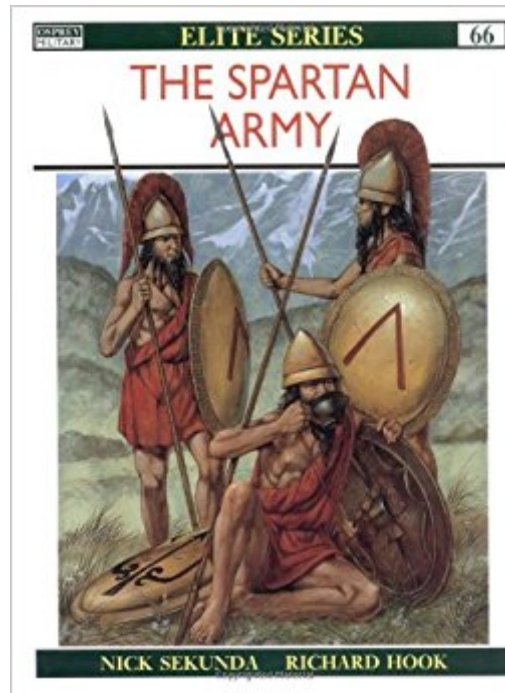




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# The Spartan Army (Elite)



## Synopsis

Although Sparta's early history is not clear, by the end of the 8th century most of the other cities of Lakeldaimon had been reduced to subject status. The Lakeldaimonians were the only full time army in ancient Greece and were thus truly an elite force. The institutions of the state and the system of education were organised with a view to creating superbly trained soldiers. Nick Sekunda examines this unique military machine in this book describing the organisational systems of the Spartan army through the Hellenistic period, how they were trained, the battles they fought, and the society that produced them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An unrivalled illustrated reference source on fighting men and commanders, past and present. Each volume is packed with full colour artwork, making military history uniquely accessible to enthusiasts of all ages.

Nicholas Sekunda was born in 1953. After studying Ancient History and Archaeology at Manchester University, he went on to take his Ph.D. in 1981. He has taken part in archaeological excavations in Poland, Iran and Greece, participated in a research project on ancient Persian warfare for the British institute of Persian Studies. He has published numerous books and academic articles, and is currently teaching at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology in Torun, Poland.

There's nothing like an illustrated study of an ancient epoch to really thrust you back into the essence of what it was like to live during the period under consideration. Such is the case with this present edition from the Osprey Military ELITE SERIES. This book is rich in the amount of information that it bestows to the reader on what it must have been like to be a Laconian warrior some 2,500 years ago. The book details a rough historical outline of the Spartans as it concentrates on the rigorous training, tactics, dress, social structure, eating habits, rituals, organization, discipline, attitudes and alliances of the Laconians. The text is adorned with sundry pictures of artifacts and artwork from ancient Greece that bring help the reader visualize the topics being discussed by the archeologist author, Nick Sekunda. The middle pages offer lush modern illustrations of different Spartans and allies in the way scholars believe they were dressed and armed. One of the paintings depicts the key moment of Amompharetos' insubordination of Pausanias' orders @ the battle of Platea in 479BC. For those who have the ambition to learn all they possibly can about this majestic race, this text belongs on your bookshelf. For those who have a passing curiosity in the Lacedaemons, this edition serves as a superb introduction.

This title takes the reader past the infamous Battle of Thermopylae and examines the whole Spartan military system from its gradual birth in the 8th Century BC until its decline in the 4th. It captures numerous interesting details-like the poems of Tyrtaios and the brutal treatment of the helots. The 12 color plates are good, but would have looked better if by Angus McBride or Christa Hook. Overall it is a good source on this brutal warrior society and the state they fought to maintain for centuries.

The Spartan Army in a nut shell, right to the point information historical facts, good photos and great illustrations. This is what like about Elite books

Its a good over lay, but it do's not go over tactics

Informative

Great book, it is short but very descriptive and accurate. Gives good general knowledge background on the Spartan army. What could make it better is to go into detail on the battle array and more tactics.

Frankly, I am disappointed in "The Spartan Army". Yes, there is some interesting information about

the Spartan's, some I haven't read of before, but the author writes in a kind of haphazard rambling fashion that makes it difficult to extract the information. The author starts describing some aspect of Spartan life and then, just as it's becoming interesting, veers off to some other seemingly unconnected topic. It reads like a high school English class essay that the author threw together at the last minute.

This book has good information, but is small. I would actual only consider it a pamphlet. Was expecting a little more but overall it is a good basic review of the Spartans with a few good illustrations.

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