

350-340 – Occupation of Thermopylae by Macedonia

Philip the second of Macedon occupied Thermopylae in 346 BCE during a plan to make an oath to Athens. This was in order to be closer to the pass in Thermopylae and have an advantage in taking it fairly easy, without any opposition.

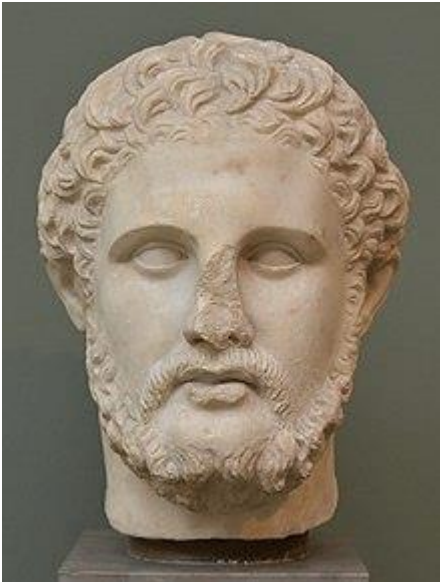


Figure 1; Bust of Philip II of Macedon from the Hellenistic period. (Image from; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_II_of_Macedon)

The occupation of Thermopylae was due to the aftermath of the final ratification of Peace that Philip of Macedon used the *coup de grace* (Cawkwell G. 1978, p.103). Philip's troops were very close to Thermopylae already because of his oath to the Athenian assembly in Pherae (Cawkwell G. 1978, p.103).

Philip persuaded the Athenians and other Greeks with his army; he was heading towards Halus (Cawkwell G. 1978, p.103). By delaying the oaths, it effectively tricked everyone that he was going to Halus (Buckley T. 1996, p.478).

Figure 2; The Kingdom of Macedonia in 336 BC (orange) – Map. (Image from; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_\(ancient_kingdom\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_(ancient_kingdom)))



However, they seemed to have sent other units straight to Thermopylae (Cawkwell G. 1978, p.103). The delay of the oaths prevented the Athenians from seeing their pending danger and the garrison got closer to Thermopylae (Buckley T. 1996, p.478).

Thus, by the time Athenian ambassadors arrived home, Philip had already taken and was in the possession of the pass (Cawkwell G. 1978, p.103).

Bibliography

Buckley, Terry (1996). Aspects of Greek history, 750-323 BC: a source-based approach.

Cawkwell, George (1978). Philip II of Macedon. Faber & Faber Press.