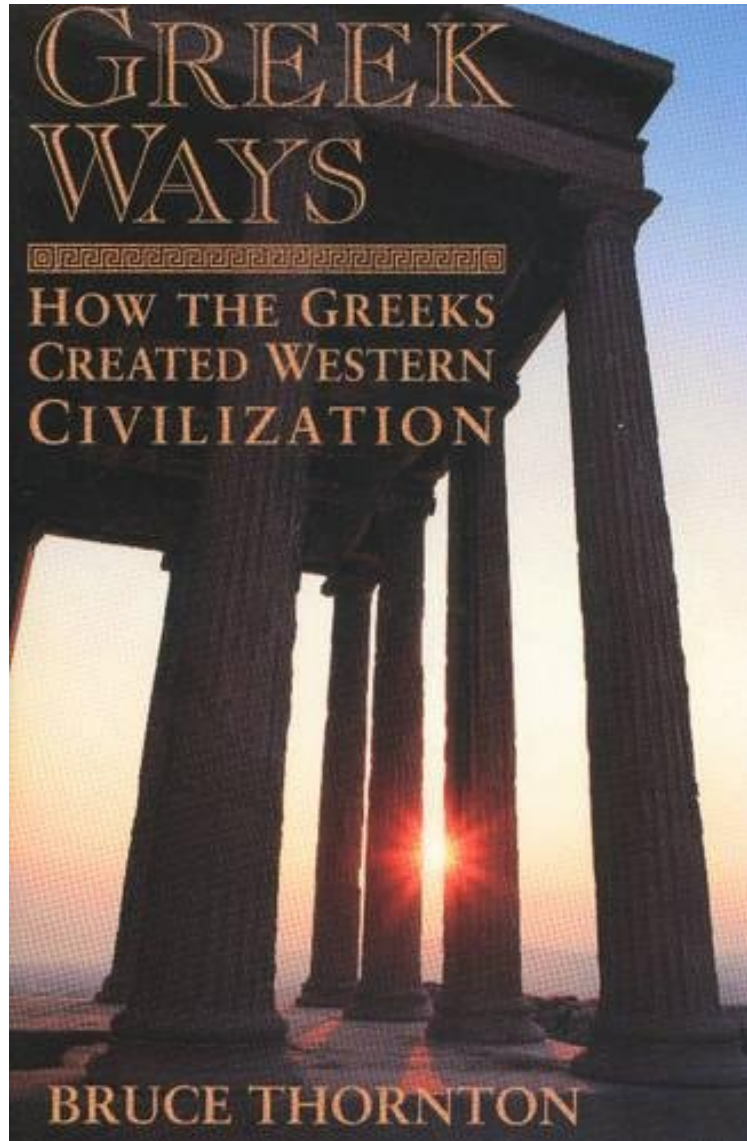


(Free) Greek Ways: How the Greeks Created Western Civilization

Greek Ways: How the Greeks Created Western Civilization

Bruce S. Thornton

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Bruce S. Thornton : Greek Ways: How the Greeks Created Western Civilization before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Greek Ways: How the Greeks Created Western Civilization:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Necessary reading in schools and the media. By VictorExcellent. Is the book students in all democratic countries around the World should read should read and comment in class. One copy should be sent free to all free. By reading it it becomes obvious the only universal set of cultural values the World

has produced sprouted in Ancient Greek thought rooted in the idea only rational analysis by humans of any race can help the humans advance. Not Judaism, not Christianity, not Islam, not Marxism, not Hinduism, not Buddhism. The book is great but far too short on the accomplishments of the Greeks. I mean, even the Chinese are becoming "Greek" in many ways; science, the Olympics and on and on. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Do not let his ethnocentricity deter you. By Laurence Clark Crossen Do not let his ethnocentricity deter you. He does say things something like: "The Greeks invented democracy." These are really gross overstatements because, however finely they developed these traditions, they could not have invented them. From the majority rulings in small groups of every kind from the family, through the band, tribe, city and nation state, to the parliament-like governing bodies in Babylonia, there long existed democratic traditions. Unfortunately, this blunder of his may deter many from reading his absolutely excellent description of how the Greeks developed these traditions. I recommend counterbalancing it, as I have, by reading *The Theft of History* by Jack Goody (c.2006). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Riverdream Excellent work that starts from the primary sources.

In the classics departments of today's universities, Bruce Thornton says, the Greeks are accused of stealing their achievements from black Egyptians, of oppressing their wives and daughters, and of hypocritically speculating about freedom while holding slaves. Most of all, classic Greek culture has come under attack precisely because its glorious achievement, extended into history, is what defines the West and makes it distinct. In *Greek Ways*, Thornton clears away these misconceptions. Writing with wit and erudition, he discusses in fascinating detail those areas of Greek life - sexuality and sexual roles; slavery and war; philosophy and politics - that some modern critics have made into contested sites. Perhaps more importantly, he also reclaims the importance of those core ideas the Greeks invented, ideas about human fate and purpose that have shaped the modern world. Nearly seventy years ago, Edith Hamilton published *The Greek Way*, a book that educated two generations of readers about the debt we owe the handful of city-states that developed the spirit of the West some 2500 years ago. Bruce Thornton's *Greek Ways* is for our time what Hamilton's book was for a prior era: a classic inquiry holding up a mirror to Greek culture in which we can see ourselves.

From the Inside Flap "In brief compass and clear, enjoyable prose, Professor Thornton has written a stimulating and delightful account of the remarkable and revolutionary characteristics that distinguished the Greeks of the ancient world from all societies before and since. In the process he responds with calm reason and broad and deep learning to the unhistorical, tendentious and foolish assaults launched against them as part of current political agendas. The happy result is this splendid book that allows the Greeks themselves to speak and reveal the absurdity of the modern barbarians who abuse them. -Donald Kagan, Hillhouse Professor of History and Classics, Yale University. About the Author Bruce Thornton