

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Alexander the Great</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">A copy of a sculpture made seven years before Alexander's death; one ancient writer said the sculptor (Lysippus) made the most accurate images of Alexander.</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><i>Major Battles</i></h2> <p>Granicus River (334 BC)--his forces moved into Asia and faced a Persian frontier guard.</p> <p>Issus River (333 BC)--Darius showed up in person, and took a position in Alexander's line of retreat, but flees.</p> <p>Gaugamela (331 BC)--Darius again leads the battle, this time with elephants and scythed chariots, but again flees. Alexander chases Darius until he is killed by the nobles he was fleeing with.</p> <p>Hydaspes River (326 BC)--against Porus, an Indian king in modern-day Pakistan.</p>
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Themes in Alexander's brief rule

1. **Boundary of conflict between Persia & the West was moved from Greece to Mesopotamia.** Even in the Roman era, the Romans battled with the Persians for control of Mesopotamia until the Muslim Arabs took it from them both in the 600s AD.
2. **Transformation from a traditional Macedonian monarchy into an imperial, Greco-Persian monarchy:** (1) wearing clothing of Persian emperors and accepting *proskynesis*; (2) the cultivation of a Greco-Persian army, when he returned to Mesopotamia from India—30,000 Persians trained to fight in the Macedonian style, with Persian commanders. Nor did he give this project up; at Babylon he incorporated a force of 20,000 Persians into his army units. He also promoted marriages of Asian women with his Greek soldiers (some 10,000 soldiers, given generous dowries), and when the soldiers wanted to return, he told them he would raise their sons and then send the sons to Greece later on.
3. **Failure to establish succession:** when asked who would get his kingdom, he replied, "the best man [or strongest]; for I foresee that a great combat of my friends will be my funeral games." Although he had a posthumous son, and a half brother Philip III Arrhidaeus, these remained pawns until they were killed by his generals. This left the Hellenistic world at war for the next 150 years (until Rome conquered them all piecemeal).
4. **Hellenistic culture & population spread throughout Middle East:** even native Egyptians Syrians, and Jews used Greek (a Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament was even used in Israel).

Four Hellenistic dynasties were established in Alexander's wake: the Antigonids in Macedonia, the Ptolemies in Egypt, the Seleucids in Syria, and later, the Attalids in Pergamum (western Asia Minor). Although a couple powerful dynasts (Antiochus III and Antigonus) attempted to re-establish Alexander's massive empire, none succeeded.