

Alexander the Great

Relationship with the Macedonians,
Greeks and Persians

Relationship with the Macedonians

Early Years as King

- In 336 BC, while attending the wedding of his daughter, Phillip was assassinated by his bodyguard Pausanias. Alexander was then proclaimed king by the Macedonian noblemen and army at the age of 24
- He punished his father's assassins, having two of the three Lyncestian brothers executed but the third pardoned because he was the first to greet Alexander with "Hail King of Macedonia"
- Alexander started his reign by killing anyone who would threaten his position as king.

Amyntas – Alexander's first cousin

Attalus – Macedonian nobleman

Cleopatra and her baby – At request of Olympias

- In an effort to be accepted by Macedonian loyalty, he promised to follow the principles of his father's administration
- All Macedonian people were exempt from taxation

- Macedonian idea of King was 'first among equals' so the King and the nobles were very close. Nobles gave support in exchange for them being consulted by the King
- He inherited a strong and experienced army from his father
- Was given total loyalty and devotion

Late Years of Reign

- Relationship with Macedonians deteriorated
- As he invaded Persia, he adopted a policy of fusion. This meant that he took some of the Persians way of life and integrated them into the Macedonian culture.
- Many Macedonians strongly disagreed with this
- One such thing he took from the Persians was that they had a 'Great King' who was above all others. Alexander took on this mantle which the other nobles felt elevated him to too high a status and greatly angered them

Relationship with the Greeks

Initial Relationship

- Greek states prepared to rebel against Macedonia as soon as they heard of Phillip's death
- Alexander, like his father, wanted peace with the Greeks but was in the north when he heard the news so had to act quickly
- He needed to get to the Greek states in the south to stop the rebellions and claim his hereditary right as leader of the League of Corinth
- He had to go through Thessaly to get to the southern Greek states. To avoid a fight, he took a narrow path up the slope of Mt Ossa and found his way into the city. The Thessalians were forced to welcome him and now him Archon (political leader) and placed there cavalry at his disposal.
- Upon hearing of the surrender of Thessaly, neighbouring states also submitted.
- The Corinthian League members held a synhedrion and Alexander was declared Hegemon.

League of Corinth

- Asserted power over league of Corinth giving him strong influence and control in Greece
- In early years there were several rebellions against Macedonian rule. These were all defeated
- With control over the League of Corinth, he was able to maintain peace in Greece as he forbid member states to fight each other
- It allowed him to lead the allied troops against Persia under the pretext of a religious war of revenge



ADRIATIC SEA

MACEDON

THRACE (343-342 BC)

PERSIA EMPIRE

THESSALY (352 BC)

MAR EGEO

MOLOSSIA (343-342 BC)

Lesbos

Thermopylae

Euboea

Dodona

Larissa

Pherae

Field of Crocus 352 BC

Methoni (355 BC)

Pydna (356 BC)

Pella

Olynthus (348 BC)

Potidea (356 BC)

Dion

Philippi

Abdera

Maronea

Magnesia

Smyrna

Ephesus

Miletus

Ambracia

Amphissa

Chaeronea (338 BC)

Eretria

Thermon

Delphi

Thebes

Athens

Megara

Corinth

Olympia

Messenia

Sparta

Crete

Rhodes

Rhodes

DODECANESO

CICLADAS

Byzantium

Perinthus

Alexander at War

- During Alexander's campaigns, Greece enjoyed a time of relative peace, partly because many of the Greek troops went with Alexander on his campaigns
- Alexander left Antipater as regent of Macedonia and deputy Hegemon of the League of Corinth in charge of 12000 Macedonian infantry and 1500 cavalry to defend against any rebellions.
- He had to maintain firm control over the Greeks throughout his rule as the Greeks always continued to be hostile towards the Macedonians. He used many methods to do this such as intimidation and bribery.
- While in the east, Alexander had less to do with the Greeks, leaving Antipater to subdue any rebellions.