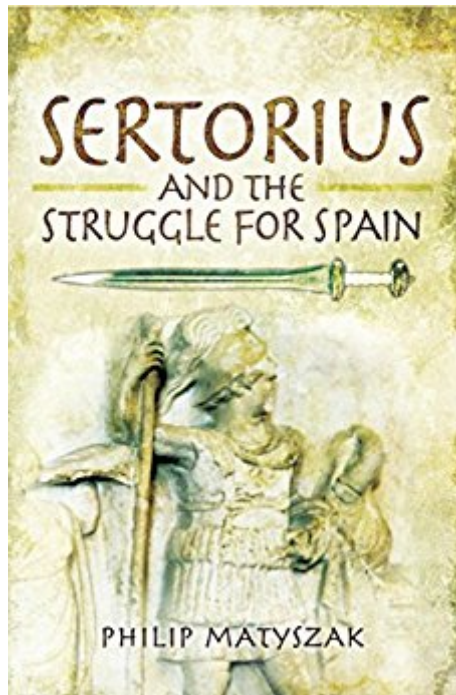


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Sertorius And The Struggle For Spain



Synopsis

When, after a brutal civil war, the dictator Sulla took power in Rome (82 BC), among the many who refused to accept his rule was a young army officer called Quintus Sertorius. Sertorius fled, first to Africa and then to Spain, where he made common cause with the native people who had been savagely oppressed by a succession of corrupt Roman governors. Discovering a genius for guerilla warfare (he claimed he received divine guidance from Artemis via a white fawn he kept), Sertorius came close to driving the Romans out of Spain altogether. Rome responded by sending reinforcements under the control of the up-and-coming young general Gnaeus Pompey (later Pompey the Great). The epic struggle which followed between these two great commanders is a masterclass of ancient strategy and tactical manoeuvre. Massively outnumbered, Sertorius remained undefeated on the battlefield, but was eventually assassinated by jealous subordinates, none of whom proved a match for Pompey. This proved the decisive end of the struggle for Spain, though recalcitrant tribes held out until the time of Augustus. The tale of Sertorius is the story of a people struggling to liberate themselves from oppressive rule. It is also the story of Sertorius himself, who started as an idealist, and ended almost as savage and despotic as his enemies. But above all, it is the story of a duel between two great generals, fought between two different styles of army in the valleys of the Spanish interior.

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Customer Reviews

I found out about sertorius in a round about way. i was reading about spartacus and this fellows name came up several times. rome was fighting 2 wars at once apparently when spartacus revolted against rome. that is why the slaves and gladiators were able to revolt in the first place. half of the army was fighting mithridates in the east and the other half was fighting this fellow in spain. i recognized the name when i was looking at the history books sells. i jumped at the chance to read up on this guy and mithridates as well (sells a book on him also!!) his guerilla tactics gave the regular roman army fits and this should be read by people who like tactics. spartacus was left to fight "constables" (police) in the italian peninsula, and his legend was born. spartacus owes his success to sertorius and mithridates. this will be a fine addition to your library!

I am grateful that there are authors such as Matyzsak to write books like this, and publishers such as Pen and Sword to publish them. Considering the scarcity of sources on the topic, as Matyzak recognizes in the introduction, he still does an excellent job of using everything available to craft as complete account as possible on the career of the Roman rebel. A book like this is useful for those who want to learn more about Sertorius, but who have neither the time nor expertise to gather all the material together to form a thorough portrait. Although the author has written many books on ancient Rome, this is the first I have ever read. I am now looking forward to reading his next book on the Social War, and perhaps some of his previous titles as well. The book has ten chapters and is a short read, about 180 pages. Besides the life and career of the man himself, the author also includes a brief summary of the history of Roman rule from the time of Scipio Africanus to the time of Sertorius, and includes a survey of different tribes living in Iberia. The last chapter also follows the remnants of Sertorius's troops as they continue their struggles for and against Rome in later wars up to the time of Augustus.

The writing, and subject matter, are absolutely wonderful. I have always loved Sertorius as a subject, ever since reading Plutarch's Lives. This was an excellent work that attempts to bring Plutarch's work to greater color. You wouldn't think it possible, given the scant sources, but he really does it without flinching. Granted, Plutarch is 85% (roughly) of his sources, but he acknowledges

that early on, and offers ample additives and alternative ways of looking at it. If you haven't read this author's book called *Legionary: An Unofficial Manual*, then you SHOULD!

Great book! learned a lot!

Very good book, very interesting, some humor mixed in.

good condition

Great book!

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