

Herodotus

Fall 2020

Suggested Readings

Aeschylus, *The Persians*, multiple editions available. (The oldest surviving play in Western literature, written by a Greek veteran of the battle of Salamis who tells the story of Xerxes' invasion and ultimate defeat from the point of view of the Persians.)

Cartledge, Paul, *Thermopylae: The Battle that Changed the World*, Overlook Press, 2006.

Gould, John, *Herodotus*, Bristol Classical Press, 2002. (This short book (134 pages) is an excellent commentary for those who've already read the book.)

Green, Peter, *The Greco-Persian Wars*, University California Press, 1998.

Hamel, Debra, *Reading Herodotus: A Guided Tour through the Wild Boars, Dancing Suitors, and Crazy Tyrants of The History*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012. (This enjoyable guided tour is highly recommended, before, during, and after reading Herodotus.)

Holland, Tom, *Persian Fire: The First World Empire and the Battle for the West*, Anchor Books, 2007. (A highly readable account of the Persian Wars based on current scholarship, by a translator Herodotus.)

Kapuscinski, Ryszard, *Travels with Herodotus*, Vintage Books, 2007. (Polish journalist totes *The Histories* in his travels to exotic locales, and tells us how the words of Herodotus helped shape his own view of an increasingly globalized world.)

Ondaatje, Michael, *The English Patient*, Vintage Books, 1992. (Booker Prize-winning novel in which the title character travels with a volume of *The Histories*, and in which the main love story is modeled in part on the story of Gyges and Kandaules' wife.)

Sheehan, Sean, *A Guide to Reading Herodotus' Histories*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2018. (An excellent commentary, more comprehensive than Gould or Hamel; especially useful while reading *The Histories*.)

Strauss, Barry, *The Battle of Salamis: The Naval Encounter that Saved Greece--and Western Civilization*, Simon and Schuster, 2005.