



ALEXANDER THE GREAT'S CABINET

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Letter from Academic Assistant

I would like to start by welcoming you all to this annual session of HaydarpaşaMUN! I also would like to state that I think you are the twelve luckiest delegates of the conference since you are now allocated in our traditional World-Changing Commander's Cabinet themed committee.

In this year's cabinet you will represent the bravest and the most sharp witted of the soldiers since you will be serving Alexander III of the Macedons as known as Alexander the Great and shall have the most adventurous battles devoted to his army. On the other hand you will further learn upon the history's biggest mastermind and be granted the chance to rewrite it. I can guarantee you that you will have the most of fun and also the biggest academic pleasure. Therefore I would like to thank every person behind this conference by starting with our passionate and sympathetic Secretary General Zeynep Naz Coşkun and our esteemed and hardworking Crisis Team since they are the ones who will be providing you this highly prestigious committee before concluding my thanks I would also like to thank my academic trainee Zeynep Erşen for her hardworks and fellow companionship

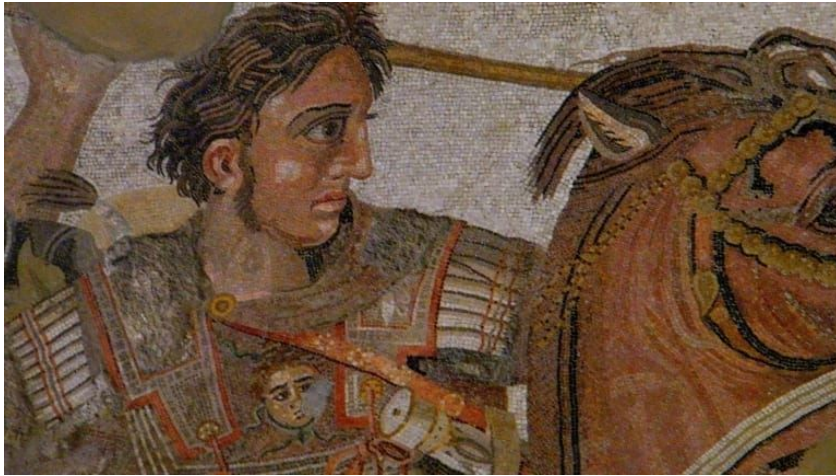
In order to conclude I can recommend you nothing but further research the topic since ancient warfare ,political structure and relations can be really hard to understand. I personally recommend the website called ancient history encyclopedia also the videos that briefly explains warfare of the era since visual explanations are more easy to understand. In case you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me and my trainee via methonessaturn17@gmail.com and zeynepersen@gmail.com Hope to see you soon!

Yağmur Zühal Tokur - Academic Assistant
Zeynep Erşen - Academic Trainee

Introduction

Alexander the Great whom you will become companies of for these four days was not just the king of Macedonia or the leader that started Hellenistic Era. He was the most spectacular commander that ever landed on Earth with the strategies of a mastermind. Starting from a newly settled kingdom: Macedonia,Alexander crossed his way to India devotedly. Despite living in Ancient Age he had his name memorized and written all over the history books by gaining dominance in the heart of Ancient World in approximately just ten years and maintaining this dominance until his death.

In these next four days you will serve him as his biggest companies and prove that Alexander was just another leader if he hadn't had his army and generals. Before we dive in to the 4th Century BC I recommend you to read his history carefully and honor him while writing it again.



Alexander the Great and the Kingdom of Macedonia

The Kingdom of Macedonia was founded in 7th century; located in the borderline of Classical and Archaic Greece, northern side of the peninsula after the settlements of the Mackednoi tribe. The legend has it that the founder of the kingdom was Caranus which was a mythical creature. Upcoming kings of the newly founded kingdom had tried to ease the tension with the tribes living within their lands. Over the decades, relations of Mackednoi and the Greeks in the peninsula were correlated. After getting through attacks made by the Greek tribes and Athenians, Macedonian rule in the Northern Greece was consolidated when Philip II took the throne of the ancient kingdom. Despite the greek polis structures the Ancient Macedonia was a hereditary monarchy.

Before Alexander's accession to the throne Philip II had the chance to correlate the relations with not only the nearest tribes such as the Ilyrians, Thracians, Paeonias, and Athenians which posed challenge in the borders of the kingdom but also the whole civilisation in the Ancient Greece world. Owing to this situation the Macedonian phalanx was established and the Ancient Macedonian Army was reformed by Philip II. These events gave Alexander the military superiority he had since Alexander was a leader validating his absoluteness with his military forces. His father's upper mentioned achievements had big impacts on his way to become a worldwide emperor. Having advanced diplomatic manners and abilities coming along, Philip has made strong allies such as Chalkidian League of Olynthus while he was in charge, he had conquered Credites and Potidea and besieged or attacked many others. Befriending the Amphictyonic League he had attended the Third Sacred War with his strengthened army and rose the both reputation and the power of his kingdom. However as the Third Sacred War continued the economies of the both sides were harmed so the Athenians were the first ones that took a step back therefore negotiations were started and Philip was convinced to settle down even before the leaders of the neutral states asked him to. Third Sacred War, fixed the reputation of the kingdom in Greek eyes and had remarkable impact in the rise of the kingdom. After Third Sacred War, recently strengthened kingdom and its leader had new city states in sight. Philip didn't attack Sparta however he conquered Eumolpia and gave it his own name. He organized two siege attempts which would fail: Perinthus and Byzantium. His military successions granted him the chance to expand Macedonia all over the Greece. He established and led the League of Corinth, put his signature under massive accomplishments and gave Alexander a strong kingdom to rule.

In 356 BC;Olympia,the Queen of Macedonia,gave birth to Philip II's son in Pella the capital of Ancient Greece,they named him Alexander without acknowledging that he would become one of the biggest commanders of world. As a kid Alexander was raised by a nurse and private tutors assigned by his father .His first tutor Leonidas of Epirus was a kinsman of his mother therefore a relative of himself until his tutelage from Aristoteles started .A strict, demandful, laconicly disciplined tutor was Leonidas. He improved Alexander's education upon reading, mathematics and languages. After his nonpermissive journey with him;at around the age of seven Alexander met with another tutor who was general at Philip's command, Lysimachus of Acarnania he was appointed to raise Alex like a nobel. Under the supervision of him Alexander practised playing the lyre was taught to ride and hunt. His next tutor was one of the greatest philosopher of the history and unquestionably of his era: Aristotle. Their lectures took place in the temple of Mieza where Alex would find his biggest companions and his prospective generals. Aristotle had lectured Alexander for three years and left an unquestionable mark on him. Despite some disagreements they had, Alexander took his teachings with him every expedition he has been to. Described as a splendid creature was a magnificent companion Bucephalus even when Alexander met it when he was in thirteen years age. He kept Bucephalus as an appliance while he was conquering the ancient Earth.

When he reached sixteen,Alexander was given a huge responsibility. His father was on his way to declare war against Byzantium as upper mentioned. Therefore he left the rule of Pella the capital of Macedonia to his son. It was a huge display of trust however some people took advantage from the situation. Thracian tribe group rose up against Alexander by estimating that the kingdom was weaker than ever,since the teenage prince was quite inexperienced. Nevertheless Alexander's answer was quick and satisfying . He sent his army in and the Thracians' riots were eased pretty quickly.He repopulated the area with Greeks and renamed the area with his name. His father was impressed when he came from the battle and gave Alexander more responsibilities consequently. Philip assigned Alexander his own army which would be used in order to ease the riots and manage the revolts. In the following three years Alexander became His father's military companion and joined him on most of his campaigns over the Greece.They defeated Athens and Thebes together and got the major dominance over Greece. Battle of Chaeronea also gave Alexander the right place and right time to demonstrate his military abilities.

His Accession and Personality as a Leader

When his father was assassinated in 336 BC by a bodyguard under his command, Alexander assumed the throne. Although he had conquered several countries with inherited multiple ethics or people of different beliefs in it.Alex didn't maintain his dominance by religious bases.He was ruthless leader for sure owning a characterized and genuine army which seemed and saved to the history as an undefeatable one. He never regretted or avoided destroying a city which comes across his way.He didn't let go of his goals and was a planned commander after all.Repopulated his people in places he conquered aiming spreading the Greek culture and avoiding revolts. He was the leader of Hellenistic Era and maybe the biggest emperor the world ever witnessed. Insatiably he fulfilled all 33 years of his life with campaigns

Federation and States of Ancient World

Thessalian League

Confederacy that consists of city states of Thessalian Plain in Ancient Greece, Thessalian League's capital was Larissa. After the cooperation and alliances made in the 374 BC the league reinforced itself against the rise of Spartan dominance in Greece. Thessaly was famous with its strong cavalries as the Macedons were. These conditions attracted Philip II of Macedon, Alexander's Father, upon the league. Therefore when they asked for help Philip joined them and reinforced their army.

Consequently Philip and his kingdom became a part of the league and he was elected as the archon of the league in 353 BC. After his death Alexander had difficulties while dominating over the league since some revolts had taken place. Alexander eased these riots and elected as the new Archon (president of the confederacy).

League of Corinth

Established under the leadership of Philip II in 338 BC, League of Corinth was a cooperation that consists of chosen delegates from states all over the Greece. From their first meeting, they have declared The Persian Empire as their archenemy. The Thebans were punished with the accusation of revolting against this league. Their destruction became the major action of the league and league had never been effective upon expanding Greek world.

Achaemenid Empire

Also known as the First Persian Empire, was an Iranian Empire located in Western Asia and also one of the biggest empires of the Ancient World throughout their resistance between 550 and 330 BC. The Empire was acknowledged with everlasting wars and battles they had with Greek city States.

Persia had been the first real empire, an empire collecting different ethnics and coteries under its roof with high dominance. When Alexander came to replace the dying Persian Empire known with its convenient inspection mechanism with a vision of his own, he held the example of Cyrus, Former king of Persia, in the front of his mind.

Persian kings assigned governors called satraps for the cities of the empire. Satraps maintained the security of the area they were appointed at and were also responsible of the cultivation activities and they made sure that any tax evasion wouldn't occur. They were also under inspection of other authorities assigned by the king, so they never get to act substantively. The army of the empire served as a backbone was the strength granting the king his legitimacy. Since the citizens of the empire were raised to become a soldier and most of them had unquestionable acknowledge upon warfare the recruited soldiers made a great army. Commanders of infantries were Persians acquainted with the king by blood or marriage. The army units were group of tens, hundreds, and thousands. Before embarking on a campaign, spies were appointed to collect information on the ruler and the country that was about to be attacked.



Thebes

Until it gets destroyed by Alexander the Great Thebes played a key role in his rise as a remarkable city state in Ancient Greece. Following the Third Sacred War fought by Philip II, Thebes lost its dominance over the Archaic World. While Alex was managing his campaign in the northern Greece and revolt against his rule took place in Thebes. He punished the city by destructing it in 335 bc correspondingly.

Athens

Until Philip II conquers Athens with Thebes within aftermath of Battle of Chaeronea Athens was a city state located in Southern Europe. After the several reflexive alliances and the leagues they established with or against regions such as Thebes and Spartans Athens was finally peaceful until they got under the rule of the Macedons. Philip limited those cities' liberty and independence however their strong cultural existence wasn't affected by the conquest despite the Thebes.

Thrace

Thracians were a community that consists of tribes situated in South Eastern Europe. Tribal lifestyle they had led their state to have only one polis called Seuthopolis. After the Persians withdrawal from the region, it had been split into three parts. Philip II conquered the region and caused the Odrysian Kingdom get extinct.

Illyria

With 7000 casualty from Illyrians, this region was annexed by Philip in 358 BC and was contributed to Macedon lands.

Biggest Triumphs of Alexander the Great

Battle of Chaeronea 338 BC

Combined forces of Thebes and Athens faced the Macedon army in rising in 338 BC. Philip II was given a weak army however during his period on the throne he revolutionized this army and improved it with very genuine tactics and created different types of units to take different responsibilities in order to act measuredly

The Athenians, Thebans situated their soldiers 1400 cavalry 22,000 infantry including 300 members of the Sacred Band, Philip's army faced them on the far right with 30,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry in total. d Alexander faced the Thebans with the Companion Cavalry when he was only 18. This was one of the biggest challenges Macedonia had faced during their time of rise. They guaranteed the rule of ancient Greek world afterwards.

Maintaining the Dominance over Greece 335 BC

Before expanding to East, Alex controlled his claims on Greek lands. Crushed revolts and destroyed cities to keep his massive lands under control while he was on his campaigns. These destructions made Greece accept the Macedon rule and avoided any further riots until Alexander's death.

Battle of the Granicus 334 BC

When he established the league of Corinth, Alexander declared the Achaemenid Empire as their archenemy and targeted Persian lands ever since. In order to defeat King Darius he crossed to Asia and fought this battle on the banks of the River Granicus. This was the first defeat of Persian by Alex among many others. While Persian Forces numbers 10,000 cavalry and 5,000 Greek mercenary infantry. Alexander's forces numbered 13,000 infantry and 5,000 cavalry.

Battle of Issus 333 BC

Despite the Battle of Granicus Alexander was on the defensive side this time. The army of Darius III greeted the Macedons near the river Pinamus. Apparently Persians had not taken quite a lesson. Since by using the same military tactics Alexander had brought a devastating win to the Macedons this time as well. It is estimated that Darius brought an army of between 300,000 600,000 as well as 30,000 Greek mercenaries while more modern historians suggest that 25,000 to 100,000 with only 10,000 Greek mercenaries.

Siege of Tyre and Gaza 331 BC

After disagreements with Tyrians, Alexander started besieging Tyre which he finds very profitable for his empire. Siege which started in January of 332 BC lasted almost 8 months. There after 8 months Tyrians were suffering due to lack of food supply and epidemics started to be seen. During these 8 months several collisions took place, Alexy used his authentic genuine siege weaponry. After fall of Tyre Alexander marched south through the holy lands of Jerusalem to start besieging Gaza. Just as Tyrians did, people and the ruler of Gaza also resisted after two failed attempts Alexander conquered the city in his third try.

Battle of Gaugamela 331 BC

After beneficial campaigns of his Alexander retargeted his main goal Conquest of the Persian Empire. Alexander had crossed the Euphrates and Tigris to move towards the heart of the First Persian Empire. Darius III had gathered a new army which would be defeated destructively. He brought best of his cavalry however Alexander had the strategical phalanx to attack the center of strong enemy lines. After this massive defeat Darius was quick enough to flee. Righteously Alexander called himself "Persian King of Kings" right afterwards.

Battle of Persian Gate 330 BC

Despite Alexander's claims Persians kept resisting so he had to overcome the Persians again. Upon hearing that Darius was keen on further resistance in the east, Alexander went following him. Yet to accomplish this the new Lord of Asia had to traverse the Zagros Mountains, a mountain range stretching from northwestern Iran to southwest Turkey.

Upon reaching the Mountains, Alexander placed the lion's share of his army under the command of Parmenion and instructed them to circumnavigate the Mountains. Meanwhile Alexander led his crack troops through the Mountains in order to reach Persepolis, the Persian royal capital, as quickly as possible. As they reached the end of mountain paths the Macedonian king and his army were ambushed by a well-prepared Persian defence at a valley called the Persian Gate. The defensive forces of Persia was led by a baron called Ariobarzanes, the satrap of Persis had walled off the valley's narrowest point which Alexander and his men would have to force their way through to reach Persepolis. As a result of being outnumbered by the defensive forces and mounting casualties, Alexander retreated his army. However the Greek Gods of luck were with Alexander. By taking locals help they had found an alternative way. After their arrival Macedons took their revenge easily and claimed fully authority over the all Persian lands. King of the Persian Kings, reached his main goal.

Battle of Hydaspes 326 BC

Reaching his main goal made Alexander's perspective enlarged. He turned his eyes towards Central Asia specifically India. He defeated various clans and tribes in order to fulfill his greed, Alexander crossed the Indus to fight the Battle of Hydrapes against Porus, the ruler of Punjab. An epic battle ensued and Alexander was so impressed by the abilities and characteristics of Porus that he made an alliance with him, assigning him as the satrap of his own kingdom. This battle was the last among the splendid battles of Alexander.

His Companions

Hephaestion

Hephaestion, considered as Alexander's closest friend, was a general in the army of Alexander the Great. Being his second-in-command, he was given many tasks throughout Alexander's campaign in Asia, which lasted 10 years. He actively encouraged Alexander during his attempts to integrate Greeks and Persians. He died in October 324 BC as a result of typhoid.

Perdiccas

Perdiccas was a general in Alexander the Great's army and a participant in his campaign against Achaemenid Persia. He had joint command with Hephaestion of the soldiers of fortune and almost half of the Macedonians. He became regent of the Macedonian empire after Alexander's death.

Antipater

Antipater was a Macedonian general who worked under the administration of kings Philip II of Macedon, father of king Cassander and Alexander the Great. He was left in control of Greece and Macedonia by Perdiccas after Alexander's death.

Philotas

Philotas was the son of Parmenion, a skilled general of Alexander. He commanded the Companion Cavalry but was executed after admitting his plans of killing Alexander with his father.

Cassander

Cassander, eldest son of Antipater, was king of the Hellenistic kingdom of Macedon between 305 BC - 297 BC. He killed Alexander's wife Roxanne and his son Alexander IV in order to proclaim himself king. He married Thessalonike, Alexander's half sister to secure his position.

Demosthenes

Demosthenes was an Athenian statesman and a speech writer who took a stand against Philip II for being a huge threat against Athens' freedom. After Philip's death, he went after Alexander the Great, the new king of Macedonia but ended up poisoning himself rather than getting arrested by the Macedonians.

Seleucus

Seleucus worked as an infantry general under Alexander. Right after Alexander's death, he was chosen as the commander of the Companion Cavalry. He founded the Seleucid kingdom. He was assassinated by Ptolemy Ceraunus, the successor of the Egyptian throne.

Ptolemy

Ptolemy, who later became the king of Egypt, was a Macedonian general that worked for Alexander. He took part in his European campaigns and later he was named one of his bodyguards. He was left in control of 3000 men in Persia by Alexander. After Alexander died, Ptolemy suggested splitting the satrapies amongst the generals. He became satrap of Egypt.

Antigenes

Antigenes was a general who served under both Philip II and Alexander the Great. He was appointed as the governor of Phrygia by Alexander and acquired the satrapy of Susiana after he died. He was burnt alive by Antigonus.

Laomedon of Mytilene

Laomedon was a general who worked for Alexander and was given Syria after the king's death. Ptolemy offered him in exchange for Syria but sent an army to conquer the government following Laomedon's rejection. Laomedon was imprisoned in Egypt but managed to flee to Pisidia.

Polyperchon

Polyperchon defeated the Thessalian cavalry of Menon, which was considered insurmountable until then. Soon after Antipater's death, Polyperchon became a regent and a commander-in-chief of the whole empire but came into conflict with Antipater's son Cassander shortly afterwards, which led to a civil war that spread quickly. Despite having almost full control of the Greek cities, Polyperchon faced some major problems at Megalopolis and his fleet was demolished.

Craterus

Craterus was a Macedonian commander who worked for Alexander. In 330, he became the second-in-command of the army. He took part in the defeat of the Indian prince during the battle of Hydaspes. He was killed as he was fighting Perdikkas' lieutenant, Eumenes of Cardia.

Political Structure and Socioeconomic Status of Ancient Macedonia

Alexander's motherland Macedonia had an economy based on agriculture as most of the civilisation had. However later on they had made progress in mining (for gold, copper, iron and silver etc.) People were expected to major in hunting and martial arts. Also acknowledgement regarding warfare was highly expected as well. Husbandry and Breeding activities were developed. Raising not only palfreys but also cattles, sheep and goats were phenomenal. Macedonian State supported farming activities and taxed them as well. Men played the major role in society however women, slaves and children played some roles with them despite some other kingdoms. The kings were respected and granted limitless authority however they had never been seen as God and their rules' legitimacy was associated with army they weren't worshipped but still had a limitless amount of authority. However despite the strong aristocratic structure of the society and hereditary monarchy slaves weren't assaulted that much assaulted compared to other kingdoms. Economic growth led the financial techniques which are used. Lending people money for their trips or for trade relations and such activities increased in time affected by the maritime commerce. Ancient Macedonia became monetary economy in the middle of the 4th century BC. Issued coins were used in trade relations.

Military Construction and Military Strategies of the Era

Strength of Alexander's army which made him worthy of the cognomen "Great" roots back to his father. Philip II designed and created most specialities of the army. Philip increased the size of army from 10,000 to 24,000 and enlarged the amount of cavalry from 600 to 3500. Philip designed siege weaponry and Alexander completed them with siege towers which had devastating effect. Alexander used his warfare tactics assiduously. Philip revolutionized the army however Alexander carried the army to another level.

The key factor of the army was phalanx a highly trained infantry group. The infantrymen were situated in a box formation, making it impossible to attack them from any other than frontal position. All the soldiers carried light uniforms, making it possible for them to maneuver on the field. They were armed with long, 20 meters pikes. Every soldier was asked to place his pike on the shoulder of the man before him, which further increased the defensive stance of the phalanx. Every unit of the phalanx had its own commander, which made communication easier. Mathematically, each unit of the phalanx consisted of 1540 men, divided into three subdivisions of 512 men. Each division was divided in 32 "dekas", or a line of 10, later 16 warriors.

Most of the battles were fought on open-flat and the army's main strike force was the cavalry. Sometimes extreme value of cavalries led to casualties. Two divisions of cavalries were there which were Companion and the Prodromoi. The latter was more free to act and versatile as a result they were mostly used as scouts. The Companion Cavalry had the bigger role and was commanded by Philotas, Cleitus and Hephaestion in that order. Companion Cavalries were split into eight squadrons of 200 men wearing little armors. Backup horses were carried all the time since the cavalry divisions had the biggest impact on the army.



Sarissa Phalanx of Philip II

Terminology

Polis

A polis was the typical structure of a community in the ancient Greek world which consisted of an urban center controlling a surrounding territory of land.

Hellenistic World

The Hellenic World' is a term which refers to that period of ancient Greek history between 507 BCE, the date of the first democratic rule in Athens, and 323 BCE which marks the death of Alexander the Great.

Sarissa Phalanx

Sarissa - an 18-20 feet pike; which had the advantage of reaching over the much shorter spears of the opposition. The length of it made it difficult to handle, demanding both strength and dexterity. The hoplite now became a pezhetairoi or foot companion.

Peltasts

A peltast was a type of Greek infantryman who was usually armed with a javelin and who carried a light shield. Originating from Thrace, the peltast was a common sight in Greek warfare during the Classical period and especially following the Peloponnesian war.

Hoplites

Hoplites were citizen-soldiers of Ancient Greek city-states who were primarily armed with spears and shields.

Cavalry

A cavalry is a group of soldiers who fight on horses. Cavalry can also refer to any military unit that is quick and mobile.

Infantry

Infantry is a military specialization that engages in military combat on foot, distinguished from cavalry, artillery, and tank forces. They are also so known as foot soldiers.

Siege Towers

A specialized siege engine, constructed to protect assailants and ladders while approaching the defensive walls of a fortification. The tower was often rectangular with four wheels with its height roughly equal to that of the wall or sometimes higher to allow archers to stand on top of the tower and shoot arrows into the fortification. Because the towers were wooden and thus flammable, they had to have some non-flammable covering of iron or fresh animal skins.

Timeline

356 BC : Alexander was born in the capital of Ancient Macedonia as Philip II's son

346 BC : Alex befriends and tames his best friend who he took to every place we went, his horse Bucephalus

343 BC: After Leonidas and Lysimachus one of the most famous philosophers of the era Aristotle starts lecturing Alexander.

338 BC: Battle of Chaeronea takes place in Boeotia, The kingdom fights against some of the famous city-states of Greeks such as Thebes and Athens. Battle comes to an end with Macedonian victory and plays a key role in Alexander's rise as an emperor.

336 BC: Alexander comes in charge as the Ruler of Macedonia after his father's assassination. League of Corinth elects Alexander as the leader of the campaign against Persians.

335 BC: On his way to East, Alexander destroys the city of Thebes as a punishment of revolting against him and enslaves the people Thebes.

334 BC: Alexander marches to East with 5000 cavalry and 30.000 footsoldiers and at the River Granicus he defeats a Persian Army. Named as the Battle of Granicus this is the first time he defeats the Persians.

333 BC: After conquering Aleppo he defeats Persians again in the Battle of Issus by situating many Greek troops. Also captures Persian emperor Darius III and his family.

332 BC: Alexander conquers Syria and targets Egypt.

332 BC: After months of besieging Tyre which is a coastal city that offers serious resistance to him, is conquered and destroyed by Alexander

332 BC: Alexander arrives in Egypt meanwhile Alexander founds Alexandria which he establishes to spread Greek culture

331 BC: Alexander travels into a famous oracle of the sun god Amon at Siwah, where he gets recognized as the "Son of the Ammon" by the priest

331 BC: He defeats the King Darius again in the Battle of Gaugamela and later refers to himself as "The King of Asia"

331 BC: Without the obligation of easing any revolts he conquers Egypt easily.

330 BC: He sacks, burns and loots Persepolis starting with the Persian Palace, marks the long term rivalry between the empires.

330 BC: One of his companions, Philotas, gets executed due to accusations of conspiring

329 BC: After crossing Hindu Kush, goes to Bactria and crosses the Oxus river and then to Samarkand. Basically conquers them.

329 BC: Defeats Scythians near the river of Laxartes

327 BC: Starts his campaign in India which will presumably take two years as moves through the mountain passes to India also marries the Bactrian girl Roxana.

326 BC: Defeats the Porus in the Battle of river however Alexander's major company Bucephalus dies in India, in order to commemorate his horse Alexander gives his name to a city.

324 BC: Attempting to emphasize that Greece and Persia are now one combined Alexander marries eighty of his senior officers to Persian wives and marries the daughter of Darius III with his best friend Hephaestion

324 BC: When imperial army reaches Ecbatana, Hephaestion dies of a fever

323 BC: While attempting to conquer Roma and Carthage he died of Malaria in Babylon in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar

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