Body Paragraphs

Alexander the Great was a legendary military man who changed the course of history through new ways of waging war. From a very young age he had an agile mind for combat and created tactics to win no one before him had ever done. According to historians, “he is regarded as one of history’s brilliant military leaders and most powerful rulers” (Foner 1). Military experts throughout history agree that Alexander the Great was a true legend in warfare.

Some would argue, however, that being known for the mass killings that are a part of war would make Alexander the Great an infamous villain. After all, Adolf Hitler is known as a monster for the war crimes he committed. Alexander often committed acts of violence in a drunken rage, including the pillaging and burning of Persepolis which was “a great loss of the accumulated learning, art and culture of ancient Persia” (Mark 1). He and his men quite often caused similarly gratuitous violence.

The influence he had on modern warfare, however, is undeniable and possibly saved more lives over time. Besides his prowess on the battlefield he also founded cities that became great cultural centers. Those include Alexandria, Egypt, where a great library was built that was “open to anyone who could prove themselves a worthy scholar” (Newitz 1). His contributions to civilization encompassed far more than the act of killing.