

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

January 2021 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

Gifts, Leadership, and Survival: A Journey Through the Persian Empire with Xenophon



(R. W. Taylor, *Xenophon's Anabasis of Cyrus: books i. ii.* London (1877), 171-172)

Xenophon of Athens wrote about his experiences serving under the Persian dynasty Cyrus the Younger who attempted to overthrow his brother Artaxerxes for the Persian throne. Cyrus was killed in the fighting despite the success of his troops. In the wake of this disaster, Xenophon finds himself in the middle of the hostile Persian Empire with the remnants of the “Ten Thousand.” How were the Greek mercenaries able to escape and return to Greece? Or did they?

In this reading group, we will journey with Xenophon through the Persian Empire by reading his exciting *Anabasis* (sometimes translated in English as *The March Up Country*). We will focus in particular on episodes of gift-giving, lessons on leadership, and how the Ten Thousand survived. The *Anabasis* is a sophisticated text that has been many things to many people. Michael Flower (2012, 40) recently summed up its variety: “It has been called a war memoir, a coming-of-age story (in which the character Xenophon makes the journey



from innocence to experience), an adventure story, a travelogue, a political (panhellenist) tract, and an extended personal apology.” Come take a journey with us as we follow Xenophon’s account of ancient Persia.

Thursdays, 5pm EST

Reading Group Facilitator:
John Haberstroh (jhabe002@ucr.edu)
PhD. Candidate in History
University of California, Riverside

Editions:

There are many accessible English translations out there. I like Robin Waterfield’s translation (with Tim Rood, *The Expedition of Cyrus* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007). There is also W. H. D. Rouse’s edition (*The March Up Country: A Translation of Xenophon’s Anabasis* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1957). Carleton Brownson’s century-old translation is free on Perseus. H. G. Dakyn’s translation is also free on WikiSource. A huge list of all of Xenophon’s works online can be found [here](#).

Reading Schedule:

Week 1 (Jan. 14th) - Books 1 and 2
Week 2 (Jan. 21st) - Books 3, 4, and 5
Week 3 (Jan. 28th) - Books 6 and 7

Location:

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85956088112?pwd=WVRwb08xSHV6a2lYSEFDMk85cHNYUT09>

Zoom Meeting ID

859 5608 8112

Zoom Meeting Password

778037

A Very Select Bibliography:

Anderson, J. K. 1974. *Xenophon*. London: Duckworth.

- Azoulay, Vincent. 2018. *Xenophon and the Graces of Power: A Greek Guide to Political Manipulation*. Translated by Angela Krieger. Swansea: The Classical Press of Wales.
- Badian, Ernst. 1999. "Xenophon the Athenian." In *Xenophon and His World: Papers from a Conference Held in Liverpool in July 1999*, edited by Christopher J. Tuplin, 33–53. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag.
- Bradley, Patrick J. 2010. "Irony and the Narrator in Xenophon's *Anabasis*." In *Oxford Readings in Classical Studies: Xenophon*, edited by Vivienne Gray, pp. 520–552. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dillery, John. 1995. *Xenophon and the History of His Times*. New York: Routledge.
- Flower, Michael A.. 2012. *Xenophon's Anabasis or The Expedition of Cyrus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Flower, Michael A., ed. 2017. *The Cambridge Companion to Xenophon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gray, Vivienne, ed. 2010. *Oxford Readings in Classical Studies. Xenophon*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hobden, Fiona, and Christopher Tuplin, eds. 2012. *Xenophon: Ethical Principles and Historical Enquiry*. Leiden and Boston: Brill.
- Higgins, W. E. 1977. *Xenophon the Athenian: The Problem of the Individual and the Society of the Polis*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- Hirsch, Steven W. 1985. *The Friendship of the Barbarians: Xenophon and the Persian Empire*. Hanover and London: University Press of New England.
- Lee, John W. I. 2007. *A Greek Army on the March: Soldiers and Survival in Xenophon's Anabasis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Stronk, Jan P. 1995. *The Ten Thousand in Thrace: An Archaeological and Historical Commentary on Xenophon's Anabasis, Books VI.iii–vi – VII*. Amsterdam: J. C. Gieben.
- Waterfield, Robin. 2009. *Xenophon's Retreat: Greece, Persia, and the End of the Golden Age*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Extra Resources

- Pelling, Christopher. 2013. "Xenophon's and Caesar's third-person narratives—or are they?" In *The Author's Voice in Classical and Late Antiquity*, edited by Anna Marmodoro and Jonathan Hill, 39-73. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rood, Tim. 2010. "Xenophon's Parasangs." *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 130): 51-66.



Full Zoom Meeting Invitation:

Time: Jan 14, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until Jan 28, 2021, 3 occurrence(s)

Jan 14, 2021 04:00 PM

Jan 21, 2021 04:00 PM

Jan 28, 2021 04:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEkcU-opjMrG9YIDE176u7Thpa4AU28fQFY/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtpz4sGtydsRiFRpwMHY_4M_TxiFxcjfpkkDvAUncFd1TCPvJDZpNKQoDW

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85956088112?pwd=WVRwb08xSHV6a2lYSEFDMk85cHNYUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 5608 8112

Passcode: 778037

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,85956088112#,,,,*778037# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,85956088112#,,,,*778037# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 859 5608 8112

Passcode: 778037

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k5DOMwGaj>