Alexander the Great as a Leader

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Abstract

Alexander III of Macedon, who is commonly known as Alexander the Great, was a king of the ancient Greek Kingdom of Macedon as a member of the Argead dynasty. He became one of the greatest conquerors, leaders and rulers of his time after filling the shoes of his father, King Phillip. His abilities as a leader enabled him to build one of the biggest dynasties the world has ever seen, while never loosing a single battle.

Introduction

Alexander was born in Pella, the Ancient Greece capitol city in 356 BC. By the age of 20, he succeeded his father King Philip II and took to the throne, in which he spent most of his ruling years conducting a lengthy military campaign throughout Western Asia and Northeastern Africa. By the age of 30, because of his military conquests he had created one of the largest empires in history, stretching from Greece to Northwestern India. Throughout many hard-fought battles, he was undefeated and is widely considered to be one of history's greatest and most successful military commanders. As such, he can be seen as one of the greatest leaders on and off the battlefield.
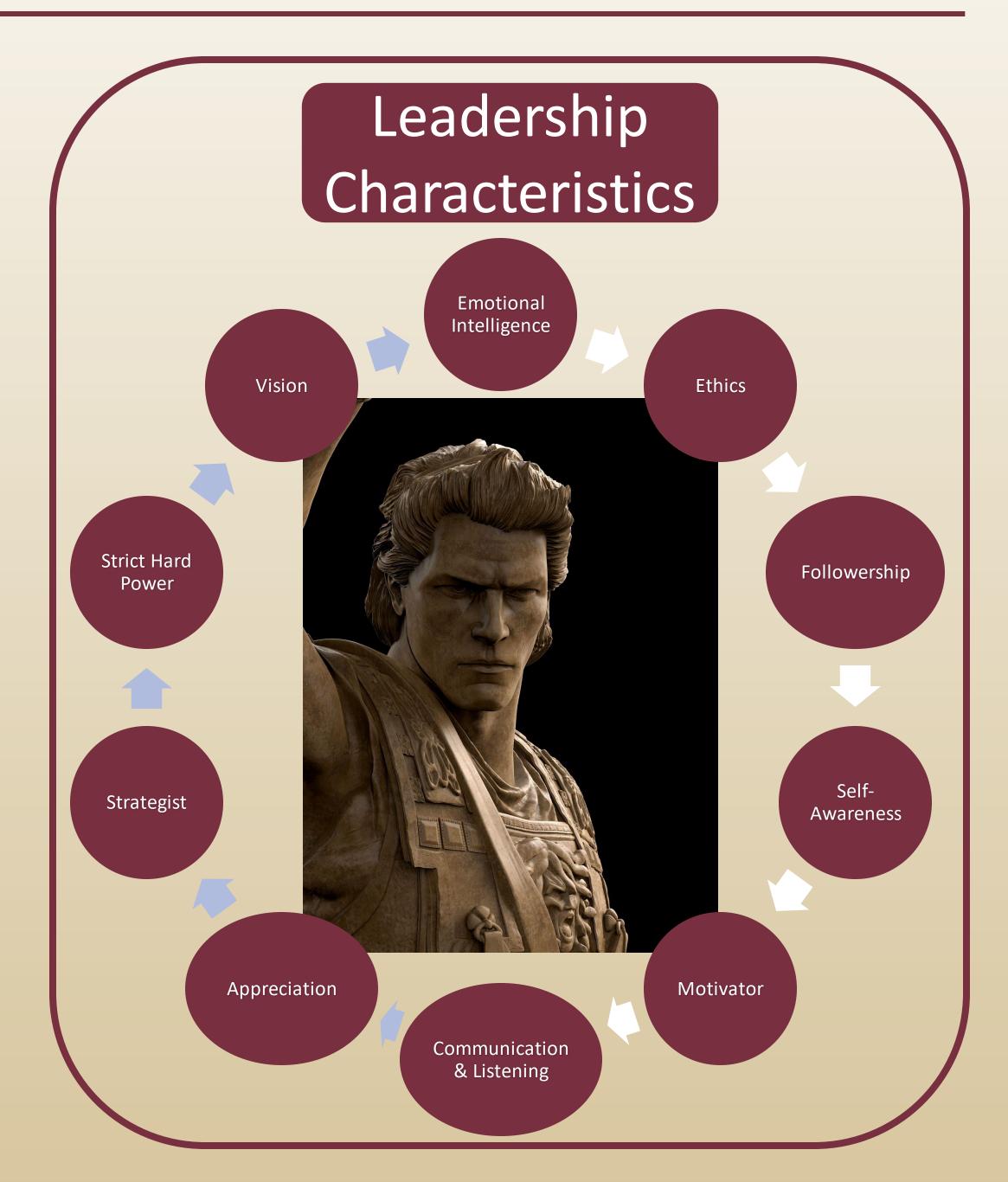

Map of Alexander's Route and His Empire (Hays, 2018)

Discussion

As individuals we all have traits that define us in the eyes of others, which is no different for leaders, however the words we use to define them are slightly different. "Active leaders need self-confidence and optimism" and for Alexander, this was the case (Daft, 2017). As worded in the World History Encyclopedia, "through his conviction, vision, mental dexterity, oratory, and superb physical endurance he was able to shape destiny, for himself and for the lands he conquered" (Berg, 2016). While these are just a few traits that Alexander encompasses, it starts to show his passion, energy, intelligence, drive, and followability. While his mother had huge ambitions and encouraged him to believe it was his destiny to conquer the Persian Empire, his teachings from his father based on his military prowess also helped Alexander to become who he was (Alexander the Great - His grave, 2015).

Never losing a battle in all his years, shows just how great his instinct was, especially when he was normally outnumbered in terms of overall troops. "His brilliance lay in his bravado and daring charges; bold troop movements would allow him the opportunity to exploit openings in his enemies' ranks as his ability to read his opponent and adapt quickly to changing circumstances was uncanny" (Berg, 2016). Leading into the later years of his life, the traits mentioned above had changed when in 324 B.C., Alexander's close friend, general and bodyguard Haphaestion died suddenly from fever. Alexander had always been a heavy drinker and the substance abuse began to take its toll as he had lost his self-control and his compassion for his men. He became reckless, self-indulgent, and inconsistent, causing a loss of loyalty by his men and officers. He had always had a violent temper and been rash, impulsive and stubborn, which when drinking these traits were worsened (Hays, 2018).

Leadership Characteristics

Emotional Intelligence · Ethics · Followership · Self-Awareness · Motivator · Communication & Listening · Appreciation · Strategist · Strict Hard Power · Vision · Emotional Intelligence

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