

Greek Invasion

Alexander's Invasion of India: A Structured Overview

Background: Political Situation in India

- **Ruling Dynasty:** The Nanda Dynasty was the predominant power in North India.
- **Political Fragmentation:** India lacked a single, powerful central authority, leading to a landscape of rival kingdoms and republics.
- **Key Indian Rulers:**
 - **Ambhi (King of Taxila):** Allied with Alexander, providing support against his rival, Porus.
 - **Porus (King of Paurava):** A brave ruler who fought Alexander at the Battle of the Hydaspes.

Key Events and Conflicts of the Invasion

- **Battle of the Hydaspes (326 BC):**
 - Fought on the banks of the Jhelum River (known as the Hydaspes to the Greeks).
 - Alexander achieved a decisive victory over King Porus.
- **Resistance at Massaga:**
 - After the male soldiers of the Massaga Republic were killed, the women took up arms to continue the fight against Alexander's army.
- **Departure from India:**
 - Alexander left India in **325 BC** after a campaign lasting nearly two years.
 - **Clarification:** His departure was **not** caused by a defeat at the hands of Chandragupta Maurya; this is a false statement.

Primary Reasons for Alexander's Success

- **Fragmented Indian Polity:** The lack of a unified Indian front allowed Alexander to confront individual rulers.
- **Military Superiority:** Alexander's army was highly disciplined, experienced, and tactically superior.
- **Strategic Alliances:** He formed alliances with local rulers like Ambhi of Taxila, who were hostile to their neighbors.

Key Individuals Associated with Alexander's Campaign

- **Companions who came to India:**
 - **Nearchus:** Admiral of Alexander's fleet.
 - **Onesicritus:** Alexander's helmsman and a historian.
 - **Aristobulus:** A historian who accompanied Alexander.
- **Individual who did NOT come:**
 - **Deimachus:** He was a later Greek envoy to the Mauryan court and did not travel with Alexander's army.



Aftermath and Legacy

- **Establishment of Trade Links:** The invasion opened up and strengthened trade routes between India and the Greco-Roman world.
- **Indo-Roman Trade Stations:** **Arikamedu** (near Puducherry) became a prominent Indo-Roman trading station on India's east coast.

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