

Paul Cartledge's work on Sparta is imperative today - his reputation as an esteemed scholar and academic means that his knowledge is vital to my own regarding the helots, a class I need to understand intimately for my writings on the Mothax.

His writing promotes the helots as unlike all others - they had families despite the threat of the *krypteia* (Plutarch, '*Life of Lycurgus*', 28) and had some property rights, alongside relationships with families they helped to serve via farming the plots of land given to Spartiates from Lycurgus' '*Great Rhetra*' (Plutarch, '*Life of Lycurgus*', 8) and the balance of the ratio of helots to Lacedaemonians (those who live within the region of Lakonia, citizens of Sparta, 'Spartiates', and those free without citizenship, the women and children) was unheard of outside Sparta.

Critically, Cartledge is unaffected by the Spartan Mirage, (Frances Ollier, 1933, '*Le Mirage Spartiate*') and gives a balanced observation on ancient views of the Spartans (most major sources today are from outside of Sparta, Xenophon was the only source we know that lived in Sparta) and modern revisions - his work takes a neutral and observational tone regarding the exploration of the sources; his work is trustworthy to utilise as he supports what he observes only through sources, and notes if they are supported by evidence, "(either a percentage or an absolute amount, depending on which sources are followed)" and overall is the most efficient at outlining the helot's existence and purpose, along with why they are so different in terms of outside slavery and what sources are the most relevant to his given information.

However, despite this, because this is arguably a general overview of the Helots, he spends a lot of focus on the helots in Spartan territory, domestic life and responsibilities. The outside-roles of helots militarily are only mentioned. The helot's roles outside Sparta helped to contribute to their fame, especially when they were armed alongside Spartiates during the Battle of Thermopylae (Herodotus, '*Histories*', 7.202, 8.25)

Overall, Cartledge's review of the helots over his extensive scholarly record is thorough, save for the helots and their military assistance, and he can write without influence from the Spartan Mirage, which is critical for modern reviews on Sparta and its few sources, and for my own essay.

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