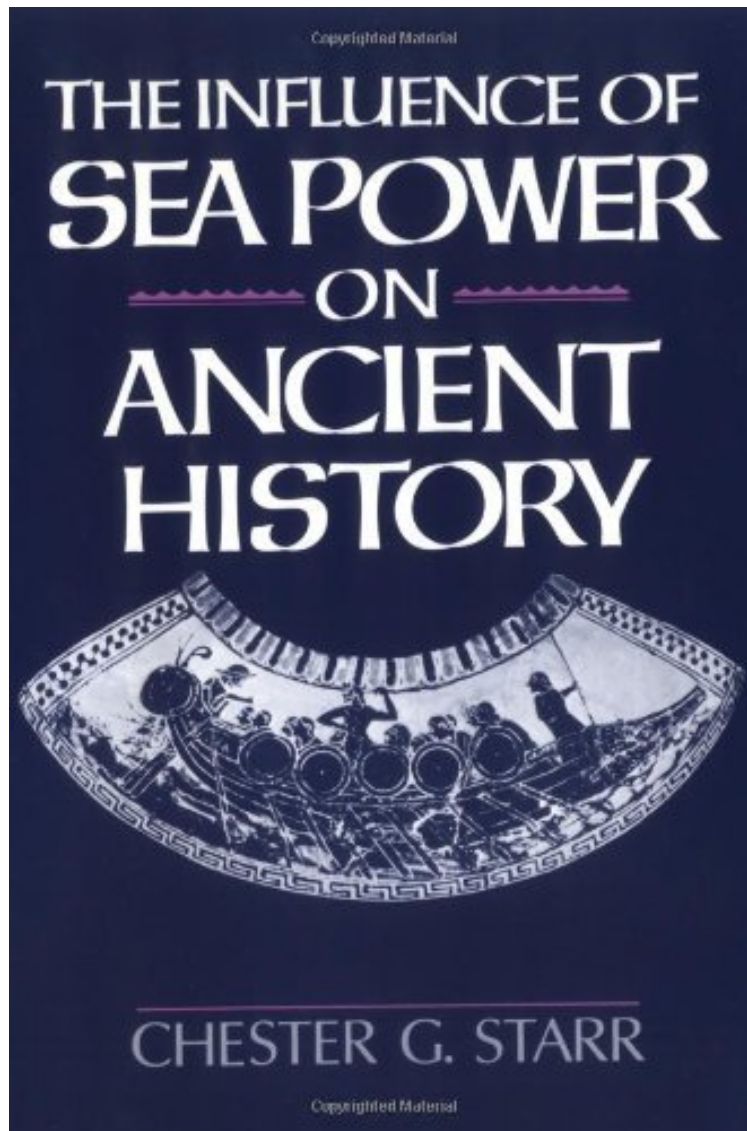


(Download free pdf) The Influence of Sea Power on Ancient History

The Influence of Sea Power on Ancient History

Von Chester G. Starr

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Von Chester G. Starr : The Influence of Sea Power on Ancient History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Influence of Sea Power on Ancient History:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Obviously Starr is a landlubber Von Holy Olio Purports to show that sea power didn't have an impact on the power of ancient states, particularly the Roman Empire. The problem as I see it is summed up in the blurb on the dust jacket - "...the unmatched Roman imperial navy...succeeded in momentarily clearing the surrounding waters of pirates, but was useless when barbarians came from the interior and mutilated Roman defenses." By the time the barbarians did this,

the Roman navy in effect had ceased to exist. This is such an oversight on the author's part that it's difficult to take the book seriously - and Starr is an historian with a large list of titles to his credit. Works by Lionel Casson are listed in the bibliography but there are no references in the index. Starr's quotes and anecdotes from ancient times are informative and interesting, though mishandled and misinterpreted. Obviously Starr is a landlubber, or perhaps his mother got sick on a boat ride when she was pregnant with him. The prolific (though sometimes cranky) Michael Grant has a title in print regarding the near-collapse of the Roman Empire in the 3rd c that may illuminate the problems of the barbarian invasions. Lionel Casson's "Travel in the Ancient World" has chapters about travel by sea and the effectiveness of the Roman navy at eradicating piracy. His "Ancient Mariners" is out in a new edition and that is also recommended. Although Starr fails to make his case, this short book is worth a read. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good book for mariner types. Von D. Roberts This is a nice, quick read that discusses the importance (and sometimes irrelevance) of thalassocracy in antiquity. In this book, the author details the ages of Early Greece thru to the fall of the Roman Empire. Starr details for us how Alexander of Macedon conquered the Persian Navy by taking over the Persian ports (and thus giving the Persian fleet nowhere to land). He also writes of the immense importance that Piraeus held for Athens; it was due to the revenues of her seapower that Athens was able to build such wonders as the Parthenon. Starr then demonstrates why this authority over the seas was so very important for Athens during the early stages of the Peloponnesian war. We also learn how seapower was one of the primary ingredients that made Rome a power to reckon with. It was the turning-of-the tables with Carthage as far as seapower was concerned which was the decisive factor of the First Punic War. Starr continues with the use of seapower by Julius Caesar to both rid the Mediterranean of pirates as well as to further his empire. While one may disagree with some of the opinions of Starr, this book is well worth reading for any maritime scholars or historians of antiquity.

Kurzbeschreibung Alfred Thayer Mahan's nineteenth-century classic, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*, has long occupied a central place in the canon of strategic thought. But as Chester G. Starr shows in this thought-provoking work, Mahan's theories have also led to serious misperceptions among historians about the significance of naval superiority in antiquity. This analytical study of the role of sea power from the second millennium B.C. to the end of the Roman Empire illustrates both the utility and the limitations of naval power. Focusing on Athens and Carthage, Starr demonstrates that control of the seas was not always a strategic necessity. Similarly, he examines the Roman imperial navy--the most advanced and widely-based naval structure in antiquity--noting that when Rome fell it was due to invasions by land, not sea. Starr describes major naval battles in fascinating detail, and analyzes technological developments as they reveal the limitations of galleys in warfare. This innovative study provides an important corrective to Mahan's thesis, both as applied to ancient history and to modern strategic thought--making it provocative reading for those interested in ancient history and also for those who follow military history. Pressestimmen The author's detailed and fascinating descriptions of major naval battles takes a new look at the significant role ships played in the course of history ... absorbing book.' Heather Readay, *The Greek Gazette* 'This little work by Professor Starr is certainly thought-provoking' Lucien Basch, *The Mariner's Mirror* 'Starr's rapid survey contains food for thought.' P.J. Rhodes, *Greece Rome*, Vol XXXVII No 1 Apr '90 'The narrative is fast moving, lucid, and documented by references to the major studies.' Lionel Casson, New York University, *American Historical* Kurzbeschreibung Alfred Thayer Mahan's nineteenth-century classic, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*, has long occupied a central place in the canon of strategic thought. But as Chester G. Starr shows in this thought-provoking work, Mahan's theories have also led to serious misperceptions among historians about the significance of naval superiority in antiquity. This analytical study of the role of sea power from the second millennium B.C. to the end of the Roman Empire illustrates both the utility and the limitations of naval power. Focusing on Athens and Carthage, Starr demonstrates that control of the seas was not always a strategic necessity. Similarly, he examines the Roman imperial navy--the most advanced and widely-based naval structure in antiquity--noting that when Rome fell it was due to invasions by land, not sea. Starr describes major naval battles in fascinating detail, and analyzes technological developments as they reveal the limitations of galleys in warfare. This innovative study provides an important corrective to Mahan's thesis, both as applied to ancient history and to modern strategic thought--making it provocative reading for those interested in ancient history and also for those who follow military history.