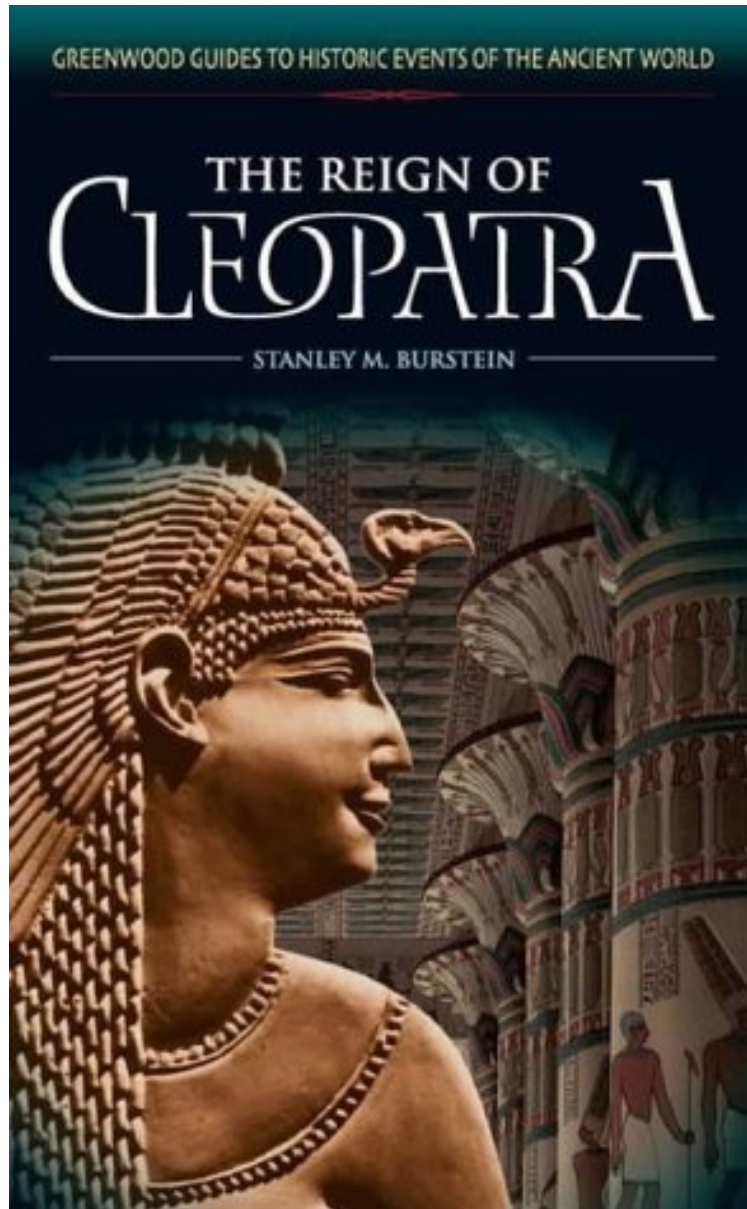


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The Reign of Cleopatra (Greenwood Guides to Historic Events of the Ancient World)

Von Stanley Burstein

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Von Stanley Burstein : The Reign of Cleopatra (Greenwood Guides to Historic Events of the Ancient World)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reign of Cleopatra
(Greenwood Guides to Historic Events of the Ancient World):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The last of so many noble rulers... Von FrKurt MessickCleopatra was an enigma in her own time, and has remained so throughout two thousand years of subsequent history. As the Elizabeth Taylor film about Cleopatra concluded, she 'was the last of so many noble rulers.' In fact, she represented the close of several chapters of history - she was the last of the Ptolemaic line to rule Egypt, the last of the independent ruler/monarchs or pharaohs, and the last the major threats to Rome before it became a consolidated empire under Augustus. Yet this is not the primary source of her fame. Her fame comes largely from her legendary sexual allure, which according to Burstein's research, was less due to her physical beauty (apparently she was rather ordinary looking) as it was from her intelligence and charm. An extraordinarily educated and wise woman, she survived intrigues and reached pinnacles of power beyond that of most, especially of women during her period of history. Cleopatra's personal life is a very complicated one - married to several different men (including, in true Ptolemaic fashion, her own brother), she had four children (one by Julius Caesar, and three by Mark Antony), and following the family history of Cleopatra is a real trick - there were no fewer than 14 kings named Ptolemy, at least seven Cleopatras, and numerous Arsinoes and Berenikes. It is easy to get lost in the history. Stanley Burstein does a good job at keeping this history straight. The first chapter gives a brief introduction to Ptolemaic Egypt, beginning with Ptolemy I, friend of Alexander the Great, and proceeding up through the various descendants and their waxing and waning fortunes in the eastern Mediterranean. The wars amongst the successors of Alexander gave way to family intrigues among the Ptolemies at times, and included involvement in the various civil wars of the Romans, which would eventually end with the fall of Cleopatra and Antony and the rise of Augustus. Cleopatra's three children by Antony would survive; her grandson (also named Ptolemy) would succeed as king of Mauretania, until one of Augustus' successors (Caligula) would assassinate him. In addition to presenting the international and foreign political history involving Cleopatra, Burstein presents essays on the internal structures and cultures in Egypt, with special emphasis on the city of Alexandria. Alexandria was home of the Great Lighthouse and the Great Library (two of the Ancient Wonders of the World) in addition to other magnificent structures; it was the most cosmopolitan place in the world known to the Romans (and, mostly likely, the entire world at the time). There were rumours at different times that the capital of the empire might be moved from Rome to Alexandria - such rumours were exploited in Rome at convenient times. Burstein concludes his essays with a discussion of the way Cleopatra has been viewed over time, including modern discussions of her prominence as an early figure of feminist activity (a woman in history who acted in her own right, and not through the agency of a man) as well as a figure of pride for African Americans, many of whom have taken her as one of their own history as an early African ruler. Indeed, far from being the sexually predatory figure as she was often portrayed, most evidence seems to indicate she was only involved with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, and was faithful to each while involved with them. She was also faithful to her children, and to Egypt itself. It was politically expedient for her to be portrayed as wanton and licentious at the time, and has served later times in various ways to play up this image, but the real Cleopatra is quite different from that which has become a legend down to our own times. Burstein provides, as is characteristic of the Greenwood Guides, biographical snapshots of key figures of the time (this includes Egyptians, Romans, and even mythical figures such as Isis), a glossary of terms, listings of primary sources materials, an extensive annotated bibliography, an index, and various maps and images that help put some visual context for the stories. A very useful book, written at a level that advanced high school and undergraduate students can find accessible, but also useful to general readers.

KurzbeschreibungAmbitious, intelligent, and desired by men and emperors, Cleopatra VII came to power at a time when Roman and Egyptian interests increasingly tended to concern the same object: the Egyptian Empire itself. Cleopatra lived her whole life at the center of this complex and persistent power struggle, and her death simultaneously heralded the end of the Ptolemaic dynasty, the loss of Egyptian political independence, and the beginning of Caesar Augustus's Roman rule in Egypt. Cleopatra's legacy has since lost much of its former political significance, as she has come to symbolize instead the potent force of female sexuality and power. In this engaging and multifaceted account, however, Stanley M. Burstein displays Cleopatra in the full manifold brilliance of the several cultures, countries, and people that surrounded her throughout her compelling life, and in so doing develops a stunning picture of a legendary Queen, and a deeply historic reign. Designed as an accessible introduction to Cleopatra VII and her time, this book offers readers and researchers an appealing mix of descriptive chapters, biographical sketches, and annotated primary documents. An overview of the Ptolemaic Dynasty is presented in the introduction, and is followed by chapters on Cleopatra's life, the reality of Ptolemaic Egypt, Cleopatra's multicultural Egyptian society, and Alexandria's culture and conflicts. The narrative chapters conclude with a section discussing Cleopatra's significance as a person, a queen, and a symbol. An annotated bibliography and index are also included in this work. Pressestimmen"Although each of these titles provides a lively, interesting overview of its respective subject, their real value lies in their primary-source material.... Both Greenwood volumes examine their topics through culture,

religion, population changes, and history. Solid additions to Advanced Placement, High Honors, or undergraduate populations. (reviewed in conjunction with *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Greenwood, 2004)"-School Library Journal"Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and two-year technical program students; general readers"-Choice"Chapters provide a fine overview of Cleopatra's era and dynasty, packing in details on her multicultural Egyptian society and Alexandria's conflicts."-MBR Bookwatch?Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and two-year technical program students; general readers?-Choice?[A] clear, accessible and stimulating introduction not just to Cleopatra, but to the Hellenistic world."-Journal of Classics Teaching?Chapters provide a fine overview of Cleopatra's era and dynasty, packing in details on her multicultural Egyptian society and Alexandria's conflicts."-MBR Bookwatch?Although each of these titles provides a lively, interesting overview of its respective subject, their real value lies in their primary-source material....Both Greenwood volumes examine their topics through culture, religion, population changes, and history. Solid additions to Advanced Placement, High Honors, or undergraduate populations. (reviewed in conjunction with *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Greenwood, 2004)"-School Library Journal?She survived her father's violent political struggles, dutifully married her brother and became co-ruler of Egypt, used the grandeur of her own and others' religion to assume the prestige of a goddess, and played the Romans like a deck of cards. She spoke eight languages, wrote books, and had children by Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony. Burstein dispels the myths about Cleopatra VII by examining the actual events, contexts and political significance of her life, clarifies the Ptolemaic Dynasty and how its ambitions became hers, and analyzes the symbolic importance of this most powerful of women. He includes an annotated bibliography, timeline, and translations of primary source materials."-Art Book News Annual"[A] clear, accessible and stimulating introduction not just to Cleopatra, but to the Hellenistic world."-Journal of Classics Teaching"She survived her father's violent political struggles, dutifully married her brother and became co-ruler of Egypt, used the grandeur of her own and others' religion to assume the prestige of a goddess, and played the Romans like a deck of cards. She spoke eight languages, wrote books, and had children by Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony. Burstein dispels the myths about Cleopatra VII by examining the actual events, contexts and political significance of her life, clarifies the Ptolemaic Dynasty and how its ambitions became hers, and analyzes the symbolic importance of this most powerful of women. He includes an annotated bibliography, timeline, and translations of primary source materials."-Art Book News Annual"[A]n important acquisition for high school and college libraries."-The History TeacherKurzbeschreibungAmbitious, intelligent, and desired by men and emperors, Cleopatra VII came to power at a time when Roman and Egyptian interests increasingly tended to concern the same object: the Egyptian Empire itself. Cleopatra lived her whole life at the center of this complex and persistent power struggle, and her death simultaneously heralded the end of the Ptolemaic dynasty, the loss of Egyptian political independence, and the beginning of Caesar Augustus's Roman rule in Egypt. Cleopatra's legacy has since lost much of its former political significance, as she has come to symbolize instead the potent force of female sexuality and power. In this engaging and multifaceted account, however, Stanley M. Burstein displays Cleopatra in the full manifold brilliance of the several cultures, countries, and people that surrounded her throughout her compelling life, and in so doing develops a stunning picture of a legendary Queen, and a deeply historic reign.Designed as an accessible introduction to Cleopatra VII and her time, this book offers readers and researchers an appealing mix of descriptive chapters, biographical sketches, and annotated primary documents. An overview of the Ptolemaic Dynasty is presented in the introduction, and is followed by chapters on Cleopatra's life, the reality of Ptolemaic Egypt, Cleopatra's multicultural Egyptian society, and Alexandria's culture and conflicts. The narrative chapters conclude with a section discussing Cleopatra's significance as a person, a queen, and a symbol. An annotated bibliography and index are also included in this work.