

HI126 Lecture 5

Macedonia, Alexander the Great and Hellenistic War

The rise of the MACEDON had major consequences for the ancient world

- There were 500,000 to one million Macedonians mainly independent farmers or herders
- lower Macedonia was a fertile plain for growing crops and with ample pastures for raising horses
- Upper Macedonia was mountains and people who herded sheep
- Macedonians exported food, wood from the forest and iron

Philip II, King of Macedon (reigned 359-336)

- inherited the throne when his brother was killed in battle
- clever, knowledgeable about the Greek states, he could be charming and treacherous
- ruthlessly built up his army and the power of his country
- 5 wounds left him blind
- he subjugated Northern Macedon and other neighbours to create a united and powerful state
- incorporated conquered people, imposed Greek culture, improved admin

Philip II, King of Macedon

- Philip inherited throne when brother was killed
- Subjugated Northern Macedon & other neighbours to create united and powerful Macedonian state
Military revolution
Citizen army gave way to integrated army with infantry, missile-throwers, cavalry
Philip made weak Macedonian army the greatest in Greece
Aristocracy: raised horses and served as cavalry at own expense as King's Companions
Philip expanded number from 600 to 3000 by granting land in territories he conquered
Horsemen used 2 metre-long spear
Cavalry attacked enemy phalanx in wedge formation
Phalangite (soldier)
Had little body armour & only a small shield that hung from neck
Sarissa was principal weapon: 5 1/2 metre long pike
Because of length of pike, each enemy hoplite in opposing traditional phalanx was faced with five spear points
peltasts : small wicker shields
Harassed the enemy aggressively with javelins Also archers (generally disdained)

The battle of Chaeronea (early August 338 BC)

Battle ended the era of hoplite warfare

Philip defeated alliance of poleis

Leader of Greece, prepared to launch a war against the persian empire

Why invade the persian empire?

Greek crusade to avenge the earlier persian invasions of Greece

He could be the king of all kings

Alexander crossed into asia with 30000-40000 infantry

Adds to his army by recruiting from among subjugated peoples of persian empire

-alexander was planning a campaign Arabia, but died in babylon