

Zhivko Zhekov\*

## ADVANCEMENTS IN TACTICAL STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY ALEXANDER THE GREAT IN BATTLES AGAINST THE PERSIANS

(Summary)

The examination of Alexander III of Macedonia's tactics in battles against the Persians reveals a gradual refinement and evolution while maintaining its core principles. The pivotal assault is executed by the Companion heavy cavalry, reinforced by Hypaspists infantry, light cavalry, and infantry. This formidable strike force is strategically positioned on the right wing of the Macedonian forces, advancing in a predetermined direction for the primary offensive against the enemy's left wing. To disrupt the adversary's formation, the renowned conqueror strategically deployed the Companions to the right at Granicus, Issus, and Gaugamela. This maneuver compelled the enemy to extend their battle formation to the left, resulting in its fragmentation. Simultaneously, Alexander introduced several innovations, primarily caused by the terrain and the enemy's battle formation. A crucial development, influencing subsequent military strategies in antiquity, was the implementation of a second line behind the Macedonian phalanx. This secondary line provided a layered formation, enhancing depth and resilience to the overall battle strategy.

**Keywords:** Tactics, Granicus, Issus, Gaugamela, Alexander III of Macedonia.

---

\* Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Zhekov, PhD - Chair of Ancient and Medieval History, University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. Cyril and St. Methodius", Faculty of History, e-mail: [Jekov.jivko@yahoo.com](mailto:Jekov.jivko@yahoo.com)