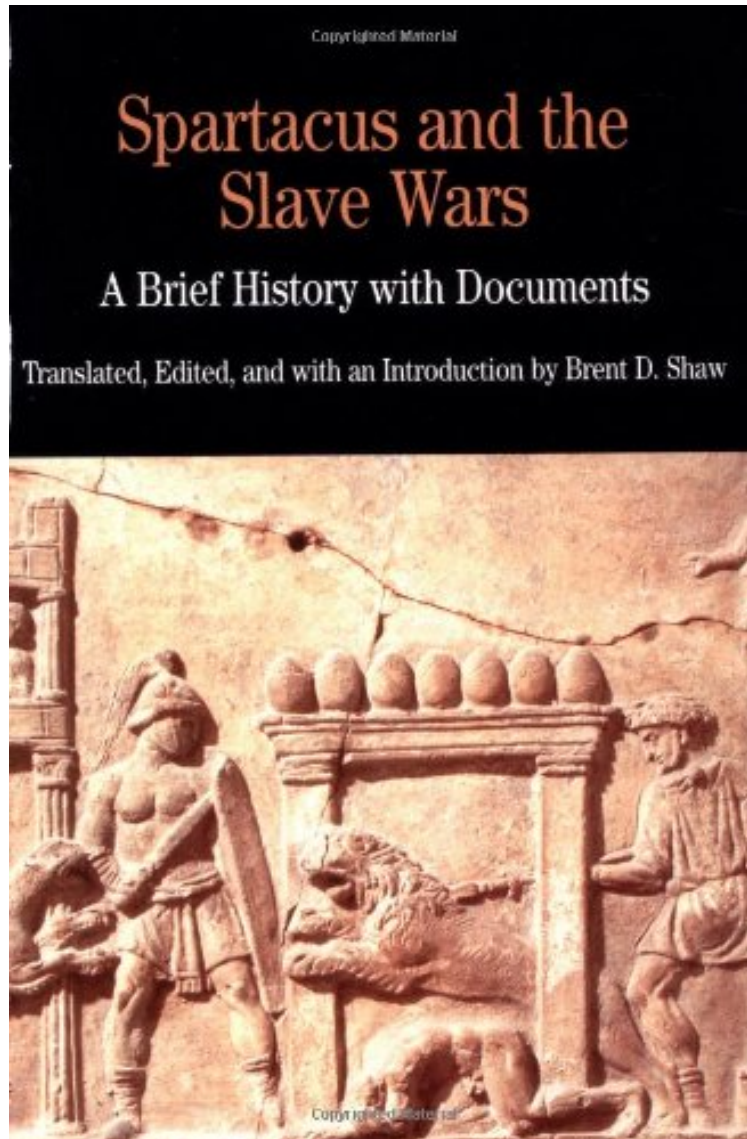


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## Spartacus and the Slave Wars: A Brief History with Documents (Bedford Series in History Culture (Paperback))

*Brent D. Shaw*

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**Brent D. Shaw : Spartacus and the Slave Wars: A Brief History with Documents (Bedford Series in History Culture (Paperback))** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spartacus and the Slave Wars: A Brief History with Documents (Bedford Series in History Culture (Paperback)):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Brief History, Good DocumentsBy maethorwenWhen Brent

Shaw says "a brief history", he means brief. This could have used a bit more in the history part, especially on Spartacus and the revolt he led since his name is in the title of the work. While there was good information in the first part, to me the real strength of this work is the second part which contains translated primary sources. It is a useful source for anyone studying this period, but don't expect too much in the way of detail. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brief but brilliant By Justin Mingus Great and brief source on the Servile Wars/Spartacus. It truly is fascinating how few ancient sources remain. This would be a great supplementary source for any course on Roman history, as well as courses on Historiography/methodology. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for historians and students By Joseph H. Trochez I used this to great effect on a research paper I did on Spartacus. It had a lot of information on Spartacus and the insurrection he led against Rome. I would recommend this if you are looking for a good source on Spartacus or you are simply interested in history.

In this examination of the Roman institution of slavery, Brent Shaw presents a compelling selection of the ancient testimony relating to Spartacus and the slave wars. In 73 B.C., in the heart of Rome's Mediterranean empire, a slave named Spartacus ignited one of the most violent episodes of slave resistance in the history of the Roman Empire — indeed in the world annals of slavery. Organizing 80 original Greek and Latin source translations into topical chapters on the daily life of slaves trained as gladiators and those who labored on farms in Italy and Sicily, Shaw includes accounts of revolts that preceded and anticipated that of Spartacus. In a carefully crafted introductory essay, Shaw places Spartacus in the broader context of first and second century B.C. Roman Italy and Sicily and explains why his story continues to be a popular symbol of rebellion today. The volume also includes a glossary, chronology, selected bibliography, 3 maps, an annotated list of ancient writers, and questions for consideration.

"Here Shaw provides a virtually comprehensive collection of translated sources for Rome's major slave wars, superbly contextualized for the undergraduate student. As a bonus, the reader gets an eye-opening essay on Spartacus as a modern historical icon, the best short introduction to the nature of Roman rural slavery that one is likely to find, and a thoughtfully selected bibliography. Even specialists in ancient slavery will have much to learn from Shaw's incisive analysis." About the Author Brent D. Shaw is professor of Classical Studies and chair of the Graduate Group in Ancient History at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been published in many major historical, sociological, and anthropological journals, including *Past Present*, *American Historical Review*, *History Today*, *Journal of Roman Studies*, *Man*, and *American Journal of Sociology* and is editor of the collected papers of Sir Moses Finley. He is the recipient of the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, and has been Commonwealth Scholar at Cambridge University, honorary visiting Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, and Goldman Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. His study of violence in Roman society, especially in civil conflict in the later Roman Empire, helped inspire this volume.