

The article examines the influence of Xenophon's didactic works on the military activities of Alexander the Great. It is revealed that messages from ancient sources containing direct indications of the fact that Alexander was familiar with Xenophon's works are either fundamentally unreliable or subject to different interpretations. Nevertheless, a comparison of the recommendations proposed in "Kyropedia" and other Athenian author's writings with Alexander's practical activities reveals obvious similarities in their views on training military personnel, organizing competitions in military skill, providing soldiers with richly decorated weapons, and caring for the sick and wounded. A set of coincidences is associated with the political and administrative activities of Alexander, who, like Cyrus the Elder in Xenophon's writings, demonstratively showed mercy towards the vanquished, attracted representatives of the local elite to the service, wore clothes traditional for a conquered country. A large number of similarities, good education of Alexander and the popularity of Xenophon's writings in the second half of the 4th century BCE allow us to conclude that the Macedonian king was familiar with the works of the Athenian author. However, the components of Xenophon's didactic legacy associated with the methods of warfare do not correlate well with Alexander's military leadership practice. The fundamental differences are revealed in the armament of the cavalry and their tactics, the depth of the infantry formation, the role of army branches on the battlefield. They were caused by a significant breakthrough in the art of war that took place in Macedonia during the time of Philip II. This breakthrough also led to the emergence of new tactics that provided for crushing the enemy not with a frontal attack of heavy infantry, but through the combined use of various types of troops. Alexander as a military leader was raised under the conditions of a new, more developed military art. Thus, the overwhelming majority of Xenophon's recommendations, which described the cavalry as a purely auxiliary branch of the army and considered the classical hoplite phalanx a decisive force in battle, were clearly irrelevant for him and therefore ignored.

Article keywords: Xenophon, Alexander the Great, Cyropaedia, warfare, tactics, phalanx, cavalry, ancient educational text