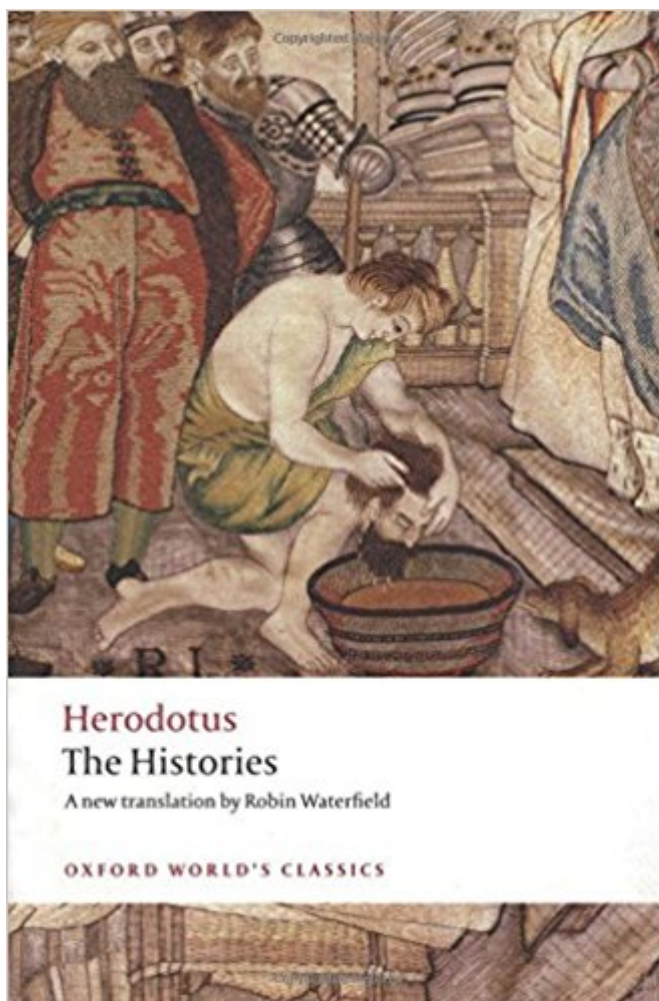


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The Histories (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

"The father of history," as Cicero called him, and a writer possessed of remarkable narrative gifts, enormous scope, and considerable charm, Herodotus has always been beloved by readers well-versed in the classics. Compelled by his desire to "prevent the traces of human events from being erased by time," Herodotus recounts the incidents preceding and following the Persian Wars. He gives us much more than military history, though, providing the fullest portrait of the classical world of the 5th and 6th centuries. Translated by Robin Waterfield, a distinguished translator whose version of Plato's Republic has been described as 'the best available', this readable new translation is supplemented with expansive notes to help the reader appreciate the book in depth. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

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Customer Reviews

Carolyn Dewald is Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Southern California. Robin Waterfield is a distinguished translator whose version of Plato's Republic has been described as 'the best available'.

I thought that reading Herodotus would be daunting, but Mr. Waterfield's translation so far is making it fun to read. The prose is very accessible, which makes this history very intriguing and enjoyable to read. In a nut shell Herodotus writes about the causes of the ancient war between the Greek world and the Persian empire.

Excellent translation -- makes a prodigious work accessible in modern English. Herodotus provides the historical context for much of classical epics & plays, so it is interesting & illuminating. A very useful companion piece -- like the Oxford Companion to Classical Literature.

How is it that I have never read this classic. And the notes included with this version were extremely helpful. Herodotus has a great way of telling stories and I like how he jumps from topic to topic while explaining history. I felt like I was at my grandpa's feet hearing about the good old days with some lessons on life thrown in. I should have read this years ago!!!

It's interesting to hear what happened in the ancient world from people who lived then. Herodotus believed that the lessons we draw from history are more important than getting the facts exactly right, and he gives us a lot of insights. Herodotus was very, very scrupulous about not claiming this or that happened. He always is careful to say that "the people of this place believe" or "it is recorded that.". Plus (and this is a BIG plus if you're reading an ancient author), he rights with a great deal of witty skepticism. (And if the records were kind of racy, he didn't clean them up.) Often when reading this huge e-book, you find yourself wishing you'd known him personally; he would be a fun dinner guest.

This is a ~2500 year old book on history that was criticized right after it came out. It's often viewed as the less serious, less academic, inferior work when compared to Thucydides - the author who provided the template for future historians. For that reason, a modern reader may hesitate to look at it. They should not. It is a wonderful read - the stories are great, the sociological descriptions are wonderful, the deductive analysis (when placed into context) is remarkable. The book's engagement with real world events must be considered, and there are excellent footnotes to discuss it.

Ultimately, this is the best and often only source for many of his subjects. As such it is well worth reading and engaging with. Afterwards you will probably spot many, many references to this book through the centuries. The Histories is critical to our modern day understanding of the classical world. I do think that reading it with a map of the ancient world would be helpful if you're not familiar

with the landscape, but other than that, just go along with it.

Wonderful translation. I have a 14 year old who finished this. Started as an uninterested reader. Ended with much enjoyment.. and one liners of wisdom, lol.

While I generally like the older historians, the biggest issue I had with Herodotus is trying to put together a single time-flow for everything. I recognize that this is kind of my own problem, (flow-charts weren't even helping) I can't say that I liked the book as a historical premise. Anecdotes of awesome abound, however, so it's not entirely unreadable. It was just problematic for me when it came to citing for papers and locating myself in the timeline. Again, probably more my problem than a problem with Herodotus.-M

A voice from 2,500 years ago telling us one of the greatest stories of his time. Intrigue, incest, war heroes and villains, and giant gold digging ants. Who could ask for more?!?

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