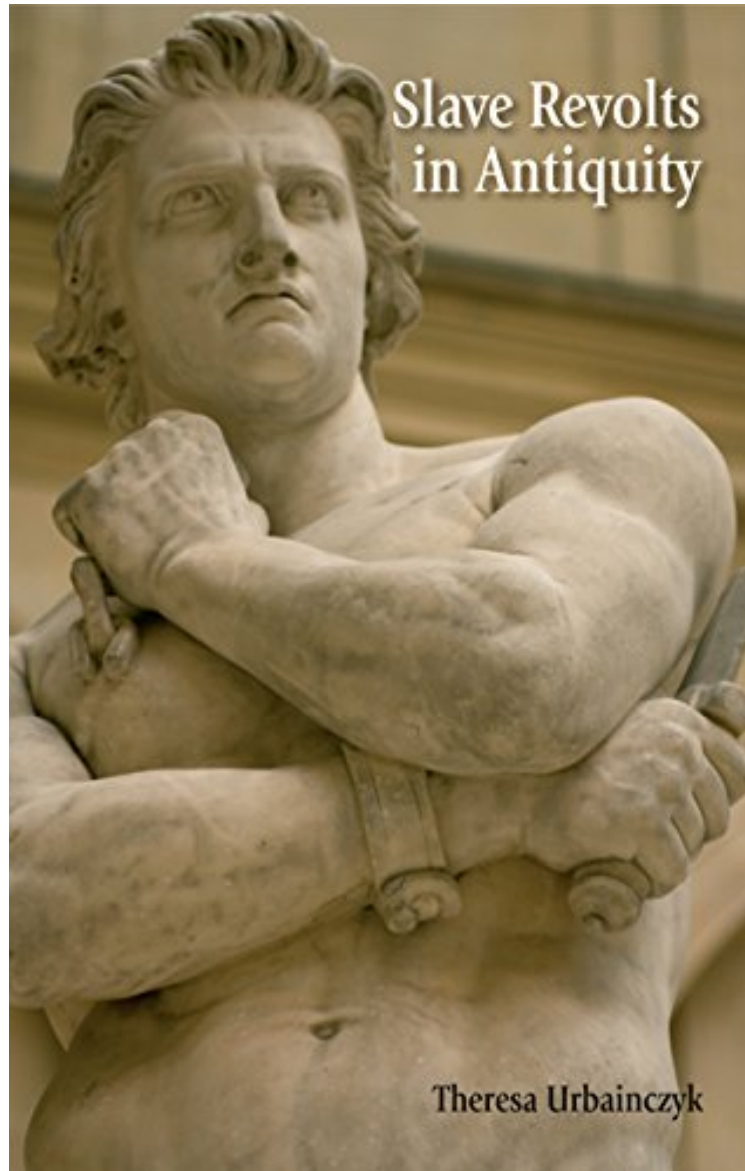


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Slave Revolts in Antiquity

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3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An excellent survey of the topicBy YodaProfessor Urbainczyk, using her very extensive knowledge on the classical historical sources of her book, does an excellent job at providing a survey of the topic. She provides her views, based on these sources from antiquity, on how common slave revolts were

(more common than thought), major factors that contributed to failures and successes of slave revolts (i.e., conflict among slave owning elites, ethnic homogeneity or heterogeneity of slaves owned, topology of area, etc.), ideology of slave revolts (primarily that they were primarily oriented to freeing the revolting slaves as opposed to a broader anti-slavery movement or ideology) and brief histories of many of major slave revolts themselves, both those that failed and those that succeeded. Being an academic book, it provides excellent documented sources and an excellent and extensive bibliography. About 75 pages of the book's 175 or so pages consist of footnotes and bibliographies. All and all an excellent survey of the subject.

Although much has been written on Greek and Roman slavery in antiquity, the same cannot be said for slave resistance in this period. Slave revolts have typically been dismissed as historically insignificant or exceptional events resulting from peculiar historical circumstances. In the first in-depth work on this topic to be published in two decades, Theresa Urbainczyk challenges much current thinking by looking beyond the canonical sources to reveal a longer and far more significant history of slave resistance. Her engaging, up-to-date account considers the circumstances of these revolts, looks at slave leaders and how they are recorded in history, explores the aims of slaves, examines attitudes toward freedom and slavery, and more. Dissecting both ancient and modern sources, she finds that the writers who recorded and rerecorded these slave rebellions and wars had every reason to repress large-scale resistance or to reconfigure it as something other than what it was. *Slave Revolts in Antiquity* also addresses one of the most important issues of our own time: the meaning of freedom itself. Copub: Acumen Publishing Limited

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