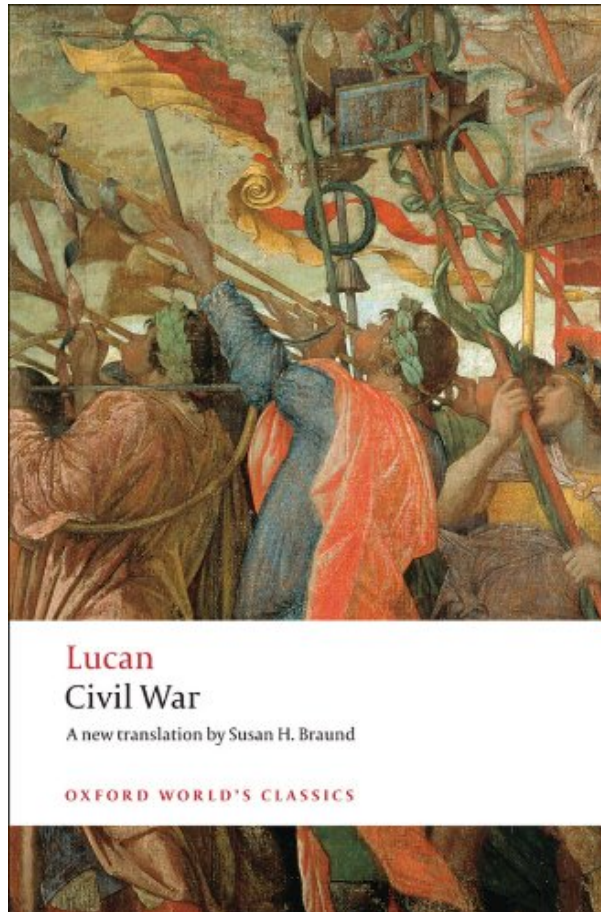


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Lucan
Civil War

A new translation by Susan H. Braund

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About the Author

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If I had known it was another translation of Lucan, I would not have ordered it, BUT I would have made a

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28 of 31 people found the following review helpful.

"Gore, War, and Monumental Verse"

By Johannes Platonius

Lucan, the author of the full-throated but incomplete epic the "Civil War", certainly deserves a spot next to the great Latin poets Ovid, Horace, and Virgil, whose epic works mark the pinnacle eloquence and intelligence of Latin verse. The epic was written during the reign of Nero in the first century AD, and it is characterized by its vehement condemnation of civil war and imperialistic sentiments--this possibly caused Lucan's later fall out of Nero's favor. The primary characters in the epic are Julius Caesar, who is portrayed as a destructive warmonger, and Pompey (Magnus), who is described as ambitious and over his prime. The vivid descriptions of the wars in this work are exciting and at the same time sobering since Lucan's narrative never fails to reveal those attributes of civil war which invoke the most disturbing of feelings. For all this, Lucan's "Civil War" is recommended, and also because the Oxford World Classics always present reliable translations, and this particular edition retains Lucan's charming and long-winded verse that courses so smoothly through the hearts and minds reader's who are fortunate enough to come into contact with it.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Braund's Translation of the Text is Excellent

By Aaron

There are not many translations of Lucan's Civil War, sometimes titled Pharsalia. Susan H Braund's translation of Lucan's Civil War is a great translation. Lucan's Civil War is a work from the time of Nero and is incomplete due to the authors death. Nonetheless it is a great epic that is quite different from the others. It takes on a grotesque tone with descriptions of battles and descriptions of ghosts and witches. It takes place during the Civil War that saw Caesar rise to power and does not hide who Lucan supports. Some of the poetic use is lost in this translation due to its translation to Latin but it makes up for this with its explicit character. Braund captures the heterodox Stoicism that underlies the text and makes it appear not just in the overarching story but in the characters as they relate to each other. Passive Aggressive tones are captured just as well as the sense of foreboding and pessimism the text expresses.

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