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Xenophon

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#837924 in Books Xenophon 2006-08-29 2006-08-29 Original language: Ancient Greek PDF # 1 8.00 x .69 x 5.201, .47 #File Name: 0140455256304 pages Hiero the Tyrant and Other Treatises | File size: 18.Mb

Xenophon : Hiero the Tyrant and Other Treatises (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiero the Tyrant and Other Treatises (Penguin Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some of the earliest extant Greek essays By Jordan Bell Xenophon wrote between 400 and 350 BC, and he is one of the few extant Greek essay writers from this time; two big contemporary writers are Plato and Isocrates, and there are no extant contemporary historians. Xenophon's most

famous work is *The Expedition of Cyrus* (Oxford World's Classics) (translated by Robin Waterfield). He also wrote a history, *The Landmark Xenophon's Hellenika*, which is the principal source for Greek political history between Thucydides and Arrian. Other works are *Conversations of Socrates* (Penguin Classics) (which contains *The Estate-Manager*), *The Education of Cyrus* (Agora Editions), and *Xenophon VII* (Hiero. Agesilaus. *Constitution of the Lacedaemonians. Ways and Means. Cavalry Commander. Art of Horsemanship. On Hunting. Constitution of the Athenians*) Loeb Classical Library. I think that the above together with this Penguin edition contain English translations of all Xenophon's extant writings. Essays like "How to be a good cavalry commander" and "On horsemanship" are useful sources for Greek military history. The essay "On hunting" both tells the historian about Greek hunting techniques and is also a rich source for the history of Greek education. "Ways and means" is probably the oldest Greek text about public finance. The translations by Waterfield are first rate, like all his work.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Peace and prosperity
By Luc REYNAERT
Xenophon is a clever classical writer. For him, there are two sorts of people: 'those who work and those who live on the products of others' work.' Or, 'a policy of not initiating unjust wars would enable us to punish our enemies far more quickly, because they would not find anyone to come and support their cause.' While 'Agesilaos' is a hagiography of a Spartan king, 'a superman of self-restraint', an example of a perfect ruler, not a cruel tyrant; and, 'How to be a good cavalry commander' contains some good devices: a good commander should be better than his men in executing the tasks he ordered them to do, otherwise he is despised; or, 'deceit is your most valuable asset in war'. 'Hiero the Tyrant' and 'Ways and Means' are superb texts. Hiero complains that a tyrant 'spends all his time as if he has been condemned to death by the whole human race for his iniquity.' But, why doesn't he willingly give up his position? The answer is simple: 'How could a tyrant ever raise enough money to pay back in full the people he stole from? How could he recompense all the people he put to death?' 'I think that the only person who might profit by hanging himself is a tyrant.'!! For Xenophon, what a tyrant should do is manage the State in the interest of the people, not of himself and his cronies, and enhance the power of his community, not of himself. 'Ways and Means' is an important text for two reasons. First, the all importance of peace: 'The State's funds were enormously increased in times of peace and completely drained in times of war.' Secondly, Xenophon shows us the major importance of silver mines for Athens, not only for the cash it generated, but also for the 'huge numbers of men working in the mines; in fact, there was always more work than there were workers.' Xenophon was a proto-Keynesian, pleading for direct State intervention. For him, the State should imitate private entrepreneurs by exploiting itself directly some of its mine concessions. He is also one of the first true economists, explaining the laws of supply and demand, the advantage of pooling capital (risk management) and the multiplier effect. This superbly translated book, with excellent introductions and notes, is a must read for all those interested in the history of mankind.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Review of Waterfield's Xenophon
By Ryan Mease
I really enjoyed this collection of Xenophon's works. It contains many of his smaller treatises (and many extraneous pieces) collected together in one volume. The translations are of course readable, and the introductions to each work are excellent. I absolutely give credit to Paul Cartledge in this matter; he knows his Spartans. My one complaint: endnotes instead of footnotes.

One of Socrates' Athenian disciples in his youth, Xenophon (c. 498-354 bc) fought as a mercenary commander in Cyrus the Younger's campaign to seize the Persian throne, and later wrote a wide range of works on history, politics and philosophy. These six treatises offer his informed insights into the nature of leadership. In the dialogue between the poet Simonides and Hiero, tyrant of Syracuse, Xenophon provides a consummate consideration of the burdens of being an absolute dictator and the superior happiness of the private man. Elsewhere, his biography of King Agesilaus II of Sparta depicts the author's patron as a model of piety, justice, courage and wisdom, while other texts consider the essential qualities of the cavalry commander, analyse the skills of the horseman and the hunter, and advance a bold economic plan for democratic Athens.

Language Notes
Text: English (translation) Original Language: Greek
About the Author
Xenophon the Athenian was born 431 B.C. He was a pupil of Socrates. He marched with the Spartans, and was exiled from Athens. Sparta gave him land and property in Scillus, where he lived for many years before having to move once more, to settle in Corinth. He died in 354 B.C. Translated by Robin Waterfield with introductions and notes by Paul Cartledge
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