

Student's Name

Instructor

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Alexander the Great Contribution

Alexander the Great is one of the ancient world personalities who has become famous in the contemporary world for his outstanding military skills and achievements in spreading Hellenic culture. He is famous for his Hellenism work throughout the world, from Greece to the Middle East and Asia. The history of Alexander's life is ambiguous, because there are many legends and myth about the great king. He became a king at the age of twenty-one and ensured that he was in the company of historians, secretaries, and poets who would record his heroic deeds. The king died in 323B.C at the age of thirty-three, but his lifetime contribution into the cultural development of the world was so great that it continued to be recognized worldwide even after his death.

The spreading of values and cultures was motivated by the interpretation of oral traditions. Alexander was a persuasive speaker, a trait that enabled him to promote Hellenization (Bivens). He was an Aristotle's student, and consequently, his ability to be an effective orator could be associated with the teachings he gained in his youth. Civilization of Greeks continued to expand after his death into the Mediterranean region, which led to the beginning of a new era of Westernization. Some wars arose, such as Diadochi, and the empire of Alexander broke up. The fall of empire was followed by the creation of various dynasties that helped to gain unity in learning and trading. Navigators ensured extension of the known bounds. There was also an increase in wealth among merchants and other people in some regions after the upsurge of

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commerce. Architecture was also influenced by the Hellenic traditions, because super impressive and ornate culture started developing gradually in other countries.

Alexander's significance in the current world is a source of pride and national identity. In Greece, there are many monuments and statues devoted to the king, and his name can be found in the major sites, such as airports and city squares. His fame is far extended in Asia, Europe, and the Far East, among other cities, hence has a high representation that many other classical figures. During his era, it was not easy to separate history and myth (Baker). His work had much to do concerning diffusion of diverse religious, linguistic, and cultural traditions. Today, he is popular for the thought that he was a savior who rescued the future Christian world from the barbarians of the North. According to some legends, Alexander constructed a huge wall between two mountains and created Alexander gates with the purpose of providing security from such peoples as Magog and Gog. There was also a myth that Alexander would return flourished some time in the future. Up to date, most of these legends and myths still exist in some parts of India and Afghanistan.

Some kingdoms, such as Egypt, Macedonia, Babylonia, and Anatolia, were not part of Greece, but they showed even greater spread of Hellenistic culture than in Greece. This happened, because some Greek city-states stagnated, whereas cities in the above-mentioned countries flourished and grew. When Egypt was under Ptolemy's rule, most cities were well covered, and the land was guarded by the Greek army. During this time, Egyptians used Greek as a communication language, which spread largely during the invasion of Byzantine Empire. Ptolemy's government made Alexandria one of the major centers of arts and sciences. Alexandria put a lot of effort in developing commerce, art, and writing, and this led to

emergence of the Alexandrian Age. In the present Alexandria city, there is a large population of Greeks who live permanently after the conquest of Egypt by Greeks.

Alexander's diffusion and likeness was widely spread after his image was used in the coin. In the age of Diadochi, a standard numismatic type was introduced, where the profile of the supreme ruler was put on one side and his divine counterpart on the other side. He possessed different exaggerated moral qualities. He was known to be extravagant, emotional, generous, charismatic, loyal, ruthless toward enemies, and courageous even in the darkest pitch. The positive qualities made him heroic and painted a great personage for him. The major negative moral was anger and cruelty against Greek, among others.

The spreading of Greek culture continued, as Antigonos was able to take Anatolia and some other parts of the Minor Asia (Cohen 373). During the period, Antigonos as well as his successors lost in most of their battles. This led to the weakening of the kingdom. After a while, the Romans invaded the kingdom and managed to overthrow it. However, during all this period, Greek culture did not fade away. The Romans who settled in Anatolia practiced, supported, and adopted the culture as theirs. Through these occurrences, Greek culture dominated in Anatolia even after the change of rulers. Furthermore, other nations combined their native cultures with the cultural legacy of Greece. For example, in the Kingdom Bactria, contemporary Afghanistan, Indo-Greek culture was created. Civil unrests followed and this led to elimination of Bactria. After some years, another kingdom of Indo-Greek culture emerged led by a Buddhist King named Menander. Introduction of Buddhism religion led to the emergence of a new culture in India. Later on, the Kingdom disappeared, but in contemporary India, there are some villages, whose inhabitants originate from the ancient Indo-Greeks.

The world was turning to the education era where Greek was the common language of education for literate people. During this era, education spread widely and dynamically. As the time passed, the literature volume also increased, and it is commonly referred to as Greek literature. The literature was further sub-divided into various literatures for accessibility and understanding by the wide range of audience and into specialized literature for highly educated individuals. There were also libraries, such as Pergamum and Alexandria, which were centers of compiling data and catalogue for literature and criticism. The writings were rich in information, though the period had been criticized as imitative and ponderous up to the Renaissance era. Literature works included poems by Theocritus and Callimachus and complicated works by other artists (Dawson). Furthermore, there are sculptures that exist even today in Alexandria, though they were created in the Hellenic era. Most of the artworks were expected to communicate or educate.

Alexander the Great led battles and was very influential among the Greeks many centuries ago, but the importance of his policies is still evident today.. Some people in the Mediterranean region and India still claim that they are descendants of the Army of Alexander. Athens was one of the greatest city-states and existed throughout the Roman period, yet it exists today as the capital of modern Greece. In conclusion, Alexander's major achievement is the popularization of Hellenism, one of the most significant cultural traditions in the history of humanity. His major accomplishments were recorded in literature. During Hellenistic age, Greek influence spread all over the world. After Alexander died a mysterious death, his land was divided into Ptolemy, Antigonis, and Seleucids, but Alexander's fame and achievements continued to influence the world.

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