Griechische Kulturgeschichte, Band 2

By Jacob Burckhardt

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The Age of the Gladiators

By: Rupert Matthews
The great spectacles of ancient Rome have become proverbial for their cruelty, bloodlust and glory. In the arena, the games were savage and brutal. Gladiators fought each other to the death, wild animals were put to fight each other and criminals were executed by barbaric means. Military victories were marked by the Triumphs when generals paraded through the city, the defeated were sacrificed to the gods and food and wine was offered free of charge on a lavish scale. Meanwhile the citizens received free bread to prevent hunger and the riots it could provoke. The Age of the Gladiators looks at these savage spectacles and traces their development from entertainment to hysterical obsession until their eventual decline and disappearance, and explains how they still have influence on contemporary public life.

Pliny the Elder: The Natural History Book VII (with Book VIII 1-34)

By: Pliny the Elder
Pliny the Elder's Natural History is a vast encyclopaedia, surveying natural phenomena from cosmology to biology, medicine to magic. Direct observation, informed speculation and common knowledge are combined to present a key snapshot of ancient thought and the Romans’ perspective on the world around them. Book VII of The Natural History provides a detailed examination of the human animal and is crucial to understanding the work as a whole. In Pliny's eyes, mankind 'for whose sake nature was created', represents the basis for which the natural world was founded and structured. As a result, the book provides valuable insight into the extraordinary complex of ideas and beliefs that were current in Pliny's era. One of the most interesting transitions of subject in The Natural History is that from man to animals (between Books VII and VIII) and for this reason the section on elephants at the beginning of Book VIII is included here, to show how Pliny moves on to his account of the animal he considers 'nearest to the human disposition'. This edition provides the full Latin text accompanied by commentary notes that provide linguistic help and explanations, plus vocabulary lists of Latin terms and an index of proper names. The in-depth introduction provides valuable details about the work's historical, scientific and literary context, as well as an overview of the work's legacy and reception.

L'Iliade et l'Odyssée

By: Homer
Chante, Muse, la colère d'Achille, colère meurtrière, lourde de douleur pour les Achéens, colère qui jeta aux enfers la vie de bien des héros et leurs corps en pâture aux chiens et aux oiseaux. Telle était la volonté de Zeus. Les remparts de la légendaire cité de Troie sont les témoins des vengeances les plus sanglantes. Guidés par les dieux, princes, rois et héros s’affrontent dans un conflit qui va durer une décennie : la guerre de Troie... La plus célèbre des épopées guerrières. L'Odyssée est une épopée grecque antique attribuée à l’aède Homère. Elle est considérée comme l'un des plus grands chefs-d'œuvre de la littérature et, avec l'Iliade, comme l'un des deux poèmes fondateurs de la civilisation européenne. L'Odyssée relate le retour chez lui du héros Ulysse, qui, après la guerre de Troie, met dix ans à revenir dans son île d'Ithaque, pour y retrouver son épouse Pénélope, qu'il délivre des prétendants, et son fils Télémaque. Au cours de son voyage sur mer, Ulysse rencontre de nombreux personnages mythologiques, comme la nymphe Calypso, la princesse Nausicaa, les Cyclopes, la magicienne Circé ou les Sirènes.

Cleopatra
By: Stacy Schiff

Cleopatra's palace shimmered with onyx and gold but was richer still in political and sexual intrigue. Though her life spanned fewer than forty years, it reshaped the contours of the ancient world. Famous long before she was notorious, Cleopatra has gone down in history for all the wrong reasons. Stacy Schiff boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order, a generation before the birth of Christ. Rich in detail, epic in scope, Schiff's is a luminous reconstruction of a dazzling life.

Secrets of the Black Hebrews

By: Prosper Ankh

Who were the original Hebrews? Were they the same people inhabiting present-day Israel? The answer is no. Abraham and his descendants were Black peoples. The successive invasions of the Assyrians, Neo-Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans are mentioned in this work, as well as the emperor Hadrian's decimation of the Jews. Jesus Christ was a Black Jew.

Blood of the Caesars

By: Stephen Dando-Collins

Could the killing of Germanicus Julius Caesar—the grandson of Mark Antony, adopted son of the emperor Tiberius, father of Caligula, and grandfather of Nero—while the Roman Empire was still in its infancy have been the root cause of the empire's collapse more than four centuries later? This brilliant investigation of Germanicus Caesar’s death and its aftermath is both a compelling history and first-class murder mystery with a plot twist Agatha Christie would envy.

Ancient Rome

By: Evelyn Shuckburgh

To write the history of a great people during a course of more than seven hundred years in about as many pages is a task of which the difficulty, best appreciated by those who have attempted it, may not unfairly plead for leniency of construction. No one can be more conscious than the author of such a book that there are many things that had better have been otherwise than they are; that
expansion would have been advisable here and compression there; that much is to be said against some views that he has adopted as true, and much in favour of others that he has passed by or rejected. Such a writer can only plead that he has used his judgment honestly, and studied his authorities with such diligence and intelligence as he possessed; and that neither space nor the purpose of his book admitted of frequent or lengthy discussions on disputed points. As it was my object to present in as vivid a manner as possible the wonderful story of the gradual extension of the power of a single city over so large a part of the known world, I have dwelt perhaps sometimes at too great length on the state of the countries conquered and the details of their conquest. But Vergil saw that the keynote of Roman history was parcere subjectis et debellare superbos, and it is impossible, I think, that a history of Rome and her mission in the world can be other than a warlike one. The Republic won what the Empire organised; and as each province was added some new principle of management was evolved which has had to be noticed at the time. I have, however, treated in separate chapters the internal development of the State up to the time of the Gracchi. The constitutional changes after that time are so closely entangled with foreign affairs that it is hardly possible to treat them so entirely by themselves. Yet I have attempted to set them forth clearly in the course of my narrative, along with some indication of the development of literature and the change of social habits. By the mechanical means of printing at the head of the chapters the names and dates of Italian colonies, provinces, and numbers of the census, I have tried to draw attention to the gradual expansion of the people and their Empire.

**Fields of Death**

**By: Richard Evans**

Richard Evans revisits the sites of a selection of Greek and Roman battles and sieges to seek new insights. The battle narratives in ancient sources can be a thrilling read and form the basis of our knowledge of these epic events, but they can just as often provide an incomplete or obscure record. Details, especially those related to topographical and geographical issues which can have a fundamental importance to military actions, are left tantalisingly unclear to the modern reader. The evidence from archaeological excavation work can sometimes fill in a gap in our understanding, but such an approach remains uncommon in studying ancient battles. By combining the ancient sources and latest archaeological findings with his personal observations on the ground, Richard Evans brings new perspectives to the dramatic events of the distant past. For example, why did armies miss one another in what we might today consider relatively benign terrain? Just how important was the terrain in determining victory or defeat in these clashes. The author has carefully selected battles and sieges to explore, first of all to identify their locations and see how these fit with the ancient evidence. He then examines the historical episodes themselves, offering new observations from first-hand study of the field of battle along with up-to-date photographs, maps and diagrams. In the process he discusses whether and how the terrain has since been changed by land use, erosion and other factors, and the extent to which what we see today represents a real connection with the dramatic events of the distant past. This first volume considers: 1. The Greek Victory over the Persians at Marathon (490 BC) 2. Leonidas and his Three Hundred Spartans at Thermopylae (480 BC) 3. The Athenian Siege of Syracuse (414-413 BC) 4. The Syracusan Siege of Motya (397 BC) 5. Alexander's Defeat of Darius at Issus (333 BC) 6. Hannibal's Victory at Cannae (216 BC) 7. Titus Quinctius Flamininus and Philip V at Cynoscephalae (197 BC) 8. Gaius Marius' Victory over the Teutones at Aquae Sextiae (102 BC) 9. Octavian versus Antony and Cleopatra of Egypt: The Battle of Actium (31 BC) 10. The First Battle of Bedriacum (April AD 69)