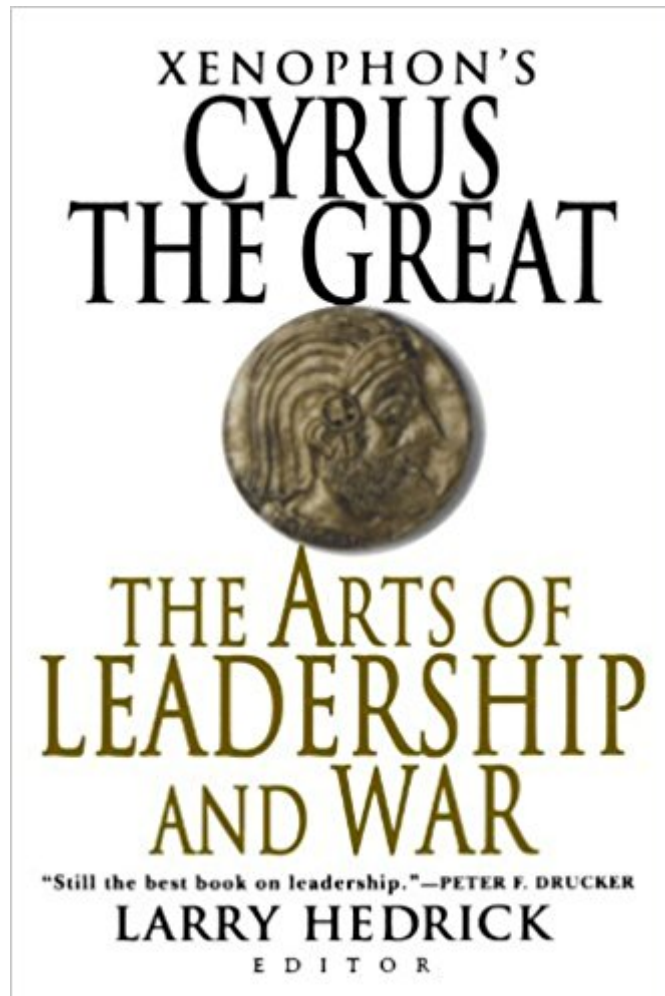




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# Xenophon's Cyrus The Great: The Arts Of Leadership And War



## Synopsis

In 1906, a stilted English translation of Xenophon of Athens' story about Cyrus the Great's military campaigns was published. Now, a century later, a much more accessible edition of one of history's most extraordinary and successful leaders is emerging. Among his many achievements, this great leader of wisdom and virtue founded and extended the Persian Empire; conquered Babylon; freed 40,000 Jews from captivity; wrote mankind's first human rights charter; and ruled over those he had conquered with respect and benevolence. According to historian Will Durant, Cyrus the Great's military enemies knew that he was lenient, and they did not fight him with that desperate courage which men show when their only choice is "to kill or die." As a result the Iranians regarded him as "The Father," the Babylonians as "The Liberator," the Greeks as the "Law-Giver," and the Jews as the "Anointed of the Lord." By freshening the voice, style and diction of Cyrus, Larry Hedrick has created a more contemporary Cyrus. A new generation of readers, including business executives and managers, military officers, and government officials, can now learn about and benefit from Cyrus the Great's extraordinary achievements, which exceeded all other leaders' throughout antiquity.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; Reprint edition (April 3, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312364695

ISBN-13: 978-0312364694

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 66 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #109,491 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in [Books > History >](#)

[Middle East > Iran](#) #97 in [Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Greece](#) #203 in [Books > History > Military > Strategy](#)

## Customer Reviews

“Xenophone's Cyrus--the earliest book on the subject--is still the best book on leadership.”  
—Peter F. Drucker

Twenty-five hundred years ago, Cyrus, a great Persian leader of wisdom and virtue, created the

Persian Empire, conquered Babylon, freed forty thousand Jews from captivity, wrote mankind's first human rights charter, and ruled over those he had defeated with respect and benevolence. The Iranians came to regard Cyrus as "The Father," the Babylonians as "The Liberator," and the Jews as "The Anointed of the Lord." The Greeks called him "The Law Giver," and, a century after Cyrus's death, an admiring Xenophon of Athens wrote an epic account of his many leadership principles at war and at peace. By freshening the voice, style, and diction that Xenophon ascribed to Cyrus, Larry Hedrick has fashioned a more immediate Cyrus. A new generation of readers, including executives, managers, and military officers, can now learn from Cyrus's unparalleled leadership and wisdom in Xenophon's classic narrative. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I rarely rate things with 3 stars, so I feel as though I must really explain myself. This has been a great read. If you enjoyed Sun Tzu's "The Art of War," then you would probably like this. That being said, the two are written very differently. I have read a few translations of Sun Tzu's works, but none is as easy to read as this copy of "Cyrus the Great." The editor, Larry Hedrick, took some liberties to make this book easier to read but also made it less true to the original text. Chief among these liberties is Hedrick re-writing the text in first person (from Cyrus's perspective, not Xenophon's). Hedrick notes this change in the beginning of the book, but this text was not advertised as being such. I have enjoyed reading this book, but because it has been so altered, I feel the need to buy another copy which is truer to the original text. That is my reason for rating this book 3/5 stars.

Xenophon's account of Cyrus's expedition and conquests is great. He portrays a man inspired by God (though Xenophon has him worshipping other gods too, some historians have pointed out that Cyrus actually believed in one God from a young age, after converting to Judaism). Further weight is given to this by the fact that some Islamic scholars believe God is referring to Cyrus in Sura Al-Kahf of the Quran, when God mentions a conquest undertaken by a believer called Dhul-Qurnain (The Two Horned - as translated in English). The book may weigh down the interest of those who are not interested in military strategy, as some sections lean quite heavily towards that direction. However the last few chapters are just gold, leaving you with that warm, happy feeling as Cyrus leaves this world. The advice on principles of life imparted by Cyrus in the last few chapters are very insightful and speak to humans of all ages. He was truly a very insightful and ambitious man. As a previous reviewer has pointed out, the book portrays Cyrus as being an elitist whereas he had read in a history book of Cyrus being raised up by shepherds and being a man of the people. I'm not sure

which is correct, but Xenophons account is not a literal historical account of the man I believe, but more so a recount of the lasting legacy and impact he had as a leader to a land as far away as Greece, where Xenophon lived. All in all it is a great account by Xenophon, with many insightful and inspirational one liners and principles, which really can be applied in all situations of life.

This book, while providing great instruction for leadership is far more. It teaches lessons on every aspect of successful living. Cyrus feared God and loved truth. He advocated healthy living, the golden rule and so on. What made him great was his ability to remain humble, just, and God fearing even though he possessed great power. The world has benefited greatly by using his principles in their own charters, constitutions, etc. Regrettably we are currently straying from them. The great message of this book is that true unlimited power is attained by wanting to lift and help others . . . giving them opportunities to learn, enjoy freedom, grow and be successful. But people have to do their part and overcome dangers of idleness, envy and lust. This book is a treasure. I will read it again and again.

It's amazing that what was relevant all those years ago still is today. An amazing book detailing the power of kindness, humility and patience. The same values extolled in the bible but sadly considered outdated by a lot of people today.

If you are a student of history and the Bible you will enjoy reading about Cyrus the Great and how God blessed him with wisdom, the many great ways he lead his people and turned enemies into allies, lifting him to great heights and eventually letting the Hebrews return to rebuild their temple.

Cyrus the Great, is one of the few people to whom this title is apt. Living in 6th century BC Persia, he was a man well ahead of his time. Xenophon wrote about him 150 years later, but his scholarship was from original sources and is considered to be very sound. This is an excellent translation of a classic. Cyrus has many lessons for any society wishing enlightenment. The Cyrus cylinder is enscribed at the United Nations. He freed the jews from Babylon and is written of in the Old Testament. This is a book that is a must read because it goes beyond history and describes a man who gave many gifts of understanding to humanity.

An excellent read! The first person telling was compelling and kept me 'in the action.' Although I am not a military history buff, I recognized that his lessons on leadership very much applied to me. I

enjoyed it so much, I sent one to my son for his birthday. Anyone interested in "the arts of leadership and war" would enjoy this.

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