This is the first publication in English of Pierre Briant’s classic short history of Alexander the Great’s conquest of the Persian empire, from the Mediterranean to Central Asia. Enriching a conventional biographical focus, this is the only book in any language that sets the rise of Alexander’s short-lived empire within the broad context of ancient Near Eastern history under Achaemenid Persian rule, as well as against Alexander’s Macedonian background. As a renowned historian of both the Macedonians and the Persians, Briant is uniquely able to assess Alexander’s significance from the viewpoint of both the conquerors and the conquered, and to trace what changed and what stayed the same as Alexander’s empire expanded.

For this translation, Briant has written a new foreword and conclusion, updated the main text and the thematic annotated bibliography, and added a substantial appendix in which he assesses the current state of scholarship on Alexander and suggests some directions for future research. More than ever, this masterful work provides an original and important perspective on Alexander and his empire.
Alexander the Great
AND HIS EMPIRE
A SHORT INTRODUCTION
Pierre Briant
Translated by Amélie Kuhrt

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In this long-awaited translation, Pierre Briant’s study of Alexander the Great finally reaches English readers. Briant’s account reveals exciting new connections to global themes of Greek triumph, illuminating the vibrant Persian Empire as never before and giving us a panorama of Alexander that is different from the often distorted accounts that have prevailed since the Enlightenment. This is a book not to be missed.

—Lawrence Tritle, Loyola Marymount University

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