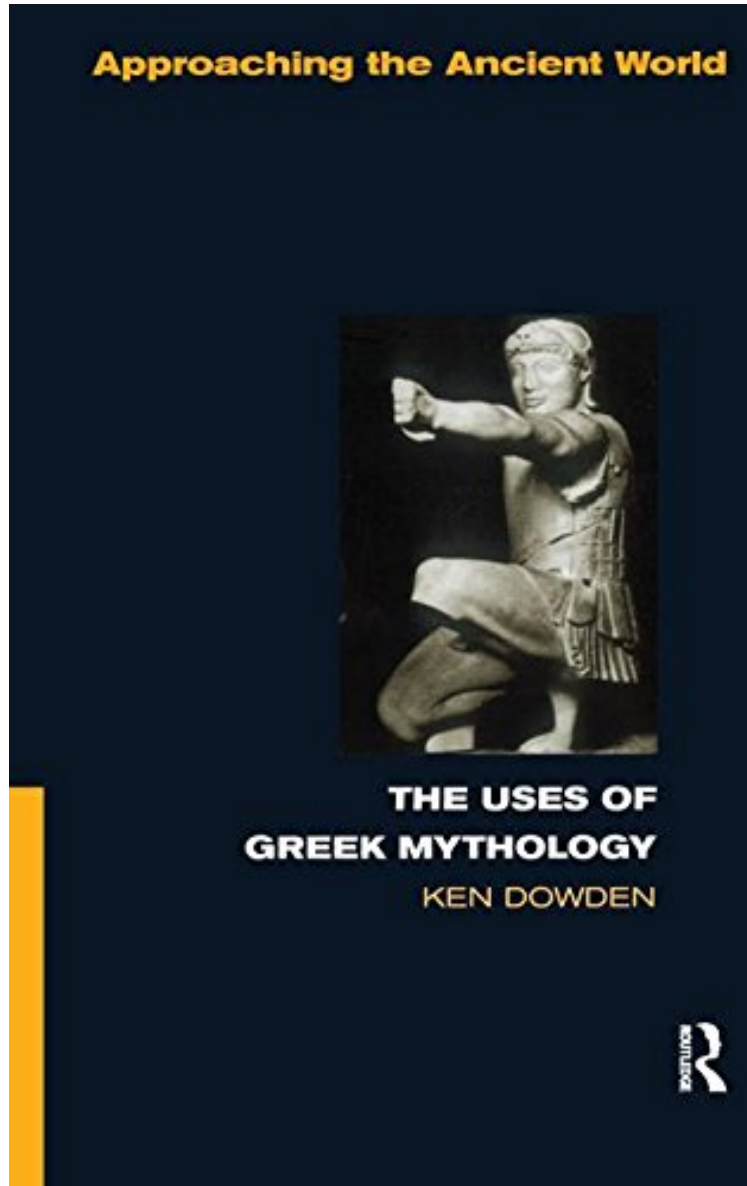


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The Uses of Greek Mythology (Approaching the Ancient World)

Ken Dowden

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Helps you understand our own time, too By Odysseus The author argues in case after case how Greek myth was used to justify a certain political situation, so as to gain acceptance for

otherwise immoral situations of dominance, to take one example. This is a very different way of approaching myths than, e.g., geomythology, or psychoanalysis. There is no single origin for all myths, but understanding different mechanisms for how they originate and are manipulated and promoted, can be a tremendous help in understanding both ancient and modern myths. Warning: The book may make you understand that some things that you thought of as fact in reality are modern myths, and that these same principles are active today. He does not discuss these issues, but once your senses are on the alert, you may look at the daily flow of information in a new way. I know I did. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. good social and political understanding
By TammyJo Eckhart
Dowden provides the reader with a good social and political basis and evaluation of mythology in the ancient world, focusing on the ancients themselves instead of falling into the trap of modern theory and belief. If one is working on anything involving classical myth, I highly recommend reading this book at some point. You'll disagree at times, but it will make you think.

In an innovative sequence of topics, Ken Dowden explores the uses Greeks made of myth and the uses to which we can put myth in recovering the richness of their culture. Most aspects of Greek life and history - including war, religion and sexuality - which are discernable through myth, as well as most modern approaches, are given a context in a book which is designed to be useful, accessible and stimulating.

..."the book constitutes an excellent Encheiridion for whoever wants quick but reliable general data about Ancient Greece, and in this regard, it will continue to offer further excellent services.." - " Journal of Indo-European Studies