

SLAVES AND SLAVERY IN ANCIENT GREECE

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.

SARA FORSDYKE is Josiah Ober Collegiate Professor of Ancient History at the University of Michigan. She has published widely on ancient democracy, slavery and the law.

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University of Michigan



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*For my dear daughter, Sophie, with love and thanks for
your spirited companionship.*

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Note on Translations, Dates and Abbreviations

All translations are mine, unless otherwise noted, and dates are BCE, unless otherwise noted.

In the interests of transparency for the general reader, and where it is not too cumbersome, I have provided the names of ancient authors and titles of their work in English translation. Occasionally, I resort to the standard abbreviations of the field, which can be found in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, third edition, edited by S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth, 1996.

For abbreviations of modern works of scholarship, see the Bibliography.



Fig. 1.1 Map of ancient Greece and the Mediterranean region.



Fig. I.I (cont.)

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