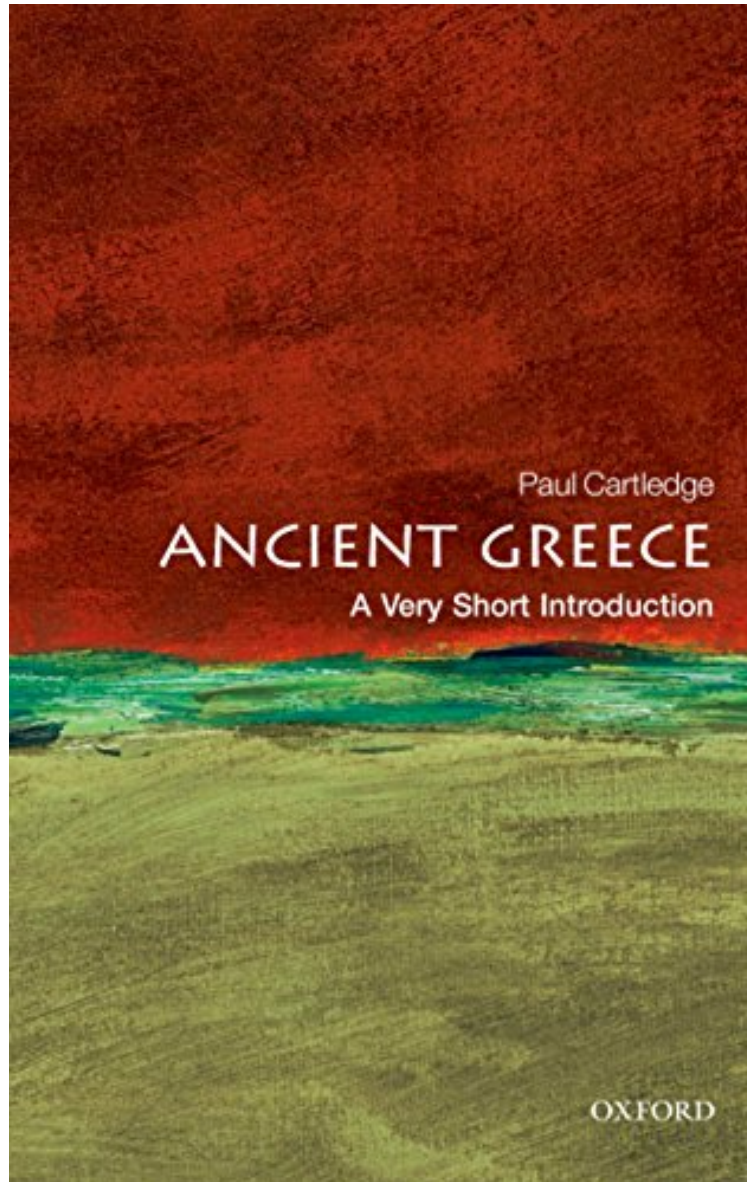


[Ebook free] Ancient Greece: A History in Eleven Cities

Ancient Greece: A History in Eleven Cities

Von Paul Cartledge

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Von Paul Cartledge : Ancient Greece: A History in Eleven Cities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ancient Greece: A History in Eleven Cities:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Glory of GreeceVon Dr. Bojan TunguzAncient Greece is one of the most fascinating and intriguing historical polities. The very notion of Greece as a single political and cultural entity is a relatively modern designation. The ancient

Greeks had organized their life within a polis, a self-containing 'city state,' of which there had been hundreds throughout the ancient history, spanning almost all of northern Mediterranean. So when we talk about ancient Greece what we really have in mind is the history of these poleis - their origin, development, and eventual decline and disappearance in the late antiquity. A book that would cover all of the poleis would be a gargantuan project, and would surpass in length all the volumes in the very short introduction series. Instead, Paul Cartledge, the author of this short introduction, focuses on just eleven poleis, picking some that are the most representative of the ancient Greek history as a whole. Overall, this book is a good introduction to ancient Greece, and all hellenophiles will find a lot of interesting information in it. Through the general introduction and the individual chapters for each polis, we learn about the development of ancient Greek society, through its golden years and the epic wars that it engaged in, to the later not-too-illustrious years. The choice of topics is fairly representative, and Cartledge exhibits an impressive range of knowledge and understanding of this subject. One big issue that I have with this book concerns its structure and organization. The choice of presenting the history of ancient Greece in a 'parallel' fashion, by focusing on each polis in its own right, leads to a very disjointed overall narrative. It can be hard to follow various developments as they recur in different chapters, with all the variations that this entails. Furthermore, the style of writing also leaves a lot to be desired. Sentences are often highly convoluted, with frequent allusions, digressions, parenthetical asides, parentheses proper, and even parentheses within parentheses! Cartledge is never the one to use a simple statement when a more complex one would suffice. He also strives a bit too hard to exhibit his own wit and erudition whenever possible. The result is a bit contorted narrative that doesn't flow very smoothly. Overall, however, this is a pretty good book and I feel I got a lot of interesting insights from it.

Kurzbeschreibung The contribution of the Ancient Greeks to modern western culture is incalculable. In the worlds of art, architecture, myth, literature, and philosophy, the world we live in would be unrecognizably different without the formative influence of Ancient Greek models. Ancient Greek civilization was defined by the city - in Greek, the polis, from which we derive 'politics'. It is above all this feature of Greek civilization that has formed its most enduring legacy, spawning such key terms as aristocracy, oligarchy, tyranny and - last but by no means least - democracy. This highly stimulating introduction to Ancient Greece takes the polis as its starting point. Paul Cartledge uses the history of eleven major Greek cities to illuminate the most important and informative themes in Ancient Greek history, from the first documented use of the Greek language around 1400 BCE, through the glories of the Classical and Hellenistic periods, to the foundation of the Byzantine empire in around CE 330. Covering everything from politics, trade, and travel to slavery, gender, religion, and philosophy, it provides the ideal concise introduction to the history and culture of this remarkable civilization that helped give birth to the world as we know it.

Pressestimmen There are many pleasures to be had along Cartledge's mind-broadening route through time and space. * Charlotte Higgins, *The Guardian* * A tremendously readable tour d'horizon that goes far beyond Athens and Sparta to explore the roots of Greek civilization. * Justin Marozzi, *Evening Standard* * Paul Cartledge... once again shows why he is the surest and most engaging guide to the ancient world. * Justin Marozzi, *Evening Standard* * Cartledge is master of his subject. * Peter Jones, *Literary* * Thoroughly stimulating book. * Tom Holland, *BBC History* * A rare work, a compelling historical narrative. * Peter Stothard, *Wall Street Journal* * Cartledge's success lies in his ability to negotiate a path between similarity and difference; with proper scholarly detachment, he stresses how different the Greeks were; with an eye to broader historical trajectories, he reflects on the grounds for their continuing fascination. * Tim Rood, *Times Literary Supplement* * A rare work, a compelling historical narrative that is also a useful guidebook * Peter Stothard, *Wall Street Journal* * A wonderfully concise - and witty - introduction to an ever-popular subject. * Sir John Boardman, co-editor of *The Oxford History of Greece and the Hellenistic World* * Paul Cartledge has here pulled off a remarkably clever feat of compression and organization, and will once again place very many readers in his debt. Brilliantly carried through. * Simon Hornblower, co-editor of *The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization* * from previous edition Paul Cartledge, Cambridge don and doyen of Classicists, once again shows why he is the surest and most engaging guide to the ancient world. 'Ancient Greece: A history in Eleven Cities' is a tremendously readable tour d'horizon that goes far beyond Athens and Sparta to explore the roots of Greek civilisation. * Justin Marozzi, *Evening Standard*

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