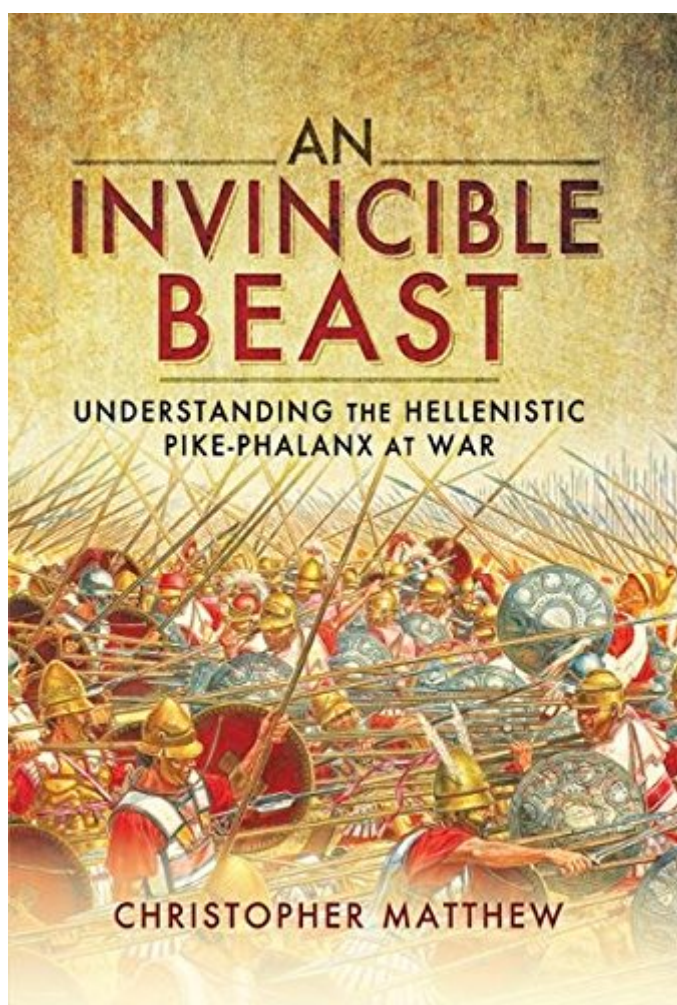


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An Invincible Beast: Understanding The Hellenistic Pike Phalanx In Action



Synopsis

The Hellenistic pike-phalanx was a true military innovation, transforming the face of warfare in the ancient world. For nearly 200 years, from the rise of the Macedonians as a military power in the mid-fourth century BC, to their defeat at the hands of th

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent work for anyone who wants to understand the reality of the complexities of moving pike blocks on ancient battlefields. The author used realistic practical tests and analysis to examine exactly how the pike blocks were organised and also what commanders could and could NOT do with these blocks. The book is well written and does not suffer from use of unintelligible jargon. It should also interest any one who is curious about how military structures (command hierarchies and formations) actually work. Although not central to the book, the author shows how ancient commanders addressed the fundamental issue of "character" in assessing and selecting and file leaders and other junior leaders. This is a book that should be of interest to, and "on the shelf of" any one with an interest in Philip II, Alexander and Hellenistic warfare generally. Strongly recommended.

truly excellent work

Not a page turner but if you are interested in exploring how, and with what, the Hellenistic phalanx operated this book is for you.

EXCELLENT BOOK ABOUT THE PHALANX.

If you are interested in the details of how the Hellenistic Pike-phalanx operated, this book is a rare prize. I ordered it directly from P&S and have been reading it over the last two months. After reading the book I now understand why early-modern pike drill and Hellenistic drill were significantly different. Highly recommended for those interested in Hellenistic tactics and drill

Excellent analysis, a bit long (little joke there, like the sarissa). Found out a great deal I didn't know about the Macedonian/Hellenistic phalanx, from its reduced-size shields and takedown spears to how it could be moved around with surprising flexibility. The author addresses many other specialists' arguments on the subjects that come up, from how the NCO managed (from the front) to how orders were transmitted (runner, galloper, flags, horns). He spends a great deal of ink (or bits) supporting and reinforcing his thesis about how the men were spaced (two cubits!) but wider-ranging discussions of how the phalanx won battles ("Hammer and Anvil") are also present. This could have been a bit shorter and less repetitive, but perhaps after first read-through its best use is referring to the various topical chapters for reference. That first read is a surprising page-turner, though. Recommended, especially at the current low price.

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