



# Slavery In Ancient Greece

**Sara Forsdyke**



## Slavery In Ancient Greece:

**Slavery in Ancient Greece** Charles River Charles River Editors, 2016-12-05 Includes pictures Includes ancient accounts of slavery and debating its role in Greek society Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading A free man There is no such thing All men are slaves some slaves of money some of chance others are forced either by mass opinion or the threatening law to act against their nature Euripides Hecuba Slavery was a universal and totally accepted feature of ancient Greek society so much so that while the conditions under which slaves lived and worked varied considerably many ordinary citizens kept at least one slave often working alongside their owners while larger commercial enterprises involved huge numbers many of whom could rise to positions of authority and wealth It was possible for some slaves to buy their freedom while others lived and died in conditions of appalling brutality notably in the silver mines at Laurium The revenues from these mines paid for the fleet with which Athens defeated Xerxes and were the basis of the Attic owls the four drachma coins that revolutionized the Athenian economy The mines were often leased to contractors and worked by slaves and condemned criminals The galleries averaged approximately three and a half feet in height so most miners had to work on their hands and knees Another specific group of slaves that suffered particularly brutal treatment was the pornai slaves used in the brothels as prostitutes While those sound like the conditions of slavery people are accustomed to hearing about in more modern times other forms of slavery in Greece were quite unique and perhaps fittingly Sparta might have had the most unusual system of all Sparta will forever be known for its military prowess but the importance the Spartans placed upon being a warrior society meant their way of life was entirely dependent on a class of indentured servants known as the helots The Spartans needed the helots to maintain the domestic front but they also frequently brought helots to the battlefield with them and they repeatedly had to turn their own hoplites on unruly helots to suppress potential rebellions As this makes clear however unpalatable it may be to modern historians who expound on the virtues of the Greek legacy to Western Civilization it is indisputably the case that slavery constituted a central part of that legacy Indeed slavery underpinned to a large extent the very foundations of the classical Greek way of life Slavery in Ancient Greece The History of Slaves across the Greek City States examines the different ways people were enslaved in Greece and what the Ancient Greeks wrote about slavery Along with pictures depicting important people places and events you will learn about slavery in Greece like never before

*Slavery in Ancient Greece* Yvon Garlan, 1988      *Slaves and Slavery in Ancient Greece* Sara Forsdyke, 2021-06-10 Slavery in ancient Greece was commonplace In this book Sara Forsdyke uncovers the wide range of experiences of slaves and focuses on their own perspectives rather than those of their owners giving a voice to a group that is often rendered silent by the historical record By reading ancient sources against the grain and through careful deployment of comparative evidence from more recent slave owning societies she demonstrates that slaves engaged in a variety of strategies to deal with their conditions of enslavement ranging from calculated accommodation to full scale rebellion Along the way she establishes that

slaves made a vital contribution to almost all aspects of Greek society Above all despite their often brutal treatment they sometimes displayed great ingenuity in exploiting the tensions and contradictions within the system of slavery *Slavery from Known to Unknown* Chandima S. M. Wickramasinghe, 2005 The study of classical Greek slavery has been a major concern of historians since the nineteenth century Considerable evidence is available both in classical literary texts and in inscriptions and as a result there is now a sophisticated scholarly literature on the subject Much less attention has been given to the forms of unfree labour that existed in historical Sri Lanka in the period before the arrival of colonial powers Yet in Sri Lanka too there is evidence in literary texts and inscriptions This book provides the historical overview lacking hitherto of unfree labour in historical Sri Lanka Its comparative perspective illuminates through their similarities and differences the history of unfree labour in classical Greece as well as in Sri Lanka leading to valuable insights also into Greek slavery The book thus has much to offer the historian of ancient Greece as well as the historian of Sri Lanka [You Wouldn't Want to Be a Slave in Ancient Greece!](#) Fiona Macdonald, 2021-01-20 This title in the best selling children s history series You Wouldn t Want To features full colour illustrations which combine humour and accurate technical detail and a narrative approach placing readers at the centre of the history encouraging them to become emotionally involved with the characters and aiding their understanding of what life would have been like as a slave in ancient Greece Informative captions a complete glossary and an index make this title an ideal introduction to the conventions of information books for young readers It is an ideal text for Key Stage 2 shared and guided reading and helps achieve the goals of the Scottish Standard Curriculum 5 14 [Ancient Greek and Roman Slavery](#) Peter Hunt, 2017-11-29 An exciting study of ancient slavery in Greece and Rome This book provides an introduction to pivotal issues in the study of classical Greek and Roman slavery The span of topics is broad ranging from everyday resistance to slavery to philosophical justifications of slavery and from the process of enslavement to the decline of slavery after the fall of the Western Roman Empire The book uses a wide spectrum of types of evidence and relies on concrete and vivid examples whenever possible Introductory chapters provide historical context and a clear and concise discussion of the methodological difficulties of studying ancient slavery The following chapters are organized around central topics in slave studies enslavement economics politics culture sex and family life manumission and ex slaves everyday conflict revolts representations philosophy and law and decline and legacy Chapters open with general discussions of important scholarly controversies and the challenges of our ancient evidence and case studies from the classical Greek Hellenistic and Roman periods provide detailed and concrete explorations of the issues Organized by key themes in slave studies with in depth classical case studies Emphasizes Greek Roman comparisons and contrasts Features helpful customized maps Topics range from demography to philosophy from Linear B through the fall of the empire in the west Features myriad types of evidence literary historical legal and philosophical texts the bible papyri epitaphs lead letters curse tablets art manumission inscriptions and more Ancient Greek and Roman Slavery provides a general survey of classical slavery and is

particularly appropriate for college courses on Greek and Roman slavery on comparative slave societies and on ancient social history It will also be of great interest to history enthusiasts and scholars especially those interested in slavery in different periods and societies

**Reconstructing the Slave** Kelly L. Wrenhaven, 2012-05-10 Although the importance of slavery to Greek society has long been recognised most studies have primarily drawn upon representations of slaves as sources of evidence for the historical institution while there has been little consideration of what the representations can tell us about how the Greeks perceived slaves and why Although historical reality clearly played a part in the way slaves were represented *Reconstructing the Slave* stresses that this was not the primary purpose of these images which reveal more about how slave owners perceived or wanted to perceive slaves than the reality of slavery Through an examination of lexical visual and literary representations of slaves the book considers how the image of the slave was used to justify reinforce and naturalize slavery in ancient Greece

**Greek and Roman Slavery** Thomas Wiedemann, 2003-09-02 *Greek and Roman Slavery* brings together fresh English translations of 243 texts and inscriptions on slavery from fifth and fourth century Greece and Rome The material is arranged thematically offering the reader a comprehensive review of the idea and practice of slavery in ancient civilization In addition a thorough bibliography for each chapter as well as an extensive index make this a valuable source for scholars and students

Shadows of the Past Kaylynne Hoepfner, 2024-12-08 *Description of Shadows of the Past* *Shadows of the Past A History of Slavery in Ancient Greece* is a compelling exploration of one of the most paradoxical institutions of the ancient world While Ancient Greece is celebrated for its contributions to democracy philosophy art and science its society was built on the subjugation of a vast enslaved population whose labor fueled its achievements This book uncovers the hidden lives of those who lived in bondage and examines the complex social economic and moral dynamics that sustained slavery for centuries What the Book Covers Origins and Systems Discover the multifaceted roots of slavery in Ancient Greece from prisoners of war and piracy to debt bondage and the thriving slave trade Roles and Lives of Slaves Explore the diverse roles enslaved individuals played in Greek society from agricultural laborers to household servants miners and artisans as well as the harsh realities of their daily existence Philosophical Paradoxes Delve into the ethical contradictions of a society that championed freedom and justice while rationalizing the subjugation of others through the writings of thinkers like Aristotle and Plato Resistance and Resilience Examine the stories of rebellion escape and subtle acts of resistance that highlight the humanity and agency of enslaved individuals The Decline of Slavery Trace the gradual decline of slavery in Greece shaped by economic shifts conquests and evolving moral and philosophical ideas *Shadows of the Past* offers a nuanced perspective on Ancient Greece presenting it as both a beacon of human achievement and a society marred by systemic inequality By shedding light on the lives of enslaved individuals and the structures that oppressed them this book challenges readers to confront the complexities of history and reflect on the enduring legacy of inequality in human societies Perfect for historians classicists and anyone interested in the intersection of culture ethics and human resilience *Shadows of*

the Past provides a vivid and thought provoking journey into the heart of Ancient Greece      **Slaves and Slavery in Ancient Greece** Sara Forsdyke, 2021-06-10 Recovers the voices experiences and agency of enslaved people in ancient Greece

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