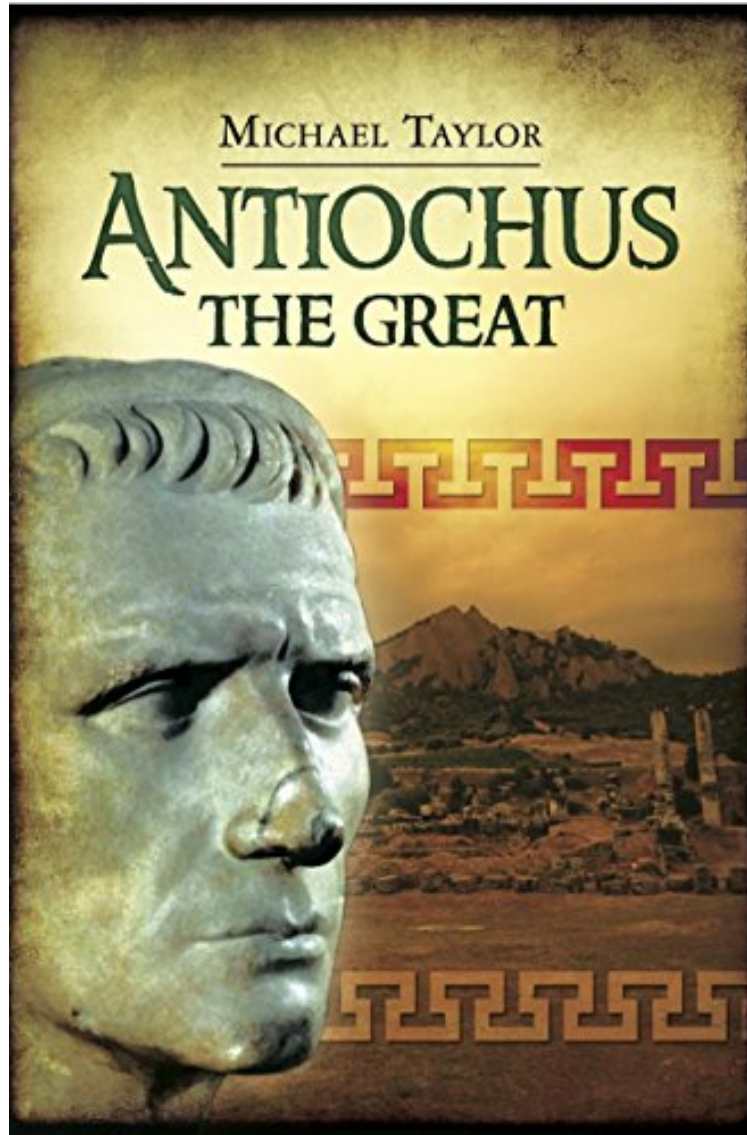


(Pdf free) Antiochus the Great

Antiochus the Great

Von Michael Taylor

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Von Michael Taylor : Antiochus the Great before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Antiochus the Great:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An enjoyable and informative read.Von customerThe perfect companion for all ancient history enthusiasts is the ROMA VICTRIX WINE BEAKERRoma Victrix Wein BecherThe book contains a brief summary of Seleukid history both before and after the reign of Antiochus. If you are a student of the Seleukids , there's nothing here you don't already

know, but the summary is worth looking at to place Antiochus in context of the dynasty as a whole, and (perhaps more importantly) to remind the reader of the difficult task any Seleukid King was signing up for. The Seleukid Kingdom was absolutely vast, and had basically no water transportation available between its far-flung outposts, which stretched from the Hellespont to the Indus and from Afghanistan to Palestine. A message from a subject in Bactria to the King in Antioch would have taken roughly 6 weeks to arrive, assuming good weather and no mishaps along the way; a response could rarely have arrived in Bactria less than 3 months after the original message was sent, and usually would have taken longer. As decision cycles go, this would be fairly daunting. Moreover, although the kingdom had a population comparable to that of contemporary Rome, the available military manpower was relatively small, due to almost exclusive reliance on Greco-Macedonian settlers to provide the heavy infantry phalanx that was the mainstay of Seleukid military power. Some native manpower was used, but this was mostly available as poorly armed and motivated missile-armed light troops. With this background in place, Taylor plunges into the biography proper, from Antiochus' youth as a 19 year old king immediately faced with 2 major revolts and a war with the Ptolemies, through his great Eastern Anabasis, to his defeat and humiliation at the hands of the Romans. Taylor does a nice job of handling the available sources. These sources consist mostly of Polybius, but also include a number of other fragmentary Greek and Roman sources, with contributions from archaeology and numismatic studies. As always, there are gaps in the story, but these are convincingly bridged with a few well-educated guesses, and Taylor is careful to tell us what he has evidence for and what is simply informed speculation. Overall, it must be said that while Taylor shows us Antiochus Megas with all his faults and shortcomings (there were a lot) in full view, Taylor takes a sympathetic view of the man. He doesn't try to say Antiochus was a genius either militarily or politically, but he does point out the man's energy, drive, determination, and overall competence. It is well worth pointing out that even after the disaster at Magnesia and the harsh Peace of Apamea at the hands of Rome, Antiochus the Great left his kingdom larger, more prosperous, and more cohesive than it had been when he came to power. In hindsight, the often gross incompetence of his descendants make Antiochus' achievements appear rather trivial and ephemeral. His contemporaries did not see them in that light, however. All in all, I enjoyed reading this book and felt it was mostly good value for money. I recommend it to anyone curious about the history of the Seleukids and their 2nd greatest (after Seleukus Nikator) king.

Kurzbeschreibung A teenage king in 223 BC, Antiochus III inherited an empire in shambles, ravaged by civil strife and eroded by territorial secessions. He proved himself a true heir of Alexander: he defeated rebel armies and embarked on a campaign of conquest and reunification. Although repulsed by Ptolemy IV at the Battle of Raphia, his eastern campaigns reaffirmed Seleucid hegemony as far as modern Afghanistan and Pakistan. Returning westward, he defeated Ptolemy V at Panion (200 BC) and succeeded in adding Koile Syria to the Seleucid realm. At the height of his powers, he challenged growing Roman power, unimpressed by their recent successes against Carthage and Macedon. His expeditionary force was crushed at Thermopylae and evacuated. Refusing to bow before Roman demands, Antiochus energetically mobilized against Roman invasion, but was again decisively defeated at the epic battle of Magnesia. Despite the loss of territory and prestige enshrined in the subsequent Peace of Apamea, Antiochus III left the Seleucid Empire in far better condition than he found it. Although sometimes presented as a failure against the unstoppable might of Rome, Antiochus III must rank as one of the most energetic and effective rulers of the Ancient world. As well as narrating the eventful career of Antiochus III, Michael Taylor examines Seleucid military organization and royal administration.

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ber den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende Michael Taylor has a history degree from Princeton University and an MA from the University of California, where has also taught Greek and Roman history. A Lieutenant in the National Guard, he saw service in Kuwait and Iraq in 2007/8 and is currently deployed with the NATO force in Kosovo. He has been decorated for meritorious conduct. He is a regular contributor to Ancient Warfare magazine