

Alexander the Great – Tarn

Alex was lucky when he died since his fame could hardly increase. But there is no reason to suppose that he had any plan of world conquest. Parts of the Persian Empire remained to be conquered. He made no effort to reach the Indian Ocean that was thought to be the bounds of the world, and he turned over Punjab to Porus as an independent monarch immediately. The plans for world conquest are all later attributions.

Alexander had great force of character. He exerted great self-control over himself, which may have accounted for his lack of interest towards women – they caused a loss of self-control. But his force of personality enabled him to dominate all his generals.

But he was also a great dreamer. He was mystical and intensely practical, he both dreamed big and did big. He was an even greater general, adapting to many different situations. Perhaps his secret was in his speed. And he kept the morale of his troops up.