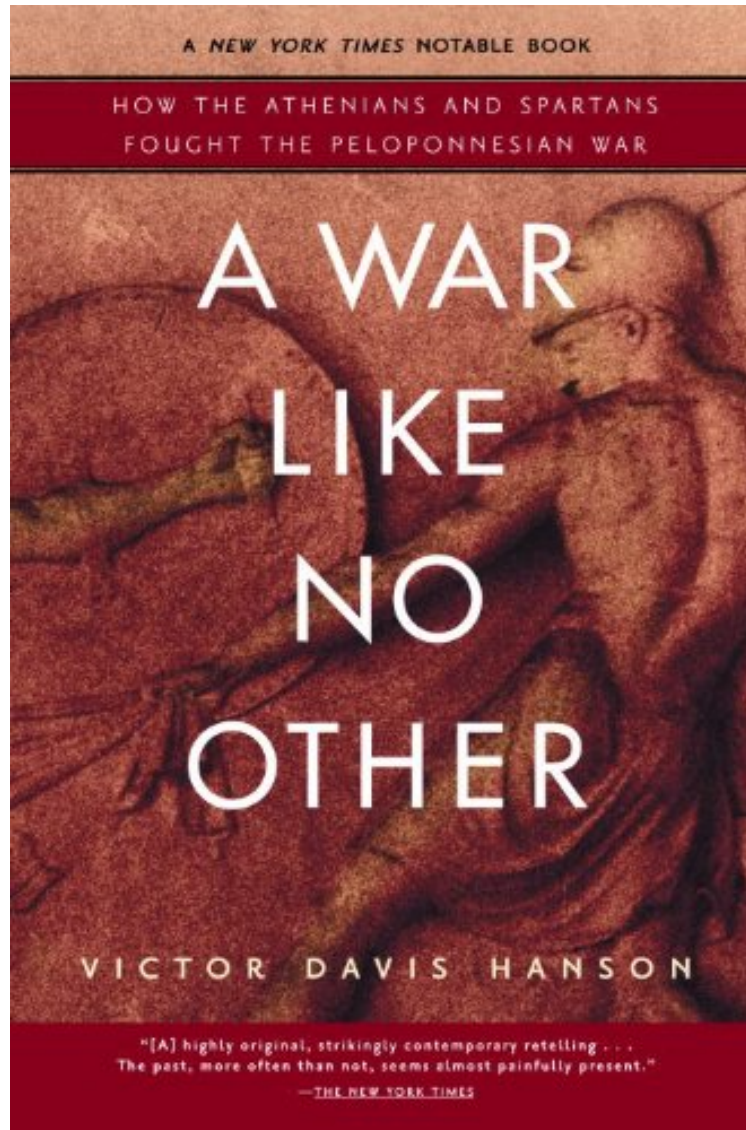


[Free download] A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War

A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War

Von Victor Davis Hanson

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Von Victor Davis Hanson : A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A very pleasant read for a scholarly work.Von customerThe perfect companion for all ancient military history enthusiasts is

the ROMA VICTRIX WINE BEAKER Roma Victrix Wein Becher For a layperson this is an easy-to-read and fascinating introduction to the Peloponnesian War. Unorthodox in its approach, it is not strictly chronological. As the subtitle indicates, it tells HOW the two enemies fought this war. The title is taken from Thucydides, the historian, who wrote extensively on the war. He called it a "war like no other." Each chapter treated a theme: Why the war was fought; the Spartan ultimately unsuccessful scorched earth policy in Attica; outbreak and extent of disease; hoplite warfare; growing importance of horses and cavalry in warfare; naval warfare, then the author's conclusions. I liked the analogies the author drew between incidents then and in subsequent warfare through the years. I was introduced to new names of military and naval leaders such as Brasidas; Archidamus; Nicias. I didn't realize the extent of Alcibiades' treachery. The man was certainly the quintessential amoral opportunist! Now I've learned about the ruthless Lysander, who finally defeated the Athenian fleet at Aegospotami [Goat Rivers]. For an expert in ancient Greek history, this book might be simplistic but it filled the bill excellently for me. Highly recommended.

Comment
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1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good starter
Von J. Kutscher
I am not familiar with greek history acquired by having studied the subject but rather unprofessionally interested in history and found the book a good primer in the history of the Peloponnesian War. Right after having finished the book I bought myself some more books about the Peloponnesian War and greek history itself. So it was definitely starter for me to get more into greek history. That I pretty much like the style of Mr. Hanson might have been an additional reason.

Kurzbeschreibung One of our most provocative military historians, Victor Davis Hanson has given us painstakingly researched and pathbreaking accounts of wars ranging from classical antiquity to the twenty-first century. Now he juxtaposes an ancient conflict with our most urgent modern concerns to create his most engrossing work to date, *A War Like No Other*. Over the course of a generation, the Hellenic city-states of Athens and Sparta fought a bloody conflict that resulted in the collapse of Athens and the end of its golden age. Thucydides wrote the standard history of the Peloponnesian War, which has given readers throughout the ages a vivid and authoritative narrative. But Hanson offers readers something new: a complete chronological account that reflects the political background of the time, the strategic thinking of the combatants, the misery of battle in multifaceted theaters, and important insight into how these events echo in the present. Hanson compellingly portrays the ways Athens and Sparta fought on land and sea, in city and countryside, and details their employment of the full scope of conventional and nonconventional tactics, from sieges to targeted assassinations, torture, and terrorism. He also assesses the crucial roles played by warriors such as Pericles and Lysander, artists, among them Aristophanes, and thinkers including Sophocles and Plato. Hanson's perceptive analysis of events and personalities raises many thought-provoking questions: Were Athens and Sparta like America and Russia, two superpowers battling to the death? Is the Peloponnesian War echoed in the endless, frustrating conflicts of Vietnam, Northern Ireland, and the current Middle East? Or was it more like America's own Civil War, a brutal rift that rent the fabric of a glorious society, or even this century's red state/blue state schism between liberals and conservatives, a cultural war that manifestly controls military policies? Hanson daringly brings the facts to life and unearths the often surprising ways in which the past informs the present. Brilliantly researched, dynamically written, *A War Like No Other* is like no other history of this important war.

From Booklist
By the standards of modern mass warfare, the Peloponnesian War, which ravaged Greece for 27 years, was a small-scale affair. The military forces were relatively small, and the weapons seem primitive. But by the standards of the classical Greek world, this conflict was massive and devastating. Hanson is a classicist and military historian, and his concise and stirring account of the war lacks the comprehensive scope of Donald Kagan's definitive work, *The Peloponnesian War* (2003). However, as a strictly military account, Hanson has written a first-rate chronicle, capturing the intensity and savagery of ancient warfare and conveying how ordinary warriors must have experienced it. Hanson has a gift for explaining both strategic objectives and relatively complicated tactical maneuvers in terms easily understandable by laymen. In his portrayals of some of the key players, Hanson provides interesting insights, especially concerning some rather obscure but important figures. For general readers and history buffs who hope to gain a solid understanding of this seminal and tragic conflict, this is an ideal.

Jay Freeman
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Pressestimmen
The age of Pericles was also a time of famine, pestilence and atrocity: a Thirty Year Slaughter. In order to understand the lesson this offers for civilization, one must try to feel it as the Greeks felt it, and reflect it as they did. In this dual task, Victor Davis Hanson once again demonstrates that his qualifications are unrivalled.

Christopher Hitchens, author of *Love, Poverty, and War: Journeys and Essays*
This book will immediately become the standard companion volume in English to Thucydides' Peloponnesian Wars. Its own battle narratives are unexcelled; but its singular merit is its comprehensive and detailed description of how the actual fighting was done, how generals led, and why each side—Sparta and Athens—went to war. The author is a man of action and a practicing farmer as well as the premier classical historian and military commentator of our day.

Josiah Bunting III, author of *Ulysses S. Grant*
The Peloponnesian War was grand and tragic but the sheer misery of those who experienced it has often been overlooked until now. From death by trampling to cannibalism, from preteen-sized knights on ponies to

deformed and ghostly plague survivors, from elegant galleys to bloodbaths in waterlogged death traps, the dark cones of classical combat are all brought to light by Hanson. This is a groundbreaking book by a great historian. Barry Strauss, author of *The Battle of Salamis: The Naval Encounter That Saved Greece and Western Civilization*