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- 1 The article poses the question as to why exactly Philip of Macedon declared war against Persia. Since the 'revenge' motive of Xerxes' invasion has been termed unsatisfactory, other reasons are being considered here. It is suggested that Persia was attacked because it formed a potential threat to Philip's own political plans, i.e. uniting Greece and Macedon under his leadership and securing control over Athens. The author suggests that by manipulating and perverting historical facts, Philip created a belief of the existence of an enmity between Macedon and Persia; which would then justify his attack against Persia. When satrapal forces became a direct threat to Philip's power in Greece, it was necessary to shift attention towards a war on Persia; only then could Persia be kept out of Greek politics.

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