



# Warfare in the Classical World: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Weapons, Warriors, and Warfare in the Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome

*John Warry , Phillip de ste. Croix (Editor)*

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## **Warfare in the Classical World: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Weapons, Warriors, and Warfare in the Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome** John Warry , Phillip de ste. Croix (Editor)

This superbly illustrated volume traces the evolution of the art of warfare in the Greek and Roman worlds between 1600 B.C. and A.D. 800, from the rise of Mycenaean civilization to the fall of Ravenna and the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. John Warry tells of an age of great military commanders such as Alexander the Great, Hannibal, and Julius Caesar - men whose feats of generalship still provide material for discussion and admiration in the military academies of the world.

The text is complemented by a running chronology, 16 maps, 50 newly researched battle plans and tactical diagrams, and 125 photographs, 65 of them in color.

## **Warfare in the Classical World: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Weapons, Warriors, and Warfare in the Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome Details**

Date : Published October 15th 1995 by University of Oklahoma Press

ISBN : 9780806127941

Author : John Warry , Phillip de ste. Croix (Editor)

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Military, Military History, Ancient History, War, Military Fiction, Cultural, Greece

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## From Reader Review Warfare in the Classical World: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Weapons, Warriors, and Warfare in the Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome for online ebook

### Hazel says

I can see why students of history like Keely would appreciate this book, and clearly I should have had it at hand when I read *The Conquest of Gaul*. But at present, I'm just skimming, examining the illustrations and reading some sections. This is a good reminder that we haven't changed much in the last couple of thousand years.

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### Erik Graff says

The description of this book appended is accurate. This is indeed a readable, very condensed history of the ancient Graeco-Roman world which focuses on military technologies and practices. Each chapter focuses on a particular period and is usefully prefaced by a review of the classical sources. The deficits of the book are that it is very, very poorly edited--spelling mistakes abound--and lacks maps.

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### Brandon says

A great overview of some of the key events, personalities, and military innovations spanning Troy through the declining Roman Empire. My copy was without illustrations, which would have undoubtedly added greatly to the depictions. On the editing side, more missed errors than I would expect from a published book, from spelling inconsistencies, to grammar, to words obviously omitted. Still, very educational and compelling for lovers of history.

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### Jason Stuart says

a must have!

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### Pramod Nair says

'**Warfare in the Classical World**' from *John Warry* is a useful reference volume for those who want to learn about the art of warfare used by the *ancient Greek and Roman armies*. By analyzing the major political events and battles from 1600 B.C. and 800 A.D. in an easy to refer chronological order it traces the evolution of the way war was fought right from the rise of *Mycenaean civilization* to the collapse of the *Western Roman Empire*. The book discusses the political backgrounds, history, soldiers and their equipments, tactics employed by various armies, the great military commanders and their campaigns during each period in detail.

With illustrations, maps, photos of artifacts and line drawings the book provides detailed information on the

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weapons, warships, soldiers in their uniform, siege machines and other equipment with comprehensive commentary. The sections, which illustrate various soldiers, troops and warriors of the period like *'The Persian Troops'*, *'The Archers'*, *'The Thracian Peltast'*, *'Cavalryman'* are detailed with beautiful realistic drawings.

Each battle is analyzed with the help of troop statistics, illustrated discussions on the strategies and tactics and weapons and equipments, which gives the reader a comprehensive overview on the topic. The accompanying maps on each section gives insights in to the troop movements and course of battles.

The book focuses mainly on the Greek and Roman armies, so the level of detailing invested for their opponent forces are comparatively less. Even though this is a small volume the amount of information that it contains with the detailed battle plans, maps and tactical diagrams and their chronological presentation makes this an excellent starting reference point on warfare of the classical world for anyone who is interested in ancient history or military history.

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### **Erik says**

Mr. Warry has truly challenged my reviewing skills with this book. This book was wonderful to read, yet maddening in many ways. At times I wanted to throw the book over some seriously poor editing and spelling, yet would find pages of absolute brilliance that would make me want to add this book to my "Best Books" shelves and hand it 5 Stars.

Frustrations will occur due to the nature of the book; it covers a large period of time so it can only bring into focus bits and pieces of what the author thought was critical. The material on the equipment and armies was outstanding, though battles really get limited efforts (maps when available were great though). Eclectic discussion topics like missile weapon development and ship construction were enjoyable and educational.

I enjoyed the color plates tremendously; as a wargamer, these pages are critical to aid in army construction and painting. The battle overviews provided are also quite helpful for setup and game table design.

I appreciated the chronological approach too. I think it makes sense to go forward though the period this way, so clarity occurs and the changes made more easy to see developing. I also appreciated the solid documentation of references.

I would have liked to give this book a 5 Star rating, and yet would feel justified punishing the publishers with a 2 Star for the horrible editing/spelling. Splitting the difference makes this a 3.5 Star rating, and I round up this time because what is good in the book is really well done.

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### **Walt says**

There is a lot of information contained in this book. It is written and presented in the same style as the Osprey Series of warfare books. The illustrations are wonderful and go along with the text in a clear, logical, and user-friendly manner.

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## **J.G. Keely says**

If, in reading a passage of Greek or Roman history, you find yourself growing bored, chances are, it is because you do not really understand what was going on. While pages of troop movements and the names of officers might seem dull to you, I can assure that to some people, these things have meaning. In fact, they can be downright fascinating.

In hopes of becoming more easily fascinated, I was glad to find an edition of this book came free with my burger at The Traveler (along with the Odes of Horace, and I'm always happy that the taste of the clientele there means that the potboilers move like hotcakes but there are always histories and the scant copy of 'The Sadeian Woman' waiting for me).

I was excited to learn all about flanks and cataphracts and cavalry manouvers, but before we even get to that, Warry always gives a list of major sources, which couldn't please me more. I always enjoy having someone in the field let me know what it is worth my time to read, as it saves a lot of searching.

Nor was I disappointed when at last, the cataphracts appeared. This took several chapters, since the book is nicely laid out by period, which makes it helpful as a companion piece. Whether you're about to tackle Caesar's 'Conquest of Gaul' or Thucidydes account of the Pelopenesian War, just turn to the chapter of interest and you'll find a rundown of events and analysis of the units, equipment, and tactics involved.

Warry even throws in a few jokes here or there, and some of those amusing historical anecdotes which no scholar can resist. His style is clear and entertaining, and while he admits that this book is little more than a primer, sometimes, that's what I'm looking for.

Apparently, the original version of this book was illustrated, but the cheap Barnes & Noble edition I happened upon was not, even though a lone reference remains guiding the reader to a figure which does not exist. And that's not the only typographical problem with that particular edition, but I'm hardly complaining. Even without the pictures, the book is a useful and informative companion piece to studies of Classical Rome and Greece.

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## **R.M.F Brown says**

An illustrated encyclopaedia with no illustrations, spelling mistakes galore, and a fixation with the Roman Empire. On the surface, it sounds as though I completely detested this book. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Concise summaries, useful insights, and an ability to look at the bigger picture, makes this a standout guide, if like me, you are a beginner to warfare in the classical world.

Highly recommended.

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## **Brendan says**

Although it is called an "Encyclopedia," Warfare in the Classical World is set up in typical chronological fashion, covering the time period between the Bronze Age and the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

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Each chapter describes the ancient sources, and discusses major political events and battles. There are ample hand drawn illustrations of ancient warriors, photos of artifacts and depictions of battles, and maps of battles and wars. There is also a running timeline describing the major events.

Although it's only about 200 pages long, it is very dense, with a lot of detail on individual pieces of equipment and ancient military terminology in Latin and Greek, and replete with names of various commanders and ancient places.

It's probably more detail than you would be interested in unless this is really an area of interest, and it is written in a dry, scholarly manner, but it's very informative, and provides a lot more information about why tactics and equipment developed in the way that they did.

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### **Stephen Simpson says**

Not really an "encyclopedia", but the book does a decent enough job of covering some of the major eras, battles, and personalities of the classical period, even if a lot of major events are left out. The illustrations are quite good, and the descriptions of the battles are surprisingly cogent and easy to follow.

My main complaint would be the relatively limited coverage. I would also note that this book was not particularly easy to read on a tablet, but I can't fault a book published in 1995 for not being ideally formatted for tablets/readers.

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### **Sean Chick says**

I wish I could rate it more highly, but the book is just too uneven. Warry seems bored with subjects outside of the Roman Republic. While discussing The Illiad, he all but ignores other Bronze Age battles that we have far more information about. The shame is when this book is good, it is quite good.

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### **Cindy says**

This book was so helpful and so interesting. My son said it looked like a textbook, and it is very unimpressive on the outside. But inside is a different story. It takes various different conflicts during the ancient world and breaks them down, with maps and charts of the battle plans, photos of what the area looks like today, statues showing what the main figures looked like, and illustrations of the ships, armor, and weapons involved. Then it details the action. I wasn't able to get through the whole thing before I had to return it to the library, but I got through the Greek battles. I'm so glad I found this book! I need to get it again and read about the Roman wars. Definitely recommended for history buffs, students, or those who are reading about the time period and wonder, "What did that look like?"

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### **Tirant says**

book orginaisation is definately an issue here. The content is interesting, if a bit dated. The Angus McBride illustrations are good as always, and the book would be useful to someone interested in wargaming the eras

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covered. More detail would be required for someone intending to build a non-roman army based on the information provided.

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### **WritingWarlock says**

This book is the best book on classical warfare I have ever read. It combines accurate illustrations with informative passages to create amazingly helpful explanations. It has given me a wealth of information on Greco-Roman warfare. It has been my main reference on classical warfare since 2003.

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