



# The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire

By Pierre Briant

Download now

Read Online ➔

**The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire** By Pierre Briant

The exploits of Alexander the Great were so remarkable that for centuries after his death the Macedonian ruler seemed a figure more of legend than of history. Thinkers of the European Enlightenment, searching for ancient models to understand contemporary affairs, were the first to critically interpret Alexander's achievements. As Pierre Briant shows, in the minds of eighteenth-century intellectuals and *philosophes*, Alexander was the first European: a successful creator of empire who opened the door to new sources of trade and scientific knowledge, and an enlightened leader who brought the fruits of Western civilization to an oppressed and backward "Orient."

In France, Scotland, England, and Germany, Alexander the Great became an important point of reference in discourses from philosophy and history to political economy and geography. Voltaire, Montesquieu, and Robertson asked what lessons Alexander's empire-building had to teach modern Europeans. They saw the ancient Macedonian as the embodiment of the rational and benevolent Western ruler, a historical model to be emulated as Western powers accelerated their colonial expansion into Asia, India, and the Middle East.

For a Europe that had to contend with the formidable Ottoman Empire, Alexander provided an important precedent as the conqueror who had brought great tyrants of the "Orient" to heel. As *The First European* makes clear, in the minds of Europe's leading thinkers, Alexander was not an aggressive militarist but a civilizing force whose conquests revitalized Asian lands that had lain stagnant for centuries under the lash of despotic rulers.

 [Download The First European: A History of Alexander in the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The First European: A History of Alexander in th ...pdf](#)



# The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire

By Pierre Briant

## The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant

The exploits of Alexander the Great were so remarkable that for centuries after his death the Macedonian ruler seemed a figure more of legend than of history. Thinkers of the European Enlightenment, searching for ancient models to understand contemporary affairs, were the first to critically interpret Alexander's achievements. As Pierre Briant shows, in the minds of eighteenth-century intellectuals and *philosophes*, Alexander was the first European: a successful creator of empire who opened the door to new sources of trade and scientific knowledge, and an enlightened leader who brought the fruits of Western civilization to an oppressed and backward "Orient."

In France, Scotland, England, and Germany, Alexander the Great became an important point of reference in discourses from philosophy and history to political economy and geography. Voltaire, Montesquieu, and Robertson asked what lessons Alexander's empire-building had to teach modern Europeans. They saw the ancient Macedonian as the embodiment of the rational and benevolent Western ruler, a historical model to be emulated as Western powers accelerated their colonial expansion into Asia, India, and the Middle East.

For a Europe that had to contend with the formidable Ottoman Empire, Alexander provided an important precedent as the conqueror who had brought great tyrants of the "Orient" to heel. As *The First European* makes clear, in the minds of Europe's leading thinkers, Alexander was not an aggressive militarist but a civilizing force whose conquests revitalized Asian lands that had lain stagnant for centuries under the lash of despotic rulers.

## The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant Bibliography

- Rank: #777672 in Books
- Brand: Ingramcontent
- Published on: 2017-01-02
- Original language: French
- Dimensions: 9.30" h x 1.50" w x 6.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 496 pages

 [Download The First European: A History of Alexander in the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The First European: A History of Alexander in th ...pdf](#)



## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

In this important work, a great historian of classical antiquity returns to the European 'long eighteenth century' and its reconsideration of the crucial figure of Alexander as a forerunner of its own imperial ambitions and projects. With its vast erudition, and careful attention to minor as well as major figures from Montesquieu to Droysen and beyond, Pierre Briant's book is nothing less than a *tour de force*, both as a contribution to the intellectual history of the Enlightenment in its global dimensions, as well as to the complex dialogue between 'Moderns' and 'Ancients.' It confirms once more that the life-trajectory of the Macedonian conqueror remains an inexhaustible cultural resource, whether in the Christian or indeed the Islamic world, from the Atlantic and Mediterranean to Bengal and the Malay Peninsula. This is a significant and weighty contribution to a real global intellectual history. (Sanjay Subrahmanyam, University of California, Los Angeles)

*The First European* is a work of exceptional quality and interest. Briant's patient disentanglement of the relationship between Alexander the Great, Enlightenment historical thought and European imperialism in India and the Middle East sheds dramatic new light on all three fields...This is a truly remarkable forgotten chapter of European intellectual history, laid out with passion and integrity. Neither Alexander nor Napoleon will ever look quite the same again. (Peter Thonemann *Wall Street Journal* 2017-01-22)

### **About the Author**

Pierre Briant is Emeritus Professor of History of the Achaemenid World and Alexander's Empire at the Collège de France.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Frances Small:**

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Often the *The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire* is kind of reserve which is giving the reader capricious experience.

#### **Kay Young:**

Hey guys, do you wants to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the subject *The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire* suitable to you? The book was written by renowned writer in this era. Often the book untitled *The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire* is the main of several books in which everyone read now. That book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know just before. The author explained their concept in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to recognise the core of this

e-book. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world on this book.

**Robert Carroll:**

The particular book *The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire* will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book *The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

**Ollie Waymire:**

*The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire* can be one of your nice books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into joy arrangement in writing *The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire* however doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

**Download and Read Online *The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire* By Pierre Briant #GYBO4ZP8VJN**

# **Read The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant for online ebook**

The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant books to read online.

## **Online The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant ebook PDF download**

### **The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant Doc**

**The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant Mobipocket**

**The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant EPub**

**GYBO4ZP8VJN: The First European: A History of Alexander in the Age of Empire By Pierre Briant**