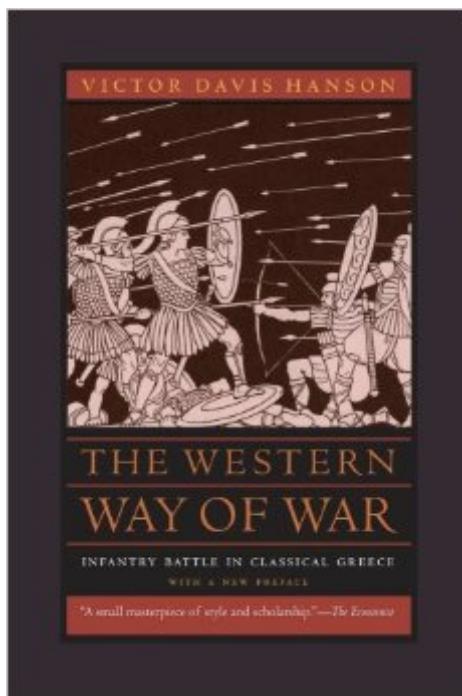


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The Western Way Of War: Infantry Battle In Classical Greece



Synopsis

The Greeks of the classical age invented not only the central idea of Western politics—that the power of state should be guided by a majority of its citizens—but also the central act of Western warfare, the decisive infantry battle. Instead of ambush, skirmish, or combat between individual heroes, the Greeks of the fifth century B.C. devised a ferocious, brief, and destructive head-on clash between armed men of all ages. In this bold, original study, Victor Davis Hanson shows how this brutal enterprise was dedicated to the same outcome as consensual government—an unequivocal, instant resolution to dispute. Linking this new style of fighting to the rise of constitutional government, Hanson raises new issues and questions old assumptions about the history of war. A new preface addresses recent scholarship on Greek warfare.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A small masterpiece of style and scholarship." -- The Economist "Enthralling. . . . One closes this book wishing that its final verdict was as well known as more familiar tenets of Greek wisdom." -- Christopher Hitchens, Newsday "[Hanson's] vivid style and meticulous combing of the ancient literary, archaeological, and epigraphical sources have produced a near masterpiece of historical imagination and reconstruction. . . . Masterful and gripping." -- Journal of Interdisciplinary History "[Hanson] has opened up a whole new way of looking at classical Greek war-fare. . . . The study of Greek warfare can never be quite the same again." -- Journal of Hellenic Studies --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Victor Davis Hanson is Professor of Classics at California State University, Fresno, and author and coauthor of many books, including *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War*.

One of the best military history novels EVER written. Period. Belongs on all military historians shelves next to Keegan, von Clausewitz, Fuller...etc. Examines phalanx warfare during Greece's city-state era using first person accounts garnered from historical documents. Covers the human aspects of battle - the fear, the sounds, the discomfort, the fatigue that almost places one in the center of the phalanx. The Western Way of War refers to the Western World's pursuit of the "decisive battle" (as opposed to the eastern methods of the prolonged struggle). Very incisive, especially given today's global situation.

Hanson's breakout book, done after the fashion of Keegan's *Face of Battle* in focusing on the actual experience of the infantryman on the ground. Most interesting to me is Hanson's observation that despite the imagery of destruction in ancient Greek warfare it turns out that grape and olive agriculture is exceedingly difficult to wipe out with the limited time and hand tools available to the armies of the day - Hanson tried it himself on his farm. From those base observations he began to question assumptions about hoplite warfare that have filled centuries' worth of literature. The result is a highly entertaining, iconoclastic read. Highly recommended.

This is one of Victor Davis Hanson's classics about the Western Way of War. Hanson's insights into the cultural elements that make the Western way of war so deadly, whether used by Westerners or adopted against them, are so profound that John Keegan, perhaps the most prestigious military historian alive when Hanson published, abandoned his customary British reserve and called them "dazzlingly original". "The Western Way of War" has become a fundamental concept in military history, as fundamental as things like the role of surprise or the importance of logistics. Hanson is especially laudable in his discussion of Western warmaking because he denies any "superiority" in the moral sense, and utterly disdains any racial element. He makes it clear that Western armies have too often used this deadliness to do what they should not. But it is important for an understanding of the world, and how we can prevent some wars (NOT all) and contain the harm done by those which do start. Jay Maupin

Was brand new when I received it and got it on time. Thank you.

Contains the initial statement of two of Hanson's important theses that shook the usually staid world of classics and the study of ancient military history. Whatever you feel about Hanson's political leanings, proclivities, activities, and writings, this book is a very important addition to our understanding of Ancient Greece. Recommend !

Always a thought provoking author

excellent copy, well packaged

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