This essential guide to ancient warfare describes the fighting methods of soldiers in Europe and the Middle East in an age before gunpowder. From a detailed examination of the individual components of an ancient army and their equipment, to a fascinating exploration of ancient battle strategies, siege warfare, and naval battles, the book explores the unique tactics required to win battles with the technology available. Featuring specially commissioned color and black-and-white artwork and twenty-four full-color tactical maps, this book shows in great detail the methods by which armies, including Assyrians and Roman forces, prevailed over their foes, and why other armies were less successful. This is a must-read for anyone interested in ancient warfare.

My Personal Review:
This book served my purposes well in the writing of Maccabee. Significant detail is given, citing ancient sources such as Livy and Plutarch, in relating what occurred in historic battles and the weaponry that was used. Minute details are given, such as the way a pilum was built so the iron shaft would bend once thrust into an enemy shield so it could not be extracted, thus rendering the shield useless. This book demonstrates that though the weaponry was nothing so sophisticated as the weapons of today, much thought went into how best to wage war. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in ancient warfare.

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