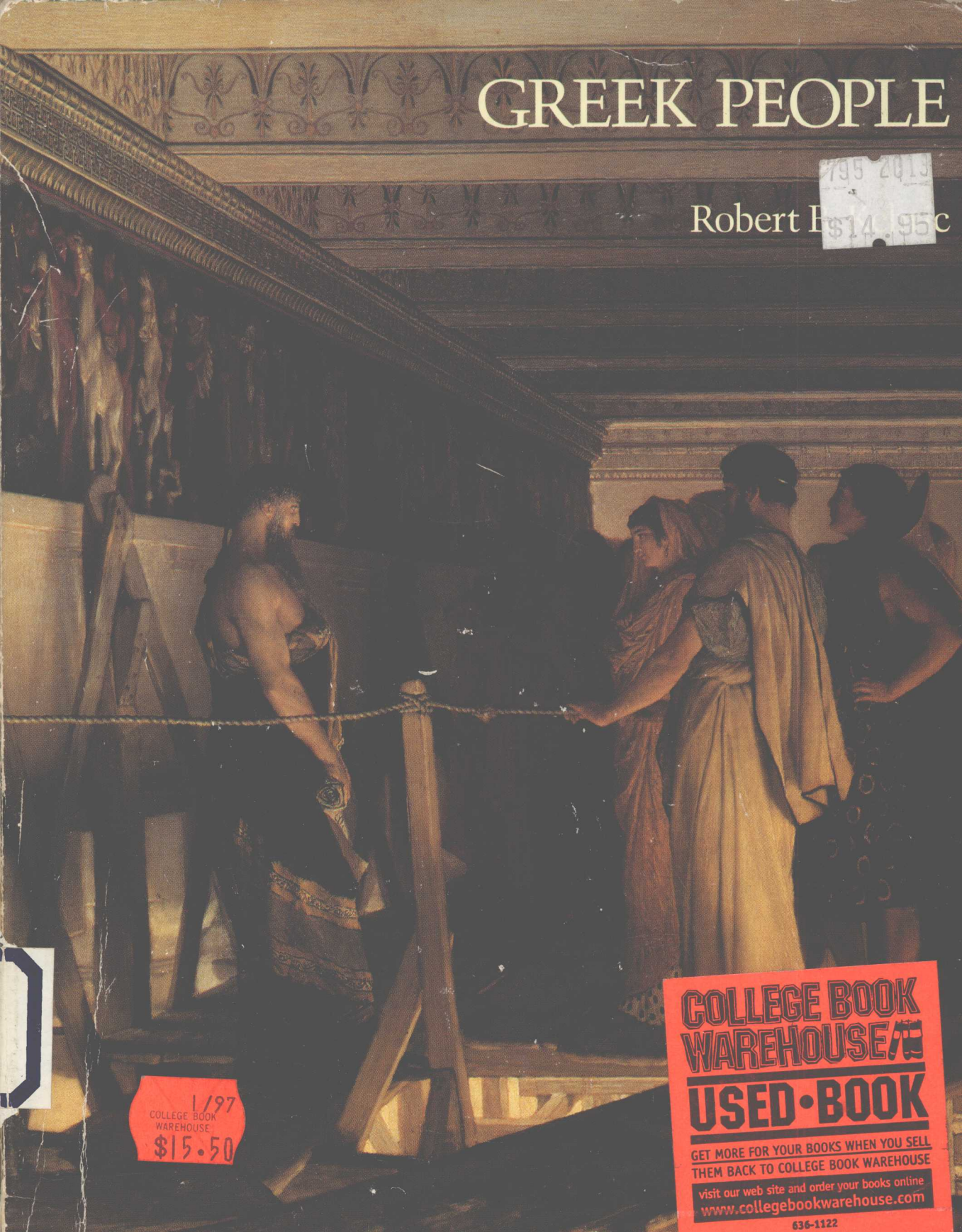


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GREEK PEOPLE

Robert B. Kebric

University of Louisville



MAYFIELD PUBLISHING COMPANY

Mountain View, California

For my favorite people

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Kebric, Robert B.
Greek people / Robert Kebric.
p. cm.
Bibliography: p.
Includes index.
ISBN 0-87484-770-2
1. Greece—Biography. I. Title.
DF208.K4 1989
920'.0495-dc19 89-3152
CIP

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5

Mayfield Publishing Company
1240 Villa Street
Mountain View, California 94041

Sponsoring editor, Lansing Hays; *production editor*, Sondra Glider; *manuscript editor*, Cici Teter; *text designer*, Gary Head; *cover designer*, Jeanne M. Schreiber; *illustrator*, George Samuelson.

Cover photograph: Pericles, Aspasia, Socrates, Alcibiades and other Athenian notables view Phidias' work on the Parthenon's frieze in *Phidias and the Frieze of the Parthenon*, a nineteenth century painting by Lawrence Alma-Tadema. By permission of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

The text was set in 10/12 Trump Medieval by G & S Typesetting and printed on 50# Finch Opaque by Malloy Lithographing.

Text and illustration credits appear on pages 205-210.

CHRONOLOGY

The following chronology emphasizes the major events and people discussed in this volume.

Date	Events and People
c. 3000 B.C.	Beginnings of non-Greek Minoan civilization on Crete
c. 2200–1500	Height of Minoan civilization
c. 2100	Greek-speaking peoples begin arriving and settling on the Greek mainland. Cultural interchange with the more advanced Minoans begins.
2000	
c. 1600–1100	Period of Achaean, or Mycenaean, Greek civilization in Greece
c. 1450	Achaean extend their influence to Crete and dominate Aegean. Minoans begin to disappear as autonomous people.
c. 1400–1200	Period of widespread destruction of sites on Crete and in Greece
c. 1250	Trojan War
c. 1100	Dorian pressures; collapse of Achaean civilization; end of Bronze Age in Greece
c. 1100–750	Greek Dark Age: Breakdown of organization and literacy; mainland migrations to Aegean islands and coast of Asia Minor; Greece enters the Iron Age
1000	
776	Olympic Games begin.
c. 750–500	Archaic Age: The Greek Renaissance; the revival of trade and commerce ("Commercial Revolution"); return of literacy; age of colonization, tyranny, and the lyric poets
c. 750	Homer (<i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i>)
c. 700	Hesiod (<i>Works and Days</i> and <i>Theogony</i>)(Chapter 2). Hoplite warfare introduced.

c. 650	Archilochus (Chapter 1)
625–585	Tyranny of Periander at Corinth Arion (Chapter 2)
621	Law code of Draco in Athens
c. 600	Sappho (Chapter 4)
600	
594	Solon's reforms in Athens
585	First Greek philosopher, Thales of Miletus, active (Chapter 2)
560–546	Croesus, king of Lydia (Chapter 3)
536	Milo of Croton's first Olympic victory (Chapter 3)
c. 532–522	Polycrates, tyrant of Samos (Chapter 2) Eupalinus' tunnel (Chapter 2)
527	Hippias succeeds his father, Pisistratus, as tyrant of Athens.
514	Harmodius and Aristogiton assassinate Hipparchus (Chapter 4).
508	Cleisthenes' democratic reforms in Athens
500	
	Westward expansion of the Persian Empire had encompassed the Greeks of Asia Minor. Athens and Sparta have emerged as leading powers on the mainland.
	Height of Phayllus' athletic career (Chapter 3)
493–c. 471	Themistocles as a major political force in Athens
490–479	Persian Wars with Greek victories at Marathon (490), Salamis (480), Plataea and Mycale (479)
487	Ostracism introduced in Athens.
480–476	Theagenes' Olympic victories (Chapter 3)
478	Delian League founded with Athens as its leader.
469	Cimon's victory at the Eurymedon River (Chapter 5)
460s	Height of Polygnotus' artistic career. <i>Iliupersis</i> and <i>Nekyia</i> at Delphi; <i>Iliupersis</i> in Stoa Poikile in Athens (Chapter 5).
462	Anaxagoras becomes first philosopher to reside in Athens (Chapter 6).
461	Cimon's ostracism and Pericles' ascendancy to power
460	
456	Death of Aeschylus, Athens' first great tragedian
449	"Peace of Callias" ends hostilities with Persia.
445	Thirty Years Peace between Athens and Sparta
440s–430s	Height of the "Golden Age" of Pericles in Athens. Parthenon and other buildings on the Acropolis built; Aspasia, Phidias, Socrates, Sophocles, Euripides, and the sophists are active (Chapter 6).

431–404	Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta
430	Plague, described by the historian Thucydides, strikes Athens (Chapter 6).
429	Death of Pericles
427–388	Career of Aristophanes, Athens' greatest comic playwright
421	Peace of Nicias brings temporary end to Peloponnesian War.
420	
	Trial of the "Poisonous Stepmother" (Chapter 7)
415–413	Athenian expedition to Syracuse in Sicily, which ends in disaster
414	Peloponnesian War resumes.
406	Deaths of Sophocles and Euripides
405	Spartan naval victory at Aegospotami brings Peloponnesian War to a close the following year.
400–360	Greece thrown into confusion as a result of the Peloponnesian War.
c. 400	Trial of Euphiletus for killing the adulterer, Eratosthenes; trial of Diogeiton the embezzler (Chapter 7)
399	Trial and death of Socrates
c. 394	Trial resulting from a quarrel over the favors of young Theodotus (Chapter 4)
386	The "King's Peace," a Persian-imposed peace settlement on the disorganized Greek states. Persian gold makes the bankrupt Greeks dependent on the Great King's goodwill.
380	
371	Sparta defeated by Thebes at Leuctra. End of Sparta as a major military power.
362	Thebes defeated at Mantinea.
	Trial of Phormio the Con-Man (Chapter 7)
359–336	Reign of Philip of Macedonia Aristotle at Philip's Court
c. 340	Trial of Conon the thug (Chapter 7)
340	
338	Philip becomes leader of the Greeks after his victory at Chaeronea.
336	Philip is assassinated and his son Alexander becomes king.
334	Alexander embarks on his expedition to conquer the Persian Empire.
332	Alexander captures Tyre, frequently mentioned as the setting for his submarine adventure (Chapter 8). Alexander establishes Alexandria in Egypt.

330	Alexander burns Persepolis.
323	Death of Alexander; beginning of the Hellenistic Age
322	Death of Aristotle and Greek orator and patriot Demosthenes
306–272	Alexander's generals Antigonos, Ptolemy, and Seleucus assume royal titles. The Antigonids eventually rule in Macedonia; the Ptolemies in Egypt; the Seleucids in Syria, Mesopotamia, and Iran
305	Demetrius' siege of Rhodes (Chapter 8).
300	
	Erasistratus is court physician of Seleucus (Chapter 8).
292–280	Colossus of Rhodes is constructed (Chapter 8).
c. 288	Theophrastus' <i>Characters</i> (Chapter 7)
272–146	Hellenistic civilization reaches its peak.
c. 270	Aristarchus of Samos (Chapter 8)
	Ctesibius of Alexandria (Chapter 8)
228	Rome's first intervention in Eastern affairs
200	
146	Rome completes its conquest of Macedonia and Greece.
146–30	The great Hellenistic monarchies end as provinces of the Roman Empire.

PREFACE

People make up societies, comprise civilizations. We may formulate and embrace as many theories and compile as many timetables or lists of significant events as we wish to help us understand the past, but we must always return to the simple reality that people are at the foundation of our inquiries.

So often in studies of eras before our own, people have been forced into the background, assigned a role secondary to theories and events. Their humanness has been forgotten. We tend to race over their names—especially if they sound or appear foreign—to discover what happened. Who they were as individuals within the context of their times has mostly gone unnoticed.

No “great people” theory or biographical approach to history is being argued here. There have, of course, always been the Periclese and Alexanders; they are too closely tied to the events of their times not to have been given extensive coverage. But most modern texts have developed little more than their political *personas*, and, as for the less prominent individuals in ancient society, we have seldom heard of them at all. Characters of lesser note are nonetheless still important for whatever contribution they made to their society. The study of people from many walks of life adds depth to our understanding of the ancient Greeks and, ultimately, of ourselves.

The Individual in History

In textbooks, in the classroom, and in society in general, there is now a greater emphasis on individuals and groups of individuals. That interest has always been there—human beings are by nature interested in other human beings. The “individualism” of the 1960s and 1970s, the rise of women’s and minority studies as well as family history, may have helped stimulate interest in and awareness of individuals from all eras. The nature of higher education, too, has changed. Nontraditional teachers, who view the past as something more than just an accounting of “politics and war,” have entered the profession. The composition

Audience and Approach

of today's college-student population differs, significantly in some respects, from what it was in the past. Interests in both school and life are broader, more people-oriented. Whatever the reason, no one can deny that students want more exposure to material concerned with individuals.

For the world of Ancient Greece, *Greek People* will help satisfy that need. It should prove a useful supplement to more traditional event-and-theory texts and be another option for instructors who have had previous success with the few modern works that have emphasized people (for example, Thomas W. Africa's *Rome of the Caesars*, and, for the Middle Ages, the enduring *Medieval People* by Eileen Power) and who also enjoy the kind of positive response usually evoked by the Greek biographies of Plutarch.

Intended for any undergraduate survey covering ancient Greek society, *Greek People* attempts to present the ancient Greeks as they were—not cardboard figures who lived in a past so distant that it seems they could never have any meaning for us today. The general historical background necessary to understand developments in antiquity is provided—but the emphasis is on people. The choice of the men and women presented here is necessarily limited. Our knowledge of the past extends only as far as our surviving sources allow. Some of the names will be familiar; others will be more obscure.

Some eras provide more interesting personalities than others, and matching the peculiar circumstances of a particular period with an individual who might best represent some historical or cultural aspect of that period can be a challenge. Nevertheless, each figure selected illustrates an aspect of human activity or behavior within his or her society that might have been neglected or only touched upon in a more general text. In the process, a more "humanistic" view of civilization should evolve.

Many quotations and extracts from ancient writers—sometimes the subjects themselves—have been incorporated, so that the people, as much as possible, can tell their own stories. Other interesting individuals who have relevance in a particular chapter are included at appropriate places in boxed off sections. These brief glimpses should further enrich the reader's appreciation of the "ancient personality." Numerous pedagogical aids such as maps, illustrations, a chronological table, and a glossary and pronunciation guide also make *Greek People* a more teachable text.

I have selected translations that may not be the most literal but that are, generally, what I feel to be the most readable without losing accuracy. To avoid confusion for the general reader, Latin transliterations have usually been substituted for Greek transliterations in translations where the latter have been used. In maps that have been reproduced from other sources, Greek transliterations of place names have been retained.

When human beings began to keep track of themselves, the question they first asked was "Who am I?" and then—"What did I do?" Their own individual existence was foremost in their thoughts. In our complex and, some would say, impersonal society, the "doing" often seems to take precedence over the "being." *Greek People* tries to keep both in mind—the person *and* his or her accomplishments. It offers the lives and the world of a few people from the distant past in the hope that the gulf of years that separates us from the people of Ancient Greece will begin to diminish.

A Concluding Observation

I would like to express my appreciation to Professors Thomas W. Africa, Erich S. Gruen, and Frank W. Walbank for reading the draft of this book. I would also like to thank Professors Julian Archer, Charles Daniel, Ruth Pavlantos, Paul Properzio, and William H. Stiebing for agreeing to review and comment on the text for Mayfield, and my editor, Lansing Hays, for recognizing the potential value of a text that does not conform to mainstream publishing philosophy. Thanks also go to my wife, Judy, for her always valuable contributions in reviewing the manuscript and preparing it for publication.

I am grateful to the various authors, presses, museums, and other photo sources for their permission to use copyrighted material. Specific acknowledgments for translations and the full references for all photos, maps, and other illustrations are listed at the end of the text.

Finally, I wish to thank all the others who in some way assisted me in the preparation of this book.

Acknowledgments



Map 2
The Greek Mainland

GREEK PEOPLE

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