

## L25. Alexander's Conquests pt. 2



HIST 225

Fall 2011

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## Alexander turns East to fight Darius




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## Forces at Gaugamela

Persian	Greek
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 110,000 infantry</li> <li>• 40,000 cavalry—from the best in his empire</li> <li>• 50 scythe chariots</li> <li>• 15 elephants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40,000 infantry</li> <li>• 7,000 cavalry</li> <li>• front line only 12,000 heavy infantry, 4,200 cavalry, 1,000 peltasts</li> </ul>

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### Battle of Gaugamela (331 BCE)



*The Battle of Gaugamela, Jan Brueghel the Elder, 1602*

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### Victory for Alexander

- News of Darius' escape turns Persian withdraw into a rout
- Alexander pursues Darius into the night
  - left some of his cavalry vulnerable—heavy loses
- Parmenion advances and takes Persian camp
- Alexander rides through the night to Persian supply base Arbela (64 mi.) and finds Persian treasury but no Shah
- Darius fled north to Media; Alex on to Babylon

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### Impact of Gaugamela

- Macedonians now control Persian Heartland
  - Control vast amount of wealth—2 millennia
- 18 October at Sippar, Alexander announced that he would spare the houses of the Babylonians.
- After this declaration, the Persian commander Mazaesus, who had gone from Gaugamela to Babylon, formally surrendered the city
- 22 October Alexander's army entered the city through the famous Ištar Gate and the Procession Street, the victorious king riding in the royal chariot.

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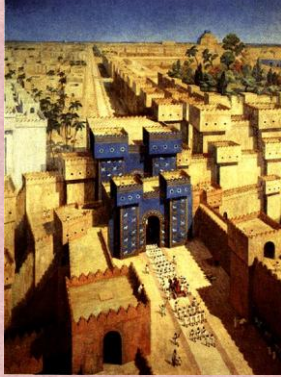
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A large number of the Babylonians had taken up a position on the walls, eager to have a view of their new king, but most went out to meet him, including the man in charge of the citadel and royal treasury, Bagophanes. Not to be outdone by Mazaeus in paying his respects to Alexander, Bagophanes had carpeted the whole road with flowers and garlands and set up at intervals on both sides silver altars heaped not just with frankincense but with all manner of perfumes. Following him were his gifts - herds of cattle and horses, and lions, too, and leopards, carried along in cages. Curtius Rufus 5.1.18



Macedonians Enter Babylon through Ishtar Gate

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### Eastern Campaign (330-324 BCE)




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### Burning of Persepolis (330 BCE)

"Alexander held games to celebrate his victories; he offered magnificent sacrifices to the gods and entertained his friends lavishly. One day when the Companions were feasting, and intoxication was growing as the drinking went on, a violent madness took hold of these drunken men. One of the women present (she was an Athenian called Thais) declared that it would be Alexander's greatest achievement in Asia to join in their procession and set fire to the royal palace, allowing women's hands to destroy in an instant what had been the pride of the Persians.

-Diodorus Siculus

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## Hunt for the Shah

Summer 330 Darius III continues into Bactria

- Persian satraps loose confidence
  - In July, along the Silk Road at **Choara** or **Thara**, Darius III Codomannus was killed.
  - Bessus, satrap of Bactria, becomes Artaxerxes IV
- disloyal satraps hand him over to Alexander

Alexander now “King of Kings”

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## Alexander pushed East again

- July 330, the Macedonian army marched through Sogdia and reached the river Jaxartes
- Founds Alexandria Eschate (Alexandria the furthest)-would become staging point of the silk road
- marches south through Bactria (Afghanistan) and finds numerous cities
- 329 Splits his forces into 6 sections
  - 2 remain in Bactra
  - 4 move back across Oxus

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## Logistics for Alexander’s Army

From	To	Marching Rate (miles per day)	Units
Gaza	Delta	7 days/118 19.5 miles	whole army
Paraetonium	Siwa	8 days/160 2.5 miles	light force
Babylon	Susa	20 days/240 12.3 miles	whole army
Ecbatana	Rhagae	11 days/240 22.3 miles	Companion cav and 2 phalanx 20k mules 5k camels for gold
Parthia		15 days/520 34.4 miles	Companion cav and 2 phalanx
Oxus River	Nautaka	37.5 miles	3 reg. Comp. cav and 1 phalanx
Mallians’ territory		40-50 miles	½ Comp. cav, light phalanx

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## Logistics for Alexander's Army

Grain requirement for ONE day	numbers	Ration per man	Total Weight	
Personnel	65,000	3 lbs.	195,000 lbs.	
Horses (cavalry)	6,100	10 lbs. 10 lbs. forage	122,000 lbs.	
Animals (baggage)	1,300	10 lbs. 10 lbs. forage	26,000 lbs.	
Animals to carry provisions	1,492	10 lbs. 10 lbs. forage	29,840 lbs.	

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## Logistics for Alexander's Army

Water requirement for ONE day	numbers	Ration per man	Total Weight	
Personnel	65,000	½ gallon (5 lbs.)	325,000 lbs.	
Horses (cavalry)	6,100	8 gals. (80 lbs.)	488,000 lbs.	
Animals (baggage)	1,300	8 gals. (80 lbs.)	104,000 lbs.	
Animals to carry provisions	1,121	8 gals. (80 lbs.)	672,000 lbs.	

Rivers are important  
To fill a 4 gal. bucket in a jar every 15 seconds; 24 hours only 23, 040 gals

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## Personality changes in Alexander

October 330 Parmenion and son executed for treason

Autumn 329 "Black" Cleitus killed in drunken rage

Alexander seems to adopt "Oriental" habits:

- marries Roxanne (Spring 328)
- demands *proskynesis* (summer 328)
- Persian robes

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proskynesis



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### Murder of Cleitus

- Generals gather in Marakanda Autumn 328
  - tensions are high
- Usually an offering made at Festival to Dionysius, but this year Castor and Pollux



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Cleitus gets drunk and quotes Euripides' *Andromache*

"When the public sets a war memorial up  
 Do those who really sweated get the credit?  
 Oh, no! Some general wangles the prestige! -  
 Who, brandishing his one spear among  
 thousands,  
 Did one man's work, but gets a world of  
 praise.  
 These self-important fathers of their country  
 Think they're above the people. Why, they're  
 nothing!"

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Hellenistic ruins at ancient Taxila

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### Alexander presses into India

326 Alexander passes through Hindu Kush

invades Gandhara, the west of the Punjab and enters Indus River valley

May/June 326: Battle of Hydaspes— King Porus

- First time Macedonians confront elephants
- Bucephalus dies
- Macedonians win
- make Porus' Kingdom a Macedonian territory
- found several cities



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Alexander's troops refuse to continue and beg to return to their homes

Alexander sulks in his tent for 3 days, then finally accedes

Alex takes them back West, but does so through the Gedrosian Desert

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**Return through Gedrosian desert**

**August 325: 60 days forced march in desert**

blazing heat and the lack of water caused innumerable casualties  
 Baggage animals had to be butchered, most died of thirst or from the deep, burning, sun-baked sand  
 Monsoon rains would swell creeks overnight  
 when water was found after a hot and thirsty march, most of the men drank so much that it was fatal to them  
 guides could no longer find the way; all landmarks had been obliterated by drifting sand.  
 nothing in the vast and featureless desert to determine what course they should take - no trees, as elsewhere, by the roadside, no hills of solid earth rising from the sand.

**Early December, army was through desert**  
 Alexander sent messengers to the satrap of the most fertile areas in Iran to send food

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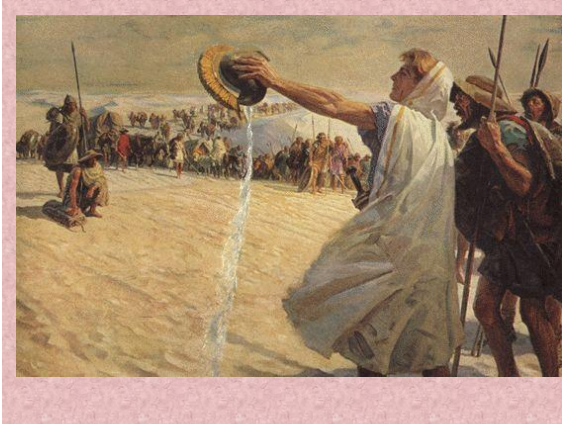
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- Alexander may have also determined that this backbone of his original army would also be the most adamant against further "fraternization with the enemy," as he obviously envisioned. Leaving Susa – (possibly in late March, 324 BCE)
- Alexander ordered his troops to meet him at a bend in the Euphrates, while he went on with the fleet. Once reunited at Opis, he announced that 10,000 Macedonians would be retired from the service with lavish 'golden handshakes' and returned to Greece

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### Mutiny at Opis (Summer, 324 BCE)

- Over a decade after leading his troops eastwards
- Greek or Macedonian soldiers viewed all his attempts at creating a new, merged Graeco-Persian command structure with deep hostility and suspicion
- Some of his troops may well have been veterans of his father's campaigns, and in their 50's and 60's, were obviously aging and prime for retirement.

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Hephaestion accompanied Alexander's campaign in Asia from the very beginning, fighting in the *hetairoi*

### Death of Hephaestion

- particularly gifted battlefield commander, and excelled at logistics
- leading one Companion squadron in the Battle of the Hydaspes River.



Alexander the Great, left, Hephaestion, right  
Getty Villa Museum

Autumn 324 BCE Hephaestion fell sick during the games being held for the court at Ecbatana and died a week later

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### Alexander mourned greatly

- shaving his head, cropping the manes of the army horses, cancelled all festivities, and crucified the attending doctor.
- He set out immediately for Babylon with the body, where fabulous funeral games were held.

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"...nothing could keep them a sight of him, and the motive in almost every heart was grief and a sort of helpless bewilderment at the thought of losing their king. Lying speechless as the men filed by, he yet struggled to raise his head, and in his eyes there was a look of recognition for each individual as he passed..."

Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander*, VII. 27.

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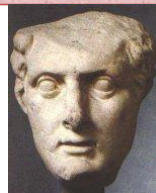
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### Alexander's Generals



**Seleucus**  
page under Philip II  
Commander of the Hypaspists

**Ptolemy**  
7 Bodyguards after Clitus  
helped uncover plot



**Antigonus "one-eye"**  
Key in Asia invasion  
Commander of Greek Hoplites  
• satrap of Lycia and Pamphylia

**Perdiccas**  
7 Bodyguard commander of Tyre siege



• became #2 man after Parmenion is executed

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