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Alexander the great

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Almost two millennia ago, there was a conqueror, one like none other, who defeats all who stands in his path all the way from Europe to India. The conqueror was Alexander of Macedon, as known as Alexander the great in the modern days. His name was written in the history as the greatest commander on earth. He was a great warrior who was never defeated by anyone in battlefield. Most importantly, his actions created various huge impacts that last centuries for wherever he went and waged war, his cultures and knowledge went with him. Therefore, Greek's art, knowledge, and religion were spread across continents to those who were defeated by his great army. In translation, he is one of the most influential people in history's page. By reading his biography, I shall conclude that there are three main important factors that made him one of the greatest rulers that have ever existed, which are his courage in the battlefield, his magnificent mind in governing and ruling, and his extraordinary leadership.

Alexander is a courage king for he always stays in the frontline of every battle such as in the ¹battle of Gaugamela. Before the Gaugamela war, Alexander rides Bucephalus²,

¹ Wikimedia Foundation. "Battle of Gaugamela." *Wikipedia*. 04 Feb. 2013.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Gaugamela>

² Wikimedia Foundation. "Bucephalus." *Wikipedia*. 04 Feb. 2013.
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bucephalus>>

which is his horse to confronts his troops and give a morale speech to his army to make them believe in him. Moreover, His troops see him sharing their danger when they fight and see him sharing his happiness when they win the battles so this action make Alexander's troops feel protected and ready to fight and even die for him. The thing that Alexander's fighters usually do before the war begins is hitting the swords together with the shields in their intention to create loud noises threatening the Persian warriors making them feel scared. It was Alexander's strategy. Therefore Alexander wins the battle not only using his brute force, but also his magnificent mind. The purpose of this war was to kill king Darius III, which is the king of the Persian Empire but this objective, was not completed. At the moment the fight started, Alexander and some of his men went to the right so the majority of Persian warriors would ignore his unit. However, Macedonia's Solider are full of tricks and tools such as silver-shield infantry, etc. so the first troop that came to the Alexander's unit is dead. King Darius III ³was very upset so he ordered vast troops to kill Alexander's unit. However, this was thing that Alexander had been waiting for so he rode the horse straight to king Darius and threw his spear in an intention to kill king Darius but he missed. This makes Darius scared and fell back. In addition, Alexander's army was outnumbered by the Persian army 1 to 4 so Alexander didn't follow king Darius and he needed to fall back as well. In retreat, Alexander never left a single soldier behind, as he always is the last person to leave to make sure all of his comrades were safe. This is why we must admire his courage in the battlefield which is unmatched by none other.

Alexander is also a very genius commander. Before Alexander goes to the

³ Wikimedia Foundation. "Darius III." *Wikipedia*. 04 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darius_III>

battlefield, He and his best strategists must plan the strategies they are going use. King Alexander always rejects the others' plan and instead comes up with the best plan that suits for conquering different regions. For example, when the Persian Empire⁴ comes to avenge their army, they send ships for naval battle that the Persian army has better skills and experience over Alexander's army. One of his warriors said that they must fight in the sea because nevertheless the courage of Macedon's warriors can bring victory with a swift attack, but Alexander didn't agree with this plan and gave the soldier 3 reasons for why they are losing this war. First reason is the number of Macedonia's ship is much lesser than the Persian ship so the Persian will have a huge number advantage. Second one is that sailors of Macedonia don't have skills over sea whereas sailors of Persian expertise in sailing. The last reason is money since he needs to build 160 ships including full equipment and use about at least 30,000 sailors to fight with the Persian. If he ordered to his colonies to give him this money he wants for warfare, the colonies he has taken would start losing faith in him so he solves this question with ease. He burns all the ships and sends all sailors back home to avoid losing in the naval fight; he also damages a part of Persian naval fleet with this plan. Another clever plan of Alexander is that he sees the value of other civilization so he let them rule their city just like before they were colonized and sometimes Alexander lets his soldiers marries the foreigners such as the Indian so that they will receive the Greek culture. This creates an influential impact on the Indian belief. India never use statue in representing their gods beforehand. However, after Alexander conquered India, India uses statue to represent many gods and goddesses as they are influenced by Greek sculpting arts. In the end, It is because he has an

⁴ Wikimedia Foundation. "Persian Empire." *Wikipedia*. 05 Feb. 2013.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_empire>

excellent mind, he is able to conquer his foes with the least damage to his army and spread Greek's tradition and culture so glorious that it still lasts until today all the way from Macedonia⁵ to New Delhi⁶.

Alexander is nothing but the greatest leader. He takes care of his army very well, soldier who is very far from home for a very long time can re-marry in the winter to ease the loneliness, soldier who is injured from the war will have the best treatment available. After each battle, King Alexander will see to and take care of his injured infantries. Moreover, for keeping his soldier happy Alexander hired many renowned musicians and drama players of Greece to perform in his army. When his army stayed in the captured cities for a long period of time, Alexander sets sport competitions and the winner will receive awards and trophies from the King Alexander himself. This keeps his soldier healthy both physically and mentally. Another example is the cities that are ruled by the Persian Empire, their kings usually oppress the citizens. Alexander sees that this was a problem, so once he captured these cities, he changes the governing system into a more democratic way, releasing people from being oppressed. This is how he wins people's heart.

All in all, Alexander would have been the world's conqueror if he did not stop at India, however it was because he stopped at the right time for the sake of his soldiers and comrades made him Alexander the great. He was not a man who craves only for power but he has a kind heart for his subordinates. Alexander is granted title "the great" not just for his strength in battlefield, but also because he has a mind rarely matched by others,

⁵ Wikimedia Foundation. "Macedonia (region)." *Wikipedia*. 05 Feb. 2013. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_\(region\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_(region))>.

⁶ Wikimedia Foundation. "New Delhi." *Wikipedia*. 05 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Delhi>.

and also a caring leadership that wins people's heart. These traits are what truly made him deserve the title that was given to him.