Hanson reading Group Work 1

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Three Things learned:

-War evolves with the advancements in technology.

-The human experiences of warfare are remarkably constant despite the advancements

-The tactics and strategy of the time are always built around and adapted for the technology of the time.

Agreements:

-Hanson’s analysis of the mentality of the individual soldier throughout history is very well done.

-It aligns well with other works that have been done on the same concept. His work is not very different from Robert Citino’s work on German warfare.

-Hanson’s description and arguments revolving around artillery, armor, and infantry in ancient times is a well-established and supported argument.

-We agree with him on this primarily because of the logic that follows built upon on other descriptions of ancient life.

-Hanson’s criticisms of the 19th century study of classical warfare have merit

- The 19th century German scholarship that Hanson criticizes in Part III are well-grounded. The scholarship of that time and place was attempting to study classical greek warfare through the framework of the their contemporary practices in military science. Unfortunately, that framework (much discussed in Citino’s *The German Way of War*) required far more complete information than the historical record provided. This resulted in flawed analysis and unreliable conclusions on the part of the German scholars (Kolchy, Rustow, Droysen, Delbruck, Kromayer, and Veith)

Criticisms:

-Disagree with Hanson’s description of Western War

-We believe the western way of war is not about having a fair fight all the time. We believe that the western way of war is defined by heavy use of technology to gain an advantage. Hanson also is hyper focused on the tactical level, and the experience of the soldier. This ignores the operational level and the maneuvering and fighting of units in the division and corps and the field army. In the modern era, western war is typified by mobility focused operational maneuver. Ex. Red Army in the end of WW2.

-Hanson’s view on Ancient Greeks in battle

-He makes the claim that due to the inefficiency of armor and weaponry at the time, Greeks were ready to flee more than fight. However, we believe that the sense of nationalism for their respective city or city states would at the very least make them hesitate when fleeing.

-Hanson’s argument that war and city life were different

-It has been shown many times during the time of the Greeks that war and city life were almost always hand in hand. Where Hanson describes it as two separate worlds for the Greeks, it more closely resembles the idea of “order in chaos”.