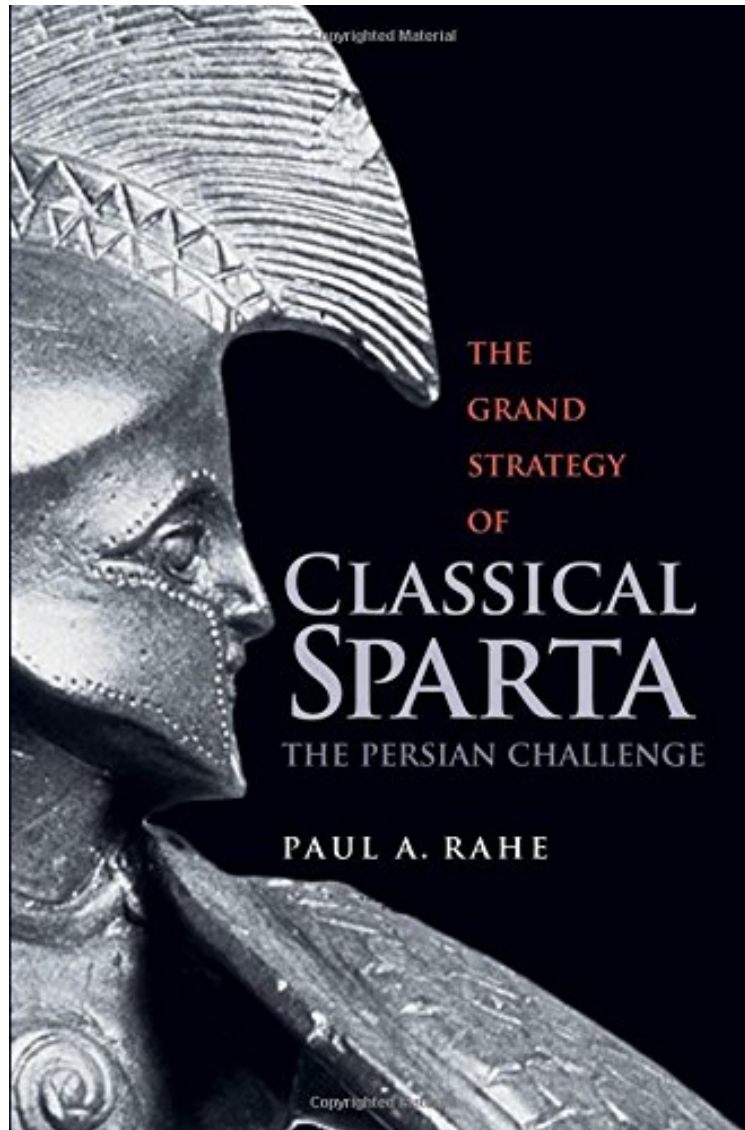


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The Grand Strategy of Classical Sparta: The Persian Challenge (Yale Library of Military History)

Paul Anthony Rahe

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#639983 in Books imusti 2015-11-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.12 x 6.12l, .0 #File Name: 030011642X424 pagesYALE UNIVERSITY PRESS ACADEMIC | File size: 29.Mb

Paul Anthony Rahe : The Grand Strategy of Classical Sparta: The Persian Challenge (Yale Library of Military History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Grand Strategy of Classical Sparta: The Persian Challenge (Yale Library of Military History):

32 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Persia's Great King, ordered them shown around his camps and ...By HistorianTwenty-five-hundred years ago the full military might the Persian Empire marched upon the weak and

disunited city-states of Greece. Despite the humiliation suffered by Persian arms at Marathon, only a decade before, the world was not holding its breath in anticipation of the result. That the Persian forces were irresistible was clear to all, and the outcome therefore was undoubted. In fact, when Greek spies were caught observing the Persian encampments, Xerxes, Persia's Great King, ordered them shown around his camps and sent back to Greece so as to spread word of the vast multitudes preparing to march. How the Greek city-states defeated and turned back the Persian menace remains one of the most incredible stories in the history of Western Civilization. Even today the battle narratives of Marathon, Thermopylae, Salamis, and Plataea are told and retold not just by historians, but remain staples of our popular culture. There are few teenagers who are unfamiliar with the refrain: "This is Sparta!" This is the story Professor Rahe undertakes to tell and he succeeds brilliantly. Rahe's work is, simply put, the most comprehensive and best written history of the Greco-Persian wars in at least a generation. Any historian writing about this period by necessity has to rely to a large extent upon Herodotus. But the father of history has since Plutarch renamed him also been known as the "father of lies." Rahe, a scholar deeply immersed in the period, also relies on Herodotus for the framework of his narrative, but he does so in a measured and judicious way. By employing the narratives of other ancient historians, playwrights, archeological findings, along with a large amount of common sense (often missing in historical analysis), Rahe unfolds a reconstruction of events that is certain to become the dominant interpretation of the period. As one can deduce from the book's title Rahe also does something attempted by few if any previous historians; he eschews the Athenian-centric view of the Greco-Persian Wars to more closely examine this set of conflicts from the Spartan point of view. As such, even readers who believe they have a thorough knowledge of this great confrontation will benefit from Rahe's unique viewpoint. The Grand Strategy of Classical Sparta, is the first of three volumes on the subject. In total, and assuming the next two volumes reach the same impressive level of scholarship and storytelling as the first, we will soon have a corpus of work that will stand beside the greatest historians of the classical period. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. this is a great and well written book by Mr. Rahe. If you wish to delve into this part of ancient history and become involved with the Sparta/Athens conflicts, this is a great and well written book by Mr. Rahe. I purchased this book while taking a course of this subject by Mr. Rahe. But, even if you decide to read this type of history without the additional lecture, it will provide you with many aspects of this period you would never be privy to any other way. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By John A. Brooks Excellent description of the Spartan culture.

A fresh appreciation of the pivotal role of Spartan strategy and tactics in the defeat of the mightiest empire of the ancient world More than 2500 years ago a confederation of small Greek city-states defeated the invading armies of Persia, the most powerful empire in the world. In this meticulously researched study, historian Paul Rahe argues that Sparta was responsible for the initial establishment of the Hellenic defensive coalition and was, in fact, the most essential player in its ultimate victory. Drawing from an impressive range of ancient sources, including Herodotus and Plutarch, the author veers from the traditional Atheno-centric view of the Greco-Persian Wars to examine from a Spartan perspective the grand strategy that halted the Persian juggernaut. Rahe provides a fascinating, detailed picture of life in Sparta circa 480 B.C., revealing how the Spartans' form of government and the regimen to which they subjected themselves instilled within them the pride, confidence, discipline, and discernment necessary to forge an alliance that would stand firm against a great empire, driven by religious fervor, that held sway over two-fifths of the human race.

"[Rahe] has an excellent eye for military logistics: His account of the practicalities of Xerxes' vast invasion of Greece (what did those hundreds of thousands of men eat?) is crisp and persuasive."—Wall Street Journal