

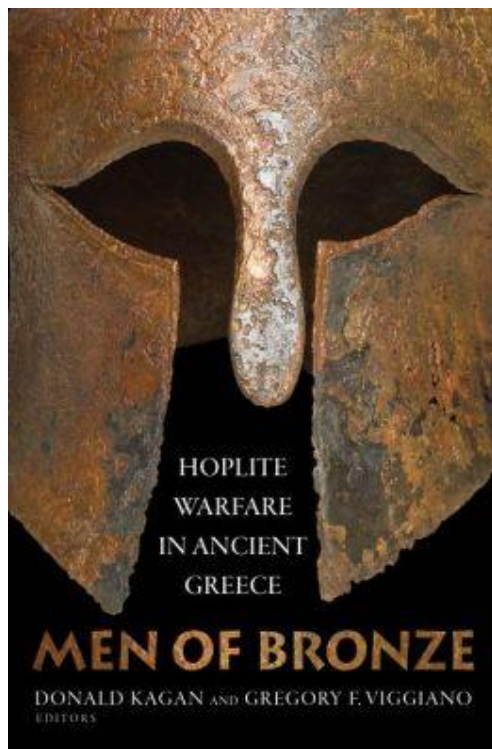
Men of Bronze: Hoplite Warfare in Ancient Greece

Ed: Donald Kagan & Gregory F. Viggiano

Review by Rob Morgan

A remarkable, comprehensive 285-page volume of substantial essays on the role in classical warfare of the phalanx battle formation of the Greek hoplite citizen-soldier. This is a very readable book for the ancient war researcher, but of course in its 12 well-written essays it goes far beyond the battlefield.

For that reason, it's sensible, as far as the classical wargamer is concerned, to mention several of the chapters specifically, but the rest of the book may be dipped in to for background information and material.



In Chapter 2, Viggiano and Van Wees examine the arms and armor (*sic*) of early hoplite warriors, and their notes on the shield are particularly interesting and well supported by illustrations.

Chapter 5, by Kurt Raaflaud deals with the wider Mediterranean context. After all, hoplites didn't only fight their own kind! How they fought is covered by Kreutz in Chapter 7, 'Hoplite Hell', with the nature of the phalanx, the charge, the collision, push and clash of arms all delightfully covered, making this a critical part of an excellent text. Weapons, offensive and defensive, are further dealt with in Chapter 8, the problems of the close helmet, and the essence of the shield bearing warrior are asserted.

These four chapters are the central 'wargamer-friendly' part of the narrative, but *if* you are fielding a Greek hoplite army then the remaining chapters, especially Chapter 12, 'The Hoplite Army', and the detailed introduction will be of use

to you. The bibliography is very extensive and rather academic. A good, valuable book in parts.

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