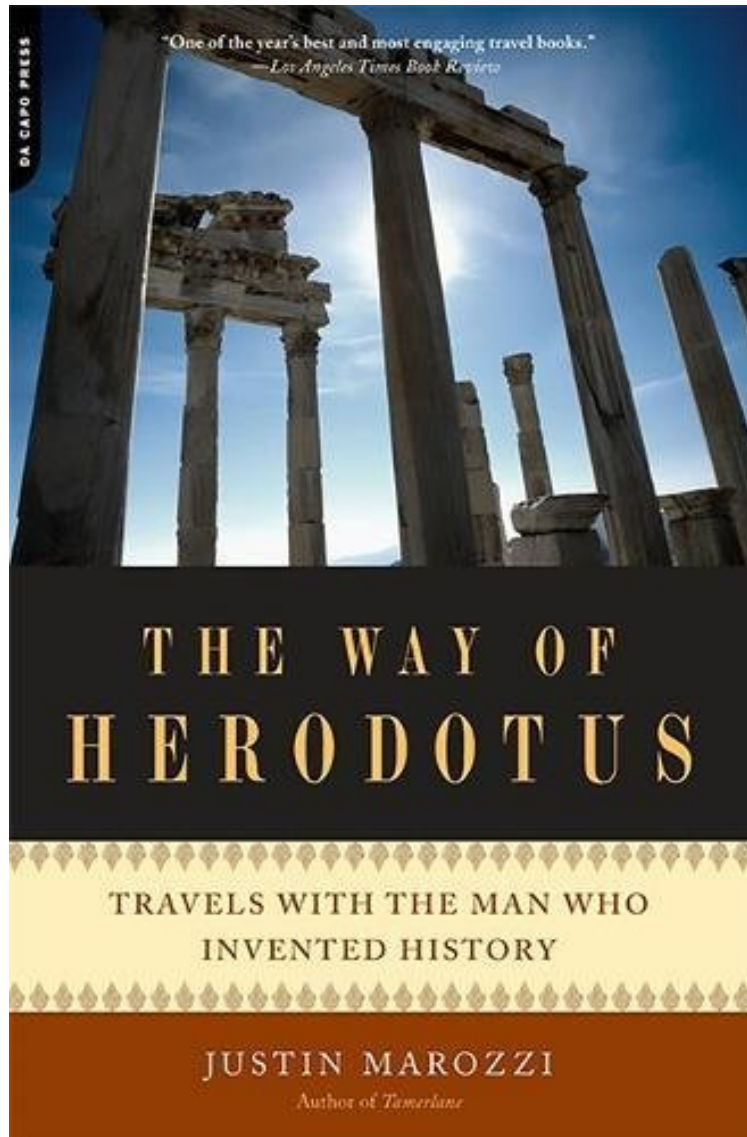


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# The Way of Herodotus: Travels with the Man Who Invented History

*Justin Marozzi*

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**Justin Marozzi : The Way of Herodotus: Travels with the Man Who Invented History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Way of Herodotus: Travels with the Man Who Invented History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read! Informative, imaginative, captivating, smart and funny!By Jackie CabreraEven if you haven't read Horodotus' "Histories" you will be able to follow the details in

history told by Justin Marozzi. The account and detailed experienced will entice you to want to read the original "Histories". The narrative is full of information, historical details and funny personal accounts told in an easy and uncomplicated manner. I'm thoroughly enjoying reading this book and will definitely continue to read Justin Marozzi. Excellent book. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Herodotus Rediscovered By Roger L. Johnson Justin Marozzi attempts to follow the ancient historian Herodotus in his travels. He takes Herodotus as a travelling companion, or correctly Herodotus takes Marozzi as a travelling companion. Marozzi with typically English self-effacing humor gives a short history of his educational pursuits. This ties all of us to the man himself. One only need make his way into the book shortly to realize that once Marozzi had set his mind to a course of study he learned well. He is a wordsmith. He sent me scurrying numerous times to my dictionary in search of meanings not clear from the context. I appreciate a man who can execute his craft well and Marozzi is admirably competent at his. The book is worth the read if for nothing else than to see words well used and well written. He is exquisite in literary form. Marozzi gives us a short history of the Persian wars, an excellent overview to begin with. He whets our appetite for a journey back in time with Herodotus. Marozzi engages us in the travels of Herodotus in a way that the ancient and the contemporary, the past and the present are almost brought together as one. We see how many things have changed and yet how they have stayed the same. Our peripatetic historian begins to take shape in this book as a present day Herodotus. He writes very much in the same way as Herodotus in that he engages the local folk to help him with his excursions. Every would-be traveler wants to have access to these kinds of places known only to the locals but many times do not have the ability to find them or gain access to them. Herodotus wrote with openness to the world at his disposal. Marozzi does the same. Herodotus recounts stories of far away places and their various unusual practices. Marozzi does the same. Witness the recounting of Herodotus' story of ants bringing up gold from the ground in India. Marozzi tells the story with corrected additions but never tells us his sources for the corrected story of the Marmot gold diggers. For those of us Americans who are of the hawkishly conservative mindset, we squirm slightly in our seats and increase our reading pace when Marozzi begins a commentary on the Bush administration's involvement of American forces in the war in Iraq. Yes as Marozzi so willingly quotes Herodotus we all see our cultures as better. Marozzi is a writer truly in the vein of Herodotus. He engages his subject, Herodotus' Histories, with full on engagement in the actual places Herodotus wrote about. This is truly a creative way to write about history and engage one's audience in the process. Marozzi ends by discussing Herodotus' concepts of religion. It seems he uses Alexis, a new-found friend on the island, as a foil for his own religious misgivings but just like Herodotus we may never know what he is thinking. In the vein of Herodotus he ends with the rare observance of the initiation of a new monk into the monastic life. With typical Herodotean objectification Marozzi tells the story with suspended criticism, simply viewing an aspect of culture much the way Herodotus would. Shortcomings? Some perhaps. He may spend more time than one thinks necessary at certain junctures. But all of his travels are engaging. This is not a rehash of classical history. Outside of the recounting of the classic battles of the Persian wars, the material he presented was new information for me. Having some knowledge of classical history is helpful in order to enjoy the book. Those who may read the book may find it helpful to have some sort of Atlas and short compendium on classical history at hand along with a dictionary to get the full effect of the book. This should not be taken as criticism necessarily. Rarely will you find books that can so challenge one to learn and entertain at the same time. I heartily recommend the book to all. It is engaging, well-written and introduces the reader to a little-known writer who has had a profound influence on historians even to this day. The Soul Doctor 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Way of Herodotus By BDWJ This book is very well researched and is full of history for the one who is studying ancient happenings. It is controversial in areas and makes one think, but is a very good read.

Intrepid travel historian Justin Marozzi retraces the footsteps of Herodotus through the Mediterranean and Middle East, examining Herodotus's 2,500-year-old observations about the cultures and places he visited and finding echoes of his legacy reverberating to this day. The Way of Herodotus is a lively yet thought-provoking excursion into the world of Herodotus, with the man who invented history ever present, guiding the narrative with his discursive spirit.

From Booklist Marozzi notes that Herodotus was the first historian, travel writer, anthropologist, political theorist, foreign correspondent, and prose stylist. During the classical age of the fifth century BC, Herodotus wrote the first history text, known as the Histories. Marozzi calls it a masterpiece on the grandest scale, a chronological history of the Persian wars. Marozzi examines Herodotus 2,500-year observations about the cultures and places he visited. The author sees Herodotus as an aspiring geographer, a budding moralist, a skillful dramatist, a high-spirited explorer, and an inveterate storyteller; part learned scholar, part tabloid hack, but always broad-minded. Marozzi's research included more than 100 books and articles. The result is an imposing and remarkable travel history. --George Cohen Chicago Tribune, 7/17/11 You must not miss this guide to the Middle East and the Mediterranean, which brims with descriptions that transcend ephemeral tidbits such as who's running the government. Marozzi comments often upon the timeless appeal of an earlier writer that rascal of a historian, Herodotus and by so doing, creates his own eternally

appealing travel guide.