

Notes on Quiz #7: The Rise of Macedon

1. All of the following are true about the rise of Thebes EXCEPT:

- a. Their general, Epaminondas, pushed Thebes to be more aggressive
- b. Their army was led by an elite force of 150 male couples known as the Sacred Band
- c. Using new tactics, they defeated Sparta at the battle of Leuctra
- d. With Sparta defeated, all of Greece was united under the Theban Hegemony and there were no more wars between the Greeks

The Peloponnesian War exhausted the Greeks, but the rivals for hegemony only fought harder in the decades that followed, so that by 350 the Greeks were more divided than ever and ruined both economically and in spirit. As a result, the Greeks were unable to put up any resistance to Philip's incursions into Greece, both military and diplomatic. — A key example is the war between Sparta and Thebes. The Thebans had strengthened themselves with new tactics and by establishing the Sacred Band of pair-bonded elite warriors. Throwing off a Spartan occupying force the Thebans marched on Sparta and defeated them, shocking all of Greece and establishing themselves as a new contender for Greek hegemony. But the Thebans overextended themselves, seeking to conquer the Peloponnese, and in the second battle, in which the Spartans were again defeated, the casualties on each side were so high that both Sparta and Thebes were too weak to engage in any further warfare or attempts at dominion over the other Greeks.

2. Though his domination of Greece came as much through diplomacy as conquest, Philip II is credited with revolutionizing war with the unstoppable Macedonian phalanx, which had

- a. pikes that were 18 feet long
- b. soldiers that were 18 feet tall
- c. ranks of soldiers 18 feet apart
- d. breaks in the phalanx every 18 feet

Most impactful would probably be Philip's innovations to the hoplite army, equipping his phalanxes with 18-foot double-pointed pikes (called the sarissa) and drilling it year-round in formations and tactics. Along with his reforms to the elite units and heavy cavalry, the Macedonian phalanx made Macedon the most advanced fighting force in the world. — Other relevant actions include (a) Philip's unification of Macedon at a moment of extreme crisis, which made Macedon strong and stable enough to fend off neighboring aggressors and influence Greek lands to the south; (b) his pacification and dominion of the Baltics and Thrace, greatly elevating Macedon's standing wealth in resources; (c) his revolutionary reforms of the military in terms of tactics, equipment, and specialized support as well as the effort to induce bonding with the king and leadership through the naming of companions and pages; (d) the means by which he brought about the domination of Greece through successive diplomatic maneuvers and surgical use of war as the opportunity dictated, playing the Greeks' enmities of each other to his own advantage; (e) the preparation for marshaling sentiment and resources in both Macedon and Greece for war with Persia that Alexander assumed on his succession.

3. Alexander's conquest of Persia involved all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. Fulfilling a prophecy by cutting an intricate knot with his sword instead of untying it
- b. Forcing the Persian king to flee at the Battle of Issus and capturing the king's women
- c. After conquering Egypt, accepting Darius's offer to surrender the Persian empire west of the Euphrates
- d. Marrying a Bactrian princess named Roxana

Alexander cut the Gordian knot, broke the Persian center at Issus forcing Darius to flee, and married a Bactrian princess. Darius offered the empire west of the Euphrates after Alexander took Egypt, but Alexander famously refused the offer.

4. By the time of his death, Alexander ruled over all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. Persia
- b. Egypt
- c. Rome
- d. Bactria

Alexander ruled over many lands in the east, including Persia, Egypt, and Bactria. He never marched west of Macedon and did not deal with Rome, which at the time was busy subduing central Italy.

5. In today's reading from *Clouds*, the debate over justice between the characters named Just and Unjust Argument is won by

- a. Just Argument, by proving that justice is indeed rooted in universal law
- b. Unjust Argument, by convincing Just Argument that the Athenians (i.e., the audience) are already corrupted
- c. the chorus, by chasing both debaters off the stage for constantly insulting each other
- d. Zeus, by intruding into the debate and breaking wind over both debaters

Unjust, or False, Argument wins. He does so by pointing out to Just Argument that many of the Athenians in the audience have already been corrupted (by moral relativism), using the metaphor of their butt-holes having been violated.

Optional Extra Credit

EC. What do you think made it possible for Alexander to conquer Persia? Try to be specific in your answer.

Alexander devoted himself to his father's goal of a war of revenge on Persia for the invasion of Xerxes and the elimination of Persia as a foreign threat to Macedon and the Aegean world. He undertook this by a land campaign designed to both cripple Persian land forces and eliminate Persia's naval bases. Once in Persia, he sought to establish a joint Macedonian-Persian aristocracy through the creation of colonies, the mixing of customs, and large numbers of weddings designed to produce a generation of Macedo-Persian heirs. — Alexander's great empire was held together by the force of his personality. After Alexander's death, there was no consensus on a successor among his generals. Alexander's brother and infant son were made figureheads, but the vast expanse of the empire ended up being divided amongst the competing generals, leading (after the elimination of several of the key players) to Ptolemy and his successors holding Egypt and Canaan, Antigonos and his successors holding the Aegean world and Macedon, and Seleucus and his successors holding Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia.