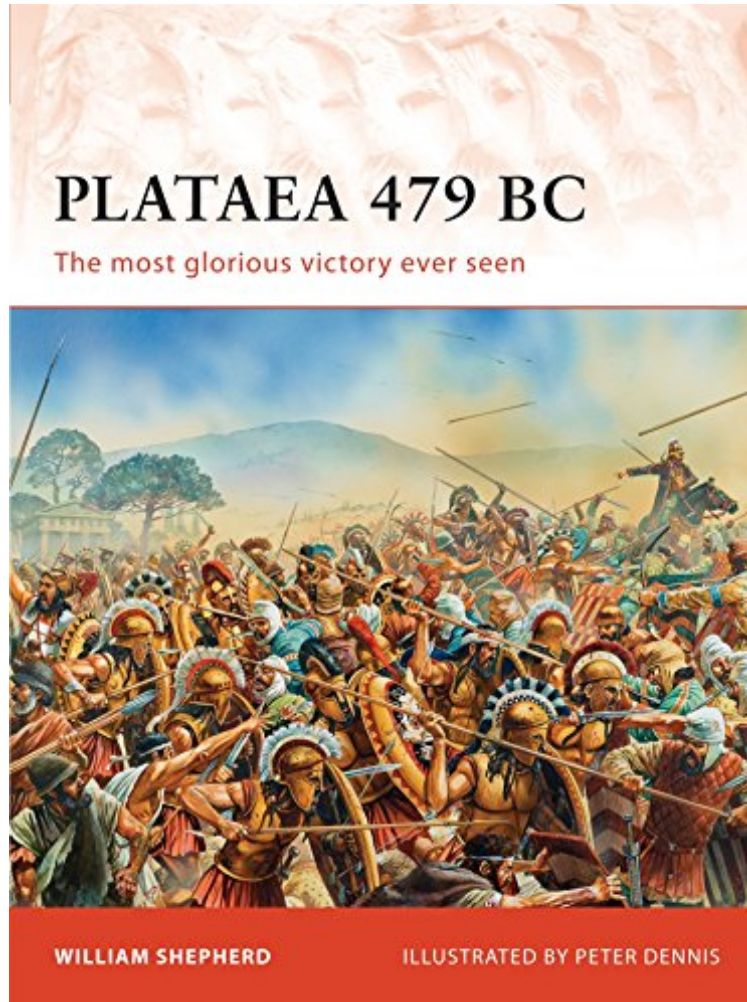


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## Plataea 479 BC: The most glorious victory ever seen (Campaign)

*William Shepherd*

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**William Shepherd : Plataea 479 BC: The most glorious victory ever seen (Campaign)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Plataea 479 BC: The most glorious victory ever seen (Campaign):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good coverage on a very complex campaign. By lordhoo Battle of Plataea fought in 479 BC proves to be one of those overlooked battles that is often overshadowed by famous ones like Thermopylae or Salamis and often regarded as an afterthought as if Greek victory was a sure thing. Ironically, Plataea was the decisive battle that ended the Persian invasion and a battle where the issue was in doubt until the final day. The book about the Battle of Plataea by William Shepherd proves to be a pretty good book on the subject. He explained the campaign pretty well and gives us a good strategic understanding of the situation. I got a pretty good understanding of how the battle unfolded. The illustrations by Peter Dennis prove to be quite excellent as well and

gave the reader a pretty good illustrated images. I am not too fond of using ancient Greek pottery and reliefs as an illustrations because they represent idealized images and often too vague to be useful. The book relied wholly on the accounts of the famous ancient Greek historian, Herodotus. The book doesn't stray too far from Herodotus and that is both, the strength and weakness of this book. Herodotus remains the primary source of this campaign but it would have been nice if the author took some leaps of faith himself and gave us some educated historical footwork instead of relying solely on Herodotus. Since the author is quite knowledgeable about this subject, I would like to read more about what he thought, instead of what Herodotus thought about the campaign. After all, I can read Herodotus myself. While the narrative was pretty decent, it would have been made clearer if there were more maps relating to the battle. There were a lot of complex movements going on over the period of days and there was just one map on the battle itself and that don't cut the mustard that clearly. The book also clearly point out the strengths and weaknesses of each side but it doesn't really explained why the Persians lost and why the Greeks won. I figured it out myself of course as the clues were in the narrative. I thought it would be nice if the book had a summary on lessons learned that day. But overall, I enjoyed reading this book. Narrative was at times, hard to follow but I found it to be very informative and educational since as the previous reviewer noted, there isn't much written about this battle at all. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great!! By Phil Historian The 479 BC battle of Plataea was a much bigger affair than Marathon and Thermopylae, yet it is very obscure compared to these two famous battles of the Greek-Persian wars. this battle pitted over 80,000 Greeks, including Spartans who lost kin at Thermopylae against a huge Persian army that even had Indian soldiers. the artwork blew me away and the maps were excellent as well! the account of the battle took up most of the book and was well written and there was also a account of the battle of Mycale. this is one of the best Osprey books I have read and it was well worth the money! 10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Here is Osprey at it's best. The history is good the art is ... By Timothy Lee Here is Osprey at it's best. The history is good the art is really good. It put a spotlight on a battle I had little knowledge of before. And, wet my appetite for more.

Plataea was one of the biggest and most important land battles of pre-20th century history. Close to 100,000 hoplite and light-armed Greeks took on an even larger barbarian army that included elite Asian cavalry and infantry from as far away as India, with thousands of Greek hoplites and cavalry also fighting on the Persian side. At points in the several days of battle, the Persians with their more fluid, missile tactics came close to breaking the Greek defensive line and cutting off their supplies. But, in a fatal misjudgement when he nearly had the battle won, their general Mardonius committed the cream of his infantry to close-quarters combat with the Spartans and their Peloponnesian allies. He died and his men were finally crushed by heavier weaponry and superior discipline. Meanwhile, 250 miles to the east, the Greek navy inflicted an equally decisive defeat on the Persians, neutralising Xerxes' seapower in the Aegean. The tiny minority of Greek city states that actually took up arms against the invading forces of the mightiest empire yet seen in the ancient world had halted its western expansion and driven it back. The reconstruction of the battle of Plataea will draw on recent persuasive academic interpretations of the textual sources and visual evidence (mainly from near-contemporary vase paintings) for the early 5th-century method of hoplite fighting.

“William Shepherd concisely yet vividly recounts one of the largest and most important land battles of pre-20th century history in Plataea 479 BC: The Most Glorious Victory Ever Seen ... The author's detailed reconstruction of Plataea campaign draws from ancient sources (predominantly Herodotus), close scrutiny of the battlefield and fairly recent studies of hoplite warfare. Wonderful color plates by Peter Dennis highlight the illustrations and maps that enliven this 96-page paperback.” Toy Soldier Model Figure (July 2013) About the Author William Shepherd studied classics at Clare College, Cambridge, in the 1960s and then embarked on a career in publishing, which finally brought him to Osprey, retiring from the position of chief executive in 2007. He is author of *The Persian War* (Cambridge, 1982), translated from Herodotus. He has also written reading books for children and articles in the *Osprey Military Journal*, of which he was joint editor, and makes regular contributions to the Osprey blog. He lives in the Cherwell Valley, north of Oxford.