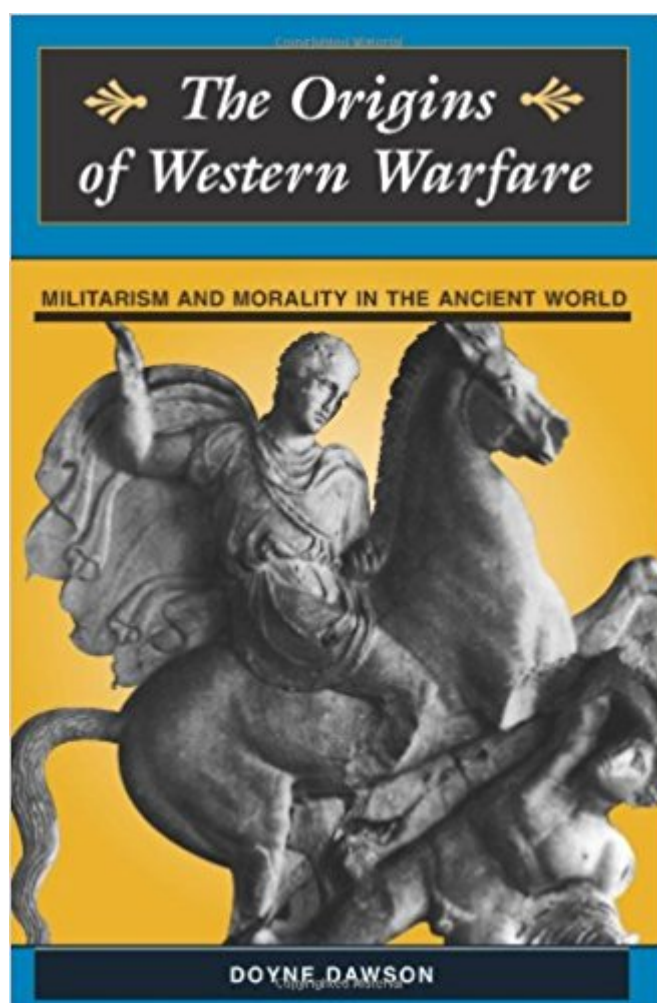


The book was found

The Origins Of Western Warfare: Militarism And Morality In The Ancient World (History And Warfare)



Synopsis

What is the source of the uniquely Western way of war, the persistent militarism that has made Europe the site of bloodshed throughout history and secured the dominance of the West over the rest of the world? The answer, Doyne Dawson persuasively argues in this groundbreaking new book, is to be found in the very bedrock of Western civilization: ancient Greece and Rome. *The Origins of Western Warfare* begins with an overview of primitive warfare, showing how the main motivations of prehistoric combat—revenge and honor—set the tone for Greek thinking about questions of war and morality. These ideas, especially as later developed by the Romans, ensured the emergence of a distinctive Western tradition of warfare: dynamic, aggressive, and devastatingly successful when turned against non-Western cultures. Dawson identifies key factors that led Western culture down this particular path. First, the Greeks argued that war could be justified as an instrument of human and divine justice, securing the social and cosmic order. Second, war was seen as a rational instrument of foreign policy. This, probably the most original contribution of the Greeks to military thought, was articulated as early as the fifth century b.c. Finally, Greek military thought was dominated by the principle of civic militarism, in which the ideal state is based upon self-governing citizens trained and armed for war. The Roman version of civic militarism became thoroughly imperial in spirit, and in general, the Romans successfully modified these Greek ideas to serve their expansionist policies. At the end of antiquity, these traditions were passed on to medieval Europe, forming the basis for the just war doctrines of the Church. Later, in early modern Europe, they were fully revived, systematized, and given a basis in natural law—to the benefit of absolute monarchs. For centuries this neoclassical synthesis served the needs of European elites, and echoes of it are still heard in contemporary justifications for war. Providing a careful reconsideration of what the classical sources tell us about Western thinking on fundamental questions of war and peace, *The Origins of Western Warfare* makes a lasting contribution to our understanding of one of the most persistent and troubling aspects of Western culture.

Book Information

Series: History and Warfare

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Westview Press; Revised edition (January 9, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 081333392X

ISBN-13: 978-0813333922

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #87,317 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Military Sciences #168 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Military #1223 in Books > History > Europe

Customer Reviews

The roots of the Western way of war are plumbed with distinction by Dawson (Cities of the Gods) in this fascinating study. Dawson traces the development of the Western European ideas of warfare from primitive society (revenge and honor) through the ancient world, explains what aspects of these ideas were inherited by medieval and Renaissance Europe and examines how Western European thought has transformed this classical tradition. Drawing on an impressive array of classical writers (Aristotle, Thucydides, Xenophon, Plato, Caesar, Livy, Tacitus and others), Dawson shows how Greece and Rome refined the idea of the just war, used war as a rational instrument of foreign policy and developed the idea of civic militarism. Christian Europe received these ideas and refined them even further. Early modern European thinkers like Machiavelli and Botero, the author demonstrates, helped transmit the idea of civic militarism to monarchies. This neoclassical synthesis fell apart in the 1700s, however, as ethical and strategic thought separated; a gulf divides them even today. Dawson's well-researched, clearly written account delineates an important but often misrepresented underpinning of the classical world. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Doyme Dawson received his Ph.D. from Princeton University and is the author of Cities of the Gods: Communist Utopias in Greek Thought. He lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. Doyme Dawson received his Ph.D. from Princeton University and is the author of Cities of the Gods: Communist Utopias in Greek Thought. He lives in Greensboro, North Carolina.

We used this book as part of a college military history course. The first few chapters were well received, but readers including the professor became somewhat disengaged with the middle and later chapters with the trend moving toward a more philosophical discourse and away from the earlier analytical style. Still, it is a worthwhile read if your interests are Greco-Roman warfare beliefs

and influence into the modern world. "The Antique Drums of War" or "The Pursuit of Power" might fit well with Dawson's text as complimentary reads.

An examination of, mainly, the Greek and Roman military traditions after a concise excursion through the evolution of warfare from prehistorical times up to the first millenium BC. Lucid discourse that illuminates many aspects of the classical world.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Origins Of Western Warfare: Militarism And Morality In The Ancient World (History and Warfare) Alexander: The Great Leader and Hero of Macedonia and Ancient Greece (European History, Ancient History, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Egyptian History, Roman Empire, Roman History) World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. (world history) Stolen Legacy: The Egyptian Origins of Western Philosophy: The Egyptian Origins of Western Philosophy Ancient Origins (Revelations): Book 1 of Ancient Origins Ancient Origins (Let There Be Light): Book 3 of Ancient Origins Ancient Origins (Dark Descent): Book 2 of Ancient Origins Crouching Tiger: What China's Militarism Means for the World Park Chung Hee and Modern Korea: The Roots of Militarism, 1866â1945 Warfare in the Classical World: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Weapons, Warriors, and Warfare in the Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome Warfare in the Renaissance World (History of Warfare (Raintree Steck-Vaughn)) History: Human History in 50 Events: From Ancient Civilizations to Modern Times (World History, History Books, People History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 1) The 25 Most Famous People of Ancient Greece - Ancient Greece History | Children's Ancient History The 7 Great Cities of Ancient Mesopotamia - Ancient History Books for Kids | Children's Ancient History The Daily Life of a Roman Family in the Ancient Times - Ancient History Books for Kids | Children's Ancient History Sumerians: Discover History's First Civilization: Everything You Need to Know About the Sumerians of the Ancient World (Ancient History, Ancient Civilizations Handbook) Fragile by Design: The Political Origins of Banking Crises and Scarce Credit (The Princeton Economic History of the Western World) Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean: A Guide to the Ships & the Ports of Call (Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean) (Cruising the Southern & Western Caribbean) The Cosmic War: Interplanetary Warfare, Modern Physics, and Ancient Texts: A Study in Non-Catastrophist Interpretations of Ancient Legends World History: Ancient History, American History, and the History of Europe, Russia, China, India, World War 1 and 2, Vietnam War, Cold War, Medicine, Science and Technology

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help