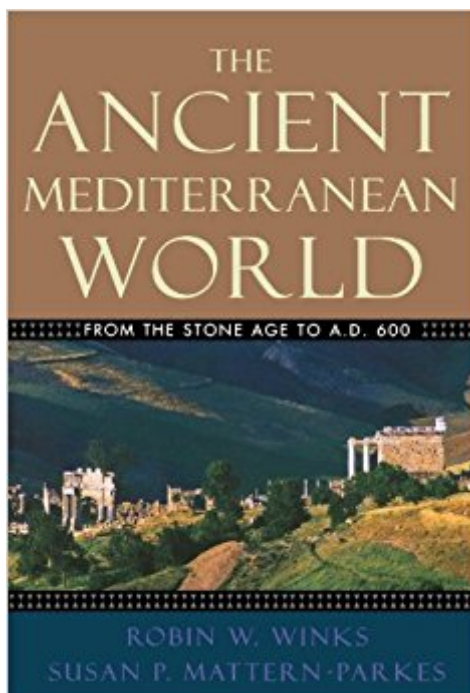


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The Ancient Mediterranean World: From The Stone Age To A.D. 600



Synopsis

What is a city, and what forms did urbanization take in different times and places? How do peoples and nations define themselves and perceive foreigners? Questions like these serve as the framework for *The Ancient Mediterranean World: From the Stone Age to A.D. 600*. This book provides a concise overview of the history of the Mediterranean world, from Paleolithic times through the rise of Islam in the seventh century A.D. It traces the origins of the civilizations around the Mediterranean--including ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, Greece, and Rome--and their interactions over time. *The Ancient Mediterranean World* goes beyond political history to explore the lives of ordinary men and women and investigate topics such as the relationships between social classes, the dynamics of the family, the military and society, and aristocratic values. It introduces students not only to the ancient texts on which historians rely, but also to the art and architecture that reveal how people lived and how they understood ideas like love, death, and the body. Numerous illustrations, chronological charts, excerpts from ancient texts, and in-depth discussions of specific art objects and historical methods are included. Text boxes containing primary source materials examine such diverse subjects as warfare in early Mesopotamia, sculpting the body in classical Greece, the young women of Sappho's chorus, and early descriptions of the Huns. Combining excellent chronological coverage with a clear, concise narrative, *The Ancient Mediterranean World* is an ideal text for undergraduate courses in ancient history and ancient civilization.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Teachers will find some considerable interest in browsing the Bibliography and the topic boxes of this volume. *The Journal of Classics Teaching*

Robin W. Winks is at Yale University. Susan P. Mattern-Parkes is at University of Georgia.

This book covers four broad areas of ancient history: non-Greek eastern Mediterranean civilizations, the Greek world, the Roman world, and late antiquity. It's a very ambitious project, especially since this is a slim volume (some 200 odd pages). I found only the Greek and Roman sections to be sufficiently detailed to make it worth reading. The other two sections were way too superficial and brief. I mean, how do you adequately cover the Hittites in two pages or the rise of Islam in a page? Why even mention them at all? That being said, I thought for an introductory work, the Greek and Roman sections were full of interest and engaging analysis. I think the authors were smart to focus on broad themes rather than a blow by blow chronological account. Overall, I would recommend this book, but only for its Greek and Roman histories.

I am using this book for a history course that I will take (and help teach) in the Fall Semester 2009. It is well-written, very concise. I found the graphics very helpful also. My only disappointment was having a question for the authors that I could not "ask." Robin Winks is now deceased and I don't think Susan Parkes is at UGA any longer. So I was not able to send along my question about the Mesopotamians. Dr. Dolores L. Sparrow

No fluff... Just gives the info no unneeded extras. Good stuff tells info in a story format to easy to read and process.

I had to buy this for a class. i got a good price and it was in good shape. I can't say I enjoyed reading it too much, but then again, I got it out of necessity not desire.

Got for class and never really used it

An excellent introductory overview, albeit lite on the ancient Near East. Fully accessible to leisure as well as academic readers. A true pleasure, and more so to discover that it is but one in a series! Highly recommended!

I recently purchased this book. I find a good introduction to the Ancient Mediterranean world. Though I wish that the authors gave more information about ancient Egypt. I can now go on to more detailed history books on Egypt, Rome and Greece.

This is a book that provides a very concise picture of the ancient Mediterranean world. That may be good for some people, but it wasn't good for me. I'm taking a class on western civilization and I need a narrative, less encyclopedic style of writing--a book that would draw me in and help paint a coherent story. This book provides a concise overview. It is also very conceptual. Most of the interpretation is already done for the reader. I prefer information and data presented in a style that allows the reader to draw his/her own conclusions and make his/her own thoughts. The sample pages posted on gave the false impression of a thought-provoking and stimulating book. However it turned out to be a book organized around facts and a hierarchy of headings and concepts. It's hard to grasp history and concepts when it is spoon-fed. This is true because reference points are lacking. The reader has a hard time relating to the information.

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