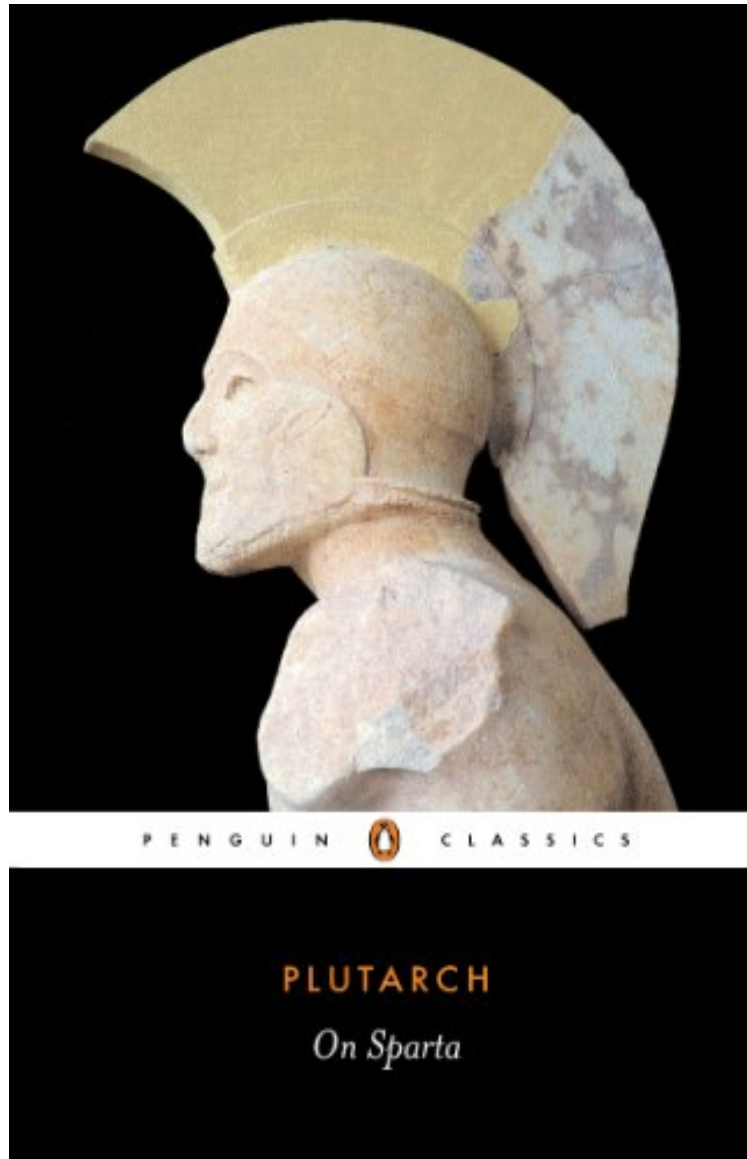


[Mobile ebook] On Sparta (Penguin Classics)

On Sparta (Penguin Classics)

Plutarch

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#297431 in Books Plutarch Richard J A Talbert Christopher Pelling 2005-12-27 2005-12-27 Fabric type: None Original language: Ancient Greek PDF # 1 7.70 x .62 x 5.00l, .53 #File Name: 0140449434304 pages On Sparta Penguin Classics | File size: 68.Mb

Plutarch : On Sparta (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Sparta (Penguin Classics):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and thought-provoking read By Christopher R. Travers This book is a collection of some lives and excerpts from lives (or biographies) by Plutarch about Spartan kings. It provides a great deal of food for thought and I would recommend it. The book consists of roughly three parts:

The first is a collection of biographies of Spartan kings (Lycurgus, etc). The Life of Lysander has been omitted because it is included in another Penguin edition. The second part consists of excerpts of Plutarch's writings consisting of sayings which provide insight into Spartan life and culture. The third part is an appendix which includes some of Xenophon's notes about Sparta. The book allows us to ask a number of questions which may provide fruitful, such as the specific relationship between Spartan culture and Plato's ideas in "Republic." In general a lot of things in Republic that seem particularly contrary to the Athenian state are found in Sparta in this book. Perhaps this is why Plutarch places Lycurgus above Plato, saying that the latter wrote books on political theory but the former had invented them and put them in practice. These include descriptions of everything from female public nudity being equivalent to male public nudity to the idea that children should all be wards of the state and not the wards of their fathers. A great number of small details seem to be taken directly from Spartan life in Plato's work and this suggests that Plato, like Xenophon, was fundamentally more sympathetic to Sparta than to Athens. On the negative side, I agree that it would be good to have a more complete reference of Plutarch's references to Sparta in one volume. On the whole, this is an interesting book. 4 stars 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book to understand Spartan way of life. By Trainman95630 I liked this book, the most interesting chapter was the one on Lycurgus followed by the one on Agis. Covered a lot of spartan customs and how they perpetuated a warrior culture. It took a while to read but was worth the time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Uneven history, fascinating biographies By Peter Monks One of the other reviewers is completely correct when he observes that Plutarch never wrote 'On Sparta' as a book - this edition includes four of Plutarch's lives of Spartan kings (taken from works comparing ancient Greek and - to Plutarch - relatively contemporary Roman statesmen) and a large collection of Spartan 'quotable quotes' in an attempt to describe Spartan history and culture. In general, it works reasonably well - the lives of Lycurgus, Agesilaus, Agis and Cleomenes are the usual lively biographies one expects from Plutarch, even if the lengthy gaps between the reigns of Lycurgus and Agesilaus and then Agesilaus and Agis mean that quite a bit of Spartan history is glossed over (including the Peloponnesian Wars). The collection of pithy Spartan sayings is a bit repetitive, but does give a flavor of how their fellow Greeks expected Spartans to act and view the world. Not a concise, thorough history of Sparta by any stretch, but an enjoyably readable collection of biographies (and wry quotations) that do offer an insight into Spartan culture and mores - or at least how they were perceived in Plutarch's day.

Plutarch's vivid and engaging portraits of the Spartans and their customs are a major source of our knowledge about the rise and fall of their remarkable Greek city-state between the sixth and third centuries BC. Through his Lives of Sparta's leaders and his recording of memorable Spartan Sayings, he depicts a people who lived frugally and mastered their emotions in all aspects of life, who disposed of unhealthy babies in a deep chasm, introduced a gruelling regimen of military training for boys, and treated their serfs brutally. Rich in anecdote and detail, Plutarch's writing brings to life the personalities and achievements of Sparta with unparalleled flair and humanity. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

About the Author Plutarch (c.50-c.120 AD) was a writer and thinker born into a wealthy, established family of Chaeronea in central Greece. He received the best possible education in rhetoric and philosophy, and traveled to Asia Minor and Egypt. Later, a series of visits to Rome and Italy contributed to his fame, which was given official recognition by the emperors Trajan and Hadrian. Plutarch rendered conscientious service to his province and city (where he continued to live), as well as holding a priesthood at nearby Delphi. His voluminous surviving writings are broadly divided into the "moral" works and the Parallel Lives of outstanding Greek and Roman leaders. The former (Moralia) are a mixture of rhetorical and antiquarian pieces, together with technical and moral philosophy (sometimes in dialogue form). The Lives have been influential from the Renaissance onwards. Richard Talbert was born in England in 1947. He was a scholar of The Kings School, Canterbury, and of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he gained a Double First Class Honors in Classics, followed by a doctorate which was the basis of his first book, *Timoleon and the Revival of Greek Sicily*. After his appointment in 1970 to teach ancient history at Queens University, Belfast, his research extended into Roman history and the production of his major work, *The Senate of Imperial Rome*, which won the Goodwin Award of Merit. He has been a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. After three years as Professor of History at McMaster University, Ontario, Canada, in 1988 he moved to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor. He currently directs an international project to produce what will be the first major classical atlas since the last century. Christopher Pelling is professor of classics at Oxford University and a fellow of Christ Church.