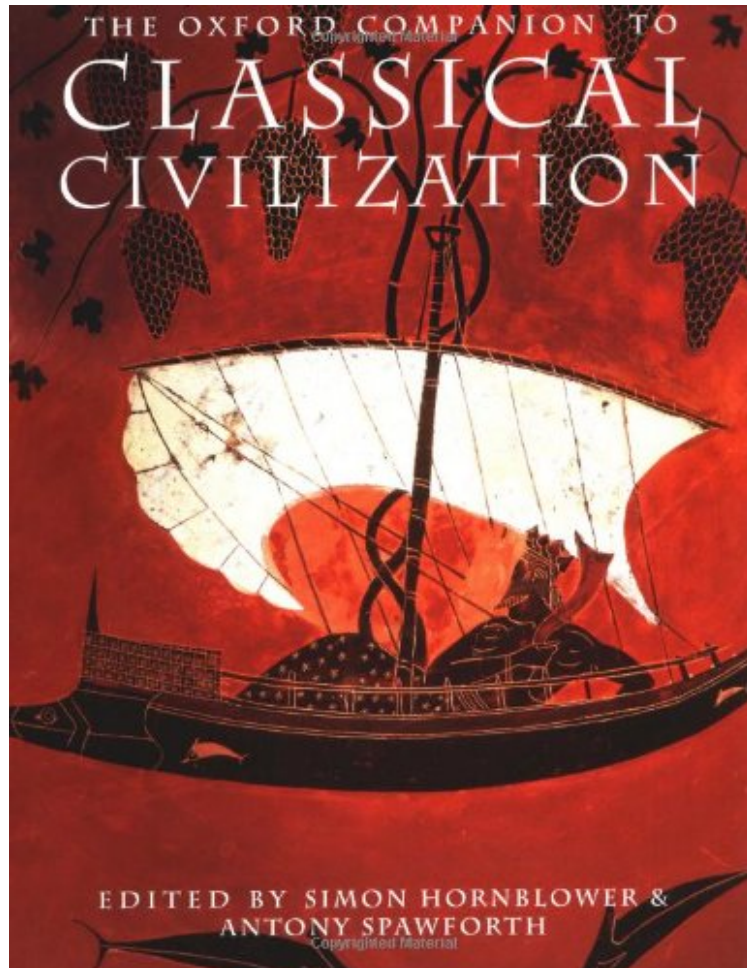



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## The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization (Open University Set Book)

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**From Oxford University Press : The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization (Open University Set Book)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization (Open University Set Book):

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. I beg to differ. By greg taylor I think the other reviewers are fair in regards to the positive qualities of this book. I would like to mention a few they have forgotten. There are only five maps but they are well chosen. I find that most of the cities and areas mentioned in my readings (right now I am working my way through Plutarch's Lives) can be located on these maps. The editors include the list of abbreviations that are used in the Oxford Classical Dictionary. These include abbreviations for authors and works that are the standards used in scholarly writing. This is useful for figuring out that Pl. Plt. refers to Plato's Statesman. There is also a Thematic Listing of Contents that lists all the articles about, e.g., Greek Myth. All this is very well and good. But I do

not understand the criteria for cutting the articles from the Oxford Classical Dictionary For my usages, they may have been too extreme. For one thing, I would have expected all the people mentioned in Plutarch's Lives to have made the cut. Not so for Numa Pompilius (who figures largely in Machiavelli), Publius Verlius (chosen by Hamilton and Madison as their pen name when writing The Federalist Essays), Furius Camillus or Aemilius Paulus. No Timoleon nor Pelopidas. There is an article on Medea but nothing on Jason. My major problem is the lack of an index. How can I possibly know all of the articles wherein there might be a discussion of Aristotle, or Plutarch or of Plato? This lack almost is enough to downgrade the Companion from a reference work to a coffee table book. And ultimately, that is exactly what the editors have accomplished. This is a nice-to-have book to dip into to try to find out a particular point. (Who is the Thrasybulus mentioned in Plutarch's Life of Pelopidas? The Companion is of no use. Wikipedia is of use.) Or to fuss about on a fishing expedition. As for me, I like fussing about on fishing expeditions for serendipitous knowledge. But I like a good reference book even more. For now, I will probably rely on the Internet more than I will on this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What's there to say about the bible of the Classical ... By Customer What's there to say about the bible of the Classical Western World. This weighty book is the classical reader's companion. 36 of 39 people found the following review helpful. A good starting place By Mike Galer As a standard introductory reference text, I found the Oxford Companion invaluable as a good beginning point to pursue any line of inquiry regarding the classical age. Weighing in at nearly 800 pages, this book is a weighty tome, not something to carry around lightly. Navigation within the book is easy with appropriate cross referencing, such as pointing you at GAIUS when you look up Caligula and warning you of other articles relating to the same subject. Also classical sources are clearly cited and I have followed a number of these up in standard translations to check their opinion. Spread throughout the book are numerous colour and black white photographs of archaeological evidence and other artefacts. Also throughout the volume and are a number of special reference entries of extended length discussing in more detail important people, places or themes. Such as sections on: Homer, painting and slavery. As in any extended encyclopaedia project, the number of contributors is huge. Inevitably, given the small amount of space available for each section, each item is unlikely to offer a full range of scholarly thought, opinion and research. As with any reference text, it should be used as a starting point for research, not as a substitute. You cannot please everybody all the time. On balance I think you have to accept that a work of this nature is going to throw up anomalies or controversial entries which not all readers will agree with. It is the nature of academic pursuit of knowledge to encounter disagreements or views which do not match your own. I very much doubt if hardly any of the contributors listed, would completely agree with each other on the articles which they have written. This is the nature of encyclopedias. Particularly the arena of classical history, is prone to heated debate over the most simplest of issues, due to the lack of evidence or the interpretation of what exists, such as it is. In short there are no 'facts' only interpretation.

Unrivalled in scope and scholarship, The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization is an indispensable guide to the richly textured history of ancient Greece and Rome. From military history to architecture, ancient law to mythology, the sciences to the arts, these meticulously detailed entries breathe life into the people, places and events that shaped the development of classical civilization. Filled with both essay length articles and short quick reference entries, this extraordinarily thorough yet accessibly written book is a treasury of information on classical civilization. Arranged alphabetically, fully cross-referenced, and illustrated throughout, The Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization will certainly become an essential resource for anyone interested in learning more about the cradle of western civilization.

From Library Journal In 1996, Oxford published the third edition of its excellent resource, The Oxford Classical Dictionary. The goal of this new volume is to appeal to a wider audience by making some changes in the way the material from that dictionary is presented. While no entries have been shortened, some that were considered too recondite or technical for the nonspecialist have been omitted. Bibliographies attached to entries in the dictionary have been replaced by a general bibliography at the back of the book, and color and black-and-white illustrations illuminate some of the entries. Entries are now grouped under the following broad subject areas: History, Law Society, Literature Scholarship, Philosophy Religion, and Science, Technology, Material Culture. Highly recommended, even for libraries that already have copies of the dictionary. ?Robert Andrews, Duluth P.L., MN Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Beautifully illustrated and intelligently reader friendly."--Times Literary Supplement "Excellent.... Highly recommended, even for libraries that already have copies of the dictionary."--The Library Journal About the Author Simon Hornblower is Professor of Classics and Ancient History, University College London. He is the author and editor of many books (see books by the same author). Antony Spawforth is Professor of Ancient History, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He is also a well-known presenter of television programmes on archaeological and classical subjects in the BBC series 'Ancient Voices'. He has written and edited many books (see books by the same author).