

Name _____

Date _____

Enduring Issues Documents: Alexander “the Great” and Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi

An enduring issue is one that has existed over a significant amount of time in numerous places around the world. The enduring issue has both significantly impacted people and societies and may have been impacted by people and societies as well.

Task: From the documents on both Alexander “The Great and Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi ,

- Identify several enduring issue regarding their rule.
- Choose one of those enduring issues and write about how that issue has impacted people or been impacted by people over time and place.
- Using your knowledge of other historical events or modern events show that the enduring issue you chose still persists.
- Hint: The more specific you are the more likely you will show that the issue is truly enduring.

Primary Source 1-

There came a day when Philoneicus the Thessalian brought Philip (Alexander’s father) a horse named Bucephalus. The king and his friends went down to the plain to watch the horse’s trials, and came to the conclusion that he was wild and unmanageable, for he would allow no one to mount him. The king became angry at being offered such a vicious animal unbroken, and ordered it to be led away. But Alexander, who was standing close by, remarked, “What a horse they are losing, and all because they don’t know how to handle him, or dare not try!”... Alexander went quickly up to Bucephalus, took hold of his bridle, and turned him towards the sun, for he had noticed that the horse was shying at the sight of his own shadow, as it fell in front of him and constantly moved whenever he did. He ran alongside the animal for a little way, calming him down by stroking him, and then, when he saw he was full of spirit and courage, he quietly threw aside his cloak with a light spring vaulted safely on to his back... Finally, when he saw that the horse was free of his fears and impatient to show his speed, he gave him his head and urged him forward.

At First Philip and his friends held their breath until they saw Alexander reach the end of his gallop, turn in full control, and ride back triumphant. Thereupon the rest of the company broke into loud applause; while his father, we are told, actually wept for joy, and when Alexander had dismounted he kissed him and said, “My boy, you must find a kingdom big enough for your ambitions. Macedonia is too small for you.”

Alexander Tames Bucephalus by **Plutarch**

Primary Source 2

Possibly, Lord, you may not be pleased with my telling you the truth; but if I don't do it now it will be too late afterwards. Gold and purple glitter in every part of your army, which is so very splendid that those who have not seen it could have no idea of its magnificence, but the soldiers, who make up the Macedonian army, terrible to see and bristling with arms, do not amuse themselves with such idle show. Their only care is to form their battalions in a regular manner and cover themselves closely with their bucklers (shields) and pikes (long spears). Their phalanx is a body of infantry which fights without flinching and keeps so close in its ranks that the soldiers and their arms form an impenetrable wall. In a word, every single man among them is so well trained that, at the least signal, they can make every motion of the art of war. You may be sure that these Macedonians have not come in hopes of gold and silver; their excellent discipline comes from their poverty. If they are hungry they eat anything; if they are tired they rest on the bare ground. Soldiers like themselves will be necessary to death them.

The Macedonian Army Before the Battle of Gaugamela by **Quintus**

Curtius

Primary Source 3

Alexander himself then started off again at dusk with all the speed he could make, and covering some eighty kilometers in the course of the night, came up with the Persians just as dawn was breaking.[Near a place called [Choara](#).]

They were straggling along unarmed; only a few made any offer of resistance; most of them incontinently fled the moment they saw it was Alexander himself who was upon them. Those who attempted to fight also made off after losing a few men.

Bessus and his friends did not at once abandon the attempt to get Darius away in the wagon, but when Alexander was close upon them, Nabarzanes and Barsaentes struck him down and left him and made their escape with 600 horsemen. The wound proved fatal, and Darius died shortly afterwards, before Alexander could see him.

Alexander sent Darius' body to Persepolis to be buried in the royal tombs, like the kings before him.

Anabasis (section 3.21.6-22.2) by **Arrian of Nicomedia**

Secondary Source 1

Hellenic influence continued to spread throughout the lands ruled by the Diadochi and Greek dedications, statues, architecture and inscriptions have been found in abundance in every locale. Greek language introduced **Greek literature** into the former Persian Empire, thereby influencing the philosophical thought and **writing** of the region (and the same held true for the area known as Palestine where Greek **literature** found its way into the religious thought and scripture of Judaism). The Great Library at **Alexandria**, Egypt, which is said to have been started by **Ptolemy I**, became the most important center for learning in the ancient world. **Greek theatre** flourished throughout the lands conquered by Alexander and the amphitheaters built during the Hellenistic Period show markedly Greek features no matter the nationality of the architect nor the country of construction (one example being, Ai-Khanoum on the edge of **Bactria**, modern day Afghanistan).

Ancient History Encyclopedia