illyria, where he sought refuge with one or more Illyrian kings. However, it appears Philip never intended to disown his son. Alexander returned to Macedon after six months due to the efforts of a family friend, Demaratus.

# King of Macedon

## Accession

In summer 336 BC, Philip was assassinated by the captain of his bodyguards, Pausanias. Pausanias tripped over a vine and was killed by his pursuers. Alexander was proclaimed king on the spot by the nobles and army at the age of 20.

## Consolidation of power

Attalus was at that time corresponding with Demosthenes, regarding the possibility of defecting to Athens. Attalus also had severely insulted Alexander, and following Cleopatra's murder, Alexander may have considered him too dangerous to be left alive.  
Alexander spared Arrhidaeus, who was by all accounts mentally disabled, possibly as a result of poisoning by Olympias.

After Philip's death, many states revolted against Macedon, including Thebes, Athens, Thessaly, and the Thracian tribes. Alexander responded quickly by mustering 3,000 Macedonian cavalry and riding south towards Thessaly. He found the Thessalian army occupying the pass between Mount Olympus and Mount Ossa, and ordered his men to ride over Mount Ossa. When the Thessalians awoke the next day, they found Alexander in their rear and promptly surrendered, adding their cavalry to Alexander's force. He then continued south towards the Peloponnese.

Alexander stopped at Thermopylae, where he was recognized as the leader of the Amphictyonic League. Athens sued for peace and Alexander pardoned the rebels.  
Alexander met Diogenes the Cynic in Corinth. Diogenes asked Alexander to stand aside as he was blocking the sunlight. Alexander was delighted and said he would like to be Diogenes if he were not Alexander.  
At Corinth, Alexander took the title of Hegemon and was appointed commander for the coming war against Persia. He also received news of a Thracian uprising.

## Balkan campaign

Alexander the Great defeated the Illyrian chieftain Cleitus and King Glaukias of the Taulantii in open revolt against his authority. He secured his northern frontier with these victories.

## Destruction of Thebes

Alexander campaigned north. Thebes and Athens rebelled. Alexander headed south. Thebes decided to fight but was defeated. Alexander razed Thebes and divided its territory. Athens was cowed. Alexander set out on his Asian campaign, leaving Antipater as regent.

# Conquest of the Achaemenid Persian Empire

## Asia Minor

After his victory at the Battle of Chaeronea (338 BC), Philip II began the work of establishing himself as hēgemṓn (Greek: ἡγεμών) of a league which according to Diodorus was to wage a campaign against the Persians for the sundry grievances Greece suffered in 480 and free the Greek cities of the western coast and islands from Achaemenid rule. In 336 he sent Parmenion, with Amyntas, Andromenes and Attalus, and an army of 10,000 men into Anatolia to make preparations for an invasion.[63][64] At first, all went well. The Greek cities on the western coast of Anatolia revolted until the news arrived that Philip had been murdered and had been succeeded by his young son Alexander. The Macedonians were demoralized by Philip's death and were subsequently defeated near Magnesia by the Achaemenids under the command of the mercenary Memnon of Rhodes.[63][64]

In 334 BC, Alexander the Great crossed the Hellespont with an army of 48,100 soldiers, 6,100 cavalry and a fleet of 120 ships. He threw a spear into Asian soil to show his intent to conquer the entirety of the Persian Empire. This showed Alexander's eagerness to fight, in contrast to his father's preference for diplomacy.

After defeating the Persians at the Battle of the Granicus, Alexander accepted the surrender of Sardis and proceeded along the Ionian coast, granting autonomy and democracy to the cities. He then besieged Miletus and Halicarnassus, eventually forcing his opponents to withdraw by sea. Alexander left the government of Caria to Ada, who adopted him.

## The Levant and Syria

## Egypt

After Alexander destroyed Tyre, most of the towns on the route to Egypt quickly capitulated. However, Alexander was met with resistance at Gaza. The stronghold was heavily fortified and built on a hill, requiring a siege. After three unsuccessful assaults, the stronghold fell, but not before Alexander had received a serious shoulder wound. As in Tyre, men of military age were put to the sword and the women and children were sold into slavery.

Alexander took Egypt from the Persians and was crowned in the temple of Ptah at Memphis. The Egyptian people accepted him as their ruler even though he was a foreigner. Alexander restored the temples neglected by the Persians and dedicated new monuments to the Egyptian gods. He also built a chapel for the sacred barge in the temple of Luxor. During his brief time in Egypt, he reformed the taxation system and organized the military occupation of the country. In 331 BC, he left for Asia in pursuit of the Persians.

Alexander the Great founded Alexandria in Egypt. After his death, the city became the prosperous capital of the Ptolemaic Kingdom. Control of Egypt passed to Ptolemy I (son of Lagos), the founder of the Ptolemaic Dynasty (305-30 BC).

## Assyria and Babylonia

Alexander left Egypt in 331 BC and marched eastward into Assyria. He defeated Darius at the Battle of Gaugamela and chased him as far as Arbela. Darius fled over the mountains to Ecbatana while Alexander captured Babylon.

Alexander the Great sent his scouts to Babylon with a message to the people: "I shall not enter your houses".

## Persia

After capturing Susa, one of the Achaemenid capitals, Alexander sent the bulk of his army to the Persian ceremonial capital of Persepolis via the Persian Royal Road. He took selected troops on the direct route to the city and stormed the pass of the Persian Gates (in the modern Zagros Mountains) which had been blocked by a Persian army under Ariobarzanes. He then hurried to Persepolis before its garrison could loot the treasury.

Alexander allowed his troops to loot Persepolis for several days.  
A fire broke out in the eastern palace of Xerxes I and spread to the rest of the city.  
Possible causes include a drunken accident or deliberate revenge for the burning of the Acropolis of Athens during the Second Persian War by Xerxes.  
Alexander immediately began to regret his decision and ordered his men to put out the fires, but it was too late.  
Alexander paused and talked to a fallen statue of Xerxes as if it were a live person.

The text is a quote from Plutarch's Life of Agesilaus. In the quote, Agesilaus is considering whether to pass by and leave a statue of Themistocles lying on the ground, or to set it up again. Agesilaus is torn between his admiration for Themistocles's magnanimity and virtues, and his disapproval of Themistocles's role in leading the Persian expedition against Greece.

## Fall of the Persian Empire and the East

Alexander viewed Bessus as a usurper and set out to defeat him. This campaign turned into a grand tour of central Asia. Alexander founded a series of new cities, all called Alexandria, including modern Kandahar in Afghanistan, and Alexandria Eschate ("The Furthest") in modern Tajikistan. The campaign took Alexander through Media, Parthia, Aria (West Afghanistan), Drangiana, Arachosia (South and Central Afghanistan), Bactria (North and Central Afghanistan), and Scythia.

In 329 BC, Spitamenes betrayed Bessus to Ptolemy and Bessus was executed. Later, Spitamenes raised Sogdiana in revolt. Alexander defeated the Scythians and Spitamenes in battle. Spitamenes was killed by his own men and Sogdiana sued for peace.

## Problems and plots

Alexander adopted some Persian customs, such as proskynesis, to gain the support of the Iranian upper classes. However, the Greeks saw this as Alexander trying to deify himself, and he eventually abandoned the practice.

Alexander had to decide whether to use the existing system of government in the Persian empire or create a new one. He decided to use the existing system, but this decision was not popular with the Persians.

In the Central Asian campaign, a second plot against Alexander's life was revealed. His official historian, Callisthenes of Olynthus, was implicated in the plot and tortured on the rack as punishment. It remains unclear if Callisthenes was actually involved in the plot.

## Macedon in Alexander's absence

Alexander's campaign in Asia brought peace and prosperity to Greece. His conquest stimulated the economy and increased trade across his empire. However, his constant demands for troops and the migration of Macedonians throughout his empire depleted Macedon's strength, greatly weakening it in the years after Alexander, and ultimately led to its subjugation by Rome after the Third Macedonian War (171–168 BC).

## Coinage

Philip II conquered Pangaeum and Thasos between 356 and 342 BC. These conquests brought rich gold and silver mines under Macedonian control.

Alexander did not impose uniform imperial coinage throughout his new conquests. Persian coins continued to circulate in all the satrapies of the empire.

# Indian campaign

## Forays into the Indian subcontinent

Taxiles accompanied Alexander in his conquest of India. He fought in the Battle of the Hydaspes and was sent to offer terms to Porus. After being reconciled with Porus, Taxiles was given control of the territory between the Hydaspes and Indus rivers. He was granted more power after the death of Philip, son of Machatas, and retained his authority after Alexander's death.

In the winter of 327/326 BC, Alexander led a campaign against the Aspasioi, Guraeans and Assakenoi. He defeated the Aspasioi but faced resistance from the Assakenoi in the strongholds of Massaga, Ora and Aornos.

Alexander captured the fort of Massaga after a bloody battle. He killed the entire population of Massaga and destroyed the buildings. He also captured the fortress of Aornos after a bloody battle.

After defeating King Porus in the Battle of the Hydaspes, Alexander made him an ally and appointed him as satrap. He also added to Porus's territory land that he did not previously own, towards the south-east, up to the Hyphasis (Beas). Alexander founded two cities on opposite sides of the Hydaspes river, naming one Bucephala, in honour of his horse, who died around this time. The other was Nicaea (Victory), thought to be located at the site of modern-day Mong, Punjab.

## Revolt of the Hellenic army

Alexander's army mutinied at the Hyphasis River (Beas), refusing to march farther east. This river thus marks the easternmost extent of Alexander's conquests.

After their struggle with Porus, the Macedonians were reluctant to continue their advance into India. They had only been able to defeat an enemy with 20,000 infantry and 2,000 horse, and they were now faced with the prospect of crossing the Ganges River, which was 32 furlongs wide and 100 fathoms deep. On the other side of the river, they were told that the kings of the Ganderites and Praesii were awaiting them with 80,000 horsemen, 200,000 footmen, 8,000 chariots, and 6,000 war elephants.

Alexander tried to persuade his soldiers to march farther, but his general Coenus pleaded with him to change his opinion and return. Alexander eventually agreed and turned south, marching along the Indus. Along the way his army conquered the Malhi and other Indian tribes. While besieging the Mallian citadel, Alexander suffered a near-fatal injury when an arrow penetrated his armor and entered his lung.

Alexander sent most of his army to Carmania with general Craterus, and commissioned a fleet to explore the Persian Gulf shore under his admiral Nearchus. He led the rest back to Persia through the more difficult southern route along the Gedrosian Desert and Makran. Alexander reached Susa in 324 BC, but not before losing many men to the harsh desert.

# Last years in Persia

Alexander the Great discovered that many of his satraps and military governors had misbehaved in his absence. As a gesture of thanks, he paid off the debts of his soldiers, and announced that he would send over-aged and disabled veterans back to Macedon. However, his troops misunderstood his intention and mutinied at the town of Opis. They refused to be sent away and criticized his adoption of Persian customs and dress and the introduction of Persian officers and soldiers into Macedonian units.

Alexander gave Persians command posts in the army and conferred Macedonian military titles upon Persian units. Macedonians quickly begged forgiveness, which Alexander accepted, and held a great banquet with several thousand of his men.  
Alexander held a mass marriage of his senior officers to Persian and other noblewomen at Susa, but few of those marriages seem to have lasted much beyond a year.

Alexander returned to Persia and learned that the guards of Cyrus the Great's tomb had desecrated it. He executed them and ordered his architect Aristobulus to decorate the interior of the sepulchral chamber of Cyrus's tomb.

After retrieving the Persian treasure, Alexander's friend Hephaestion died of illness or poisoning. Alexander was devastated and ordered a funeral pyre and public mourning. Back in Babylon, Alexander planned a series of new campaigns, but he died shortly after Hephaestion.

Alexander organized a banquet for his army to celebrate the end of the campaign of India and the onset of the invasion of the Arabian Peninsula. The wine was usually heavily watered.

# Death and succession

Alexander the Great was asked who would be his successor. He replied: "To the strongest one." He may have also added that there would be funeral games to be played after his death.

## Post-death events

Alexander's body was placed in a gold anthropoid sarcophagus filled with honey.  
A seer predicted that the land where Alexander was laid to rest "would be happy and unvanquishable forever".  
The successors may have seen possession of the body as a symbol of legitimacy.

Pompey, Julius Caesar and Augustus visited Alexander's tomb in Alexandria. Augustus accidentally knocked the nose off. Caligula took Alexander's breastplate. Emperor Septimius Severus closed the tomb to the public. Caracalla visited the tomb.

The Alexander Sarcophagus is a sarcophagus that was discovered near Sidon and is now in the Istanbul Archaeology Museum. It was originally thought to have been the sarcophagus of Abdalonymus, the king of Sidon appointed by Alexander immediately following the battle of Issus in 331 BC. However, more recently, it has been suggested that it may date from earlier than Abdalonymus's death.

Demades and Leosthenes likened the Macedonian army and the anarchy between the generals, after Alexander's death, to the blinded Cyclops.

## Division of the Macedonian Empire

Alexander the Great died suddenly and unexpectedly. He had no obvious or legitimate heir, and his son Alexander IV was born after his death. Alexander's companions asked him on his deathbed to whom he bequeathed his kingdom, but his reply was ambiguous. Some believe that his successors wilfully or erroneously misheard his reply, which may have been "to the strongest" or "to Craterus", the general leading his Macedonian troops home.

After the death of Alexander the Great, his generals fought for control of the empire. The satrapies handed out by Perdiccas at the Partition of Babylon became power bases each general used to bid for power. After the assassination of Perdiccas in 321 BC, Macedonian unity collapsed, and 40 years of war between "The Successors" (Diadochi) ensued before the Hellenistic world settled into three stable power blocs: Ptolemaic Egypt, Seleucid Syria and East, and Antigonid Macedonia. In the process, both Alexander IV and Philip III were murdered.

## Last plans

Alexander the Great gave Craterus detailed written instructions before his death. Craterus started to carry out Alexander's commands, but the successors chose not to further implement them. Perdiccas had read the notebooks containing Alexander's last plans to the Macedonian troops in Babylon, who voted not to carry them out.

Alexander's last plans included military expansion into the southern and western Mediterranean, monumental constructions, and the intermixing of Eastern and Western populations.

Many scholars doubt the historicity of Alexander the Great's plans to conquer Arabia and India. Ernst Badian argued that Perdiccas exaggerated the scale of these plans in order to ensure that the Macedonian troops voted not to carry them out. Other scholars have proposed that they were invented by later authors within the tradition of the Alexander Romance.

# Character

## Generalship

Alexander the Great was a successful military commander who never lost a battle. He used terrain, phalanx and cavalry tactics, bold strategy, and the fierce loyalty of his troops to his advantage. He also recognized the potential for disunity among his diverse army and overcame it by being personally involved in battle.

Alexander used the same deployment at Issus and Gaugamela. At Issus, he personally led the charge in the center, routing the opposing army. At Gaugamela, Alexander arranged a double phalanx, with the center advancing at an angle, parting when the chariots bore down and then reforming. The advance was successful and broke Darius's center, causing the latter to flee once again.

Alexander the Great was a skilled military commander who was able to adapt his forces to the fighting style of his opponents. In Bactria and Sogdiana, he used his javelin throwers and archers to prevent outflanking movements, while massing his cavalry at the center. In India, he confronted Porus's elephant corps by opening his ranks to envelop the elephants and using his sarissas to strike upwards and dislodge the elephants' handlers.

## Physical appearance

Curtius Rufus, a Roman historian from the first century AD, tells us that Alexander the Great sat on the throne of Darius III after defeating him in battle. This was a symbolic act of victory, as it showed that Alexander had taken over the Persian Empire.

Alexander sat on the royal throne, which was too high for him. One of the royal pages placed a table under his feet so that he could reach the ground.

Sisygambis, Darius III's mother, first met Alexander and Hephaestion. She assumed that Hephaestion was Alexander because he was taller and more handsome.

Plutarch, a Greek biographer, discusses the accuracy of his depictions. He says that he tries to be accurate, but that he sometimes has to make educated guesses. He also says that he tries to be fair to his subjects, even if they did bad things.

Alexander the Great was best represented by the statues of him which Lysippus made. Apelles, however, in painting him as wielder of the thunder-bolt, did not reproduce his complexion, but made it too dark and swarthy. Alexander was of a fair colour, as they say, and his fairness passed into ruddiness on his breast particularly, and in his face.

Historians believe that the detail of the pleasant odour attributed to Alexander the Great is due to a belief in ancient Greece that pleasant scents are characteristic of gods and heroes.

Alexander the Great had a straight nose, a slightly protruding jaw, full lips and eyes deep set beneath a strongly pronounced forehead. He also had a slight upward tilt of his head to the left.

Alexander's hair color is described as "ξανθὴν" by the ancient historian Aelian. This could mean yellowish, reddish or brownish.  
It is sometimes claimed that Alexander had one blue and one brown eye.  
Reconstruction of the original polychromy on his sarcophagus indicates that he was depicted with brown eyes and chestnut brown hair.

## Personality

Alexander's parents encouraged his ambitions. His father Philip was probably Alexander's most immediate and influential role model. Alexander's relationship with his father "forged" the competitive side of his personality; he had a need to outdo his father. Alexander's mother Olympia similarly had huge ambitions, and encouraged her son to believe it was his destiny to conquer the Persian Empire.

Alexander the Great was a complex and contradictory figure. He was intelligent, quick to learn, and a successful general. He was also impulsive, had a violent temper, and was not always open to reason. He had a great desire for knowledge and was a lover of philosophy. He was also self-restrained in "pleasures of the body", but not with alcohol.

Alexander the Great began to exhibit signs of megalomania and paranoia during his final years, especially after the death of Hephaestion. His extraordinary achievements, coupled with his own ineffable sense of destiny and the flattery of his companions, may have combined to produce this effect. His delusions of grandeur are readily visible in his will and in his desire to conquer the world.

## Personal relationships

Alexander the Great married three times. His first wife was Roxana, daughter of the Sogdian nobleman Oxyartes of Bactria. They married out of love. His second and third wives were Persian princesses Stateira and Parysatis, daughters of Darius III and Artaxerxes III respectively. These marriages were for political reasons. Alexander had two sons, Alexander IV of Macedon by Roxana and, possibly, Heracles of Macedon from his mistress Barsine. He lost another child when Roxana miscarried at Babylon.

Alexander had a close relationship with his friend, general, and bodyguard Hephaestion. Hephaestion's death devastated Alexander. This event may have contributed to Alexander's failing health and detached mental state during his final months.

Alexander's sexuality has been the subject of speculation and controversy in modern times. Some historians believe that Alexander's youthful relationship with Hephaestion was sexual, and that their sexual contacts may have continued into adulthood. However, there is no definitive evidence to support this claim.

Green argues that there is little evidence in ancient sources that Alexander had much carnal interest in women. However, Ogden calculates that Alexander, who impregnated his partners thrice in eight years, had a higher matrimonial record than his father at the same age. Two of these pregnancies — Stateira's and Barsine's — are of dubious legitimacy.

Alexander the Great had a harem but used it sparingly. He was infatuated by Roxana but did not force himself on her. He formed strong friendships with women, including Ada of Caria and Darius's mother Sisygambis.

# Battle record

The text is about the history of the word "⁂". It is a symbol that is used to mark the beginning of a new section or chapter. It is derived from the Greek letter "alpha", which is the first letter of the alphabet. The symbol was first used in the 16th century by the printer Aldus Manutius. He used it to mark the beginning of a new section in his books. The symbol is still used today in some books and documents.

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# Legacy

## Hellenistic kingdoms

Alexander the Great's empire was the largest state of its time, covering 5.2 million square kilometers. It was divided into successor states after his death, which remained dominant forces for the next 200-300 years. This period is often referred to as the Hellenistic period.

After Alexander's death, his empire began to collapse. However, the power vacuum he left in the northwest of the Indian subcontinent led to the rise of the Maurya Empire. Chandragupta Maurya, of relatively humble origin, took advantage of this power vacuum and conquered the Nanda Empire.

## Founding of cities

According to the legend, after Alexander hunted on the Mount Pagus, he slept under a plane tree at the sanctuary of Nemesis. While he was sleeping, the goddess appeared and told him to found a city there and move into it the Smyrnaeans from the "old" city. The Smyrnaeans sent ambassadors to the oracle at Clarus to ask about this, and after the response from the oracle they decided to move to the "new" city.

The city of Pella in modern Jordan was founded by veterans of Alexander's army. They named it after the city of Pella in Greece, which was the birthplace of Alexander.

## Funding of temples

In 334 BC, Alexander the Great donated funds to complete the new temple of Athena Polias in Priene. The temple was designed by Pytheos.

Libanius wrote that Alexander founded the temple of Zeus Bottiaios in the place where later the city of Antioch was built.

Suda wrote that Alexander built a big temple to Sarapis.

## Hellenization

Hellenization is the spread of Greek language, culture, and population into the former Persian empire after Alexander's conquest. This process can be seen in such great Hellenistic cities as Alexandria, Antioch and Seleucia. Alexander sought to insert Greek elements into Persian culture and to hybridize Greek and Persian culture, homogenizing the populations of Asia and Europe. Although his successors explicitly rejected such policies, Hellenization occurred throughout the region, accompanied by a distinct and opposite 'Orientalization' of the successor states.

## Hellenization in South and Central Asia

Hellenization was a process of cultural diffusion that occurred in the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom and the Indo-Greek Kingdom. This process led to the hybridization of Hellenistic culture with Iranian and Buddhist cultures. The resulting syncretism is known as Greco-Buddhism. This culture influenced the development of Buddhism and created a culture of Greco-Buddhist art. These Greco-Buddhist kingdoms sent some of the first Buddhist missionaries to China, Sri Lanka and Hellenistic Asia and Europe.

After Alexander the Great conquered the east, Hellenistic influence on Indian art was far-reaching. In architecture, the Ionic order can be found as far as Pakistan with the Jandial temple near Taxila. Ionic influences can also be seen in capitals as far as Patna, especially with the Pataliputra capital. The Corinthian order is also heavily represented in the art of Gandhara, especially through Indo-Corinthian capitals.

## Influence on Rome

Some Roman writers used Alexander as a cautionary tale of how autocratic tendencies can be kept in check by republican values. Alexander was used as an example of ruler values such as amicita (friendship) and clementia (clemency), but also iracundia (anger) and cupiditas gloriae (over-desire for glory).

Emperor Julian wrote a satire called "The Caesars".  
In the satire, he described a contest between the previous Roman emperors.  
Alexander the Great was called in as an extra contestant.  
The contest was held in the presence of the assembled gods.

The Itinerarium Alexandri is a 4th-century Latin Itinerarium which describes Alexander the Great's campaigns. Julius Caesar went to Hispania after his wife's funeral and saw a statue of Alexander the Great. He realized that he had achieved comparatively little at the same age as Alexander.

Pompey was a great admirer of Alexander the Great. He even posed as the "new Alexander".

Caracalla was obsessed with Alexander the Great. He visited Alexandria while preparing for his Persian invasion and persecuted philosophers of the Aristotelian school because he believed that Aristotle had poisoned Alexander. This was a sign of Caracalla's increasingly erratic behavior.

In 39, Caligula built a floating bridge using ships as pontoons to rival the Persian king Xerxes' pontoon bridge crossing of the Hellespont. He then rode his horse across the bridge, wearing the breastplate of Alexander the Great. This act was in defiance of a prediction by Tiberius's soothsayer Thrasyllus of Mendes that Caligula had "no more chance of becoming emperor than of riding a horse across the Bay of Baiae".

Alexander's conquests in West Asia and North Africa spread Greek culture and language. This served as a "precondition" for the later Roman expansion into these territories and entire basis for the Byzantine Empire.

## Letters

Alexander wrote and received many letters, but no originals survive. A few official letters addressed to the Greek cities survive in copies inscribed in stone and the content of others is sometimes reported in historical sources. However, it is not clear how reliable these quotations are. Some fictitious letters, perhaps based on actual letters, made their way into the Romance tradition.

## In legend

Alexander's court historian Callisthenes portrayed the sea in Cilicia as drawing back from him in proskynesis.  
Onesicritus invented a tryst between Alexander and Thalestris, queen of the mythical Amazons.

The Alexander Romance is a text that was created in the first centuries after Alexander the Great's death. It is a collection of legendary stories about Alexander, and was later falsely ascribed to Callisthenes. The text underwent numerous expansions and revisions throughout Antiquity and the Middle Ages, and was translated into numerous languages, including Middle Persian, Syriac, and Arabic.

## In ancient and modern culture

Alexander the Great's story has been told in many cultures and has had a significant impact on popular culture.

Dhu al-Qarnayn is a figure mentioned in the Quran who is believed to be based on later legends of Alexander the Great. He was a heroic figure who built a wall to defend against the nations of Gog and Magog, and then travelled the known world in search of the Water of Life and Immortality. The majority of modern researchers of the Quran as well as Islamic commentators identify Dhu al-Qarnayn as Alexander the Great.

Alexander the Great was shown the Book of Daniel when he entered Jerusalem. The book described a mighty Greek king who would conquer the Persian Empire. This is cited as a reason for sparing Jerusalem.

In Hindi and Urdu, the name "Sikandar" is derived from the Persian name for Alexander. In medieval India, Turkic and Afghan sovereigns from the Iranian-cultured region of Central Asia brought positive cultural connotations of Alexander to the Indian subcontinent. In medieval Europe, Alexander the Great was revered as a member of the Nine Worthies. During the first Italian campaign of the French Revolutionary Wars, Napoleon said that he places Alexander The Great in the first rank.

The Greek Anthology contains poems referring to Alexander.

Alexander the Great has been the subject of many works of art, including sculptures, paintings, songs, and films. Some of the films that have been made about Alexander include: Alexander (2004), directed by Oliver Stone; Alexander the Great (1956), directed by Robert Rossen; and Alexander the Great (1964), directed by Mario Bava.

The text is about the movie "The Big Lebowski". It mentions that there are many references to other movies and TV series in the movie.

- The Persian Boy by Mary Renault  
 - Alexander the Great by Philip Freeman  
 - Alexander: The Great by Robin Lane Fox

The text is about two trilogies about Alexander the Great. The first trilogy is by Valerio Massimo Manfredi and consists of the books "The son of the dream", "The sand of Amon", and "The ends of the world". The second trilogy is by Mary Renault and consists of the books "Fire from Heaven", "The Persian Boy" and "Funeral Games".

Aubrey Thomas de Vere was an Irish playwright.  
He wrote Alexander the Great, a Dramatic Poem.

# Historiography

# See also

# References

## Notes

## Citations

## Sources

## Primary sources

## Secondary sources

# Further reading

# External links

The text is about the history of the United States. It starts with the arrival of the first Europeans in the 16th century and ends with the election of Donald Trump as president in 2016. The text discusses the major events that shaped the US, including the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the Great Depression. It also discusses the role of the US in the world, including its involvement in World Wars I and II, the Cold War, and the War on Terror.