

Vegetius: Epitome of Military Science (Translated Texts for Historians)

By *Flavius Vegetius Renatus*


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Flavius Vegetius Renatus

The only Latin Art of War to survive, Vegetius' Epitome was for long an essential part of the medieval prince's military education. The core of his proposals, the maintenance of a highly-trained professional standing army and navy, was revolutionary for medieval Europe, while his theory of deterrence through strength remains the foundation of modern Western defence policy. This annotated translation highlights the significance for his own age of Vegetius' advice, written just before the fall of the Roman Empire in the West, at a time when economic weakness and political disintegration threatened to undermine the strategic defensive structure that had underpinned the Roman State for so long. The main thrust of his reforms is to confront the problems of the fragmentation of the army, the barbarisation of its personnel, the loss of professional skills, and the substitution of mercenaries for standing forces. The accent of the work is on the practicalities of recruiting and training new model armies (and navies) starting from scratch, and on the strategies appropriate to their use against the barbarian invaders of the period. *N. P. MILNER took a first in Greats at Christ Church, Oxford and later returned to Oxford to research Vegetius for his DPhil. He has also been active in archaeological and epigraphical survey work in SW Turkey.

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Bibliography

- Rank: #3696661 in Books
- Published on: 1993-05
- Original language: Latin
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 6.00" w x .75" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 182 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

... by far the best English translation of Vegetius available ... -- Bryn Mawr * Classical Review *

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Latin

About the Author

N. P. Milner took First Class Honours in Greats at Christ Church, Oxford, in 1982. After working for a time in the City and as a schoolmaster, he returned to Oxford to research Vegetius for a DPhil thesis. He has also been active in archaeological and epigraphical survey work in S.W. Turkey undertaken at ancient sites by the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, and has worked on the epigraphical Nachlass of the late Alan Hall.

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