



## The history of Herodotus — Volume 2

*Herodotus* , George Campbell Macaulay (Translator)

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## From Reader Review The history of Herodotus — Volume 2 for online ebook

### Aleksandar Janjic says

Herodotus is a very interesting and informative book. It provides a detailed account of the history of the Persian Empire and its interactions with the Greek world. The author's style is clear and engaging, making it easy to read. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in ancient history.

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### Jim says

Most books I read I polish off in a few days, but these 2 volumes of the Histories of Herodotus took me together about 2.5 months. This is due to his style, and to the ancient sentence structure, and the many lists of unfamiliar names and places. To read Herodotus is to plunge yourself deep into ancient times. He does a good job of distinguishing between what he knows as fact, and what he's heard but is not sure he believes himself. He focuses on the wars between the Persians and the Greeks of 2500 years ago. Along the way, he tells much of the customs and beliefs of the many peoples of the era. One thing in particular I found fascinating was how no one from either side of the conflict would make a move without consulting an Oracle first. Yet the main function of Oracles seemed to be to foretell accurate predictions in such a way as to trick men into thinking just the opposite of what was to happen. For example, one king asked the Oracle - if he started a war, would he rule for a long time? The Oracle told him he would rule until men grew their hair long. Since no men did that, he felt confident he would rule for a long time. A short time later, who shows up but an army of angry long-haired men, who defeat him.

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### Ci says

I have done nothing but a speed-reading of this book which dealt mostly with Egyptian's geography, history, religious practice. The only part that is interesting to this reader is how the Greek had imported the gods and goddesses from Egypt and refashioned them into their own mythology. The funeral practice is morbidly fascinating as well. The rest are boatloads of names and locations.

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### KATIE BURGETT says

**Awesome!**

I would definitely recommend this amazing book and it provides a glimpse into our past lives as humans. I

find it to believable and though.

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### **Katherine Holmes says**

As with Herodotus' other works, this varied between fascinating accounts and more tedious material. It was mainly about the Persian empire's campaign against Athens, after they had conquered most of the city-states in modern Greece and Turkey, besides the Middle East and Egypt. I really liked the way this ancient told about war because it was often visual, settings and people described. In fact, I'm surprised there wasn't a blockbuster film of this - maybe there was and I don't know. The description of the armies that marched with Xerxes into Greece was incredible - a much bigger cast than Cleopatra going into Rome. The Greeks thought that Xerxes was Zeus come down to earth and most submitted. The Athenians didn't think that and tried to persuade others to accept that Xerxes was a mortal man.

Funny stuff like that and then the Athenian response to all this. It seemed impossible but they won the naval battle, and perhaps because they could swim while the Persians perished if they fell into the water. The attitude of the Athenians towards the woman ship commander from one of the countries Persia controlled - ha. Anyway, their tactics turned out to be Herculean, waylaying the Persian army until they had no more supplies or food, kind of like Russia with Napoleon. I don't usually enjoy war stories but this was so colorfully told. I had never known the particulars so it was compelling for me. I often enjoy these ancient works, and read one every few years or so. So others might not like the style and time.

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### **Noah says**

Volume 2 of the Histories includes the accounts of the famous battles at Thermopylae and Salamis. It's interesting that while the graphic novel/movie *300* is intensely fictional, there are many details that come right from the account of Herodotus concerning the battle at Thermopylae.

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### **Tyler Price says**

#### **Challenging but rewarding read**

Good for rudimentary knowledge in Greek history. Foretells the events leading up to the war between the Greeks and the Persians.

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