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A COMPANION TO GREEK WARFARE

EDITED BY Waldemar Heckel, F. S. Naiden E. Edward Garvin, and John Vanderspoel



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A COMPANION TO GREEK WARFARE

Edited by

Waldemar Heckel University of Calgary Calgary, Alberta

F.S. Naiden University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, North Carolina

E. Edward Garvin

University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta

John Vanderspoel

University of Calgary Calgary, Alberta

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Heckel, Waldemar, 1949- author. | Garvin, E. Edward (Erin Edward), author. |

Vanderspoel, John, 1954- author. | Naiden, F. S., author.

Title: A companion to Greek warfare / edited by Waldemar Heckeln, F. S.

Naiden, E. Edward Garvin, John Vanderspoel

- Description: Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2021. | Series: Blackwell companions to the Ancient World |
- Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "The first part of the book, a "Historical Survey," focuses on changing issues in strategy and grand strategy-on Greek motives, goals, and responses to military success and failure, the Macedonians, Persians, Romans, and Carthaginians being given due weight. These five chapters cover chronological fundamentals, but deal with modalities and patterns more than with campaigns, and with campaigns more than with battles. Johannes Heinrichs, in "Bronze Age and Early Greek Wars," sees Mycenaean warfare in terms of "the centralized organization of life," then deals with Homer as evidence of an ideological rather than sociological character. Among late Archaic Wars, Sparta's efforts to dominate the southern Peloponnesus illustrate a grand strategy that evolves from annexation to domination. The next chapter, Sabine Müller's "The Persian Wars to Alexander," gives a holistic account of the conflicts between the Achaemenids and both the Greeks and Macedonians, one that dismantles propaganda and rationalizations in order to demonstrate interdependence as well as rivalry. Frances Pownall's chapter on "Internal Wars from the 'First Peloponnesian War' to Chaeronea" covers much the same period but centers on alliance systems and spheres of influence; one after another, the Greeks states failed to implement strategies that would that would do more collective good than harm. She emphasizes Persia's role in this sequence of events"--Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020047069 (print) | LCCN 2020047070 (ebook) | ISBN 9781119438816 (hardback) | ISBN 9781119438830 (paperback) | ISBN 9781119438823 (pdf) | ISBN 9781119438854 (epub) | ISBN 9781119438847 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Military art and science--Greece--History--To 500. |

Greece--History, Military--To 146 B.C. | Military art and science--History--To 500. | Military history, Ancient.

Classification: LCC U33 .H43 2021 (print) | LCC U33 (ebook) |

DDC 355.020938--dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020047069 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2020047070

Cover image: © Photo Vault/Alamy Stock Photo Cover design by Wiley

Set in 10/12.5, GalliardStd by Integra Software Services, Pondicherry, India.

 $10\ 9\ 8\ 7\ 6\ 5\ 4\ 3\ 2\ 1$

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Notes on Contributors

Sheila L. Ager is Professor of Classical Studies and currently Dean of Arts at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada. She is the author of *Interstate Arbitrations in the Greek World*, 337–90 BC (1996), co-editor (with Riemer Faber) of *Belonging and Isolation in the Hellenistic World* (2013), and editor of A *Cultural History of Peace in Antiquity* (2020). Much of her research has focused on international relations in antiquity, in particular peaceful conflict resolution. She is also the author of several papers on Hellenistic monarchy, especially the Hellenistic queens of the Ptolemaic and Seleukid house.

Mauricio G. Álvarez holds a Ph.D. in Ancient History from the Autónoma University, Madrid, and an M.A. in Mediterranean Studies from King's College London, and he is a former DAAD grant holder. Dr. Álvarez is member of the Research Group "History, Archeology and Documentation" in La Coruña University (Spain) and of the Spanish Association for Military History, and in recent years has served as a professor in Nebrija University, Madrid. His principal fields of interest are Greek and Roman military camps, ancient Greek and Roman armies, Alexander the Great, the culture and history of the Mediterranean basin, and teaching methods for Geography and History.

Edward M. Anson is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. His publications include numerous articles and book chapters, and he has authored or edited Philip II, the Father of Alexander the Great: Themes and Issues (2020); Affective Relations and Personal Bonds in Hellenistic Antiquity: Studies in Honor of Elizabeth D. Carney, with Monica D'Agostini and Frances Pownall (2020); Alexander's Heirs: The Age of the Successors 323-281 BC (2014); Alexander the Great: Themes and Issues (2013); After Alexander: The Age of the Diadochi (323-281 BC) with Victor Alonso Troncoso (2013). He is an associate editor of the Ancient History Bulletin, an Assessor for Classics for the Australian Research Council, and a fellow of the University of Waterloo's Institute for Hellenistic Studies.

Elizabeth D. Carney is Professor of History and Carol K. Brown Scholar in the Humanities, Emerita, at Clemson University. Her focus has been on Macedonian and Hellenistic monarchy and the role of royal women in monarchy. She has written Women and Monarchy in Ancient Macedonia (2000), Olympias, Mother of Alexander the Great. (2006), Arsinoë of Egypt and Macedon: A Royal Life (2013), and Eurydice and the Birth of Macedonian Power (2019). Some of her articles dealing with monarchy, with new afterwords, are collected in *King and Court* in Ancient Macedonia: Rivalry, Treason and Conspiracy (2015). She and Sabine Müller have co-edited The Routledge Companion to Women and Monarchy in the Ancient Mediterranean World (2020).

Michael B. Charles, Associate Professor, is a member of the School of Business, Law and Arts at Southern Cross University, Gold Coast, Australia. Michael has published over 100 refereed journal articles in a variety of subject areas, together with numerous book chapters and refereed conference papers. Michael's Ph.D. (University of Queensland) was on the dating of the late antique military writer Vegetius, but he has moved on to other aspects of ancient history, especially the use of elephants in antiquity, the political role of eunuchs, and Persian military studies. As part of his "day job," Michael also publishes in the area of public policy, with a particular interest in science and technology policy, together with transport and infrastructure studies. Michael also has a Master of International Business Studies from the Queensland University of Technology and teaches in the area of infrastructure management. He currently resides on the Gold Coast and, when he has free time, enjoys gardening/landscaping, antique furniture restoration, reading about popular culture, learning about wine (and, of course, drinking it), and listening to a variety of music.

Fernando Echeverría is lecturer in Ancient History at the Complutense University in Madrid, Spain. His research focuses on the social and political implications of war and military transformations in Archaic and Classical Greece, combining literary and iconographical approaches. He is the author of *Ciudadanos*, *Campesinos y Soldados*. *El Nacimiento de la Polis Griega y la Teoría de la Revolución Hoplita* (2008), and currently conducts a project on the nature and dynamics of Greek siege warfare.

Christopher Epplett teaches ancient history in the Department of History at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. His research interests include Hellenistic history, the armies of Greece and Rome, and ancient sport and spectacle.

Ann Haverkost is an archaeologist and graduate student in the History Department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is currently researching cultural and political reflections in classical Macedonian funerary imagery. In addition, she is a supervisor with Bethsaida Archaeological Excavations in northern Israel. Her research interests include religion and cultural exchange between the Mediterranean and Ancient Near East during the Iron Age through the Classical periods.

Waldemar Heckel is Professor Emeritus of Greek and Roman Studies and a Research Fellow of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies. He taught at the University of Calgary from 1977 until his retirement at the end of 2013. He is author of numerous books, including (most recently) *Alexander's Marshals. A Study of the Makedonian Aristocracy and the Politics of Military Leadership* (London, 2016), *In the Path of Conquest. Resistance to Alexander the Great* (Oxford 2000), and *Who's Who in the Age of Alexander and his Successors. From Chaironeia to Ipsos, 338–301 BCE* (London 2021).

Johannes Heinrichs is Professor in Ancient History at the University of Cologne (Germany), currently a researcher in the project *Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae Palaestinae*, and one of the editors of the *Lexicon of Argead Makedonia*. His focus is on Achaemenid, Greek, and Latin epigraphy, Persian, Greek, and Roman history and numismatics, Roman imperial prosopography (*PIR*, vols. VIII.1 and 2), and Celtic and Germanic ethnic groups in Western Europe. His recent papers include discussions of a new bronze tablet from the Lykaion in archaic Arkadia, and legal aspects of the Hefzibah inscription that contains letters by the Seleukid king, Antiochos III.

Peter Hunt, Professor of Classics and (courtesy) History at the University of Colorado Boulder, studies warfare and society, slavery, historiography, and oratory with a focus on Classical Greece. His first book, Slaves, Warfare and Ideology in the Greek Historians (1998), discerns a conflict between the extent of slave and Helot participation in Greek warfare and the representation of their role in contemporary historians. His second book, War, Peace, and Alliance in Demosthenes' Athens (2010), uses the evidence of deliberative oratory as evidence for Athenian thinking and feelings about foreign relations. His third book is a survey on Ancient Greek and Roman Slavery (2018). In addition to articles and reviews, he has contributed chapters to The Oxford Handbook of Demosthenes, Brill's Companion to Thucydides, The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides, The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Warfare, The Cambridge World History of Slavery, and The Cambridge History of the World. He is now starting a major project on Plutarch's Phocion.

Melanie Jonasch is with the German Archaeological Institute. Her dissertation dealt with Les pierres du bon buveur. Eine regionale Konvention unter den Grabstelen des römerzeitlichen Gallien (2011). She is author of The Fight for Greek Sicily: Society, Politics and Landscape (2020).

Sabine Müller is Professor of Ancient History at Marburg University. She studied Medieval and Modern History, Art History, and Ancient History. Her research focuses on the Persian Empire, Argead Macedonia, the Hellenistic Empires, Macedonian royal women, Lukian of Samosata, and reception studies. Her publications include monographs on Alexander the Great, Ptolemy II and Arsinoë II, and Perdikkas II. She is coeditor of the *Lexicon of Argead Makedonia* (2020).

Silke Müth is a Classical archaeologist specializing in topography and architecture, particularly in Greek cities and fortifications. She coordinated a research project on the city wall of Messene (Peloponnese) from 2004 to 2008, co-directed the international network "Focus on Fortification. Ancient Fortifications in the Eastern Mediterranean" from 2008 to 2016, and held a fellowship of the German Research Association (DFG) on Symbolic Functions of Greek and Roman Fortifications at the Athens branch of the German Archaeological Institute and the Humboldt University of Berlin from 2012 to 2016. Currently she is a Senior Researcher at the National Museum of Denmark, codirecting a research project on the Archaic-Classical city of Sikyon (Peloponnese).

F.S. Naiden, professor of Greek History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, studies ancient Greek law, religion, and warfare, including Near Eastern parallels, especially among the Western Semites. Chief periods of interest are the Classical and Hellenistic. Recently completed is a study of Alexander the Great, his officers, and the role of religion in Macedonian conquests, Soldier, Priest, and God, combining his interests in warfare, religion, and the Near East. Now underway is a study of war councils and command and control throughout antiquity and into the early modern period. The languages used for his research are Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Akkadian

Emil Nankov is Assistant Professor at the National Archaeological Institute with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in Art History and Archaeology at Cornell University (2009). His main scholarly

interests focus on urbanization, warfare, and ancient economy of ancient Thrace. He is the editor of Sandanski and Its Territory During Prehistory, Antiquity and Middle Ages: Current Trends in Archaeological Research: Proceedings of an International Conference at Sandanski, September 17-20, 2015. Papers of the American Research Center in Sofia, vol. 3 (Veliko Tarnovo). He is also a co-editor of Heraclea Sintica: from Hellenistic polis to Roman civitas (4th c. BC-6th c. AD). Proceedings of a Conference at Petrich, Bulgaria, September 19-21, 2013, published in PARCS vol. 2 (2015), and A Companion to Ancient Thrace (2015). Currently he is a Deputy Director of the archaeological excavations at Emporion Pistiros.

Stephen O'Connor is Associate Professor of History at California State University, Fullerton. His research focuses on the economics and logistics of Classical Greek warfare. He has published articles on the diet and pay of Greek sailors and soldiers and, especially, the markets they participated in while on campaign. He is currently preparing a monograph entitled *Feeding Maritime Empire: Grain Markets and Athenian Imperial Domination in the 5th Century BCE.*

Marek Jan Olbrycht is Professor of History and Ancient Oriental Studies at Rzeszów University, Poland, Member of the Oriental Commission of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, and Member of the Polish Archaeological Institute in Athens, Greece. Formerly: Member at the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton and Humboldt Visiting Professor in Germany, University of Münster. His focus has been the history of ancient Iran and Central Asia, Alexander the Great, and ancient warfare. He published more than 100 articles and several books, including Parthia et Ulteriores gentes (1998) and Alexander the Great and the Iranian World (2004). In 2010, he established the journal Anabasis. Studia Classica et Orientalia.

Olga Palagia is Professor of Classical Archaeology, Emerita, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She has published widely on Greek sculpture and Macedonian painting and has edited several collective volumes. Recent edited books include Sailing to Classical Greece in Honour of Petros Themelis (2011) (co-edited with H.R. Goette), Naupaktos (2016), From Hippias to Kallias: Greek Art in Athens and Beyond 527-449 BC (2019) (co-edited with E.P. Sioumpara), and De Gruyter Handbook of Greek Sculpture (2019).

Frances Pownall is Professor of Classics at the University of Alberta. She has published widely on Greek historiography (particularly the fourth century and the Hellenistic period), the source tradition on Macedonia and the Successors, and the historiographical tradition of Sicily and the Greek West. She has written updated editions, translations, and historical commentaries for a number of important fragmentary historians (including Hecataeus, Hellanicus, Duris, Aristobulus, Eratosthenes, and Philistus) for Brill's New Jacoby. She is the author of Lessons From the Past: The Moral Use of History in Fourth-Century Prose (2004), Ancient Macedonians in the Greek and Roman Sources (co-edited with T. Howe, 2018), Lexicon of Argead Macedonia (co-edited with W. Heckel, J. Heinrichs, and S. Müller, 2020), and Affective Relations & Personal Bonds in Hellenistic Antiquity (co-edited with E.M. Anson and M. D'Agostini, 2020).

Jeanne Reames is Director of the Ancient Mediterranean Studies Program at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where she also served as the History Graduate Program Chair until recently. She specializes in Argead Macedonia up through the court of Alexander the Great, including areas of social history (both Macedonian and Greek): religion, ethnicity, military, and sexuality. In addition, she has a long-time interest in Alexander's portrayal in modern pop culture. Her Ph.D. is from the Pennsylvania State University, 1998.

Joseph Roisman is a Professor Emeritus of Classics at Colby College. His main publications deal with Greek political, social, and military history and the Attic orators. They include Lycurgus, Against Leocrates. Introduction and Commentary by Joseph Roisman. Translation by Michael Edward (2019), The Classical Art of Command: Eight Greek Generals Who Changed the History of Warfare (2017), Alexander's Veterans and the Early Wars of the Successors (2012), and The General Demosthenes and His Use of Military Surprise (1993). He edited Ancient Greece from Homer to Alexander: The Ancient Evidence. Translation by John Yardley (2011), and co-edited with Ian Worthington A Companion to Ancient Macedonia (2010).

Jeffrey Rop is Associate Professor of History at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. His publications include *Greek Military Service in the Ancient Near East*, 401–330 BCE (2019), and articles on the military and political history and historiography of ancient Greece and Persia.

Frank Russell received his B.A. in Classics from Loyola Marymount, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Classics from UCLA. His areas of research are Greek and Roman intelligence, frontier zones, and counterinsurgency. He teaches at Transylvania University, where he is Professor of History.

Gordon Shrimpton is Professor Emeritus at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. His books include *Theopompus the Historian* (1991) and *History and Memory in Ancient Greece* (1997). The chapter in this collection explores the remarkable way one city, Athens, was able to suppress its bitter memory of civil conflict.

J. Vela-Tejada is Professor of Classics at University of Zaragoza (Spain). He has written extensively on Greek warfare and military literature from his dissertation on the language of Aeneas Tacticus (1991). He is author of articles on "Warfare, History and Literature in the Archaic and Classical Periods," Historia 53, 2004, and "Creating Koiné: Aineias Tacticus in the History of the Greek Language" (in M. Pretzler and N. Barley (eds.), Brill's Companion to Aineias Tacticus, 2017). His research area also covers the scope of Xenophon (Post H.R. Breitenbach: tres décadas de estudios sobre Jenofonte (1967-1997), Zaragoza, 1998; he co-author of Xenophontis operum is Concordantiae, I: Hellenica. vols. II: Anabasis, 2002; III: Cyrupaedia, 2003; V: Opuscula, 2008), and Plutarch ("Atticism in Plutarch: a μίμησις τῶν ἀρχαίων or diglossia?," Euphrosyne 47, 2019).

Lawrence Tritle is Professor Emeritus of History at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California (1978-2017); in 2012 he was selected as Daum Research Professor of History and in 2014 received the Rains Award for Distinguished Research and Scholarship. An ancient historian by training (Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1978), his publications include From Melos to My Lai. War and Survival (2000), A New History of the Peloponnesian War (2010), The Oxford Handbook of Warfare in the Classical World (edited with B. Campbell, 2013), and most recently The Many Faces of War (edited with J.W. Warren, 2018). Tritle's research focuses on comparative war and violence. His investigations center on the experience of war, investigating war's impact on the individuals who fight and the wider consequences of violence on culture and society. A combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Tritle supported South Vietnamese forces in ground operations. His decorations include the Combat Infantrymen's Badge, Bronze Star, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

David Whitehead, a one-time pupil of M.I. Finley, is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at Queen's University, Belfast, and an elected Member of the Royal Irish Academy. After monographs on the metics (1977) and the demes (1986) of Athens, his research output has focused on two main fields: Athenian courtroom oratory—commentaries on Hyperides (2000) and Isocrates (forthcoming); and, as exemplified in the present volume, Greek military history and military writers, with particular reference to siege warfare.

Carolyn Willekes is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of General Education at Mount Royal University. She received her Ph.D. in Greek and Roman Studies from the University of Calgary. Her research focuses primarily on the horse-human relationship in the ancient world, with a particular interest in the use of horses in warfare. She is author of *The Horse in the Ancient World: From Bucephalus to the Hippodrome* (2016) and *Greek Warriors: Hoplites and Heroes* (2017), as well as several chapters and articles, including "A Tale of Two Games: Cirit, Buzkashi, and the Horsemen of the Ancient Asiatic Steppe" (*Nomadic Peoples*, 2017) and "Breeding Success: The Creation of the Racehorse in Antiquity" (*Mouseion*, 2019).

Abbreviations and Short Titles

With a few exceptions, journal titles in the bibliography follow the standard abbreviations specified in *L'Année Philologique*. Abbreviations in the notes follow the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, ed. S. Hornblower, A. Spawforth, and E. Eidinow. 4th ed., Oxford, 2012.

AOAT = Alter Orient und Altes Testament.

Barrington Atlas = Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World, ed. R.J.A. Talbert, Princeton, and Oxford, 2000.

CAH = The Cambridge Ancient History, multiple editors, volumes and editions, Cambridge, 1970–2005.

JÖAI = Jahrshefte des Osterreichischen Archaologischen Instituts.

ML = Russell Meiggs and David Lewis. 1969. A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions to the end of the Fifth Century BC, Oxford; 2nd revised ed. Oxford 1988.

RE = Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft.

SEG = Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum.

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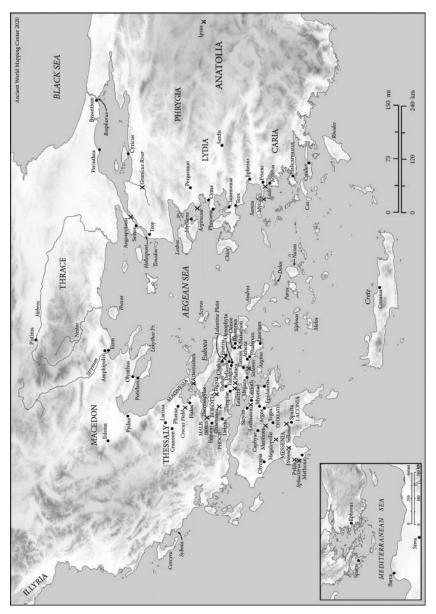
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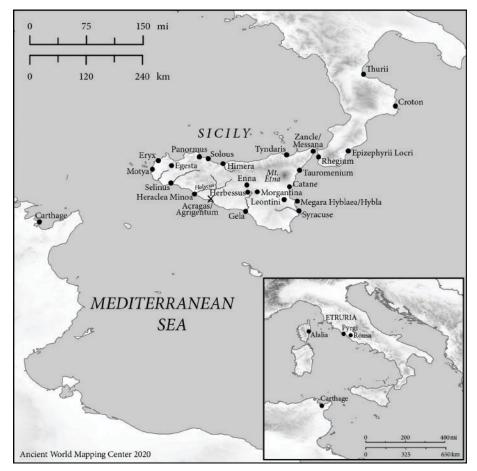
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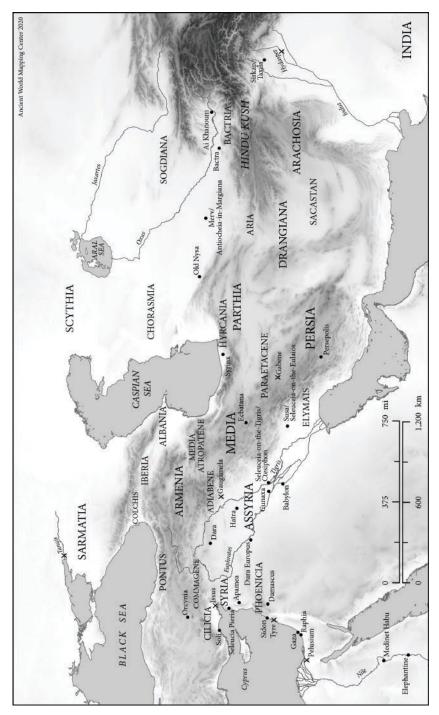
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Map 1 Greece and Anatolia.



Map 2 Sicily and Magna Graecia.





Introduction

Waldemar Heckel and F.S. Naiden

Although the study of ancient Greek military history has flourished in the last few decades, no handbook or survey exclusively about this subject has appeared. *The Wiley Companion to Greek Warfare* fills this intellectual and pedagogical gap. It considers how Greek states prepared themselves, materially, psychologically, and politically, for confrontations with their adversaries; how the techniques used to overcome the enemy on the battlefield—whether on land or sea—were honed through training, tactical innovation, and technological advances; how the logistical demands of maintaining an army on the march or in distant lands were met, and how their warfare was justified in the face of moral and religious prohibitions against murder and other types of violence.

Even though an army moved on its stomach, it was motivated to move by the heart, and directed by the mind. Propaganda was used for justification and condemnation; the noble and manly virtues of the good soldier contrasted with the alleged cowardice and effeminacy, or the inhumanity and brutality, of the enemy, who was on some occasions to be feared and on others to be despised. For Greek imperialists, degraded enemies were easily confected, and invented atrocities promulgated. For those who faced aggression, the defense of family, property, and shrines was sufficient motivation; but even then the accumulated warrior traditions of the past, such as those that inspired the Thebans in 335 (Diod. Sic. 17.11.5), were no less essential than mobilizing troops or digging trenches and strengthening walls.

Equally important were the skills of the general, scout, spy, mechanic, smith, diviner, architect, teamster, and horseman. These and other *technai* let the ancient Greeks invent or make better artillery, improve ship design, create some genres of military literature, advance the use of combined arms, and make strategy, previously a royal and aristocratic monopoly, a matter of public debate. In all these regards, the Greeks were learning from, and competing with, their Near Eastern and European neighbors from Thrace to Persia. Notions that Greek

A Companion to Greek Warfare, First Edition. Edited by Waldemar Heckel, F.S. Naiden,

E. Edward Garvin, and John Vanderspoel.

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warfare was unique or seminal, or even that it was superior to the warfare of neighboring peoples, are all exaggerated, the truth being that the Greeks and the Macedonians were distinctive and influential, but superior only for a brief period, one not much longer than the period of German superiority in modern Europe, and much shorter than the period of Roman superiority that would begin in the third century BCE.¹ The Romans came to regard the Greeks as unmilitary, if not effeminate.² The Pharaohs who hired Greek mercenaries thought differently.

Waging war was not an isolated event (or even a series of events), but a process that touched upon virtually all aspects of Greek life. And, even though the Greeks did not worship Mars (Ares) as the Romans did—indeed Ares is depicted in a most unsympathetic way by Homer (*II.* 5.888–898)—war dominated much of their lives or at least hovered on the horizon. Alexander the Great was paradigmatic. From birth, he had been raised for war, as both a combatant and a tactician, a leader and a comrade—a soldier foremost in both the formulation and execution of orders. His first teachers imbued in him a passion for the *aristeia* of the Homeric hero and the strict discipline that had made Sparta the living guidebook of military virtue, and he went on to read not only the *Iliad* and the works of the Athenian tragedians but also Xenophon and, most likely, Herodotus. The written word and its interpretation by some of the Greek world's greatest minds provided the underpinning of his warcraft, while the veteran generals of Macedon were there to advise, their actions clearly visible; for the prince had been thrust at an early age into the thick of battle.

Although arguably the greatest warrior of antiquity, Alexander was not unique. Every man's fame, as the man from Seriphus reminded Themistocles, depended on the prestige of his homeland, and that, in turn, depended on public and especially military service. Even those leaders who were orators rather than generals celebrated military heroes, many of them ancestors, others ordinary citizens. What these men did, and how they acted in what must be one of life's greatest trials, reflected the many arts (and the mundane demands) of war described in this volume, one that probes beyond the familiar if often dubious record found in the works of the historians and orators or in contemporary public documents.

Unlike two other recent books, *The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Warfare* and *The Oxford Handbook of Warfare in the Classical World*, this volume does not subordinate Greece to Rome, or the entire length of Greek history to whatever part of it is "Classical." So much is clear from the titles of these books, but this one also differs from the other two by covering more topics in a larger number of chapters.³ The editors have sought to include all major topics in the field of Greek and also Macedonian military history, including not just armies and their operations but also the economic, social, psychological, and cultural context of warfare. We have added neglected operational topics such as strategy and the role of Greeks in foreign service, and four chapters on the armies and methods of the Greeks' and the Macedonians' opponents, but we have also added new contextual topics such as religion, civil

¹ For the Greeks as unique and seminal, see Chapter 4 in this volume. A critique of sundry views that Greece is the point of origin for later historical phenomena: Goody 2008, 26–67.

² E.g. Liv. 29.1.1–11, 36.11.3–4. A contrast with Romans: 34.3.3–6. The next step in the argument: service in the Greek East renders Romans "lax," as in Wheeler 1996.

³ Thirty-one chapters vs. 25 in the *Oxford Handbook* edited by B. Campbell and L. Tritle, and vs. 9 and parts of 6 others in the *Cambridge History* edited by P. Sabin, H. van Wees, and M. Whitby. In addition, chs. 2–5 of the former, and 1–3 of the latter, cover ancient military history in general, rather than Greece alone. Both devote more space to Rome than to Greece, granting that the *Cambridge History* does so in the course of two volumes.

Introduction

war, iconography, propaganda, and the roles of slaves and women. Basics such as generalship and siege warfare receive whole chapters. Compared to other works, this book has more to say about *realia*, less about discourse, and in the latter case, it pays more attention to propaganda and monuments and less to general features of Greek culture.

This book also draws on more diverse contributors, totaling 28 from 11 countries. The majority are not from the United States and the United Kingdom; 11 are not from English-speaking countries. Some are authorities who have written for other military handbooks; others are young scholars working from monographs in neglected fields; most are ancient historians, but some are specialists such as archaeologists, or historians of religion. All in all, these scholars have less investment in *idées reçues* concerning Greek hoplites, Greek models, and Greek distinctiveness.

These differences reflect a bigger one, concerning method. The chapters in this book center on some type of evidence, or some period that written sources establish as distinctive, or some locale that archaeological and artistic sources establish as distinctive. Approaches to this body of evidence vary; they may be biographical, operational, institutional, social, economic, or cultural. Operations do not always predominate, but always matter: why and how wars are won or lost, and made or avoided, is crucial for some topics, important for others, and relevant to all. The prelude and sequel to wars receives less attention; any homology between war and society receives less attention than differences between the two.

Both the Cambridge and Oxford volumes center largely on themes derived from social scientists, especially Weber, Durkheim, and Marx—although the last of these is manifest indirectly, via the *Annales* school of history. Sociology, in a word, outweighs political history. Operations reflect the influences of technological determinism or cultural hegemony. Why and how wars are won and lost thus becomes a misleading question. For combatants and civilians, all wars are lost. War itself is the only victor, and an undeserving one at that.⁴ These two books are not pacifist any more than this book is militarist, but an ethical as well as intellectual gap divides the two.

Never acknowledged, but nonetheless felt, is an assumption on the part of the Cambridge authors that Greek warfare is a distinctly Greek, not ancient, phenomenon; in other words, that it owes little or nothing to either neighboring societies or earlier ones, even if it may serve as the origin for later, Euro-American warfare. In this regard, the volume is better termed Finleyite than Marxist, since it adheres to a history of warfare that runs parallel to Finley's notion of ancient Greece as the first slave society.⁵

At the same time, the book does not attempt to supplant the best work done in the Cambridge and Oxford volumes, such as the essays on navies and land battle in the former and the treatment of military medicine and mercenaries in the latter, all of which topics are accordingly omitted. In two cases, intelligence gathering and mental trauma, Frank Russell

⁴ See Wheeler 2011; for a similar view, but restricted to the Archaic Period, see Chapter 6 in this volume. Like other disputes in Classics, this one has roots in the ancient Greek sources, such as the account given by Herodotus 1.1–4 of the origin of the Persian Wars, and the account given by Thucydides of the origin of the Peloponnesian War, esp. 1.4–5.

⁵ For Greece as the first "slave society," as opposed to ancient societies with an economically secondary slave populations, see Finley 1980, ch. 3. Perhaps the best known of the scholars agreeing with Finley: Patterson 1982, App. 3, omitting slavery in the ancient Near East, including the Old Testament. Finley himself may be described as an ex-Marxist, or, as Ernst Badian once said to F. S. Naiden, "an anti-anti-Marxist." See both Naiden 2014 and Shaw 2014, along with Naiden 2017b. The Stalinist view of Greek slavery assimilated it to diverse Near Eastern systems of servitude.

and Lawrence Tritle, who also contributed to (and, in the latter case, co-edited one of) the earlier volumes, provide updated essays focused on certain aspects of their subjects.

This book suffers from several of the same gaps as its predecessors. It does not describe Greek federal armies, and it leaves aside important Near Eastern forces against whom the Greeks and Macedonians did some fighting, including the forces of Carthage, Lydia, and Assyria.

All manuals of ancient warfare derive from the dated but valuable reference works written by German, often Prussian, scholars in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.⁶ In the Cambridge History, the German legacy influences chapters on "Military Forces," "War," and "Battle," whereas interest in the context of warfare accounts for "Warfare and the State" and "War and Society," the switch from the one to the other being the occasion for introductory chapters on methods and sources. In the Oxford Handbook, similar introductory chapters come first, but a social and psychological concern, the common soldier's experience of combat, supplies the title of the next part, "The Face of Battle," as in John Keegan's 1976 book, whereas the other large part, "Impacts and Techniques" reconfigures traditional matter such as operations. This book again follows a different course, for it avoids generalizations about sources and methods, issues left to the authors of the chapters. It also avoids long, broad chapters such as "Warfare and the State," which lead to some subjects being raised briefly in one chapter, and then briefly in another, yet leads to other topics being omitted. As for the context of warfare, this book avoids favoring any one perspective, and with it, any one author-in the case of "The Face of Battle," Keegan's work on infantry combat of the same name. Operational matters still come first, but each topic receives its due, repetition and omission both being avoided. The context of warfare is divided in two parts, on the one hand, the economic and technical context, and, on the other hand, the social and political, a third part being reserved for warfare in art and literature, in other words, for the ancient cultural context, as opposed to any contemporary, twenty-first century intellectual context into which ancient literary and artistic sources should fit.

Part I, a "Historical Survey," focuses on changing issues in strategy and grand strategy on Greek motives, goals, and responses to military success and failure, the Macedonians, Persians, Romans, and Carthaginians being given due weight. These five chapters cover chronological fundamentals, but deal with modalities and patterns more than with campaigns, and with campaigns more than with battles. Johannes Heinrichs, in Chapter 1 "Bronze Age and Early Greek Wars," sees Mycenaean warfare in terms of "the centralized organization of life," then deals with Homer as evidence of an ideological rather than sociological character. Among late Archaic Wars, Sparta's efforts to dominate the southern Peloponnesus illustrate a grand strategy that evolves from annexation to domination. Chapter 2, Sabine Müller's "The Persian Wars to Alexander," gives a holistic account of the conflicts between the Achaemenids and both the Greeks and Macedonians, one that dismantles propaganda and rationalizations in order to demonstrate interdependence as well as rivalry. Frances Pownall's Chapter 3 on "Internal Wars from the 'First Peloponnesian War' to Chaeronea" covers much the same period but centers on alliance systems and spheres of influence; one after another, the Greeks states failed to implement strategies that would that

⁶ Rüstow and Köchly 1852; Bauer 1893; Delbrück 1900; Kromayer and Veith 1928. Pritchett 1971–1991, at vols. 1 and 2 (1971, 1974), is wider ranging, but unsystematic; it does mark the first attempt to include topics outside the ambit of military equipment, operations, and organization.

would do more collective good than harm. She emphasizes Persia's role in this sequence of events.

Edward Anson, in Chapter 4 "Hellenistic Land Warfare," shows how innovations introduced by Philip II of Macedon improved and professionalized armies, and thus enlarged the scale of Greek politics and warfare. Some changes occurred in weaponry, some in tactics, and some in the composition of armies. In this instance, military changes affected politics more than politics affected the military. Yet Melanie Jonasch, in Chapter 5 "Greek Warfare in Sicily," this part's last chapter, points out a major regional exception, in Sicily, where problems of colonization and rivalry with Carthage led to some technical innovations that Philip would adopt, but also to uniquely Sicilian patterns of warfare.

Part II, "Military Operations," deals with the fundamentals of infantry, cavalry, and sieges, but not in uniform fashion. Heavy infantry fighting has received too much attention for too long, and has been used, or misused, to explain too much, from Greek constitutions to Greek farming, and so Fernando Echeverría Rey, in Chapter 6 "The Nature of Hoplite Warfare," sets out to correct these emphases. This chapter is polemical, whereas Chapter 7, Carolyn Willekes' "Cavalry Battle in Greece and the Hellenistic East," builds on recent useful work about cavalry by analyzing the use of horses in combat. She seeks to recapture the experience of the ancient rider in handling his mount, whereas Echeverría Rey seeks to demolish the speculations of scholars who, unlike some German writers of the nineteenth century, did not have the benefit as well as the drawback of being infantry officers. David Whitehead's topic, "Siege Warfare," in Chapter 8 presents an altogether different challenge, that of blending Greek historiography with the long, complex development of ancient literature on the subject of *poliorketika*. He thus begins and ends with the most important siege writer, Philo of Byzantium, but after evaluating evidence from Herodotus and others. Here, as with the innovations of Philip II, changes in materiel did not by themselves confer decisive advantages.

Part III, "Military Personnel," identifies a topic treated in handbooks going back to the nineteenth century, but never emphasized. The four chapters in this part of the book seek to correct the misplaced egalitarianism found in recent hoplite studies by acknowledging the place of both superiors and inferiors in Greek armies. Chapter 9, F.S. Naiden's "The Organization of Greek Armies," assesses the size of Greek and Macedonian forces, identifies large and small units, and specifies the numbers and ranks of Greek and Macedonian officers. Better command and control emerge not only among Spartans as opposed to others, but cavalry as opposed to infantry, and Macedonians as opposed to Greeks, while Hellenistic increases in army size do not accompany ascertainable gains in this regard. In Chapter 10 on "Generalship," Joseph Roisman shows how effective high command, a long-recognized feature of fourth-century warfare, began far earlier, as shown by Homer, and thus was never a Spartan monopoly. Roisman describes the development of strategy through the career of Pericles as well as that of Philip II. The Hellenistic commander Epichares of Athens reveals another aspect of Greek generalship, protecting resources and frontiers in time of peace.

Many ancient authors report camp followers and their doings, but Chapter 11 by Mauricio Álvarez Rico on "Greek Camps and Camp Followers" is the first ever devoted expressly to this subject. Working from his monograph of 2013, he summarizes evidence from Aeneas Tacticus and others that the Greeks practiced castramentation, contrary to clichés about Roman orderliness and discipline and a Greek lack of the same. Camp followers, called "the mob" (*ho ochlos*) in Thucydides, might better be termed the denizens of a city on the move, to which the Macedonians imparted their own distinctive features.⁷ Another neglected aspect of

Greek military personnel, Greeks serving in foreign armies—not merely mercenaries, but mercenaries adapting to the needs of foreign rulers—illustrates this book's theme of Greek and Near Eastern interdependence. Jeffrey Rop's Chapter 12 on this subject, "Greeks in Foreign Service: The Case of the Achaemenid Empire," is also adopted from a recent monograph. Rop rebuts the common view that Greeks in Persian service were very largely hoplites who became valued by the Persian kings after Marathon. In fact, they first entered Persian service in 525, and often served as sailors and engineers.

Part IV, "War with Non-Greeks," takes up the theme of Greco–Persian overlap through Michael Charles' Chapter 13 "The Royal Elite of the Achaemenid Army," in which he summarizes his recent articles to show that the famed 10,000 "Immortals" disappeared sometime after Xerxes, to be replaced by mercenary hoplites; two other units, the smaller Kinsmen Cavalry and the Apple-Bearers, an infantry counterpart to this cavalry, both survived. In Chapter 14 "Parthian Warfare under the Early Arsacids," Marek Olbrycht surveys Parthian military organization, weapons, and armor before concentrating on the cataphracts, whom he describes as a heavy cavalry that developed from the confluence of "Central Asian nomadic cavalry tradition, Achaemenid military innovation, and the Macedonian challenge." The long spear was first borrowed from the Macedonians not by the Arsacids, but by steppe peoples, the Massagetae and Dahae. It reached Parthia by an indirect route typical of the cross-connections traced in this volume.

The remaining chapters in this part deal with two less studied enemies, India and Thrace. India provided the Macedonians with elephants, the subject of Chapter 15 by Christopher Epplett, "Elephants in Hellenistic Warfare," which asks whether the Successors and later the Romans made good use of this Indian military export. Epplett answers that at Gaugamela Persian mismanagement of elephants offered the Macedonians a warning that Alexander ignored, especially after he witnessed the success of Porus in using them at the Hydaspes. The Successors (but not Alexander) then put this new military arm to the test in more than a century of battles. The record was mixed: success at Ipsus, but failure on some other occasions. The Successors thus abandoned this exotic weapon, in spite of its shock power.

If Indian elephants were a luxury for Macedonian rulers, Greek and Macedonian equipment and methods were a necessity for Thracian tribes wishing to prevail against each other and against foreign invaders, as described by Emil Nankov in Chapter 16 "Thracian Warfare." Nankov's study explores the methodological problems of reconstructing military history from exiguous literary sources and scattered archaeological remains, especially battlefields, weapons hoards and *militaria* from graves and tombs.

The remaining parts of this book, Parts V–VII, turn from what might be called the foreground of warfare—strategy, operations, personnel, and foes—to the background, which is the general context in which ancient states made war. Part V deals with economic and technical context that directly affected victory and success; Parts VI and VII deal with topics that affected performance indirectly.

The first chapter in Part V, Chapter 17 deals with logistics—the little studied art of keeping soldiers alive and well before battle. The author, Stephen O'Connor, takes advantage of the numerous remarks on this subject in Xenophon, and branches out toward other commanders and other problems. Clichés about Greek improvisation and self-reliance prove untrue, the same as similar clichés about castramentation. The next chapter, Silke Müth-Frederiksen's

⁷ Th. 7.78.2. "City on the move": Rostovtzeff 1941, 1.146.

Introduction

Chapter 18 on "Fortifications," builds on recent scholarship that has shown how fortifications, "besides being military necessities, ... are architectural monuments with multiple purposes and historical witnesses with much information to impart." This chapter provides the material background for Whitehead's on siege warfare, Chapter 8. Third in this part is Frank Russell's "Military Intelligence," Chapter 19, which deals with both strategic concerns and operations, and divides the latter according to defensive and offensive contexts. His pages on towers and fortlets complement Müth-Frederiksen's in Chapter 18.

The remaining chapters in this part deal with economic matters. In Chapter 20 "The Economics of War," Johannes Heinrichs moves from war finance, a much-treated topic, to the actual or expected effects of war on production, distribution, wealth, and growth. Greek states cared more about these issues than scholarship on taxes and budgets has recognized. Another underestimated aspect of Greek warfare is the use of slave labor, the subject of Peter Hunt's Chapter 21 "War and Slavery in the Greek World." Hunt finds the role of slaves to be ambiguous—indispensable as attendants and porters, but prone to desert, valuable as rowers, and occasionally as soldiers, but prone to rebel, easy to replace by taking captives, but only if the would-be captor was not captured and enslaved himself. Slave labor was thus both an asset and a potential liability, as especially illustrated by the Peloponnesian War. The same was true of agricultural land, as described in Chapter 22 "Agriculture and Greek Warfare" by Jeanne Reames and Anne Haverkost. This chapter shows how wars fought to obtain agricultural land gave way to devastating farms and fields as a military aim, a change culminating in the Peloponnesian War, which again is central. Then, in the Hellenistic period, belligerents increasingly relied on farmers' markets to feed larger armies operating farther from home. Instead of providing a socioeconomic basis for armies, as in the work of Victor Davis Hanson, agriculture alternately provided an asset and a target.

Like Part V, Part VI has two sections, the first devoted to the social and psychological context of warfare, and the second to the political and legal. In Chapter 23 on "Battle Trauma in Ancient Greece," Lawrence Tritle narrows the focus of his previous work on suffering in battle and considers psychological trauma, as reported in Herodotus and other sources. The disorientation, or even hallucinations, that Tritle discovers overlap with the military epiphanies reported by F.S. Naiden in Chapter 24 "Religion and Warfare," which covers epiphanies as well as sacrifice, divination, and post-battle supplication, games, and the erection of trophies. This chapter describes all the religious rites that would commonly occur during a campaign. The following piece, Elizabeth Carney's Chapter 25 "Women and War in the Greek World," might appear in any of several parts of this book: the abuse of women captives links it to the subject of trauma, the enslavement of captives links it to slavery, and the role played by women in sieges links it to siege warfare. Most camp followers were women, and just a few of them, all Macedonian or Epirote, were in charge of armies, even if they left operations to a male lieutenant.

The chapters touching on politics begin with Chapter 26 by Sheila Ager on several phenomena that these rules did not always either prevent or recognize, the "Piracy, Brigandage, and Terrorism" of her title, for all of which Greek literature supplies examples from Homer onwards. She draws discrete parallels with modern events, while always mindful of tendentious vocabulary, whether ancient or modern. Last in this part of the volume is Chapter 27 by Gordon Shrimpton on "Civil War: Forgetting as the Path to Reconciliation," for which he provides a range of examples of *stasis*, showing how this term applies both to civil wars and to the disagreements and rivalries leading up to it, mainly by the use of elaborate examples from the history of Athens and Corcyra.

Finally, Part VII on "Warfare in Art and Literature" includes two chapters on visual material and two on literary texts. The first, Chapter 28 "The Iconography of War" by Olga Palagia, deals with the iconography of historical battles in Greek art. She provides a survey from the Persian Wars down through the battle of Pydna some 300 years later. Next, Lawrence Tritle, in Chapter 29, writes on "War Monuments and Memorials," with sections on battlefield memorials, battlefield gravevards, military cemeteries, military inscriptions, and heroic military sculpture. All these forms of expression extolled "civic virtue," and thus civic responsibility. José Vela Tejada finds the same civic propaganda in Chapter 30 "War in Greek Poetry," beginning with Homer, who inaugurates the enduring theme of the "beautiful death" suffered in exchange for imperishable glory. Archaic poets add a civic motive for this sort of death. Some plays deprecate civic martyrdom, but only some, and none of these works, Vela Tejada warns, should be termed pacifist. Civic propaganda, a Greek invention, was never subjected to thorough Greek criticism. "War and Propaganda," in turn, is the title of the last chapter in this volume, Chapter 31. In it, Sabine Müller analyzes the propaganda propounded by Greek assemblies and officials, and later by Macedonian kings, and finds several themes that have lasted until our own times: protecting the homeland, liberating the oppressed, exacting revenge, safeguarding the peace, and fighting in a just cause. All might be accompanied by claims of divine support, even of predestined victory, a conclusion linking this chapter to Naiden's Chapter 24 on religion and warfare, which describes the rituals used to make these claims.

The editors wish to thank both the contributors and the team of Todd Green and Andrew Minton at Wiley for their patience as we assembled and prepared the 31 chapters in this book. Waldemar Heckel conceived this volume and recruited nearly all the contributors; F.S. Naiden recruited the others and joined Heckel in editing it; and Erin Garvin and John Vanderspoel did the indispensable work of line editing and compiling the index and bibliography.

PART I

Historical Survey