

[PDF] Athens: A Portrait of the City in Its Golden Age

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Von Christian Meier

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in Its Golden Age



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Von Christian Meier : Athens: A Portrait of the City in Its Golden Age before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Athens: A Portrait of the City in Its Golden Age:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Okay, but... Von Ein Kunde I wasn't terribly impressed with this, considering his supposed standing as a scholar and historian. The first hundred or so pages regarding the Battle of Salamis and Solon's early notions of democracy are engaging, but

the author soon settles into rather sweeping assertions that become less and less rooted in historical examples. He may very well be right about it all, and probably is, but posits far too little to support his observations on particularly art and literature as a reflection of the concrete belief in democracy that Athens had and others didn't. He writes well (rather it is well-translated), just found myself wishing for more meat and less gristle. Still and all, there's much to learn from it and it is an entertaining read.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. toiling in the shadow of historyVon Ein KundeMeier is toiling in dark shadows here, since Athens as a subject has engaged the lavish attentions of some of the greatest scholars of the last two hundred years. As a good, readable introduction to the city's crucial decades, this is a book to be recommended. It's solid and workmanlike, but there's something to be said for that...

KurzbeschreibungA lively and accessible history of Athens's rise to greatness, from one of the foremost classical historians.The definitive account of Athens in the age of Pericles, Christian Meier's gripping study begins with the Greek triumph over Persia at the Battle of Salamis, one of the most significant military victories in history. Meier shows how that victory decisively established Athens's military dominance in the Mediterranean and made possible its rise to preeminence in almost every field of human endeavor--commerce, science, philosophy, art, architecture, and literature. Within seventy-five years, Athens had become the most original and innovative civilization the ancient world ever produced.With elegant narrative style, Meier traces the birth of democracy and the flourishing of Greek culture in the fifth century B.C., as well as Athens' slow decline and defeat in the Peloponnesian War. The great figures--from politicians and generals like Themistocles and Alcibiades to the philosophers Socrates and Plato--emerge as flesh-and-blood human beings, firmly rooted in their times and places. This is history in the tradition of Simon Schama and Barbara Tuchman--learned, accessible, and beautifully written..deAncient Athens is remembered today as the cradle of a civilization that stands as an ideal of the reasoned life, as the source of radical transformations of thought that remain with us today in ideas of citizenship, freedom, political organization, and social obligation. Christian Meier gently reminds us, however, that in this context, Athens was a collective of landed citizens numbering fewer than 150,000 individuals spanning four generations in the 6th and 5th centuries B.C. Meier's sweeping narrative begins with the decisive Athenian victory at the battle of Salamis, when a hastily assembled fleet held off the much mightier navy of the Persian emperor, Xerxes. It was in war, Meier suggests, that Athens first came to see itself as a place unlike any other. When they were not battling Persians, Athenians often fought neighboring city-states over, say, who would have the right to host a round of Olympic games or control shipping lanes. (The Athenians, quipped Thucydides, "were born into the world to take no rest themselves and to give none to others.") The Athenian penchant for fighting with their neighbors--and, when neighbors were otherwise occupied, amongst themselves--led to the city-state's decline at the end of the Peloponnesian War in 404 B.C., when Meier's saga draws to a close. Meier brings a flair for storytelling to his thoroughgoing portrait of Athens's shining moment, with a cast of characters strong on well-known figures like Solon, Alcibiades, Euripides, and Socrates. Meier also writes with self-effacing modesty, noting that his is but one interpretation among many and that history that, as his does, "obeys the law of narrative sequence [is] the most time-honored perspective for curtailing understanding." Yet Athens does nothing of the sort, offering instead a fine overview of the complexities of Athenian life from which every reader of classical history will profit. -- Gregory McNameeKurzbeschreibungA lively and accessible history of Athens's rise to greatness, from one of the foremost classical historians.The definitive account of Athens in the age of Pericles, Christian Meier's gripping study begins with the Greek triumph over Persia at the Battle of Salamis, one of the most significant military victories in history. Meier shows how that victory decisively established Athens's military dominance in the Mediterranean and made possible its rise to preeminence in almost every field of human endeavor--commerce, science, philosophy, art, architecture, and literature. Within seventy-five years, Athens had become the most original and innovative civilization the ancient world ever produced.With elegant narrative style, Meier traces the birth of democracy and the flourishing of Greek culture in the fifth century B.C., as well as Athens' slow decline and defeat in the Peloponnesian War. The great figures--from politicians and generals like Themistocles and Alcibiades to the philosophers Socrates and Plato--emerge as flesh-and-blood human beings, firmly rooted in their times and places. This is history in the tradition of Simon Schama and Barbara Tuchman--learned, accessible, and beautifully written.