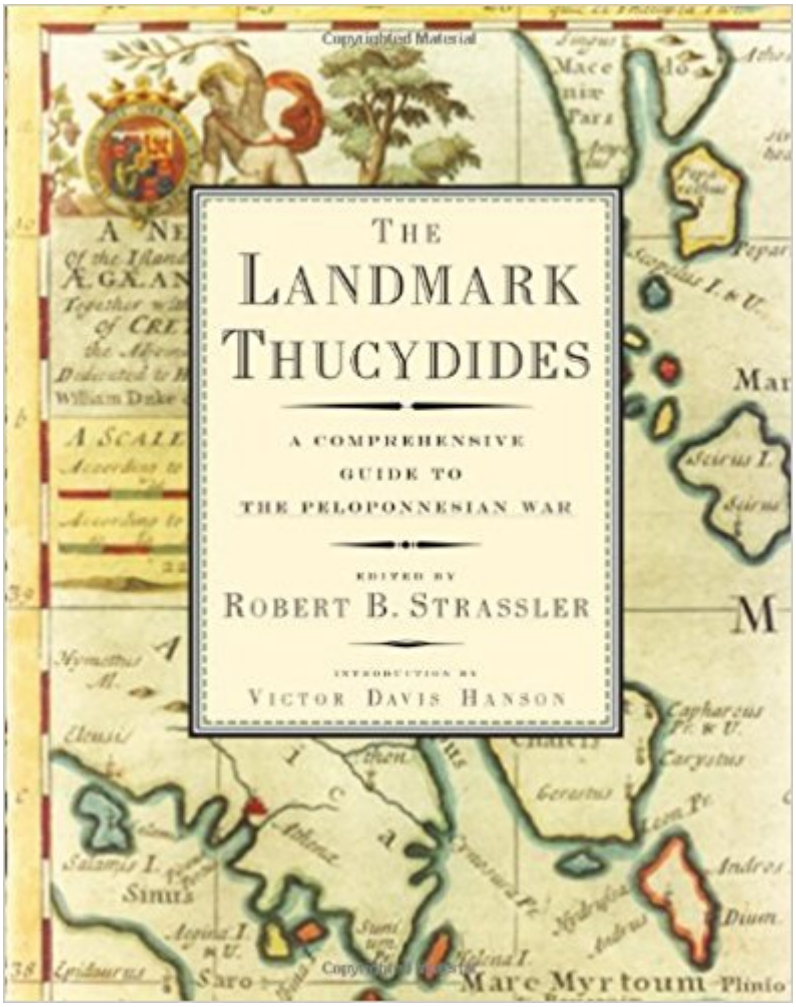
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The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide To The Peloponnesian War



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Synopsis

Thucydides called his account of two decades of war between Athens and Sparta Ã¢â ¬Å“a posssion for all time,Ã¢â ¬Â• and indeed it is the first and still most famous work in the Western historical tradition. Considered essential reading for generals, statesmen, and liberally educated citizens for more than 2,000 years, The Peloponnesian War is a mine of military, moral, political, and philosophical wisdom.Thucydides called his account of two decades of war between Athens and Sparta Ã¢â ¬Å“a posssion for all time,Ã¢â ¬Â• and indeed it is the first and still most famous work in the Western historical tradition. Considered essential reading for generals, statesmen, and liberally educated citizens for more than 2,000 years, The Peloponnesian War is a mine of military, moral, political, and philosophical wisdom. However, this classic book has long presented obstacles to the uninitiated reader. Robert Strassler's new edition removes these obstacles by providing a new coherence to the narrative overall, and by effectively reconstructing the lost cultural context that Thucydides shared with his original audience. Based on the venerable Richard Crawley translation, updated and revised for modern readers. The Landmark Thucydides includes a vast array of superbly designed and presented maps, brief informative appendices by outstanding classical scholars on subjects of special relevance to the text, explanatory marginal notes on each page, an index of unprecedented subtlety, and numerous other useful features. In any list of the Great Books of Western Civilization, The Peloponnesian War stands near the top. This authoritative new edition will ensure that its greatness is appreciated by future generations.

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Customer Reviews

Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War is one of the great books in the Western tradition, as well as its first true historical narrative. Editor Robert Strassler has annotated this classic text to make it more accessible to modern readers and added dozens of maps for easy reference. A helpful introduction places Thucydides in proper historical context and a series of short appendices focus on particular aspects of life and war during the period. But the bulk of the book itself, where Thucydides chronicles the long struggle between Athens and Sparta, enjoys an unexpected freshness on these pages--partly due to Strassler's magnificent editorial labors, but mostly because it's a great story resonant with heroes, villains, bravery, desperation, and tragedy. Every library should have a copy of Thucydides in it, especially libraries on military history, and The Landmark Thucydides is without question the best version available. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Strassler, an unaffiliated scholar of classical studies, has remedied many of the flaws of Richard Crawley's 1874 translation of The Peloponnesian War. He has added descriptive paragraph-by-paragraph synopses, topic headers on every page, numerous maps keyed to the adjoining text, explanatory footnotes, an extensive index, an excellent introduction by Victor Davis Hanson (California State Univ.), and 11 appendixes (by various scholars) on politics, warfare, and society in the Greece of the fifth century B.C.E. What the editor has done he has done well, creating a valuable basic reference for students of ancient history. His work has only two flaws: it lacks a substantial bibliography, having only a two-page "concise" one; and the price will put it out of reach of many institutions. For academic libraries and others with large history collections.?James F. DeRoche, Alexandria, Va.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Allow me to say that I am living in this book right now because I am in a Thucydides class. It is an EXCELLENT edition, beautifully put together. The maps and chapter headings in the margins really help understanding.However, the Kindle edition is a waste of money as it is virtually unusable. I strongly recommend the print edition instead of the Kindle edition.Here is what has worked for me so that I can study constantly even when I only have my Kindle (and do not have the Landmark with me). This translation is actually quite old and venerable. It is still in use because it is so well done. You can buy this translation expertly formatted for Kindle for under a buck.Ã Â The History of the Peloponnesian War (mobi)I would use this cheaper edition for Kindle, and buy this excellent Landmark print edition for the maps, etc.If you just want the text, and can use the internet effectively

for maps etc., the cheaper mobi edition should suffice for your needs. However, if you are new to Thucydides, and only have a cursory knowledge of ancient Greece (the type you'd get from an undergraduate history survey) then you really ought to use this Landmark edition. The maps etc. are a HUGE aid to understanding.An absolutely wonderful text. Strongly recommended. Victor Davis Hanson's essays are worth the price of admission.

I have both the paperback and also the Kindle copy, so it is easy for me to see what is missing in the Kindle version.First, to rate the book itself, which is excellent and essential reading for everyone. It is especially interesting for those interested in human nature, statecraft, and even modern day politics. The translation is outstanding, and very readable for the modern reader.The Kindle version suffers a bit, however. The maps included in the paperback version are essential to understanding what is going on. But in the Kindle version, the maps do not enlarge enough to be able to read the place names, so they are not very helpful. The Kindle version also misses the many footnotes in the paperback version, which are very helpful as one reads the text.The Kindle version is valuable for reading the work when you don't want to lug the paperback version around -- the paperback is quite a load. So they make a good combination, and I am glad I have them both. But the Kindle version could be greatly improved.

Before you buy this classic Landmark edition, please consider the newer, Cambridge translation by Jeremy Mynott.As someone who read both editions (donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t ask), I much prefer the Cambridge version. It was translated and released in 2013, while the Landmark edition was translated in 1874. LandmarkÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Victorian English is dense and difficult, while Cambridge uses simpler language and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ most importantly ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ more sentence breaks. The extra periods help prevent your eyes from glazing over as your brain tries to remember what was going on five lines ago in the same sentence. (If you want more details on the differences between the Landmark and Cambridge editions, see my review of theÃ Â Thucydides: The War of the Peloponnesians and the Athenians (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought).)IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m sure I would have given up on Thucydides had I been restricted to the Landmark edition, thus depriving me of a great adventure in politics, psychology, history, and war. Reading Thucydides really did change my life, and I encourage you to follow my footsteps down the easier path.

If you are into history sufficient to require the exploration of source text like Thucydides the

landmark series is the way to go. It provides just enough background information to keep things interesting and fill in blanks, and has excellent maps. These editions may not be build like heirloom quality books, but if you want to dig deeper into any particular piece of history look no further than the landmark series.Regarding this book in particular, Thucydides was a remarkable man and had a fascinating take on the world around him. He was a soldier, a philosopher, a thinker, and a first rate historian, but perhaps most importantly I think he had a keep sense of psychology and was an astute student of human nature. His take on the great events of ancient Greece are priceless.

"The Landmark Thucydides" is the first book in Robert Strassler's excellent series of annotated translations of ancient history. As of the writing of this review, the series also has Herodotus, Arrian, and Xenophon's "Hellenika". What makes these editions so different are the various additions that make the text easier to understand. There are maps every few pages, summaries of each section, timelines of the years of the history, and notes to explain difficult to interpret passages."The Peloponnesian War" needs these extras more than most. Thucydides jumps around in his narrative and uses place names that are unfamiliar to even learned classicists. The book ends with some short essays on relevant topics, such as Spartan institutions and trireme warfare. Thucydides is an altogether difficult author, but this edition makes him easily accessible without dumbing him down. Several prominent Greek historians have contributed to this series, which shows it is not only for students, but also for more serious readers. I recommend this edition of Thucydides above all others.

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