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978-1-107-02061-0 - The Psychology of the Athenian Hoplite: The Culture of Combat in
Classical Athens

Jason Crowley

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE ATHENIAN HOPLITE

Throughout the Classical period, the Athenian hoplite demonstrated an unwavering willingness to close with and kill the enemies of Athens, whenever and wherever he was required to do so. Yet, despite his pugnacity, he was not a professional soldier; he was an untrained amateur who was neither forced into battle nor adequately remunerated for the risks he faced in combat. As such, when he took his place in the phalanx, when he met his enemy, when he fought, killed, and died, he did so largely as an act of will. By applying modern theories of combat motivation, this book seeks to understand that will, to explore the psychology of the Athenian hoplite, and to reveal how that impressive warrior repeatedly stifled his fears, mustered his courage, and willingly plunged himself into the ferocious savagery of close-quarters battle.

JASON CROWLEY studied at the University of Manchester and now lectures at the University of Nottingham.

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For the sake of clarity and ease of reference, the short-title system of footnotes is used throughout this book. Greek names and places have been permitted their familiar Latinized forms, but technical terms have been allowed a more literal transliteration to facilitate analytical discussion. Where possible, bibliographical references to modern journals are abbreviated according to the conventions established by *L'Année Philologique*. The abbreviations adopted for ancient authors and their works generally follow those of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.

The following abbreviations have also been used:

CEG	P. A. Hansen, <i>Carmina Epigraphica Graeca</i> , 2 Vols. (New York, 1983–9).
Fornara	C. W. Fornara, <i>Archaic Times to the End of the Peloponnesian War</i> , 2nd edn (Cambridge, 1983).
IG	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i> .
ML	R. Meiggs and D. M. Lewis, <i>A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions to the End of the Fifth Century BC</i> , rev. edn (Oxford, 1988).
Pritchett	Pritchett, W. K., <i>The Greek State at War</i> , Parts I–IV (Berkeley, 1971–91).
SEG	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i> .
Stouffer <i>et al.</i>	Stouffer, S. A. <i>et al.</i> , <i>Studies in Social Psychology in World War Two</i> , Vols. I and II (Princeton, 1949).
Tod II	M. N. Tod, <i>A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions</i> , Vol. II: <i>From 403–323 BC</i> (Oxford, 1948).

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I would like to express my especial gratitude to Hans van Wees for generously allowing me to use his illustration of the hoplite (adapted and reproduced in Figures 6–9), particularly because the model of the hoplite combat advanced here competes with his own. All remaining photographs, figures and tables are my own work.