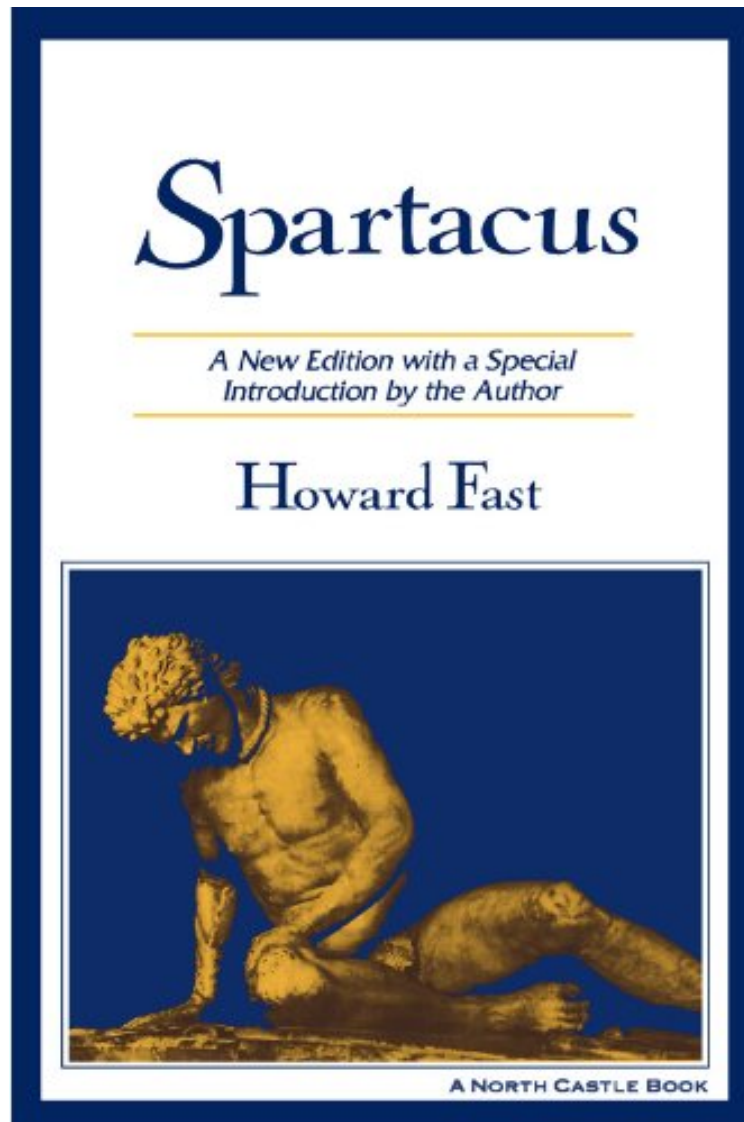


[Mobile book] Spartacus (English Edition)

Spartacus (English Edition)

Von Howard Fast

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Von Howard Fast : Spartacus (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spartacus (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Probably Fast's best book. And a great book. Von Steven ZorasterHoward Fast's novelization of the slave revolt in Italy between 73-71 BC is both a work of left wing advocacy and a tremendously well done novel. I read it first when I was 14. Now, a long time later, once a year or so I re-read the copy I still have - for the enjoyment, for the character development, for the history, and for the political agenda. You could read it for any one or any combination of those

features, and still get something out of this book. For those who don't know, Howard Fast was a member of the Communist Party of the United States from the 1930s on up to the early 1950s, a committed, though thinking member. And one who was willing to go to jail ~1951 rather than testify about others in the CPUSA. (For more about this aspect of his life, buy his biography, *Being Red*.) So, *Spartacus* is a novel with an agenda. For "Rome," read western capitalism run wild. For "slaves" read the lower class, peasants, serfs or workers. And for *Spartacus* himself, read anyone you want to as a modern day revolutionary who is forced by history, and his own humanity, to attempt changing the world. Is this a problem? Absolutely not! When I read this book at 14, I knew that when I read something along the lines of "Rome is the whole world," that that could be taken as the Classical Mediterranean world, or as the whole capitalist world of the 20th century. If, like me, you don't worry too much about the evils of modern capitalism, you can read the book as pure historical fiction. And, like me, if you want to, you can catch Fast's criticism of capitalism without diminishing your enjoyment of the novel. How good is *Spartacus* as historical fiction? I am not a classical historian, but I read a lot, including those Roman detective novels, and all five of McCullough's Roman series starting with *The First Man in Rome*. I would guess that Fast is doing as good a job as McCullough. Does Fast account for every last Roman legion, including the date it was raised, where it was stationed, and the historically correct name of its legate in a certain year, etc? No, but given the relatively small amount of information available about *Spartacus*, Fast manages to make a historically valid interpretation. What Fast really does well is characters: *Spartacus* himself, introduced as a slave, and then as a gladiator, working his way towards open revolt, a human being who others might follow in a desperate bid for freedom. Crassus, the rich Roman general - rich enough to pay for his own army - who ultimately defeats *Spartacus*, but himself has doubts about how his own Roman morality compares with what he can understand of the goals and ethics of the *Spartacus* and his slave army. And Gracchus, the Roman senator who does appear to fully understand the morality superiority of *Spartacus*, but at the same time is so much a Roman that he must help destroy *Spartacus*. Throw in Cicero, and a number of other characters who may or may not be historical, including *Spartacus*' slave wife, and you have a wonderful cast. Probably everyone knows that the revolt of *Spartacus* is finally put down, so that there are almost no survivors among the good guys in *Spartacus*. And yet, through one lone survivor, and through the actions of two Romans who have been changed by the events described in the novel, there is a positive twist at the end, which gives the reader hope for a better world, not just in 70 BC, but also in 2000AD. Did I mention that Howard Fast writes well? As an example, here is one memorable exchange between *Spartacus* and the other escaped gladiators and some slaves who have joined them. A passage that still makes me feel good each time I think about it. *Spartacus* is encouraging the gladiators and the slaves to stay together and resist as an army and as a people, rather than scattering into the countryside, where they will be hunted down one-by-one: A gladiator: "Then Rome will go to war against us." *Spartacus*: "Then we will go to war against Rome!" P.S. The movie is terrible. Although, I gather that it took a lot of courage on the part of Stanley Kubrick, Kirk Douglas and Tony Curtis to make it in 1960, which wasn't very long after Fast had been sent to jail for failing to testify. 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Historischer Roman über den zweiten römischen Sklavenkrieg Von Gunthard Heller über den Sinn und Nutzen historischer Romane kann man streiten: Sie lassen gewöhnlich nicht erkennen, was nun tatsächlich passiert ist und was der Autor dazu erfunden hat. Sie vermitteln andererseits einen lebendigen (auch gefühlsmäßigen) Zugang zu einer geschichtlichen Epoche und entwerfen ein vollständiges Bild (anstelle des gewöhnlich lückenhaften der Geschichtsschreibung). Bei Howard Fast's Roman über den zweiten römischen Sklavenkrieg (73 - 71 v. Chr.) ist besonders die kunstvolle Erzählstruktur bemerkenswert: Der Roman beginnt zu dem Zeitpunkt, als die gekreuzigten Sklaven noch die Via Appia sumten. Was davor passiert ist, erfahren wir lediglich aus der Erinnerung verschiedener beteiligter Personen, von denen nicht mehr alle leben. Auffällig ist die negative Charakterisierung von Cicero als skrupelloser Karrierist, während *Spartacus* als einfacher und reiner Mensch dargestellt wird. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. If you liked the movie, prepare for something different. Von Ein Kunde Even though I probably would have bought this book anyway (I enjoy historical fiction and Roman history), the main reason I bought this book was because I loved the movie. But I was unprepared for what was ultimately a finely crafted novel. For the most part, it takes place after the revolt: as a few of Rome's most important politicians (including Crassus and Cicero), discuss, and consider, the significance of the revolt. Also, through flashbacks, it covers part of *Spartacus*' life--the horrible conditions in the African mines, life as a gladiator, the revolt, and death. Basically, this book tells a better story, and tells it better, than the movie which claims to be based on it.

Kurzbeschreibung *Spartacus*, a fictionalization of a slave revolt in ancient Rome in 71 BC, is well known today because of the 1960 movie starring Kirk Douglas and Laurence Olivier. It was originally published in 1951 by Fast himself, after being turned down by every mainstream publisher of the day because of Fast's blacklisting for his Communist Party sympathies. The story of *Spartacus*, born a slave, trained as a gladiator, who led a slave revolt that was eventually put down by Crassus, was immensely popular, and went on to sell millions of copies. The reprinting of this title in the North Castle series brings back into print a book that many regard as a

classic. Kurzbeschreibung Spartacus, a fictionalization of a slave revolt in ancient Rome in 71 BC, is well known today because of the 1960 movie starring Kirk Douglas and Laurence Olivier. It was originally published in 1951 by Fast himself, after being turned down by every mainstream publisher of the day because of Fast's blacklisting for his Communist Party sympathies. The story of Spartacus, born a slave, trained as a gladiator, who led a slave revolt that was eventually put down by Crassus, was immensely popular, and went on to sell millions of copies. The reprinting of this title in the North Castle series brings back into print a book that many regard as a classic. Synopsis "Spartacus" is a fictionalization of a slave revolt in Rome in 71 BC, well known today because of the 1960 film version. It was originally published by Fast after being turned down by every mainstream publisher of the day. This is a reprinting of the title with a special introduction by the author.