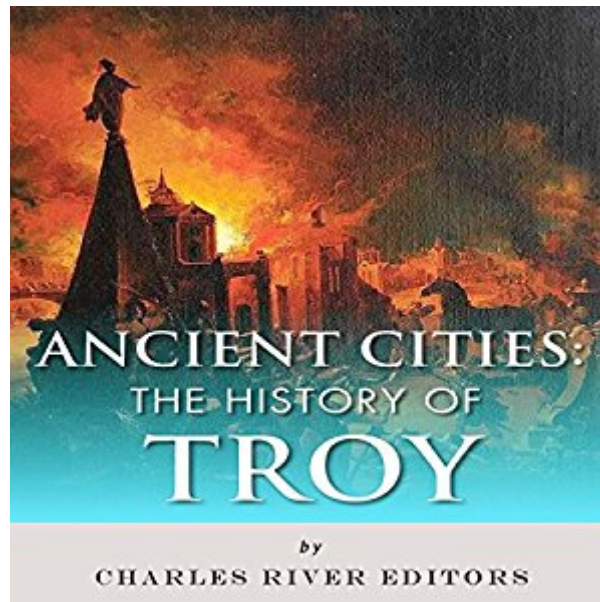# Ancient Cities: The History Of Troy

Synopsis

Discusses the Iliad's depiction of the Trojan War and the way the Iliad was used to rediscover Troy. Includes a bibliography for further reading. "Rage - Goddess, sing the rage of Peleus' son Achilles, murderous, doomed, that cost the Achaeans countless losses, hurling down to the House of Death so many sturdy souls, great fighters' souls, but made their bodies carrion, feasts for the dogs and birds, and the will of Zeus was moving toward its end. Begin, Muse, when the two first broke and clashed, Agamemnon lord of men and brilliant Achilles...." (Homer, The Iliad) Troy is unquestionably one of the most famous and legendary cities of antiquity, yet it is also the most mysterious. While ancient cities like Rome and Athens survived, and the destruction of others like Carthage and Pompeii were well documented, the fame of Troy rested entirely on Homer's epic poems, The Iliad & The Odyssey. The poems were so famous in the ancient world that Augustus had Virgil associate Rome's foundation with the destruction of Troy and Aeneas' own odyssey in the Aeneid. Augustus went so far as to have a new settlement, New Ilium, built in the region. While the epic poems have been read for thousands of years and are regarded among Western literature's most important, their depictions of the Trojan War between the Greeks and Trojans clearly included fictional elements. As a result there has been much historical debate over whether the Trojan War actually happened. Up until the 19th century, many scholars merely regarded it as an ancient myth, but when Heinrich Schliemann used Homer's descriptions to guide his excavations, he found ruins in Western Turkey of several ancient cities built atop each other, with the oldest dating to the 12th century BC. Further excavations have found early settlements on the spot dating as far back as 3000 BC.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first read how Troy was discovered when I was in elementary school (loved those book orders), then read the Iliad and the Odysseus in junior high. Only one of my children ran home excited to discuss it with me. If I had read this book before then, it might have broken her heart.Heimlich Schliemann used clues within Homer's classics to locate the city of myth. He found the two rivers, but the first hill was man-made. Eventually he actually found Troy, but it wasn't the Troy he wanted.There were several Trots, one built on top of another, again and again.And he found and displayed treasures. Uh-oh. Big mistake. He was German working in western Turkey; did he really think he was just going to pack up the loot and leave the country?Well, he did, some of it anyway.As I read the book I wondered if he had gone to school to study archeology or if he had just been totally consummed by an idea and gone where it led him. Digging with a kitchen knife? Maybe that was just an accusation. He seemed to be a man after money, not a scholar out to prove or disprove history.A partner joined him, a responsible man. Ah!! This is much better. You can read it from here on.The ending was unexpected. There are people who disagree and suggest other locations for Troy.AND, you know that even though Troy was the site of a great battle, it's unlikely that the gods from Olympus participated. Some folks still tried to manufacture familial ties to those gods.But you gotta read it to believe it.

Not a lot information in this book.

A good overview of the story of Iliad and the excavations at Teoy. I wished if more details on the archeology were given by the author.

I expected something better since it was from Charles River Editors . I could have done better with an hours research on the net . CRE usually does a lot better .

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