



Ancient Siege Warfare

By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern

Siege warfare was the most brutal form of war in the ancient world. Typically involving whole urban societies, ancient siege warfare often ended in the sack of a city and the massacre or enslavement of entire populations. Assyrian emperors, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and the future Roman emperor Titus all commanded great sieges that ended in fearsome slaughters. This book examines the origins of such unleashed violence and shows how the methods of siege warfare devalued the skills of traditional warriors as well as the shared values of honor and prowess that limited the violence of traditional field battles.

Siege warfare was the only form of war in the ancient world in which the presence of women was common. This book pays major attention to their role in sieges, as both participants and victims, and to the way their presence affected the nature of siege warfare. The book also examines the social and moral chaos of siege warfare as the major theme in its representation in ancient literature. The Bible, Assyrian palace records, and Greek and Roman literature contain horrifying accounts of siege warfare. Ancient Hebrew prophets and Greek poets such as Homer and Euripides described it as a world without limits or structure or morality, in which men violated deep-seated taboos about sex, pregnancy, and death.

 [Download Ancient Siege Warfare ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ancient Siege Warfare ...pdf](#)

Ancient Siege Warfare

By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern

Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern

Siege warfare was the most brutal form of war in the ancient world. Typically involving whole urban societies, ancient siege warfare often ended in the sack of a city and the massacre or enslavement of entire populations. Assyrian emperors, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and the future Roman emperor Titus all commanded great sieges that ended in fearsome slaughters. This book examines the origins of such unleashed violence and shows how the methods of siege warfare devalued the skills of traditional warriors as well as the shared values of honor and prowess that limited the violence of traditional field battles.

Siege warfare was the only form of war in the ancient world in which the presence of women was common. This book pays major attention to their role in sieges, as both participants and victims, and to the way their presence affected the nature of siege warfare. The book also examines the social and moral chaos of siege warfare as the major theme in its representation in ancient literature. The Bible, Assyrian palace records, and Greek and Roman literature contain horrifying accounts of siege warfare. Ancient Hebrew prophets and Greek poets such as Homer and Euripides described it as a world without limits or structure or morality, in which men violated deep-seated taboos about sex, pregnancy, and death.

Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1678140 in Books
- Published on: 1999-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 1.43" w x 6.44" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 419 pages

 [Download Ancient Siege Warfare ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ancient Siege Warfare ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The idea of total war--meaning war waged against a whole people, rather than merely its army--didn't start with bombing raids during the Second World War. Nor did it begin with Sherman's march to the sea. Instead, it dates to the beginning of recorded history itself. "All the characteristics of modern war--the blurring of the line between battlefield and society, the engulfing of women and children in the violence of war, the destruction of society's infrastructure, the uprooting of entire populations--were anticipated in ancient siege warfare," writes author Paul Bentley Kern. This fascinating book begins by describing the theory of siege warfare and its engineering, but focuses mainly on its historical practice from biblical times through the Roman period. Kern shows that besieging fortifications was mainly a technical problem that put warriors on the sidelines. When the problem was solved, however, "the assaulting troops found themselves not on a conventional field of battle opposed by an army but in a maze of streets and buildings opposed by an entire population," writes Kern. "Often they were under orders to sack the city, one of the few circumstances in which military commanders countenanced indiscriminate violence." Kern does not shy away from this uncomfortable fact, and actually focuses on the special plight of women and children: "Their presence threatened the notion of war as a contest between warriors, undermined the conventional standards of honor and prowess that governed ancient warfare, and paradoxically made war less restrained by creating a morally chaotic cityscape in which not only the walls collapsed but deeply rooted social and moral distinctions as well." *Ancient Siege Warfare* is a masterful book by an author in full command of his compelling subject. --
John J. Miller

About the Author

Paul Bentley Kern is Professor of History at Indiana University Northwest.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kay Young:

Do you considered one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Ancient Siege Warfare book is readable by simply you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer associated with Ancient Siege Warfare content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different as it. So , do you nevertheless thinking Ancient Siege Warfare is not loveable to be your top record reading book?

William Moreau:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book especially book entitled Ancient Siege Warfare the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a reserve then become one application form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get just before. The Ancient Siege Warfare giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but

also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Irene Gamino:

A lot of e-book has printed but it is unique. You can get it by world wide web on social media. You can choose the best book for you, science, comedy, novel, or whatever by searching from it. It is called of book Ancient Siege Warfare. You'll be able to your knowledge by it. Without departing the printed book, it can add your knowledge and make a person happier to read. It is most significant that, you must aware about guide. It can bring you from one place to other place.

Christine Brooks:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is prepared or printed or highlighted from each source which filled update of news. In this particular modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Isn't it time to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just looking for the Ancient Siege Warfare when you needed it?

Download and Read Online Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern #EQ1RIK0Y5NP

Read Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern for online ebook

Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern books to read online.

Online Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern ebook PDF download

Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern Doc

Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern MobiPocket

Ancient Siege Warfare By Paul B. Kern, Paul Bentley Kern EPub