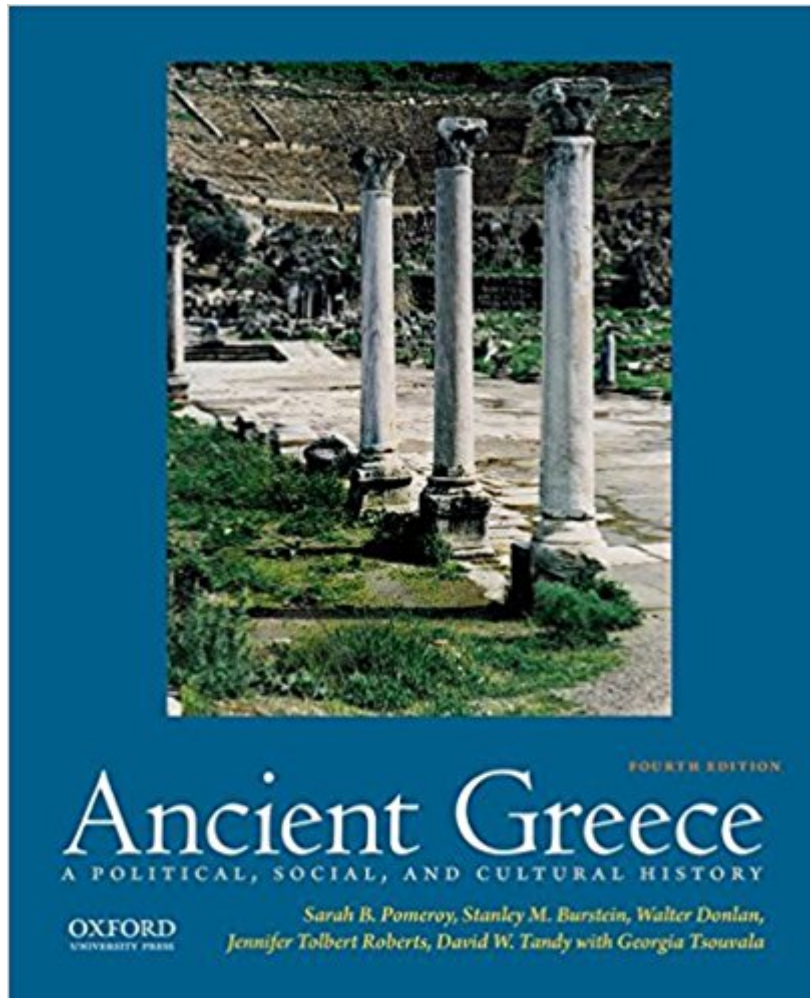




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# Ancient Greece: A Political, Social, And Cultural History



## Synopsis

Revised and updated throughout, the fourth edition of *Ancient Greece* presents the political, social, cultural, and economic history and civilization of ancient Greece in all its complexity and variety. Written by six leading authorities on the classical world, this captivating study covers the entire period from the Bronze Age through the Hellenistic Era. FEATURES\* Uniquely in-depth coverage of social and cultural topics including women and family life, material culture, religion, law, homosexuality, slavery, athletics, and life in the countryside\* Excerpts from ancient documents, selective recommendations for further reading, and a timeline and general introduction that provide a bird's-eye view of Greek history\* Two sets of color plates that provide ample evidence from material culture\* Key terms (boldfaced at their first appearance) and an extensive glossary

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Four well-known classicists have taken the traditional chronology of Greek history texts and written a much-needed overview for modern students. By means of a chapter structure that is well designed and logical, they take us through each period of Greek history and introduce the defining historiographical and literary issues. Each chapter begins with a discussion of the sources for that period and includes annotated endnotes that deal extensively with recent scholarship. Unlike many other histories, the book goes into depth on the Hellenistic period, as well as the Bronze and Dark Ages. Although the Spartans and Athenians naturally dominate, the authors consider Sparta before Athens, reflecting the order in which the moderns have admired them. An appropriate balance is found between political, social, and cultural history, and the authors display no outlandish prejudices

to derail this noble effort. Recommended for all academic and large public libraries. ?Claibourne G. Williams, Ferris State Univ., Big Rapids, MI Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Pomeroy (Classics/Hunter Coll.), Stanley M. Burstein (History/Calif. State Univ., Los Angeles), Walter Donlan (Classics/Univ. of Calif., Irvine), and Jennifer Tolbert Roberts (Classics/City Coll. of New York), a comprehensive narrative history that emphasizes the "astonishing creativity, versatility, and resilience" of the culture shaped by the ancient Greeks. A poor, backward people occupying barely cultivable land on the periphery of the Mediterranean world, the Bronze Age Hellenes or Greeks (c. 3000-1150 b.c.) seem in retrospect an unlikely bet to become the progenitors of a great world civilization. While Bronze Age Greece eventually developed a distinctive culture and power base at Mycenae (c. 1600-1100 b.c.), it derived most of its industrial skills from its more highly developed neighbors around the Mediterranean basin. And beginning around 1150 b.c., the authors speculate, a mysterious wave of invaders from the north wiped out the brilliant Mycenaean civilization, reducing Greek society to a culturally primitive "dark age" until around 750 b.c. The authors' account treats aspects of Greek life for which primary sources are sparse: the role of women, for instance, but it doesn't neglect the amazing political, artistic, architectural, philosophical, and literary achievements of classical Athens and other cities. The authors detail the development of Athens and Sparta, the creative tensions between them that helped defend Greece from Persian invasion, the ruinous wars that vitiated the Greek polis or city-state, and the extensive colonization (by the city-states) and conquest (by Alexander the Great) that spread Greek civilization from modern France to what is now Pakistan. While the Hellenistic kingdoms that resulted from the Alexandrian conquest were brutally absorbed into the Roman super-state, the cultural legacy of Greece remained pervasively influential in the Roman world and exerted a profound effect on the rise of Christianity. An accessible and well-balanced introduction to the culture and history of ancient Greece, useful for both student and general reader. -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Using in connection with and recommended by an on-line course by Professor Kagan at Yale. Gives context to his excellent on-line lectures.

I'm reading this along with Donald Kagan's first year course which is available free on Yale's website. It's a subject about which I knew nothing, and I'm finding it fascinating. Good book, and

good lectures.

Clear. Concise. Easy and enjoyable read.

This book was on a recommended list for my son's preparation for a competition. He loves history, but has preferred other books we found in the library to this one. It might be better suited to high schoolers or older readers.

Bought this book for school, and I still read through passages from time to time. It's really informative !

A useful and fairly comprehensive text.

Wow, what a masterpiece! I started my self-conducted study of ancient Greek history with a different textbook. A good one but it did not impress me quite as much as this one. Written in a clear and fluent language, covering the whole range of Greece's ancient history and enriched with excellent pictures and diagrams, it makes the reading not only highly informative but also pleasant and entertaining, giving both beginners and students in the area a solid foundation for further and more specialised reading. It was sad to read some of the shallow and one-sided comments on here from people who certainly don't have the capability to realize the authors' didactic skill to reach out to a broad spectrum of readers of such a complex, broad and magnificent subject. This text rekindled my passion for the ancient world and gave me a great deal of motivation to pursue further reading on other aspects of ancient Hellas such as Religion, Politics, Mythology and so forth. If you're looking for a solid foundation and inspiration, I strongly recommend this book. Hail Pallas Athena!

I found it to be just what I needed to help me understand Greek history as I study Bible history. A knowledge of Greek history is essential in understanding the background for biblical history.

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