

Alexander the Great and the Legacy of Hellenism

I. Archaeological Evidence

II. Textual Evidence

A. Non-extant Sources used by the Ancient Historians (following Hammond)

1. Journals and Diaries

- a. King's Journals (Diaries)
- b. Records of specialist Greek officers on Alexander's staff

2. Histories of Eyewitnesses

- a. Ptolemy, one of Alexander's generals, wrote a history (285–283 BC)
- b. Callisthenes, accompanied Alexander until 327 BC), nephew of Aristotle
- c. Aristobulus, Greek engineer, wrote memoirs ca. 305–290 BC
- d. Nearchus, wrote about the journey from the Indus to the Persian Gulf
- e. Onesicritus, wrote about India
- f. Chares of Mitylene, wrote about life at court
- g. more than 400 fragments from nearly 30 lost authors

3. Histories and Comments of Non-Eyewitnesses

- a. Cleitarchus, wrote his history ca. 323–290 BC (12 books)
- b. Marsyas of Pella (d. 307 BC)
- c. Eratosthenes (ca. 200 BC) quoted in Strabo's *Geography* (1st cent BC)

B. Extant Secondary Sources (used as “primary” sources by modern historians)

1. Eratosthenes (ca. 200 BC) fragments quoted in Strabo's *Geography* (1st cent BC)
2. Diodorus (Sicilian Greek of mid-1st century AD)
3. Quintus Curtius, *History of Alexander* (1st cent. AD)
4. Plutarch, *Lives and Moralia* (2nd cent. AD)
5. Justin (2nd cent. AD epitome of earlier general history by Pompeius Trogus)
6. Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander* (2nd cent. AD)

III. Some Methodological Questions

A. Battle of Granicus (334 BC)

B. Who Was Barsine?

C. Of what did Alexander die?

D. Dream of One World or Cruel Conqueror?

E. Role in Spread of Hellenism — Mingling of Eastern and Western Cultures?

Three Views on Alexander the Great

I. Stoics

A. Flawed from the start

1. *hubris* (ὕβρις)— pride, *insolentia*
2. *tufos* (τῦφος)— “all that one dislikes in those with whom one disagrees”

B. Main Source: Justin (a 3rd-cent. AD epitome of Pompeius Trogus *Philippic Histories*)

C. Modern Historians

1. Ernst Badian [numerous articles]
2. R. D. Milns, *Alexander the Great* (1969)
3. A. B. Bosworth, *Conquest and Empire: The Reign of Alexander the Great* (1988)

II. Peripatetics

A. Aristotle turned out a perfectly good pupil, but he was ruined by his own fortune (τυχῆ) // didn't know how to make good use of it

B. Main Source: Quintus Curtius Rufus, *The History of Alexander* (1st cent. AD)

C. Modern Historians

1. Peter Green, *Alexander of Macedon 356-323 B.C.* (rev. ed. 1974)
2. John Maxwell O'Brien, *Alexander the Great: The Invisible Enemy* (1992)
3. F. Schachermeyr, *Alexander der Grosse. Ingenium und Macht* (1949)

III. Apologists

A. Sustained positive assessment

B. Main Sources

1. Plutarch, *Lives* (beginning of 2nd cent. AD)
2. Arrian, *The Campaigns of Alexander* (mid-2nd cent. AD)
– *pothos* (desire)

C. Modern Historians

1. Johann Gustav Droysen, *Geschichte Alexanders der Grossen* (1833)
2. Ulrich Wilken, *Alexander der Grosse* (1931)
3. W. W. Tarn, *Alexander the Great* (1949)
4. Robin Lane Fox, *Alexander the Great* (1974)
5. N. G. L. Hammond, *Alexander the Great: King, Commander and Statesman* (1980)