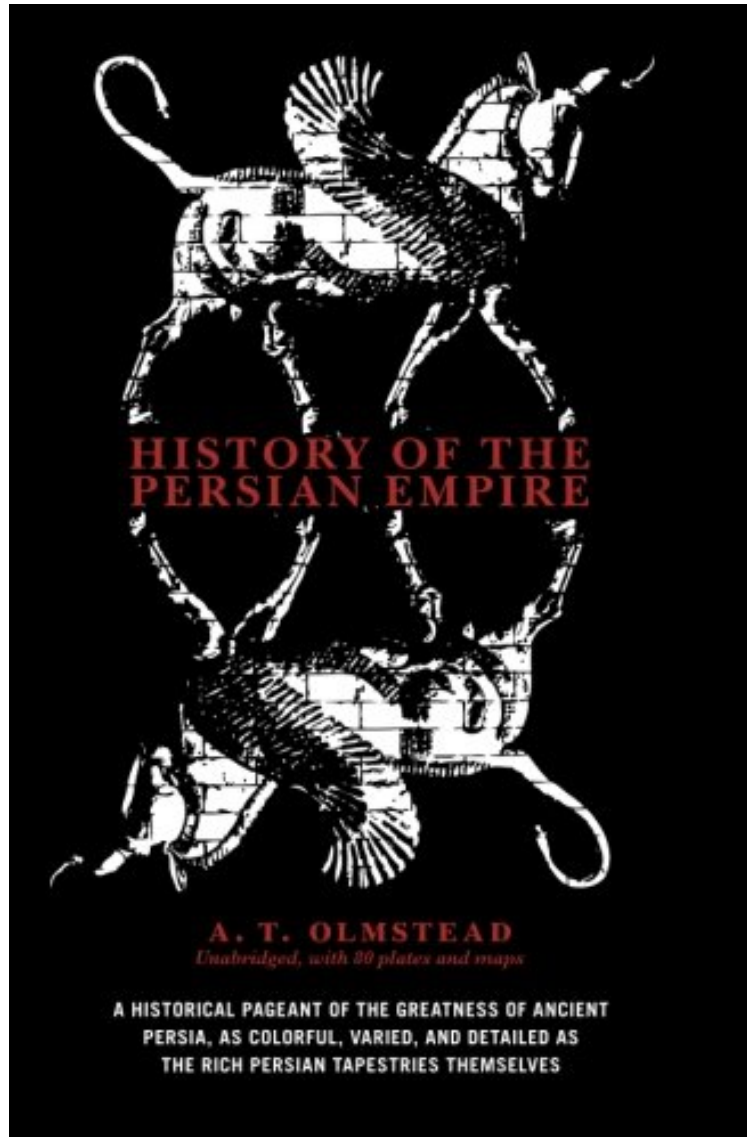


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A.T. Olmstead : History of the Persian Empire before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of the Persian Empire:

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brutal, dishonest, perfidious, and rapacious. He has some choice words to say about Alexander's behavior at Persepolis, and while he acknowledges that the Persians could not achieve victory over the Greeks on the battlefield, he points out that they could easily buy it with gold. If the Persians had written more about themselves, the western tradition might not be so biased in favor of the Greeks, but fortunately for themselves and for western civilization, the Greeks were prolific writers, while the Persians seemed to have used writing chiefly for business transactions. Hence a noble race is silent.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. A classic account of Persian History By David V. Ready The encyclical accounting of the Persian Empire. Olmstead was the first author to give an account of the Persians from their perspective. He begins well before Cyrus the Great and runs through the entire Achaemenid period recounting the conquest and administration of the empire until its demise by Alexander's onslaught. Olmstead goes into exceptional detail in giving accounts of the inscriptions and palace mural carvings at the ruins of Persepolis and other locales. His account of Zoroaster is also noteworthy from a liturgical perspective, though the dating of Zoroaster's life has changed since Olmstead passed away in 1945. Overall, a fantastic exposure to the Persian Empire. Best read in conjunction with one or two later works to optimally digest newer discoveries and conclusions.¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By Stanley C. Sargent I read this book in 1979 just before traveling to Iran. Once there, my Iranian friend and I traveled from the Shomal (the northern border of Iran on the Caspian Sea) nearly to the southern border, stopping at many of the sites I'd learned about while reading this book. My traveling companion learned more about his own country's history from me than he'd learned while getting a PhD, and I have this book to thank for that. It is very detailed and comprehensive, but it isn't a boring read for anyone with a real interest in the subject. Highly recommended! The book's only real shortcoming is the paucity of photos; the few it contains are small, not terribly clear and black white.

Out of a lifetime of study of the ancient Near East, Professor Olmstead has gathered previously unknown material into the story of the life, times, and thought of the Persians, told for the first time from the Persian rather than the traditional Greek point of view. "The fullest and most reliable presentation of the history of the Persian Empire in existence." M. Rostovtzeff

From the Back Cover At the foot of the Mount of Mercy in southeastern Persia, Darius the Great built his capital, Persepolis-symbol of Persian glory for two centuries. At its height the Achaemenid Empire, with its power centered in this city, reached from the Nile and Greece eastward to India. Dominating the major travel routes between East and West, it was the meeting ground of the great cultures of the ancient world.