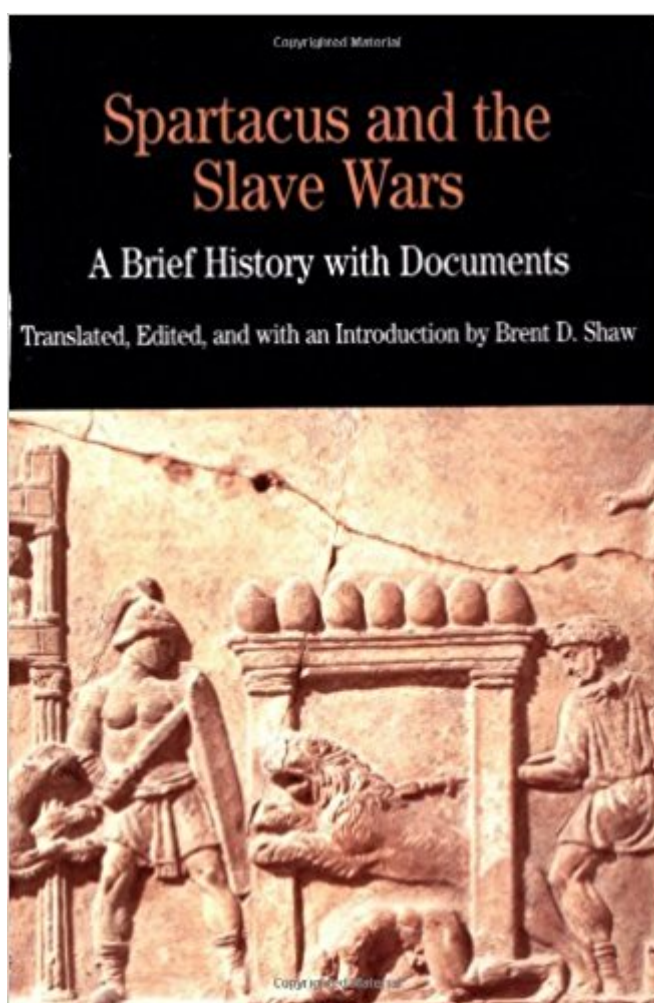


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Spartacus And The Slave Wars: A Brief History With Documents (The Bedford Series In History And Culture)



Synopsis

In this examination of the Roman institution of slavery, Brent Shaw presents a compelling selection of the ancient testimony relating to Spartacus and the slave wars. In 73 B.C., in the heart of Rome's Mediterranean empire, a slave named Spartacus ignited one of the most violent episodes of slave resistance in the history of the Roman Empire – indeed in the world annals of slavery. Organizing 80 original Greek and Latin source translations into topical chapters on the daily life of slaves trained as gladiators and those who labored on farms in Italy and Sicily, Shaw includes accounts of revolts that preceded and anticipated that of Spartacus. In a carefully crafted introductory essay, Shaw places Spartacus in the broader context of first and second century B.C. Roman Italy and Sicily and explains why his story continues to be a popular symbol of rebellion today. The volume also includes a glossary, chronology, selected bibliography, 3 maps, an annotated list of ancient writers, and questions for consideration.

Book Information

Series: The Bedford Series in History and Culture

Paperback: 194 pages

Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's; 1st edition (January 12, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312183100

ISBN-13: 978-0312183103

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #27,330 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Rome #32 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Rome #43 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Ancient

Customer Reviews

"Here Shaw provides a virtually comprehensive collection of translated sources for Rome's major slave wars, superbly contextualized for the undergraduate student. As a bonus, the reader gets an eye-opening essay on Spartacus as a modern historical icon, the best short introduction to the nature of Roman rural slavery that one is likely to find, and a thoughtfully selected bibliography. Even specialists in ancient slavery will have much to learn from Shaw's incisive analysis."

Brent D. Shaw is professor of Classical Studies and chair of the Graduate Group in Ancient History at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been published in many major historical, sociological, and anthropological journals, including *Past & Present*, *American Historical Review*, *History Today*, *Journal of Roman Studies*, *Man*, and *American Journal of Sociology* and is editor of the collected papers of Sir Moses Finley. He is the recipient of the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, and has been Commonwealth Scholar at Cambridge University, honorary visiting Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, and Goldman Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. His study of violence in Roman society, especially in civil conflict in the later Roman Empire, helped inspire this volume.

When Brent Shaw says "a brief history", he means brief. This could have used a bit more in the history part, especially on Spartacus and the revolt he led since his name is in the title of the work. While there was good information in the first part, to me the real strength of this work is the second part which contains translated primary sources. It is a useful source for anyone studying this period, but don't expect too much in the way of detail.

Great and brief source on the Servile Wars/Spartacus. It truly is fascinating how few ancient sources remain. This would be a great supplementary source for any course on Roman history, as well as courses on Historiography/methodology.

I used this to great effect on a research paper I did on Spartacus. It had a lot information on Spartacus and the insurrection he led against Rome. I would recommend this if you are looking for a good source on Spartacus or you are simply interested in history.

I enjoyed this book. Well written and quickly paced.

Author does an excellent job of telling you the history from all perspectives available, while offering his interpretation of their versions, while holding back his own opinions.

Spartacus gives excellent insight into the Roman slave wars and a detailed analysis of their effect on the course of Roman history.

Al feel it was highly over priced and is more of a pamphlet quality

Shaw uses the writings (what little survive) about the Spartacus War and the two slave wars that preceded it to paint a picture of the slave experience in Roman times.

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