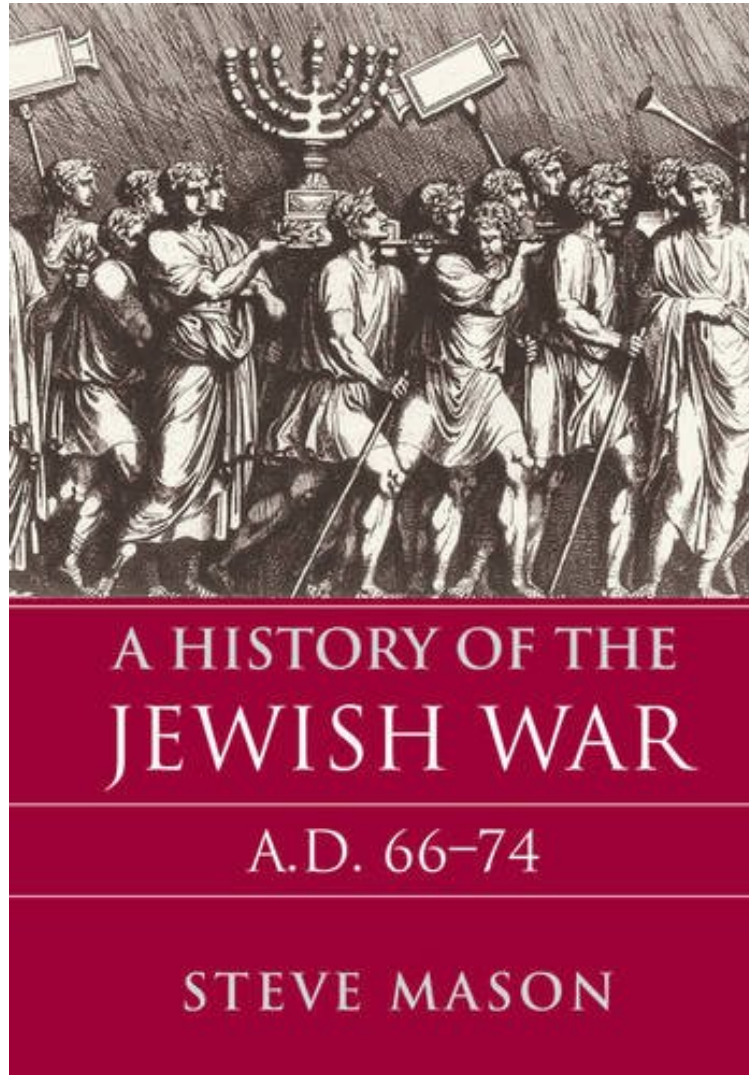


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A History of the Jewish War: AD 66-74 (Key Conflicts of Classical Antiquity)

Steve Mason

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#1241556 in Books Cambridge University Press 2016-02-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.98 x 1.97 x 5.98l, .0 #File Name: 052185329X735 pages Cambridge University Press | File size: 66.Mb

Steve Mason : A History of the Jewish War: AD 66-74 (Key Conflicts of Classical Antiquity) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of the Jewish War: AD 66-74 (Key Conflicts of Classical Antiquity):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent introduction to all of the relevant issues involving the ...By JasonThis is an excellent introduction to all of the relevant issues involving the Jewish War. I highly recommend this book. Steve Mason is really enjoyable to read. He does a great job exploding a lot of myths

about Josephus as a "Flavian hack". He also has tons of original ideas that are well grounded in solid scholarship and well-reasoned arguments. I feel a lot more comfortable with the details of the war and their relation to Josephus' Jewish War. One of his strengths is that he's pretty familiar with a lot of military history outside of the ancient period, which allows him some interesting and helpful parallels. Also, has some good charts that I'll go back to in the future. Mason even injects some occasional humor to make his points ("Well, I can't find mine. Let's get on with it", p. 545, still laughing! LOL). I suggest reading Josephus' Jewish War before reading Mason. I think I would have been easily lost if I had started with Mason and moved onto Josephus afterwards. If you are totally unfamiliar with the Josephus and you are going to read this book first, I'd suggest you start by reading (and re-reading) pages 581-589 to have a framework for the Jewish revolt. The only bad thing about this book is that it's a glued binding. I would expect that after paying \$100 for a book, I would get sewed binding. Maybe I'll update my review in 20 years to let everyone know how this volume held up (d.v.).

A conflict that erupted between Roman legions and some Judaeans in late A.D. 66 had an incalculable impact on Rome's physical appearance and imperial governance; on ancient Jews bereft of their mother-city and temple; and on early Christian fortunes. Historical scholarship and cinema alike tend to see the conflict as the culmination of long Jewish resistance to Roman oppression. In this volume, Steve Mason re-examines the war in all relevant contexts (e.g., the Parthian dimension, Judaea's place in Roman Syria) and phases, from the Hasmoneans to the fall of Masada. Mason approaches each topic as a historical investigation, clarifying problems that need to be solved, understanding the available evidence, and considering scenarios that might explain the evidence. The simplest reconstructions make the conflict more humanly intelligible while casting doubt on received knowledge.

"No study of the Jewish-Roman war approaches this one in level of sophistication, thoroughness, sweep of erudition, provocative ideas, and originality." Erich S. Gruen, University of California, Berkeley "This is an engagingly written, well-researched, well-argued, highly original, and provocative book. Steve Mason, by relentless examination of his literary and material evidence in essence turns upside down pretty much all received notions of "what really happened" in the Jewish-Roman War prosecuted by Nero and then the Flavians. And as such he forces the reader to rethink the whole received historical narrative of Roman-era Judaea, the destruction of Jerusalem, and its much-studied aftermath." T. Corey Brennan, Rutgers University, New Jersey "In A History of the Jewish War Steve Mason has produced, on the basis of his magisterial familiarity with the writings of Josephus and other contemporary sources, the Roman world, the nature of war and the historiography of war, and modern scholarly literature, and with an insistence upon the distinction between understanding sources and reconstructing human events, a highly readable and innovative history of an axial event of the first century." Daniel R. Schwartz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem About the Author Steven Mason is Distinguished Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Religions and Cultures in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Groningen. A former Canada Research Chair (in Greco-Roman Cultural Interaction) at Toronto's York University and Visiting Fellow in Oxford and Berlin, he has published several monographs and scores of essays on Roman Judaea, Josephus, Flavian Rome, Christian origins, and historical method. He edits the multi-volume international project Flavius Josephus: Translation and Commentary.