



# A Brief History of Ancient Greek

By Stephen Colvin

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## A Brief History of Ancient Greek By Stephen Colvin

*A Brief History of Ancient Greek* accessibly depicts the social history of this ancient language from its Indo-European roots to the present day.

- Explains key relationships between the language and literature of the Classical period (500 - 300 BC)
- Provides a social history of the language which transliterates and translates all Greek as appropriate, and is therefore accessible to readers who know little or no Greek
- Written in the framework of modern sociolinguistic theory, relating the development of Ancient Greek to its social and political context
- Reflects the latest thinking on subjects such as Koiné Greek and the relationship between literary and vernacular Greek

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“In *A Brief History of Ancient Greek*, Stephen Colvin provides a lucid, authoritative, and highly engaging introduction to the first two thousand years of the Greek language.”

—*Brent Vine, UCLA*

“Colvin's history is authoritative and elegantly written, elucidating a great deal of complicated material with minimal fuss.”

—*Joshua T. Katz, Princeton University*

“A thoroughly well-informed, lucid, and sensitive presentation of the history of ancient Greek: this book is clear, accessible, and at the same time admirably careful with facts, concepts, and debates.”

—*Philomen Probert, Wolfson College, Oxford*

#### From the Back Cover

Attested since the fourteenth century BC, and still spoken today by over 10 million people, Greek has been one of the most influential languages in human history. English, Spanish, French, Russian and Arabic are among the many languages to have borrowed key terms and concepts from Greek.

*A Brief History of Ancient Greek* takes the reader through the history of this ancient language from its Indo-European beginnings right up to the present day, and explains key relationships between the language and literature of the Classical period (500 - 300 BC). The development of the language is also related to the social and political context, in line with modern sociolinguistic thought. The book reflects the latest scholarship on subjects such as Koiné Greek, and the relationship between literary and vernacular Greek.

All Greek is transliterated and translated where appropriate, so that the text is accessible to readers who know little or no Greek, including scholars and students who require an accessible overview of the history of the language, or linguists and professionals who need a quick source of data and background information.

#### About the Author

**Stephen Colvin** is Reader in Classics and Historical Linguistics at University College London. Previously, he was Associate Professor in the Department of Classics at Yale. He is the author of *Dialect in Aristophanes* (1999), *A Historical Greek Reader* (2007), and editor of *The Greco-Roman East: Politics, Culture, Society* (2004).

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