

Ancient Greece: A Very Short Introduction

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This highly original introduction to ancient Greece uses the history of eleven major Greek cities to illuminate the most important and informative aspects of Greek culture. Cartledge highlights the role of such renowned cities as Athens (birthplace of democracy) and Sparta, but he also examines Argos, Thebes, Syracuse in Sicily, and Alexandria in Egypt, as well as lesser known locales such as Miletus (home of the West's first intellectual, Thales) and Massalia (Marseilles today), where the Greeks introduced the wine grape to the French. The author uses these cities to illuminate major themes, from economics, religion, and social relations, to gender and sexuality, slavery and freedom, and politics.

Paul Cartledge

is the inaugural A.G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture at the University of Cambridge. Review from previous edition: "Paul Cartledge, Cambridge don and doyen of Classicists, once again shows why he is the surest and most engaging guide to the ancient world. Ancient Greece: A history in Eleven Cities is a tremendously readable tour d'horizon that goes far beyond Athens and Sparta to explore the roots of Greek civilisation."

--Justin Marozzi, Evening Standard 21.11.09

"Paul Cartledge has here pulled off a remarkably clever feat of compression and organization, and will once again place very many readers in his debt. Brilliantly carried through."

--Simon Hornblower, co-editor of The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization

"A wonderfully concise - and witty - introduction to an ever-popular subject."

--Sir John Boardman, co-editor of The Oxford History of Greece and the Hellenistic World

"A rare work, a compelling historical narrative that is also a useful guidebook"

--Peter Stothard, Wall Street Journal 8/5/2010

"Cartledge's success lies in his ability to negotiate a path between similarity and difference; with proper scholarly detachment, he stresses how different the Greeks were; with an eye to broader historical trajectories, he reflects on the grounds for their continuing fascination."

--Tim Rood, Times Literary Supplement 11/06/2010

"A rare work, a compelling historical narrative."

--Peter Stothard, Wall Street Journal 08/05/2010

"Thoroughly stimulating book."

--Tom Holland, BBC History 01.12.2009

"Cartledge is master of his subject."

--Peter Jones, Literary Review 01/12/2009

"Paul Cartledge... once again shows why he is the surest and most engaging guide to the ancient world."

--Justin Marozzi, Evening Standard 29/11/2009

"A tremendously readable tour d'horizon that goes far beyond Athens and Sparta to explore the roots of Greek civilization."

--Justin Marozzi, Evening Standard 19.11.09

Other Books

The Body: A Very Short Introduction. The human body is thought of conventionally as a biological entity, with its longevity, morbidity, size and even appearance determined by genetic factors immune to the influence of society or culture. Since the mid-1980s, however, there has been a rising awareness of how our bodies, and our perception of them, are influenced by the social, cultural and material contexts in which humans live. Drawing on studies of sex and gender, education, governance, the economy, and religion, Chris Shilling demonstrates how our physical being allows us to affect the material and virtual world around us, yet also enables governments to shape and direct our thoughts and actions. Revealing how social relationships, cultural images, and technological and medical advances shape our perceptions and awareness, he exposes the limitations of traditional Western traditions of thought that elevate the mind over the body as that which defines us as human. Dealing with issues ranging from cosmetic and transplant surgery, the performance of gendered identities, the commodification of bodies and body parts, and the violent consequences of competing conceptions of the body as sacred, Shilling provides a compelling account of why body matters present contemporary societies with a series of urgent and inescapable challenges. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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