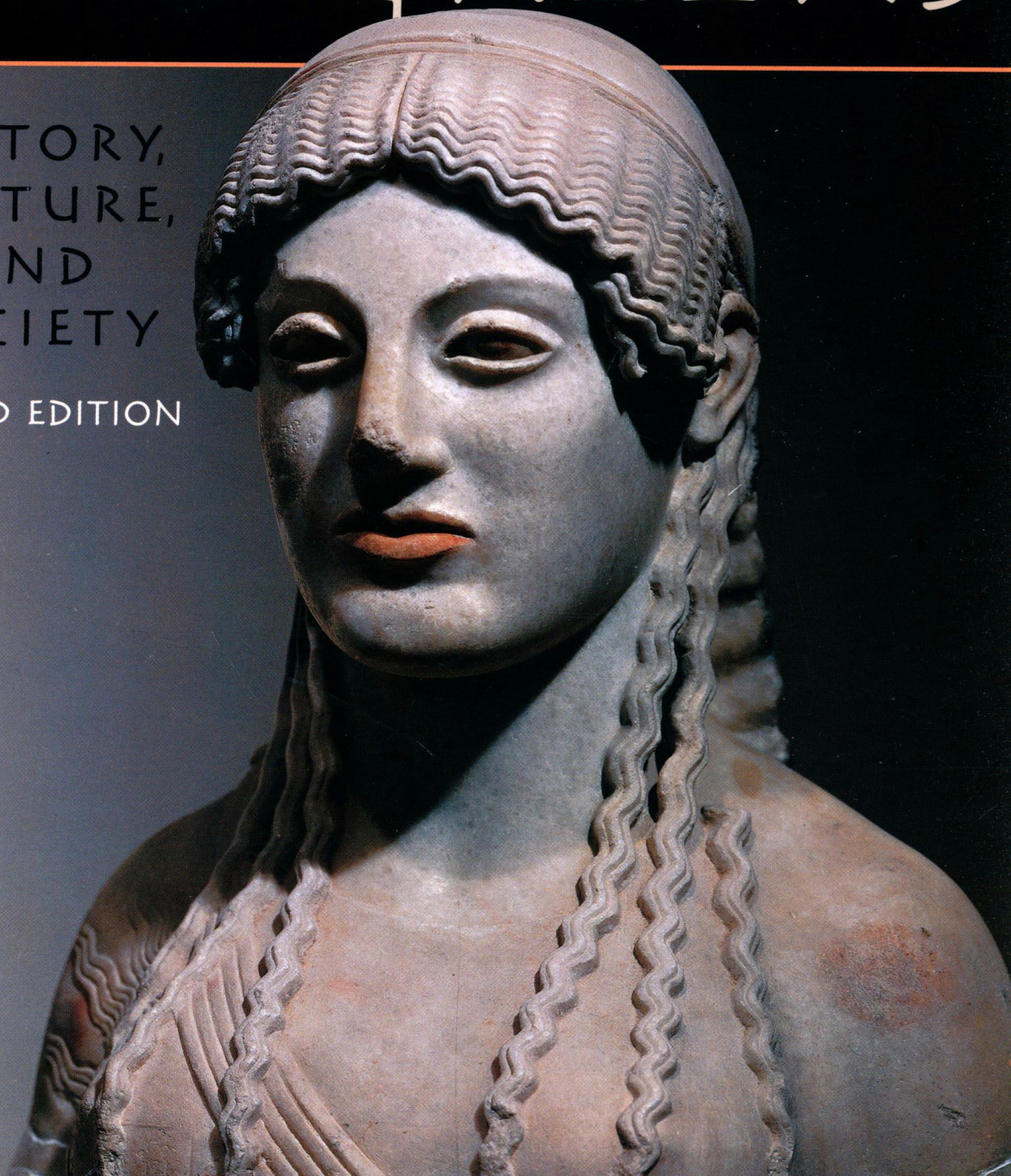


IAN MORRIS BARRY B. POWELL

THE GREEKS

HISTORY,
CULTURE,
AND
SOCIETY

SECOND EDITION



Second Edition

THE GREEKS

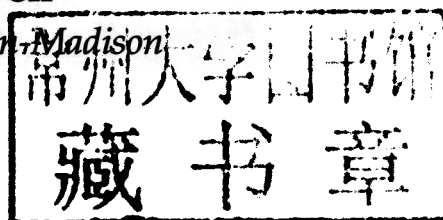
HISTORY, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY

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PREFACE

In this book we try to see ancient Greece as a whole: not just a narrative of events or an overview of culture, but history and culture taken together. From ancient Greece comes the modern conviction that through open discussion and the exercise of reason a society of free citizens can solve the problems that challenge it. In one period of Greek history, a society just so governed produced timeless masterpieces of literature, art, and rational thought at the same time that it waged terrible wars and committed countless cruelties. If we understand the past, we can live better in the present, but the past is hard to understand.

We have organized the material chronologically, beginning at the end of the last Ice Age. We take the story through the palaces of Mycenaean Greece and the depressed centuries of the Dark Age to the birth of city-states in the Archaic Period. We describe the triumphs of the city-states in the Classical Period and their subjection to larger kingdoms in the Hellenistic Period, after Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire, and finally their conquest by Rome. Of course Greek history continued after the Roman conquest, and continues today, but that is a story we unfortunately cannot tell here. Within these limits, we describe processes of social change and cultural achievements along with political events.

Two groups of imaginary readers were looking over our shoulders as we wrote. One was our students: For them we provide the names, dates, and details that you need to grasp Greek history, while avoiding technical jargon. Many of the names in this book will be unfamiliar. To assist with pronunciation, we provide an English pronunciation guide the first time each difficult name appears. The pronunciation guides are repeated in the index, which also functions as a glossary. We also use **bold** letters to highlight the most important names, places, and concepts. We repeat these names in a list of important terms at the end of each chapter, with page numbers of where the term first appears. We leave less important names in ordinary type, though we often give pronunciations for those as well.

Our second group of imaginary readers is the experts on ancient Greece. They can be tough critics. An expert's comment is always, "Yes, but. . . ." There are countless places in a book like this where experts will rightly point out that the evidence is ambiguous, the translation of key words debated, or that there are exceptions to our generalizations. They are quite right to worry about complexities and scholarly debates, but in the end, we have told the story in our own way. We hope that even our professional colleagues may find new ways of thinking about old problems—or, at least, will enjoy the read.

Our account differs in significant ways from the many excellent overviews of Greek history that already exist. First, we make special efforts to see the Greeks as part of a larger Mediterranean world. Older accounts tend to focus on the Aegean Sea, ignoring the Greeks of Sicily and southern Italy. We try instead to show how thoroughly linked developments were in eastern and western Greece. Most previous accounts also present non-Greek peoples like the Persians, Carthaginians, and natives of the west Mediterranean as cardboard characters, coming into the narrative only to defeat the Greeks or be defeated by them. We try to make clear their own motivations and their contributions to the larger story.

Second, we have rejected the prejudice that the only things worth knowing about Greece ended with the Peloponnesian War in 404 B.C., the death of Socrates in 399 B.C., or the battle of Chaeronea in 338 B.C. The final three centuries B.C. are vitally important in the story of the Greeks. The luxuries of Hellenistic Alexandria and the irresistible progress of Roman armies across the east Mediterranean are as much a part of this tale as the insights of Pericles and the beauty of the Parthenon.

Third, because so much of antiquity is apprehended through the eye, we include abundant maps and photographs of landscapes, objects, and buildings. Archaeologists' discoveries have changed the ways we understand ancient Greece, and we emphasize material culture throughout. When the name of a place appears on a map, we so indicate by printing the name in the text in SMALL CAPS.

As often as possible, we let the Greeks speak for themselves by including generous quotations from ancient authors. No supplements to this book are necessary to understand who the Greeks were and what they accomplished, but more extended readings from Homer, the historians, the tragedians, and the lyric poets would certainly complement the text. We make suggestions on further reading in modern scholarship as well as in the ancient sources at the end of each chapter.

In the first edition we made use mostly of translations from commercial sources, but for this edition we have prepared our own translations from the original sources. We do our best to strike a balance between contemporary usage and the sometimes exaggerated demands of the original mostly Greek texts.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ian Morris is the Jean and Rebecca Willard Professor of Classics and Professor of History at Stanford University, where he teaches large lecture courses on ancient empires and Greek history. He founded and has served as director of the Stanford Archaeology Center and directed a major archaeological excavation in Sicily. He has published ten books on ancient history and archaeology. The latest of these, *Why the West Rules . . . For Now*, will appear in 2010. He has lectured at universities across America and Europe and appeared on television on the History Channel, Discovery Channel, and A&E Channel.

Barry B. Powell is the Halls-Bascom Professor of Classics Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where in his long career he has been well known as a teacher of large lecture classes in ancient civilization and myth and for seminars on Homer. He has lectured in many countries and is the author of the best-selling *Classical Myth* (6th edition, 2008), widely used in college courses. He is best known as the author of *Homer and the Origin of the Greek Alphabet* (1991), which argues that the Greek alphabet was invented in order to record the poems of Homer. With Ian Morris he published the internationally admired *A New Companion to Homer* (1997). The second edition of his popular introductory text *Homer* appeared in 2007, and he has written numerous other books, including a mock-epic, *The War at Troy: A True History* (2006). He appeared on the History Channel special *Troy: The True Story* (2005). His study *Writing: Theory and History of the Technology of Civilization* (2009) establishes a scientific terminology for studying the history of writing.

CHRONOLOGICAL CHART

10,000 B.C.	NEOLITHIC PERIOD ("new stone age") begins in the Near East with the development of agriculture and sedentary communities
4000 B.C.	Sumerian cuneiform writing is developed, c. 3400 Egyptian hieroglyphic writing, Pharaonic civilization emerge, c. 3100
3000 B.C.	EARLY BRONZE AGE begins in Greece with introduction of bronze metallurgy, c. 3000–2000 Sumerian cities flourish in Mesopotamia, c. 2800–2340 Minoan civilization flourishes in Crete, c. 2500–1200 Akkadian Empire in Mesopotamia, c. 2334–2220 Sumerian revival, c. 2200–2000
2000 B.C.	MIDDLE BRONZE AGE begins with the destruction of communities across the Greek mainland, c. 2000–1600 Old Babylonian Empire in Mesopotamia, c. 1900–1550 LATE BRONZE AGE (or MYCENAEAN AGE) begins, c. 1600 Hittite Empire rules in Anatolia, c. 1700–1200
1500 B.C.	Phoenician syllabic writing appears, c. 1500 Most likely date for a Trojan War, c. 1250–1200 DARK (or IRON) AGE begins with destruction of Mycenaean cities in Greece, c. 1200–1100
1000 B.C.	Greek colonies are settled in Asia Minor, c. 950–900 Greek colonies in Sicily and southern Italy, c. 800–600 ARCHAIC PERIOD begins with invention of Greek alphabet, c. 800 <i>Iliad</i> and the <i>Odyssey</i> , attributed to Homer, are written down, c. 800–750 Olympic games begin, 776 Rome, allegedly, is founded, 753 Hesiod's <i>Theogony</i> is written down, c. 750–700 <i>Homeric Hymns</i> , c. 700–500 Cyclic poets, c. 650–500 Age of Tyrants, c. 650–500 Cyrus the Great of Persia, c. 590–530 Xenophanes, c. 570–460 Pindar, 518–438 Simonides, late sixth to early fifth century Alleged date of the expulsion of the Etruscan dynasty at Rome and foundation of the Roman Republic, 510
500 B.C.	Bacchylides, early fifth century Persians invade Aegean Greece; battle of Marathon, 490 Carthage invades Sicily; Greek victory at Himera, 480

- Persians invade Aegean Greece again; destruction of Athens;
Greek victories at Salamis and Plataea, 480–479
CLASSICAL PERIOD begins with end of Persian Wars, 480
Aeschylus, 525–456
Sophocles, 496–406
Herodotus, c. 484–420
Euripides, 480–406
Roman *Twelve Tables* are committed to writing, 451
Socrates, 469–399
Peloponnesian War, 431–404
Thucydides, c. 460–400
Biblical book of *Genesis* reaches present form, c. 400
- 400 B.C. Plato, 427–437
Hippocrates, c. 400
Aristotle, 384–322
The Gauls sack the city of Rome, 394 or 390
Philip II of Macedon, Alexander's father, conquers Greece,
ending local rule, 338–337
Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire, 336–323
HELLENISTIC PERIOD begins with death of Alexander, 323
- 300 B.C. Callimachus, c. 305–240
Apollonius of Rhodes, third century
- 200 B.C. Three Punic Wars are waged between Rome and Carthage,
264–241, 218–201, 146
Plautus, Roman playwright, dies, c. 180
ROMAN PERIOD begins with Roman invasions of Greece,
200–194, 168, 146
Roman civil wars, Marius-Sulla, Caesar-Pompey,
Augustus-Antony, are waged, 88–31
Vergil, 70–19
Livy, 57 B.C.–17 A.D.
Julius Caesar rules as dictator, 46–44
Augustus defeats Antony and Cleopatra at battle of Actium, 31,
and annexes Egypt, 30
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- 100 A.D. Plutarch, c. 46–120 A.D.

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