

# CLAS201 Review Notes For Online Quiz 2

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# 1 The Hellenistic Era

## 1.1 The Rise of Macedonia

### 1.1.1 The Macedonians: Greeks or Barbarians

- A large topic of debate, back then and even now. Not sure if they are or not.
- Language: Northwestern Greek
  - Spoke a recognizable dialect of Greek.
  - Although some stories report that the traditional Greeks could not understand them, may be because the poor spoke a different dialect.
  - Similar to Dorian Greek, which was spoken in the Peloponeesus.
- Culture: Homeric?
  - Textbook argues that Macedonian culture is similar to Homeric culture, however in later times they are not very similar.
  - Macedonian were ruled by Monarchies, no Polis. Dignastic centers instead of main Polis city.
- Opinions of other Greeks
  1. Alexander I and the Olympics
    - Second recorded king of Macedon. Decided that the Macedons were barbarians, but the royal family was descended from Greeks. Therefore Alexander could compete.
  2. Herodotus: Doric Greeks
    - Dorics who didn't move became the Macedonians.
  3. Demosthenes: Barbarians
    - No bones about it, definitely barbarians.
    - Very anti-Macedonian politically. During his era, the Macedonians were pushing Athenians out of some territory.
  4. Isocrates: Greeks, Macedonians and barbarians.
    - Makes three categories. May indicate that they were very Greek in some ways, but also not in other facets.
    - Isocrates had a lot of ideas about what should happen to Greeks, thought that the Greeks should all unite and conquer the Persian empire.

### 1.1.2 Early History of Macedonia

- Amyntas I: Ally/Vassal of Persia
  - Persians gave Macedon protection at the expense of a little bit of free will. A pretty good deal at this point.
  - Looking at a map, they're surrounded by people who wanted them not to succeed, allying provided the safety needed to grow.
- Alexander I (498-454 BC)
  - Big into Hellenizing the Macedonians. Complicating the issue of whether or not the Macedonians were Greek. Right at the beginning you have Macedonians trying to be more Greek.
  - Due to his relationship with Persia, could not help Athenians during Persian invasion.
  - Brought Pindar, the great poet of Thebes, to Macedonia to write poems of praise for this.
  - Kings after him continued to Hellenize
- Early Fourth Century: 8 kings from 400-359
  - In 359 big battle with the Allerians, many die and many Aristocratic leaders perish as well. Looked like Macedon was going to be toast.
  - Phillip the II rises to power in this time, sort of a miracle.

## 1.2 Philip II

- Accession
  - Came to the throne after a major battle, a bleak looking future was set for Macedon.
  - Held “hostage” as a child in Thebes
    - \* More as a child to a rich family.
    - \* Free to learn and go where pleased (in thebes)
    - \* Insurance policy, rather than prisoner of war.
- Survival
  - While rebuilding the army, survived and bought time by strategically pleasing his enemies in peace treaties. Would give away even prized important cities/centers.
    1. Amphipolis (357)
      - \* Originally given up by Philip, but I guess he wanted it back.
    2. Thessaly (352)
      - \* Just south of Macedonia.

- \* Tended to be a little more divided than most regions, required unity though a leader of the entire region.
  - \* At this time, two leaders were battling it out.
  - \* Philip partnered with Larissa to take over the rest of the state.
  - \* Also defeated Phosis, an annoying state a little more south.
3. Third sacred war (356-346)
    - \* Sacred wars had to do with the affairs of Delphi.
    - \* Delphi seen as belonging to all Greeks equally, so had a representative board to make decisions on the affairs of Delphi, the Amphictyonic Council.
    - \* Philip intervened and won a war between Thebes and Phosis over Delphi (there's a whole story about stealing money from Delphi and shit, point is Philip won).
  4. Chaeronea (338)
    - \* Battle against Thebes and Athens.
    - \* Athens signed an early peace treaty with Philip.
    - \* Finally big battle held at Chaeronea.
    - \* Threatened Thebes terribly (burning it to the ground) but spared Athens. This was a well thought out plan, worried about Persian invasion, so needed Athenian fleet at his disposal and also to be on their good side to maintain the safety of the land.
  5. League of Corinth
    - \* At this point, Philip controlled all of Greece, except the anti-social (and resilient) Spartans.
    - \* Called a meeting of the heads of all city-states to vote him to be the leader in war against the Persians.
    - \* Philip dies at a wedding (GRRM Rip off), during which his armies were invading Persia (successfully).

## 2 Alexander the Great

### 2.1 Birth

- Born 354BC to Olympias, Philip's 4th wife. Quite a formidable woman, Pyrot princess. Philip was known to marry for diplomatic or political reasons (common).
- Ancestry. From Heracles and Achilles. Referred back to this a lot for "divine purpose" and all that shit that used to fly before they put Obama in office.

### 2.2 Early Life

#### 2.2.1 Education

- Taught from a very young age by many well known teachers.

- Student of Aristotle, some debate on what sort of affect his teaching had on the boy.

### 2.2.2 Prodigy

- Very smart (that's what Prodigy means)
- Bucephalus
  - Rode a horse that no man could tame.
  - Horse died with him in battle in India.
  - Founded a city in India named after the horse.
  - Only city named after a horse in history (ok...)
- At age 16, father put him in charge of the kingdom. Apparently he did a very good job.
- At age 18, lead the chavallry at the battle of Chaeronea (against Thebes and Athens).

## 2.3 Accenssion to the Throne

### 2.3.1 Challenges

- Obviously not the only contender to the throne.
- Despite the past awesomeness of him, he was not 100% guaranteed the throne.
- At the last second before his death, Philip married a Cleopatra (not the Egypt one) who was Macedonian and got her pregnant. That kid technically had the better claim to the throne, but it was a girl. Sucks to be a girl at that point.
- Amyntas the IV was Alexander's cousin. Had a claim to the throne so Alexander just killed him.

### 2.3.2 Consolidation

#### 1. Greece

- When he took over at age 20, no one thought he'd be much of a leader.
- He had the league of Corinth vote for him to be hegemon (leader) and it passed. (Probably not really a "vote").
- Greeks appeased for now.

#### 2. Thrace and Illyria

- Went North and squashed rebellions from there.
- Actually good over more than his father did, assimilating a few new tribes - things were looking up for the wee lad.

### 3. Greeks (again)

- He had to kick their ass again, destroyed Thebes.

## 2.4 Conquest of Asia

### 2.4.1 Invasion

- Only had about 37000 soldiers.
- Granics (334)
  - Stops at Troy and pays homage to Achilles.
  - Most opposing forces are in the center of the empire, can't properly defend the outskirts.
  - Local leaders rally to attack him and try to just kill Alexander, they get close, but fail.
- Issus (333)
  - Main king's army.
  - Avoid the main army, instead destroys all the port villages along the mediteranea, preventing use of persian fleet.
  - Turned back around to win at Issus.

### 2.4.2 Egypt

- Not opposed, welcomed as a liberator.
- Oracle of Zeus-Ammon
  - Called the son of Ammon by a priest.
  - Went straight to his head.
- Founded Alexandria
  - Became greatest city of the time.
  - Said to have founded 70 Alexandrias.
  - Hellenizing the East.

### 2.4.3 King of Asia

#### 1. Battle of Gaugamela (331)

- End of the rule of King Darius.
- War elephants and shit, luckily Alexander brought Legolas.
- Gained control of Persian empire.

## 2. Babylon, Susa and Persepolis.

- Nice to Babylon and Susa.
- Burned the shit outta Persepolis.
- Persepolis was the place of power in the Persian empire, burning it down was revenge for the Persians invading Athens earlier. Another point in Athenian favour for Alexander.

## 3. Death of Darius

- He dead now.

## 4. Going Native

- Dressed more like the Persians.
- Made people do the Proskynesis (first-plant in front of the king), a Persian tradition, but made even Greeks do it.
- Marries Bactican princess Roxane.
- Macedonians back home become restless and more resistant to this “barbarianism” of their leader.
- He’s appealing to the Persians this way.