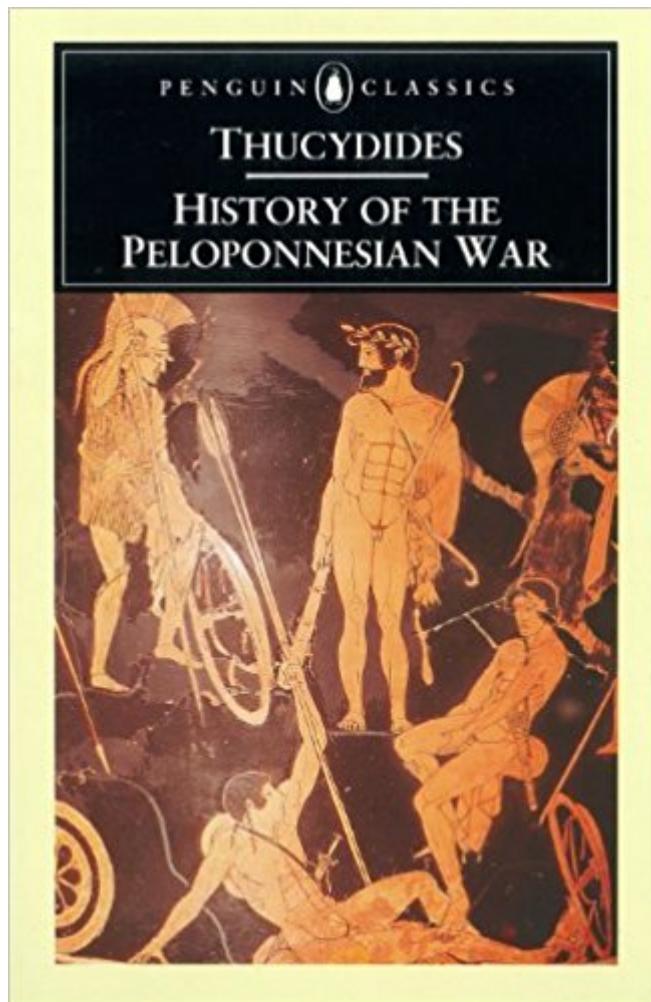


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History Of The Peloponnesian War



Synopsis

Written four hundred years before the birth of Christ, this detailed contemporary account of the struggle between Athens and Sparta stands an excellent chance of fulfilling the author's ambitious claim that the work "was done to last forever." The conflicts between the two empires over shipping, trade, and colonial expansion came to a head in 431 b.c. in Northern Greece, and the entire Greek world was plunged into 27 years of war. Thucydides applied a passion for accuracy and a contempt for myth and romance in compiling this exhaustively factual record of the disastrous conflict that eventually ended the Athenian empire. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Greek (translation)

Thucydides (c. 460 BC–c. 400 BC) was a general who was exiled for his failure to defend the Greek city of Amphipolis in Thrace. During his exile, he began compiling histories and accounts of the war from various participants. Rex Warner was a Professor of the University of Connecticut from 1964 until his retirement in 1990. He was born in 1905 and went to Wadham College, Oxford, where he gained a "first" in Classical Moderations, and took a degree in English Literature. He taught in Egypt

and England, and was Director of the British Institute, Athens, from 1945 to 1947. He has written poems, novels and critical essays, has worked on films and broadcasting, and has translated many works, of which Xenophon’s History of My Time and The Persian Expedition, Thucydides’ The Peloponnesian War, and Plutarch’s Lives (under the title Fall of the Roman Republic) and Moral Essays have been published in Penguin Classics. M. I. Finley was a professor of ancient history and master of Darwin College, Cambridge. He died in 1986.

This book is a classic and a must for any historian. Thucydides is the first historian, that I know of, that wrote strictly as a historian or journalist, leaving out myth and religion. This is how he differs from Homeric tales that mix myth with facts making truth cloudy. Thucydides set the standard for all historians that followed him, he sticks only to facts and sources that were verifiable, or even something he heard himself. This book does justice to Thucydides, the translation is excellent and I recommend this for anyone interested in Greek history as this can be read and understood by just about everyone from high school grade level on up.

The History of the Pel War is great, and this is a good translation. HOWEVER, the kindle version here (despite being advertised as the kindle option to the Penguin version) does NOT have Finley’s Introduction to Thucydides and the text like the print version does. That Introduction is excellent and important to reading to the book.

Meticulous, verbatim speeches produced by sundry sources exactly word-for-word causes me to suspect the full veracity of Thucydides than other historians of his era. Even Herodotus didn’t reproduce dialogue that was held in private conclave.

I once was in the U.S. Army. As part of our job we were always encouraged to study history to see how people thought and wars were executed. No war is ever the same so what we are reading to learn is the why. There is also how people responded to different tactics and strategies. I found this easy to read as the translation made it appear like we were reading today’s news. Not just the actions but the politics of the time. There are great descriptions of the time and place. The only thing that is missing is visual maps to put the places in perspective. Luckily you can get maps of the time off the net as a supplement. I have a paperback edition which is easily navigated and you can place sticky notes in. I also have a kindle version which you can put book marks in. the problem with the kindle is the text-to-speech has a horrible time translating place and people names. The advantage of the

kindle is it moves you forward so you do not doddle. I am contemplating a hard copy for the library and reverence. There is enough detail that it may require a second reading after you have digested the first. I am also looking for some good books to tell me what I would have noticed in this book.

This classic did not disappoint me. It is well-written: clear and easy to read. It's very long (the war lasted 27 years!) and full of details about who led what military forces, who said what, etc. that for me, and I think for most readers today, are simply irrelevant. But those parts can be very easily skipped; the excellent paragraphing helps a lot in this respect. What is fascinating about this history is what it shows about the Greek civilization at that time. In particular, as Thucydides states explicitly, it shows how avarice, distrust, and the "us-them" conflict omnipresent in every human society combine to produce endless war -- laying waste the land (of an agricultural civilization), killing each other, murdering captured males and enslaving their women and children, and breaking or planning to break alliances as soon (or before) the oaths to uphold them are sworn. It gives us yet another demonstration that "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" -- We (the human race) know lots about our history and yet we continue to repeat it. A broader lesson is the divergence between the ostensible ethics of a society and its actual practices -- again something that continues, perhaps exacerbated, to this day. So it's a sad story and a good read.

A classic of history, Thucydides was a participant in the Athenian/Spartan conflict, and has quite interesting reports on the at time hot and other times cold war between the two factions. The first hand reports of speeches are quite interesting. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to finish the history. Picked up while free. Just over 8k locations.

Asking anyone to review this book is hysterically funny. The gods are highly amused I am sure. I would say the number of millennia it has lasted would be a pretty good evaluation.

I'm a historian (of sorts) and getting this was a must. And I'm glad I did. Gives me a full perspective of the history of ancient Greek warfare. great item.

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