



The Rise of Macedon



Macedon and the Macedonians



Were the Macedonians Greek?

- ▶ Now **that these descendants of Perdiccas are Greeks**, as they themselves say, I myself chance to know and will prove it in the later part of my history. Furthermore, **the Hellenodicae who manage the contest at Olympia determined that it is so, [2]** for when Alexander chose to contend and entered the lists for that purpose, the Greeks who were to run against him wanted to bar him from the race, **saying that the contest should be for Greeks and not for foreigners. Alexander, however, proving himself to be an Argive, was judged to be a Greek.** He accordingly competed in the furlong race and tied step for first place. This, then, is approximately what happened. Herodotos 5.22



The lack of a polis

- ▶ Macedon was not organised by poleis as the majority of the Greek world.
- ▶ The important unit was the ethnos or tribe.
- ▶ Urbanisation rates were low before the Peloponnesian War.
- ▶ Most poleis were Greek colonies, not Macedonian.



The Macedonian Kingship

- ▶ Macedon was ruled by kings since the 7th century.
- ▶ The Macedonian kingship was essentially feudal.
- ▶ However, the monarchy was not an autocracy.
- ▶ The king had great power but was not the only political power in Macedon.



Macedon as a Border Guard

- ▶ Macedon played a very important defensive role for mainland Greece.
- ▶ In the north of Macedon were the various Illyrian, Dardanian and Thracian tribes that were always looking toward the south.
- ▶ Macedon was in constant war with these tribes, stopping them from invading the south.



The Barbarians to the North



A buffer for Greece

- ▶ Against an armed foe, men ought to engage with hostile resentment; towards the vanquished, he that showed most clemency, showed the greatest spirit. **The Kings of Macedonia were thought to be dangerous to the liberty of Greece. Suppose that kingdom and nation extirpated, the Thracians, Illyrians, and, in time, the Gauls, (nations uncivilized and savage,) would pour themselves into Macedonia first, and then into Greece.** He therefore warned them, not, by removing inconveniencies which lay nearest, to open a passage to others greater and more grievous. Livy 33.12



Greeks and Macedonians

- ▶ In the fifth century, Macedon was in almost constant conflict with Athens, since Athens wanted influence over Macedon and the surrounding areas.
- ▶ Sparta after the Peloponnesian War also looked toward the north and influencing Macedon.



Dynastic Succession

- ▶ The hereditary nature of the Macedonian kingship meant that the death of a king could bring about internal conflict.
- ▶ The most obvious case of dynastic conflict was the period 399-392 BCE.
- ▶ In 399 BCE, Archelaos died leaving no clear heir.





Vacuum of power

Philip: Brains and Brawn

- ▶ For my own part, Athenians, I too should be inclined to regard Philip with **mingled fear and admiration, if I saw that his success had crowned a career of integrity**. But when I consider him attentively, I find that at the outset, when the Olynthians were anxious to consult you, but certain persons were for excluding them from our Assembly, **he won our simple hearts by promising to hand over Amphipolis to us and by negotiating that secret treaty once so much talked about**. Demosthenes 2.6



The Power of Money

- After this he went to the city of Crenides, and having increased its size with a large number of inhabitants, changed its name to Philippi, giving it his own name, and then, **turning to the gold mines in its territory, which were very scanty and insignificant, he increased their output so much by his improvements that they could bring him a revenue of more than a thousand talents.** [7] And because from these mines he had soon amassed a fortune, with the abundance of money he raised the Macedonian kingdom higher and higher to a greatly superior position, for with the gold coins which he struck, which came to be known from his name as Philippeioi, **he organized a large force of mercenaries, and by using these coins for bribes induced many Greeks to become betrayers of their native lands.** Diodoros 16.6.6-7



The Sacred War

- ▶ When the Lacedaemonians had fought the Leuctrian War with the Boeotians and been defeated, **the Thebans brought a serious charge against the Lacedaemonians in the Amphictyonic Council** because of their seizure of the Cadmeia and obtained a judgement against them for a large indemnity; [3] and **the Phocians for having cultivated a large portion of the consecrated territory named Cirrhaean were arraigned in the Council and were fined a large number of talents.** When they did not discharge the assessments, the hieromnemes of the Amphictyons brought charges against the Phocians and demanded of the Council that if the Phocians did not pay the money to the god, they should lay under a curse the land of those who were cheating the god. Likewise they declared that the others against whom judgments had been passed should discharge their fines, the Lacedaemonians being in this category, and if they did not obey, they should incur the common hatred of the Greeks for their knavery. Diodoros 16.23.2-3

Sparta trying to get into the game

- ▶ When the Phocians out of fear of the judgement elected him general with absolute power, Philomelus set about energetically to fulfil his promise. First he went to Sparta, where he conversed in private with Archidamus king of the Lacedaemonians, representing that the king had an equal interest in the effort to render null and void the judgments of the Amphictyons, for there existed serious and unjust pronouncements of that Council to the injury of the Lacedaemonians also. He accordingly disclosed to Archidamus that he had decided to seize Delphi and that if he succeeded in obtaining the guardianship of the shrine he would annul the decrees of the Amphictyons. [2] Although Archidamus approved of the proposal, he said he would not for the present give assistance openly, but that he would co-operate secretly in every respect, providing both money and mercenaries. Philomelus, having received from him fifteen talents and having added at least as much on his own account, hired foreign mercenaries and chose a thousand of the Phocians, whom he called peltasts. Diodoros 16.24.1-2

The Power of Money once more

- ▶ While these things were going on, Philomelus threw a wall around the shrine and began to assemble a large number of mercenaries by raising the pay to half as much again, and selecting the bravest of the Phocians he enrolled them and quickly had a considerable army; for with no less than five thousand troops he took up a position in defence of Delphi, already a formidable adversary for those who wished to make war upon him. Diodoros 16.25.1



A victory for Philip

- ▶ Philip, after his defeat of Onomarchus in a noteworthy battle, put an end to the tyranny in Pherae, and, after restoring its freedom to the city and settling all other matters in Thessaly, advanced to Thermopylae, intending to make war on the Phocians. [2] But since the Athenians prevented him from penetrating the pass, he returned to Macedonia, having enlarged his kingdom not only by his achievements but also by his reverence toward the god. Diodoros I 6.38.1



The End of the Sacred War

- ▶ An agreement was reached whereby Phalaecus with his men should depart whithersoever he wished, and he then, under terms of the truce, withdrew to the Peloponnese with his mercenaries to the number of eight thousand, but the Phocians, whose hopes were now completely crushed, surrendered to Philip.
[4] The king, having without a battle unexpectedly terminated the Sacred War, sat in council with the Boeotians and the Thessalians. As a result he decided to call a meeting of the Amphictyonic Council and leave to it the final decision on all the issues at stake.
Diodoros 16.59.



Philip's Power in Central Greece

- ▶ In similar tenor the Amphictyons laid down regulations for the custody of the oracle and other matters affecting due respect for the gods and the general peace and concord of the Greeks.
[4] Thereafter, when Philip had helped the Amphictyons give effect to their decrees and had dealt courteously with all, he returned to Macedonia, having not merely won for himself a reputation for piety and excellent generalship, but having also made important preparations for the aggrandizement that was destined to be his. Diodoros I 6.60



Athens & Thebes against Philip

- ▶ In the next place, I would have you appoint ten ambassadors, and give them authority, in consultation with the military commanders, to determine the time of the march to Thebes and the conduct of the campaign. Now for my advice on the treatment of the difficulty after the arrival of the ambassadors at Thebes. I beg your careful attention to this. Do not ask any favor of the Thebans: for that the occasion is not creditable. Pledge yourselves to come to their aid at their call, on the ground that they are in extremities, and that we have a clearer foresight of the future than they. And so, if they accept our overtures and take our advice, we shall have accomplished our desires and have acted on a principle worthy of our traditions; while, if success does not fall to our lot, they will have themselves to blame for their immediate blunder, and we shall have done nothing mean or discreditable.” Demosthenes 18.178
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Chaironeia

- ▶ So Philip failed to get the support of the Boeotians, but nevertheless decided to fight both of the allies together. He waited for the last of his laggard confederates to arrive, and then marched into Boeotia. His forces came to more than thirty thousand infantry and no less than two thousand cavalry. [6] Both sides were on edge for the battle, high-spirited and eager, and were well matched in courage, but the king had the advantage in numbers and in generalship. [7] He had fought many battles of different sorts and had been victorious in most cases, so that he had a wide experience in military operations. On the Athenian side, the best of their generals were dead—Iphicrates, Chabrias, and Timotheus too—and the best of those who were left, Chares, was no better than any average soldier in the energy and discretion required of a commander. Diodoros 16.85



The League of Corinth: A Macedonian Triumph

- ▶ Oath. I swear by Zeus, Earth, Sun, Poseidon, Athena, Ares, all the gods and goddesses: I shall abide by the peace; and I shall neither break the agreement with Philip nor take up arms or harm against any of those who abide by the oaths neither by land nor by sea. Rhodes and Osborne 76.1-7



Macedon against Persia

- ▶ In this year King Philip, proudly conscious of his victory at Chaeroneia and seeing that he had dashed the confidence of the leading Greek cities, conceived of the ambition to become the leader of all Greece. [2] He spread the word that he wanted to make war on the Persians in the Greeks' behalf and to punish them for the profanation of the temples,³ and this won for him the loyal support of the Greeks. He showed a kindly face to all in private and in public, and he represented to the cities that he wished to discuss with them matters of common advantage. [3] A general congress was, accordingly, convened at Corinth. He spoke about the war against Persia and by raising great expectations won the representatives over to war. The Greeks elected him the general plenipotentiary of Greece, and he began accumulating supplies for the campaign. He prescribed the number of soldiers that each city should send for the joint effort, and then returned to Macedonia. Diodoros 16.89

