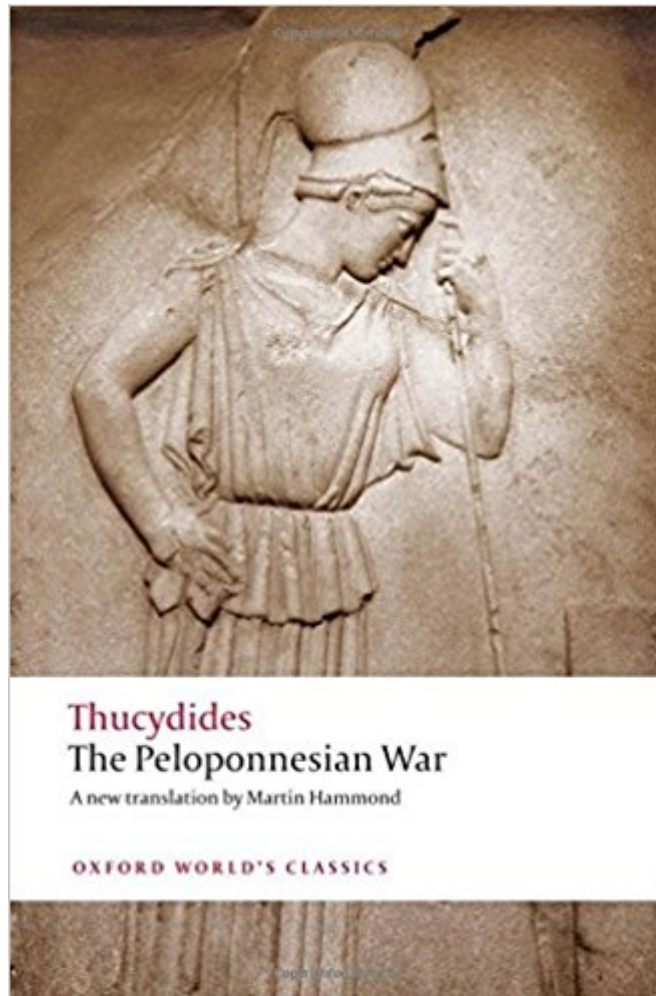




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# The Peloponnesian War (Oxford World's Classics)



## Synopsis

"The greatest historian that ever lived." Such was Macaulay's assessment of Thucydides (c. 460-400 BC) and his history of the Peloponnesian War, the momentous struggle between Athens and Sparta that lasted for twenty-seven years from 431 to 404 BC, involved virtually the whole of the Greek world, and ended in the fall of Athens. A participant in the war himself, Thucydides brings to his history an awesome intellect, brilliant narrative, and penetrating analysis of the nature of power, as it affects both states and individuals. Of the prose writers of the ancient world, Thucydides has had more lasting influence on western thought than all but Plato and Aristotle. This new edition combines a masterly new translation by Martin Hammond with comprehensive supporting material, including summaries of individual Books; textual notes; a comprehensive analytical index; an appendix on weights, measures and distances, money, and calendars; ten maps; an up-to-date bibliography; and an illuminating introduction by P.J. Rhodes. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[Hammond's] new translation of Thucydides is a triumph. Fluent yet sinewy, it responds brilliantly to

the historian's challenging prose. It is both accurate and lucid. Indeed, its only possible flaw is that it can at times be rather more comprehensible than Thucydides himself! "-Journal of Classical Teaching"A substantial work, but with wonderful readability and lightness of touch. The book is excellent value for money and the obvious choice for any reader of Thucydides."-The Anglo-Hellenic Review"The most accurate and readable [translation] we now have." -ARION

Martin Hammond has published translations of the Iliad, the Odyssey, and the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius. P. J. Rhodes is the author of numerous books and articles, including A History of the Classical Greek World, 478-323 BC.

The history is very fine, and this translation is clear. The forward is a little tedious however, even if the reviewer is credentialed. I highly recommend the book to people who might want to see how democracies can go aground, and how there is always a tendency for people to listen to and to elect people who tell them what they want to hear rather than what they should know. When an electorate does that, things do not turn out well.

I purchased this particular version as I had good experience with the explanatory notes in other books in the Oxford's world classic series, (specifically *Discourses, Fragments, Handbook* (Oxford Worlds Classics) ) which is the only real reason you should purchase a book of this kind, as the text itself is available for free online in English and the original language, exempting personal preference. I did not have such good luck with this book. The introduction was entirely too long (something like 40 pages) and is a summation of the entire book, instead of, you know, an introduction to the subject. It is unnecessarily verbose, as if written by a college graduate attempting to meet a minimum word count, instead of conveying information succinctly. If I wished to read a summary of the book I would not be buying the book! As for the actual explanatory notes themselves, where to begin! First of all, the notation system is not sufficiently explained: At the beginning of the index it states, and I quote "References are to book and chapter (eg 2.68 refers to book 2, chapter 68)" note that this is the only indication of what these numbers mean that I have found in the entire book. Then, the very first times these numbers are referenced in the explanatory notes, it is written as 1-23.3. Given that the only information I have been given is that a number followed by a decimal point and 1-2 more numbers references book and chapter, you would then most likely infer that this note is written about book 1 through book 23, chapter 3? Clearly it isn't, as there are only 8 books, but how would I know otherwise? There is no referenced name of this

notation system, and i have no idea what to look for to find any additional rules for such a system as it has not been named inside of these pages, so all that there is to do is figure it out on your own. i dont know about you, but i do not buy a book so that i may attempt to decipher its notation system. i would much prefer to actually read what the book has to say and not spend my time just trying to figure it how to read it. to make it even worse, the notes are even more unnecessarily verbose than the introduction, to the point of being redundant. for example, lets use the note for 1.144 as an example "the advice to not be over ambitious by trying to extend the empire during the war is praised by Thucydides in 2.65-and is advice which is not followed after Pericles' death." Does that sound like it imparts any information that you would not otherwise get from reading the rest of the book to you? why would i want notes that reference other parts of the book i am currently reading? i will get to those parts of the book eventually, i dont need to be told something that i would read in the book normally twice over. while some notes are genuinely informative about telling what Thucydides got right and wrong, and how we know what he didnt know, many of the explanatory notes are very similar to the one i have just described, and makes reading them as a companion to the book painfully tedious. there is also several maps in the back, but wernt very helpful for reading book 1, being either too large or too small, i would recommend buying a wall map or atlas of ancient greece if you want to try to follow the action as it happens in the book. i do not hold this against the book though.TL;DR the explanatory notes are unnecessarily long and mostly uninformative to the point that i am unwilling to read them. i would not recommenced buying this version if you are doing it solely for the explanatory notes.

A lot to follow but great detail and understanding of the war.

It all began with Kitto and this is indeed, a must companion piece to Herodotus

Excellent edition that elucidates this timeless classic. A must read for literate citizens.

This is the classic telling of the war between Athens and Sparta. Not the sort of thing the average reader is probably going to look at. But if you want something from a contemporary of the period, this would be a start.

Great resource

My friend loved this for his Christmas present / Per request.

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