



Eric H. Cline

THE TROJAN WAR

A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD

The Trojan War: A Very Short Introduction

VERY SHORT INTRODUCTIONS are for anyone wanting a stimulating and accessible way in to a new subject. They are written by experts and have been published in more than 25 languages worldwide.

The series began in 1995 and now represents a wide variety of topics in history, philosophy, religion, science, and the humanities. The VSI library now contains more than 300 volumes—a Very Short Introduction to everything from ancient Egypt and Indian philosophy to conceptual art and cosmology—and will continue to grow in a variety of disciplines.

Very Short Introductions available now:

- ADVERTISING Winston Fletcher
AFRICAN HISTORY John Parker and
Richard Rathbone
AGNOSTICISM Robin Le Poidevin
AMERICAN HISTORY Paul S. Boyer
AMERICAN IMMIGRATION
David A. Gerber
AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES
AND ELECTIONS L. Sandy Maisel
AMERICAN POLITICS
Richard M. Vellely
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
Charles O. Jones
ANAESTHESIA Aidan O'Donnell
ANARCHISM Colin Ward
ANCIENT EGYPT Ian Shaw
ANCIENT GREECE Paul Cartledge
ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY Julia Annas
ANCIENT WARFARE
Harry Sidebottom
ANGELS David Albert Jones
ANGLICANISM Mark Chapman
THE ANGLO-SAXON AGE John Blair
THE ANIMAL KINGDOM
Peter Holland
ANIMAL RIGHTS David DeGrazia
THE ANTARCTIC Klaus Dodds
ANTISEMITISM Steven Beller
ANXIETY Daniel Freeman and
Jason Freeman
THE APOCRYPHAL GOSPELS
Paul Foster
- ARCHAEOLOGY Paul Bahn
ARCHITECTURE Andrew Ballantyne
ARISTOCRACY William Doyle
ARISTOTLE Jonathan Barnes
ART HISTORY Dana Arnold
ART THEORY Cynthia Freeland
ATHEISM Julian Baggini
AUGUSTINE Henry Chadwick
AUSTRALIA Kenneth Morgan
AUTISM Uta Frith
THE AVANT GARDE David Cottington
THE AZTECS David Carrasco
BACTERIA Sebastian G. B. Amyes
BARTHES Jonathan Culler
BEAUTY Roger Scruton
BESTSELLERS John Sutherland
THE BIBLE John Riches
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY
Eric H. Cline
BIOGRAPHY Hermione Lee
THE BLUES Elijah Wald
THE BOOK OF MORMON
Terryl Givens
BORDERS Alexander C. Diener and
Joshua Hagen
THE BRAIN Michael O'Shea
THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION
Martin Loughlin
THE BRITISH EMPIRE Ashley Jackson
BRITISH POLITICS Anthony Wright
BUDDHA Michael Carrithers
BUDDHISM Damien Keown

BUDDHIST ETHICS Damien Keown
CANCER Nicholas James
CAPITALISM James Fulcher
CATHOLICISM Gerald O'Collins
THE CELL Terence Allen and
Graham Cowling
THE CELTS Barry Cunliffe
CHAOS Leonard Smith
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
Kimberley Reynolds
CHINESE LITERATURE Sabina Knight
CHOICE THEORY Michael Allingham
CHRISTIAN ART Beth Williamson
CHRISTIAN ETHICS D. Stephen Long
CHRISTIANITY Linda Woodhead
CITIZENSHIP Richard Bellamy
CIVIL ENGINEERING
David Muir Wood
CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY
Helen Morales
CLASSICS Mary Beard and
John Henderson
CLAUSEWITZ Michael Howard
THE COLD WAR Robert McMahon
COLONIAL AMERICA Alan Taylor
COLONIAL LATIN AMERICAN
LITERATURE Rolena Adorno
COMEDY Matthew Bevis
COMMUNISM Leslie Holmes
THE COMPUTER Darrel Ince
THE CONQUISTADORS
Matthew Restall and
Felipe Fernández-Armesto
CONSCIENCE Paul Strohm
CONSCIOUSNESS Susan Blackmore
CONTEMPORARY ART
Julian Stallabrass
CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY
Simon Critchley
COSMOLOGY Peter Coles
CRITICAL THEORY
Stephen Eric Bronner
THE CRUSADES Christopher Tyerman
CRYPTOGRAPHY Fred Piper and
Sean Murphy
THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION
Richard Curt Kraus

DADA AND SURREALISM
David Hopkins
DARWIN Jonathan Howard
THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS Timothy Lim
DEMOCRACY Bernard Crick
DERRIDA Simon Glendinning
DESCARTES Tom Sorell
DESERTS Nick Middleton
DESIGN John Heskett
DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
Lewis Wolpert
THE DEVIL Darren Oldridge
DICTIONARIES Lynda Mugglestone
DINOSAURS David Norman
DIPLOMACY Joseph M. Siracusa
DOCUMENTARY FILM
Patricia Aufderheide
DREAMING J. Allan Hobson
DRUGS Leslie Iversen
DRUIDS Barry Cunliffe
EARLY MUSIC Thomas Forrest Kelly
THE EARTH Martin Redfern
ECONOMICS Partha Dasgupta
EDUCATION Gary Thomas
EGYPTIAN MYTH Geraldine Pinch
EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN
Paul Langford
THE ELEMENTS Philip Ball
EMOTION Dylan Evans
EMPIRE Stephen Howe
ENGELS Terrell Carver
ENGINEERING David Blockley
ENGLISH LITERATURE Jonathan Bate
ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS
Stephen Smith
EPIDEMIOLOGY Rodolfo Saracci
ETHICS Simon Blackburn
THE EUROPEAN UNION John Pinder
and Simon Usherwood
EVOLUTION Brian and
Deborah Charlesworth
EXISTENTIALISM Thomas Flynn
FASCISM Kevin Passmore
FASHION Rebecca Arnold
FEMINISM Margaret Walters
FILM Michael Wood
FILM MUSIC Kathryn Kalinak

THE FIRST WORLD WAR
Michael Howard
FOLK MUSIC Mark Slobin
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
David Canter
FORENSIC SCIENCE Jim Fraser
FOSSILS Keith Thomson
FOUCAULT Gary Gutting
FREE SPEECH Nigel Warburton
FREE WILL Thomas Pink
FRENCH LITERATURE John D. Lyons
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
William Doyle
FREUD Anthony Storr
FUNDAMENTALISM Malise Ruthven
GALAXIES John Gribbin
GALILEO Stillman Drake
GAME THEORY Ken Binmore
GANDHI Bhikhu Parekh
GENIUS Andrew Robinson
GEOGRAPHY John Matthews
and David Herbert
GEOPOLITICS Klaus Dodds
GERMAN LITERATURE
Nicholas Boyle
GERMAN PHILOSOPHY
Andrew Bowie
GLOBAL CATASTROPHES Bill McGuire
GLOBAL ECONOMIC HISTORY
Robert C. Allen
GLOBAL WARMING Mark Maslin
GLOBALIZATION Manfred Steger
THE GOTHIC Nick Groom
GOVERNANCE Mark Bevir
THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE
NEW DEAL Eric Rauchway
HABERMAS James Gordon Finlayson
HEGEL Peter Singer
HEIDEGGER Michael Inwood
HERODOTUS Jennifer T. Roberts
HIEROGLYPHS Penelope Wilson
HINDUISM Kim Knott
HISTORY John H. Arnold
THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY
Michael Hoskin
THE HISTORY OF LIFE
Michael Benton

THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
Jacqueline Stedall
THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE
William Bynum
THE HISTORY OF TIME
Leofranc Holford – Strevens
HIV/AIDS Alan Whiteside
HOBBS Richard Tuck
HUMAN EVOLUTION Bernard Wood
HUMAN RIGHTS Andrew Clapham
HUMANISM Stephen Law
HUME A. J. Ayer
IDEOLOGY Michael Freeden
INDIAN PHILOSOPHY Sue Hamilton
INFORMATION Luciano Floridi
INNOVATION Mark Dodgson and
David Gann
INTELLIGENCE Ian J. Deary
INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION Khalid Koser
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Paul Wilkinson
ISLAM Malise Ruthven
ISLAMIC HISTORY Adam Silverstein
ITALIAN LITERATURE
Peter Hainsworth and
David Robey
JESUS Richard Bauckham
JOURNALISM Ian Hargreaves
JUDAISM Norman Solomon
JUNG Anthony Stevens
KABBALAH Joseph Dan
KAFKA Ritchie Robertson
KANT Roger Scruton
KEYNES Robert Skidelsky
KIERKEGAARD Patrick Gardiner
THE KORAN Michael Cook
LANDSCAPES AND
GEOMORPHOLOGY
Andrew Goudie and Heather Viles
LANGUAGES Stephen R. Anderson
LATE ANTIQUITY Gillian Clark
LAW Raymond Wacks
THE LAWS OF THERMODYNAMICS
Peter Atkins
LEADERSHIP Keith Grint
LINCOLN Allen C. Guelzo

LINGUISTICS Peter Matthews
 LITERARY THEORY Jonathan Culler
 LOCKE John Dunn
 LOGIC Graham Priest
 MACHIAVELLI Quentin Skinner
 MADNESS Andrew Scull
 MAGIC Owen Davies
 MAGNA CARTA Nicholas Vincent
 MAGNETISM Stephen Blundell
 MAO Delia Davin
 MARINE BIOLOGY Philip V. Mladenov
 THE MARQUIS DE SADE John Phillips
 MARTIN LUTHER Scott H. Hendrix
 MARTYRDOM Jolyon Mitchell
 MARX Peter Singer
 MATHEMATICS Timothy Gowers
 THE MEANING OF LIFE
 Terry Eagleton
 MEDICAL ETHICS Tony Hope
 MEDICAL LAW Charles Foster
 MEDIEVAL BRITAIN John Gillingham
 and Ralph A. Griffiths
 MEMORY Jonathan K. Foster
 METAPHYSICS Stephen Mumford
 MICHAEL FARADAY
 Frank A.J.L. James
 MODERN ART David Cottington
 MODERN CHINA Rana Mitter
 MODERN FRANCE
 Vanessa R. Schwartz
 MODERN IRELAND Senia Pašeta
 MODERN JAPAN
 Christopher Goto-Jones
 MODERN LATIN AMERICAN
 LITERATURE
 Roberto González Echevarría
 MODERNISM Christopher Butler
 MOLECULES Philip Ball
 THE MONGOLS Morris Rossabi
 MORMONISM
 Richard Lyman Bushman
 MUHAMMAD Jonathan A.C. Brown
 MULTICULTURALISM Ali Rattansi
 MUSIC Nicholas Cook
 MYTH Robert A. Segal
 THE NAPOLEONIC WARS
 Mike Rapport
 NATIONALISM Steven Grosby
 NELSON MANDELA Elleke Boehmer
 NEOLIBERALISM Manfred Steger and
 Ravi Roy
 NETWORKS Guido Caldarelli and
 Michele Catanzaro
 THE NEW TESTAMENT
 Luke Timothy Johnson
 THE NEW TESTAMENT AS
 LITERATURE Kyle Keefer
 NEWTON Robert Iliffe
 NIETZSCHE Michael Tanner
 NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN
 Christopher Harvie and
 H. C. G. Matthew
 THE NORMAN CONQUEST
 George Garnett
 NORTH AMERICAN
 INDIANS Theda Perdue and
 Michael D. Green
 NORTHERN IRELAND
 Marc Mulholland
 NOTHING Frank Close
 NUCLEAR POWER Maxwell Irvine
 NUCLEAR WEAPONS
 Joseph M. Siracusa
 NUMBERS Peter M. Higgins
 OBJECTIVITY Stephen Gaukroger
 THE OLD TESTAMENT
 Michael D. Coogan
 THE ORCHESTRA D. Kern Holoman
 ORGANIZATIONS Mary Jo Hatch
 PAGANISM Owen Davies
 PARTICLE PHYSICS Frank Close
 PAUL E. P. Sanders
 PENTECOSTALISM William K. Kay
 THE PERIODIC TABLE Eric R. Scerrì
 PHILOSOPHY Edward Craig
 PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
 Raymond Wacks
 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
 Samir Okasha
 PHOTOGRAPHY Steve Edwards
 PLAGUE Paul Slack
 PLANETS David A. Rothery
 PLANTS Timothy Walker
 PLATO Julia Annas

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY David Miller
POLITICS Kenneth Minogue
POSTCOLONIALISM Robert Young
POSTMODERNISM Christopher Butler
POSTSTRUCTURALISM
Catherine Belsey
PREHISTORY Chris Gosden
PRESOCRATIC
PHILOSOPHY Catherine Osborne
PRIVACY Raymond Wacks
PROBABILITY John Haigh
PROGRESSIVISM Walter Nugent
PROTESTANTISM Mark A. Noll
PSYCHIATRY Tom Burns
PSYCHOLOGY Gillian Butler and
Freda McManus
PURITANISM Francis J. Bremer
THE QUAKERS Pink Dandelion
QUANTUM THEORY
John Polkinghorne
RACISM Ali Rattansi
RADIOACTIVITY Claudio Tuniz
RASTAFARI Ennis B. Edmonds
THE REAGAN REVOLUTION Gil Troy
REALITY Jan Westerhoff
THE REFORMATION Peter Marshall
RELATIVITY Russell Stannard
RELIGION IN AMERICA Timothy Beal
THE RENAISSANCE Jerry Brotton
RENAISSANCE ART
Geraldine A. Johnson
RHETORIC Richard Tøye
RISK Baruch Fischhoff and John Kadvany
RIVERS Nick Middleton
ROBOTICS Alan Winfield
ROMAN BRITAIN Peter Salway
THE ROMAN EMPIRE
Christopher Kelly
THE ROMAN REPUBLIC
David M. Gwynn
ROMANTICISM Michael Ferber
ROUSSEAU Robert Wokler
RUSSELL A. C. Grayling
RUSSIAN HISTORY Geoffrey Hosking
RUSSIAN LITERATURE Catriona Kelly
THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION
S. A. Smith

SCHIZOPHRENIA Chris Frith and
Eve Johnstone
SCHOPENHAUER
Christopher Janaway
SCIENCE AND RELIGION
Thomas Dixon
SCIENCE FICTION David Seed
THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION
Lawrence M. Principe
SCOTLAND Rab Houston
SEXUALITY Véronique Mottier
SHAKESPEARE Germaine Greer
SIKHISM Eleanor Nesbitt
THE SILK ROAD James A. Millward
SLEEP Steven W. Lockley and
Russell G. Foster
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
ANTHROPOLOGY
John Monaghan and Peter Just
SOCIALISM Michael Newman
SOCIOLOGY Steve Bruce
SOCRATES C. C. W. Taylor
THE SOVIET UNION
Stephen Lovell
THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR
Helen Graham
SPANISH LITERATURE Jo Labanyi
SPINOZA Roger Scruton
SPIRITUALITY Philip Sheldrake
STARS Andrew King
STATISTICS David J. Hand
STEM CELLS Jonathan Slack
STUART BRITAIN John Morrill
SUPERCONDUCTIVITY
Stephen Blundell
SYMMETRY Ian Stewart
TERRORISM Charles Townshend
THEOLOGY David F. Ford
THOMAS AQUINAS Fergus Kerr
THOUGHT Tim Bayne
TOCQUEVILLE Harvey C. Mansfield
TRAGEDY Adrian Poole
THE TROJAN WAR Eric H. Cline
TRUST Katherine Hawley
THE TUDORS John Guy
TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITAIN
Kenneth O. Morgan

THE UNITED NATIONS

Jussi M. Hanhimäki

THE U.S. CONGRESS Donald A. Ritchie

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

Linda Greenhouse

UTOPIANISM Lyman Tower Sargent

THE VIKINGS Julian Richards

VIRUSES Dorothy H. Crawford

WITCHCRAFT Malcolm Gaskill

WITTGENSTEIN A. C. Grayling

WORK Stephen Fineman

WORLD MUSIC Philip Bohlman

THE WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION Amrita Narlikar

WRITING AND SCRIPT

Andrew Robinson

Available soon:

MALTHUS

Donald Winch

CLIMATE

Mark Maslin

HAPPINESS

Daniel M. Haybron

PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

Martin Bunton

For more information visit our web site

www.oup.co.uk/general/vsi/

This page intentionally left blank

Eric H. Cline

THE TROJAN WAR

A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research,
scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide.

Oxford New York

Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi
New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in

Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France Greece
Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal Singapore
South Korea Switzerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam

Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press
in the UK and certain other countries.

Published in the United States of America by
Oxford University Press
198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

© Eric H. Cline 2013

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or
as expressly permitted by law, by license, or under terms agreed with the
appropriate reproduction rights organization. Inquiries concerning
reproduction outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights
Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above.

You must not circulate this work in any other form, and you must
impose the same condition on any acquirer.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Cline, Eric H.

The Trojan War : a very short introduction / Eric H. Cline.

p. cm.—(Very short introductions)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-19-976027-5 (alk. paper)

1. Troy (Extinct city) 2. Trojan War. 3. Turkey—Antiquities.

4. Excavations (Archaeology)—Turkey—Troy (Extinct city)

5. Greece—Civilization—To 146 B.C. I. Title.

DF221.T8C54 2013

939'.21—dc23 2012036331

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

Printed in Great Britain
by Ashford Colour Press Ltd., Gosport, Hants.
on acid-free paper

*Dedicated to the memory of my mother,
for introducing me to the wonders of the Trojan War
when I was seven years old.*

This page intentionally left blank

Contents

List of illustrations xv

Acknowledgments xvii

Introduction 1

Part I The Trojan War

- 1 The story according to the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, and the *Epic Cycle* 9
- 2 The Trojan War in context: Mycenaeans, Hittites, Trojans, and Sea Peoples 27

Part II Investigating the literary evidence

- 3 Homeric questions: Did Homer exist and is the *Iliad* accurate? 41
- 4 The Hittite texts: Assuwa, Ahhiyawa, and Alaksandu of Wilusa 54

Part III Investigating the archaeological evidence

- 5 Early excavators: Heinrich Schliemann and Wilhelm Dörpfeld 71

6 Returning to Hisarlik: Carl Blegen and
Manfred Korfmann 85

Epilogue 103

Glossary: characters and places 111

References 115

Further reading 119

Index 124

List of illustrations

- 1 Map of the Bronze Age Aegean and western Anatolia, ca. 1250 BCE **xx**
After original by Eric Shanower, *Age of Bronze*, 2001
- 2 Heinrich Schliemann **3**
Carl Schuchhardt, *Schliemann's Excavations: An Archaeological and Historical Study* (New York: Macmillan, 1891), frontispiece
- 3 Map of Hittite Anatolia **56**
After original by Trevor Bryce
- 4 Priam's Treasure **77**
Carl Schuchhardt, *Schliemann's Excavations: An Archaeological and Historical Study* (New York: Macmillan, 1891), 57
- 5 Sophia Schliemann **79**
Carl Schuchhardt, *Schliemann's Excavations: An Archaeological and Historical Study* (New York: Macmillan, 1891), 17
- 6 Schematic section of Troy, according to Dörpfeld **83**
Wilhelm Dörpfeld, *Troja und Ilion: Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen in den vorhistorischen und historischen Schichten von Ilion, 1870-1894* (Athens: Beck & Barth, 1902), 32
- 7 Plan of Troy I-IX **86**
Christoph Haußner
- 8 Possible Earthquake Damage in Troy VI **89**
Courtesy of the Blegen Archives, University of Cincinnati
- 9 Plan of Troy VIIa, with reused wall of Troy VI **92**
Courtesy of the Troia Project, University of Tübingen
- 10 Possible arrowheads from Troy VIIa lower city **100**
Courtesy of M. Gülbiz and the Troia Project, University of Tübingen