War and Peace
in the Ancient World

Edited by
Kurt A. Raaflaub
War and Peace in the Ancient World
The Ancient World: Comparative Histories

Series Editor: Kurt A. Raaflaub

Published

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Series Editor’s Preface

The Ancient World: Comparative Histories

The application of the comparative approach to the ancient world at large has been rare. The new series inaugurated with the present volume intends to fill this gap. It will pursue important social, political, religious, economic, and intellectual issues through a wide range of ancient societies. “Ancient” will here be understood broadly, encompassing not only societies that are “ancient” within the traditional chronological framework of c. 3000 BCE to c. 600 CE in East, South, and West Asia, the Mediterranean, and Europe, but also later ones that are structurally “ancient” or “early,” such as those in premodern Japan or in Meso- and South America before the Spanish conquest.

By engaging in comparative studies of the ancient world on a truly global scale, this series will throw light not only on common patterns and marked differences but also illustrate the remarkable variety of responses humankind developed to meet common challenges. Focusing, as it does, on periods that are far removed from our own time and in which modern identities are less immediately engaged, the series will contribute to enhancing our understanding and appreciation of differences among cultures of various traditions and backgrounds. Not least, it will thus illuminate the continuing relevance of the study of the ancient world in helping us to cope with problems of our own multicultural world.

Topics to be dealt with in future volumes include the role of private religion and family cults; geography, ethnography, and perspectives of the world; recording the past and writing history; and the preservation and transformation of the past in oral poetic traditions.

Kurt A. Raaflaub
Notes on Contributors

Victor Alonso is Professor of Ancient History at the University of La Coruña in Spain. He received his doctorate in 1984 with a dissertation published as Neutralidad y neutralismo en la Guerra del Peloponeso (1987). He has been member libre at the Casa de Velázquez and Spanish as well as Humboldt Fellow at the Universities of Heidelberg, Nancy, and Münster. In addition to numerous articles on Greek international law, he has published a book on archaic Greek commerce and is preparing the edition of the proceedings of a conference on succession in Hellenistic kingdoms.

Carlin A. Barton received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. She is currently Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her research has been focusing on the psychological and emotional life of the ancient Romans. Her main publications include The Sorrows of the Ancient Romans: The Gladiator and the Monster (1993) and Roman Honor: The Fire in the Bones (2001). She is currently working on the emotions of Roman cultic life.

Richard H. Beal received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, where he is Senior Research Associate on the Hittite Dictionary Project of the Oriental Institute. His interests focus on Hittite and Mesopotamian political, military, religious, and social history. He has published numerous articles, including “Hittite Oracles” (2002) and “The Predecessors of Hattušili I” (2003), and The Organisation of the Hittite Military (1992).

Lanny Bell has a Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University of Pennsylvania. He served on the faculty of the University of Chicago and is now an independent scholar as well as an Adjunct Professor at Brown University. From 1977 to 1989 he was Field Director of the Epigraphic Survey of the Oriental Institute. He has edited a volume on Ancient Egypt, the Aegean and the Near East: Studies in Honour of Martha Rhoads Bell (1997) and published articles on “The Epigraphic Survey and the Rescue of the Monuments of Ancient Egypt” (1990) and “The New Kingdom ‘Divine’ Temple: The Example of Luxor” (1997), among others.

Neta C. Crawford is Professor of Political Science and African-American Studies at Boston University. She has a Ph.D. in Political Science from MIT and has written books
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**Ross Hassig** has a Ph.D. from Stanford University. After teaching for many years at the University of Oklahoma, he is now an independent scholar. He specializes in Mesoamerican ethnohistory, with particular focus on political, economic, and military issues and the Aztec empire. His publications include *Aztec Warfare: Imperial Expansion and Political Control* (1988), *War and Society in Ancient Mesoamerica* (1992), and *Time, History, and Belief in Aztec and Colonial Mexico* (2001).

**Catherine Julien’s** Ph.D. is in Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley. She is Professor of History at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. She works on South America in the sixteenth century, before and after the arrival of Europeans in the hemisphere, including the transition from Inca to Spanish rule in the Andes and Inca genres used by Spaniards in the composition of their narratives of the Inca past. Her books include *Hatunqolla: A View of Inca Rule from the Lake Titicaca*
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Region (1983); Condesuyo: The Political Division of Territory under Inca and Spanish Rule (1991), and the award-winning Reading Inca History (2000).

David Konstan took his Ph.D. in Greek and Latin at Columbia University. He is the John Rowe Workman Distinguished Professor of Classics and the Humanistic Tradition, and Professor of Comparative Literature, at Brown University. His major interests are in classical literature and culture. Among his most recent publications we find Friendship in the Classical World (1997), Pity Transformed (2001), and The Emotions of the Ancient Greeks: Studies in Aristotle and Classical Literature (2006). He is a past president of the American Philological Association.

Thomas Krüger (Dr. Theol., University of Munich) is Professor of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Religions at the University of Zurich. He is author of Geschichtskonzepte im Ezechielbuch (1989); Kritische Weisheit: Studien zur weisheitlichen Traditionskritik im Alten Testament (1997); and Qohelet: A Commentary (2004).

Susan Niditch received her Ph.D. from Harvard University. She is the Samuel Green Professor of Religion at Amherst College. Her publications include War in the Hebrew Bible: A Study in the Ethics of Violence (1993); Oral World and Written Word: Ancient Israelite Literature (1996), and Ancient Israelite Religion (1997). She is currently completing a commentary on Judges for the Old Testament Library and is working on a new monograph concerning hair and identity in the culture of ancient Israel.

Kurt A. Raaflaub has a Ph.D. from the University of Basel. He is David Herlihy University Professor and Professor of Classics & History at Brown University, where he is currently also Royce Family Professor in Teaching Excellence and Director of the Program in Ancient Studies. His interests focus on the social, political, and intellectual history of archaic and classical Greece and the Roman republic, and on the comparative history of the ancient world. His recent publications include a co-edited volume on War and Society in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds (1999), The Discovery of Freedom in Ancient Greece (2004), and a co-authored volume on Origins of Democracy in Ancient Greece (2006).

Nathan Rosenstein is Professor of History at Ohio State University. His Ph.D. is from the University of California, Berkeley. His principal research interests focus on the political culture, military history, and human ecology of Republican Rome. He was recently co-editor of War and Society in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds (1999), the author of Rome at War: Farms, Families, and Death in the Middle Republic (2004), and is co-editor of A Companion to the Roman Republic (forthcoming).

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Josef Wiesehöfer received his Ph.D. at the University of Münster. He is Professor of Ancient History, Director of the Institut für Klassische Altertumskunde, and a member of the Center for Asian and African Studies at the University of Kiel. His main interests lie in the history of the Ancient Near East, Greek and Roman social history, the history of the Jews in Antiquity, and the history of Scholarship. His publications include Die ‘dunklen Jahrhunderte’ der Persis. Untersuchungen zu Geschichte und Kultur von Fars in frühellenistischer Zeit (1994); Ancient Persia. From 550 BC to 650 AD (2nd edn. 2001), and an edited volume, The Arsacid Empire: Sources and Documentation (1998).

Introduction: Searching for Peace in the Ancient World

Kurt A. Raaflaub

This volume contains the revised proceedings of a lecture series and colloquium on “War, Peace, and Reconciliation in the Ancient World” that the Program in Ancient Studies organized at Brown University in 2002–3. The papers presented at these events covered nine early civilizations from China via India and West Asia to the Mediterranean and Mesoamerica. They offered illuminating glimpses into a rarely treated topic. Other contributors joined our enterprise later on. I am most grateful to all of them and to many others whose help was indispensable in organizing the events and preparing the publication. This introduction intends, on the one hand, to sketch the background of endemic war, violence, and brutality, against which we must assess thoughts about peace and efforts to preserve or re-establish peace in the ancient world, and, on the other hand, to survey some of the common traits that are visible in several ancient cultures.

“Ancient” is here understood in a broad sense, including some societies that are structurally “early” but transcend the commonly accepted chronological boundaries of antiquity (wherever one chooses to place those). “Peace” is an equally imprecise, or perhaps rather a polyvalent notion. It is here understood primarily in contrast to war (hence the volume’s title), but it is clear that this contrast covers only part of the term’s range of meanings. In some ancient cultures, indeed, other meanings were more important. Several contributors (Salomon, Konstan, and Barton, among others) discuss these issues as well as relevant terminology. To give just two examples, the ancient Egyptians were primarily interested in peace as a domestic issue, visible in the integrity of the country and the absence of internal strife; compared with this ideal, peace with the outside world was less significant. Accordingly, the condition of perpetual peace offered to pharaohs by the gods referred to the domestic sphere, and even in the treaty with the Hittites (Bell, this vol.), the result of peace was expressed in the statement that the two countries had become one (Helck 1977). By contrast,