



From city-state to empire

Ancient Greece was never a nation state in the modern sense of the word, with internationally recognised borders. Rather, it was an area of cultural influence, emanating from several independent cities: from c600-340BC power and territory ebbed and flowed between the city states of the Aegean, Argos, Corinth, Sparta, Athens and Thebes - the latter three dominating. By 337BC Philip II of Macedon had taken control of most of mainland Greece. Then his son, Alexander the Great, embarked on a short period of massive expansion, extending his empire east as far as India and as far south as Egypt. At the time of his death in 323BC Alexander's empire was the largest the ancient world had seen. **DH**

