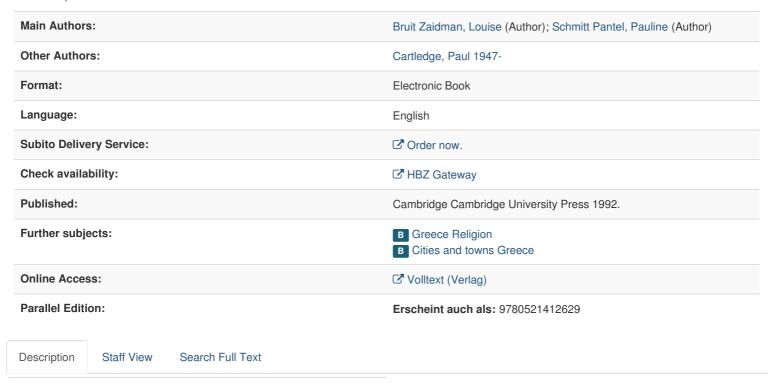


Religion in the ancient Greek city

This book is a translation into English of La religion grecque by Louise Bruit Zaidman and Pauline Schmitt Pantel, described by Dr Simon Price as 'an excellent book, by far the best introduction to the subject in any language'. It is the purpose of the book to consider how religious belief...

Full description



Summary:

This book is a translation into English of La religion grecque by Louise Bruit Zaidman and Pauline Schmitt Pantel, described by Dr Simon Price as 'an excellent book, by far the best introduction to the subject in any language'. It is the purpose of the book to consider how religious beliefs and cultic rituals were given expression in the world of the Greek citizen the functions performed by the religious personnel, and the place that religion occupied in individual, social and political life. The chapters cover first ritual and then myth, rooting the account in the practices of the classical city while also taking seriously the world of the imagination. For this edition the bibliography has been substantially revised to meet the needs of a mainly student, English-speaking readership. The book is enriched throughout by illustrations, and by quotations from original sources.

Author's preface to the English translation -- pt. I. Introduction: How should we study Greek civic religion? The necessity of cultural estrangement; Some fundamental notions; Sources of evidence -- pt. II. Cult-practices. Rituals; Religious personnel; Places of cult; Rites of passage; Settings of religious life; Religion and political life; The festival system: the Athenian case; The Panhellenic cults -- pt. III. Systems for representing the divine. Myths and mythology; A polytheistic religion; Forms of imaginative projection -- pt. IV. Envoi. Concluding reflections -- Appendices. I: The classical Greek temple; II: The monuments of the Athenian Akropolis

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Ancient Greek religion encompasses the collection of beliefs, rituals, and mythology originating in ancient Greece in the form of both popular public religion and cult practices. These groups varied enough for it to be possible to speak of Greek religions or "cults" in the plural, though most of them shared similarities. Most ancient Greeks recognized the twelve major Olympian gods and goddesses—Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Athena, Ares, Aphrodite, Apollo, Artemis, Hephaestus, Hermes, and either Ancient Greek Religion Greek Religion fast facts and introduction. Adherents, ancient form extinct; various modern revivals. Beliefs. Polytheism. Human life is subject to the whim of the gods and to Fate; these can be controlled through sacrifice and divination. Two of the most powerful empires in the ancient world were Greece and Rome. It's impossible to understand these empires without understanding the religions that were so important to them. Greek religion, spreading as it did over many centuries and many different city-states, incorporated a great deal of variety in its beliefs. Nevertheless, the "pantheons current among different communities have enough in common to be seen as essentially one system, and were generally understood as such by the Greeks full article →. Gods. If we are careful to study Greek Religion from the framework of the ancient Greeks, we notice that religion, politics, and the civil life were all tied together. This observation is what led them to title the book, Religion in the Ancient Greek City. Religion is played out not only in the home life (oikos), but also as a part of the overall working of the city-states. The book also discusses how religion was able to unite the Greeks in pan-Hellenic celebrations (the most famous for us being the Olympics or the plays in celebration of Dionysus - think of Euripides, Sophocles, Aeschylus, or Aristophanes). Another amazing discussion in the book was how to understand the myths, and representation of the gods, as a whole. Greek religion, the religious beliefs and practices of the ancient Hellenes. The gods on Olympus: Athena, Zeus, Dionysus, Hera, and Aphrodite. Detail of a painting on a Greek cup; in the National Archaeological Museum, Tarquinia, Italy, Alinari/Art Resource, New York, Although its origins may be traced to the remotest eras, Greek religion in its developed form lasted more than a thousand years, from the time of Homer (probably 9th or 8th century bce) to the reign of the emperor Julian (4th century ce). During that period its influence spread as far west as Spain, east to the Indus River, and throughout the Mediterranean world. Facts About Ancient Greek Religion: Most of the festivals were given to honor the gods and goddesses. Temples were built for the gods and goddesses to live in. If things were going good in the town it would mean that the gods and goddesses were happy. Where did the Ancient Greeks believe the gods and goddesses came from? They believed that the gods and goddesses came from the Earth and the sky. Where was it believed that the most 10 important Feedback Ancient Greek gods lived? The Ancient Greeks believed that the 10 most important gods and goddesses lived on top of Mount Olympus.