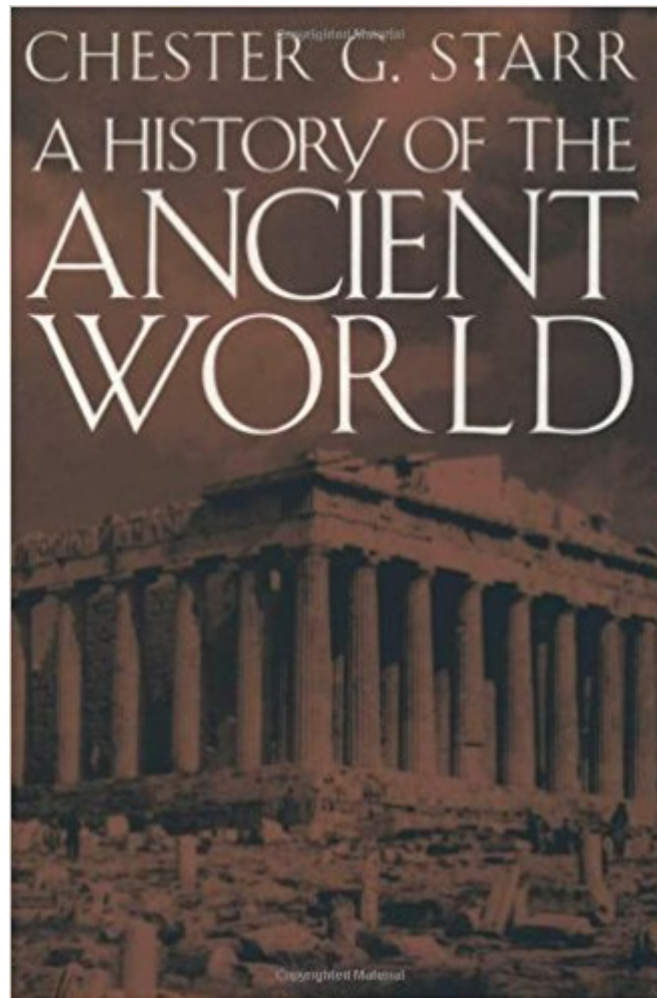




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A History Of The Ancient World



Synopsis

Reflecting five decades of teaching and research, and drawing on the most recent scholarship, the fourth edition of this widely-read history provides the same broad coverage, chronological framework, and absorbing literary style that distinguished previous editions. For the new edition, the chapters on early humankind, the section on the revolt of Bar Kochba, and the chapter describing the end of the Roman Empire in the west have been rewritten to incorporate the most recent scholarship, and bibliographies have been brought up to date throughout. A classic survey of history from the beginnings of humankind to the fall of the Roman Empire, Starr's *A History of the Ancient World* makes the latest scholarship available to the general reader in a lively and accessible way.

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Chester G. Starr is at University of Michigan.

A History of the Ancient World by Chester G. Starr is among the best history books I have read, and I have read hundreds of history books. I even wrote one myself (The Super Summary of World History). By the way, Mr. Starr's book is better than mine. A History of the Ancient World contains numerous charts, photographs, and maps to help the reader understand how all the facts fit together. Published in 1991, it compiles the knowledge gathered about the ancient world to that date and it covers all the details necessary to grasp the essentials of ancient history in easy to understand prose. At the end of each chapter is a detailed bibliography with brief comments on the books listed plus a further reading section relating the best books for more information on the era. There is an excellent index and a good general bibliography at the conclusion of the book. In each section Mr. Starr tells us about the general patterns of the era under consideration, and he has the masterful ability to distill the most important trends in a few words. He discerns and explains the most valuable developments and he lets the reader know why these facts are important. He also sets important literature and art into context. On page 199 the author tells us the story of the Iliad, explains that it takes place on two planes, the human and the divine, and how the divine was more important; however, the laws of the universe bound even mighty Zeus. He then compares The Iliad and the epic of Gilgamesh. Few other surveys of history can compress so much information into such a small number of words. If you read one book on ancient history make it Chester Starr's, A History of the Ancient World. If you have read numerous books on history, then Starr's history is a must read because you will find new insights on every page adding to your knowledge. A History of the Ancient World can help a person assemble their knowledge in new ways to reach new levels of comprehension. This is one of the best books of all time on ancient history.

This is one of the most widely used college textbooks on ancient history, by the "the acknowledged dean of ancient history in America," Prof. Chester Starr, Dean of History at The University of Michigan, and it has been the required text for history courses at Michigan and many other major colleges and universities for over the past 40 years. Wanted to pick it up after reading Prof. Starr's excellent and enthralling abbreviated summary: "Early Man: Prehistory and the Civilizations of the

Ancient Near East."Found it at on from Collegebooksdirect at a great price, and what a terrific find! The absolute most definitive, accurate and well-written source of ancient history facts, theories and wonderful insights and anecdotes for all serious and even casual history buffs and their bookshelves.

I was looking for a general history of the ancient world; one that could be read by a novice. Starr's history fulfills that criteria. First of all, the format is excellent. He provides multiple maps of the ancient world as well as chronologically ordered outlines, which can also serve as a place for one's own notes. At the end of each chapter and at the end of the book, Professor Starr includes informative bibliographies. For those looking for a survey of the ancient world, the content in this book will not disappoint. After reading and studying this book, I can now pick any century of the ancient world and give its important people, events, and ideas. His style is straight forward and unadorned. He does not waste space with silly jokes or unnecessary adjectives. In a single volume history of the ancient world, this is crucial. A novice who genuinely wants to learn about ancient history will benefit from this book.

A sweeping history of our earliest civilizations, this book will not let you down. The book's only shortcoming that I have discovered is that it was written in 1965 and only partially revised since then. Each chapter has its own bibliography and notes on sources, and it is mostly in these that it shows its age. This is a textbook. I look on that as a good thing because it means complete and balanced writing. You will find the social, military, material, and artistic details of each civilization sorted out and brought into meaningful relationships. Ideas are traced, and their spread through trade is explained. I am very satisfied with my purchase.

If you are at all interested in history, this is a highly readable and informative book. History taught in school tends to be boring because they cover so much with so little depth. Historical topics need to be given a context and details to be interesting. I'm not going to claim this book is going to compete well with many fiction best-sellers, but I thought it measured up well with the best books covering a historical topic or person that I've read. Given how much ground it covers, that's impressive.

I used the first edition of this book in 1965 at the University of Pennsylvania. The current edition is updated well, and still outstanding, and as a paperback a lot cheaper than what I paid in 1965! Chester G. Starr is one of the most eminent historians of the ancient world. Highly recommended!

This was a very interesting read. It talks about a number of times and topics, but it is all text. However, if you can look past the amount of text then it will be easier to read.

I'm a History major, so books like this are important (I think). Needed it to check some info I wasn't sure about adding to a paper I was writing. As usual, had it and it got to me write when I needed it with no problems.

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