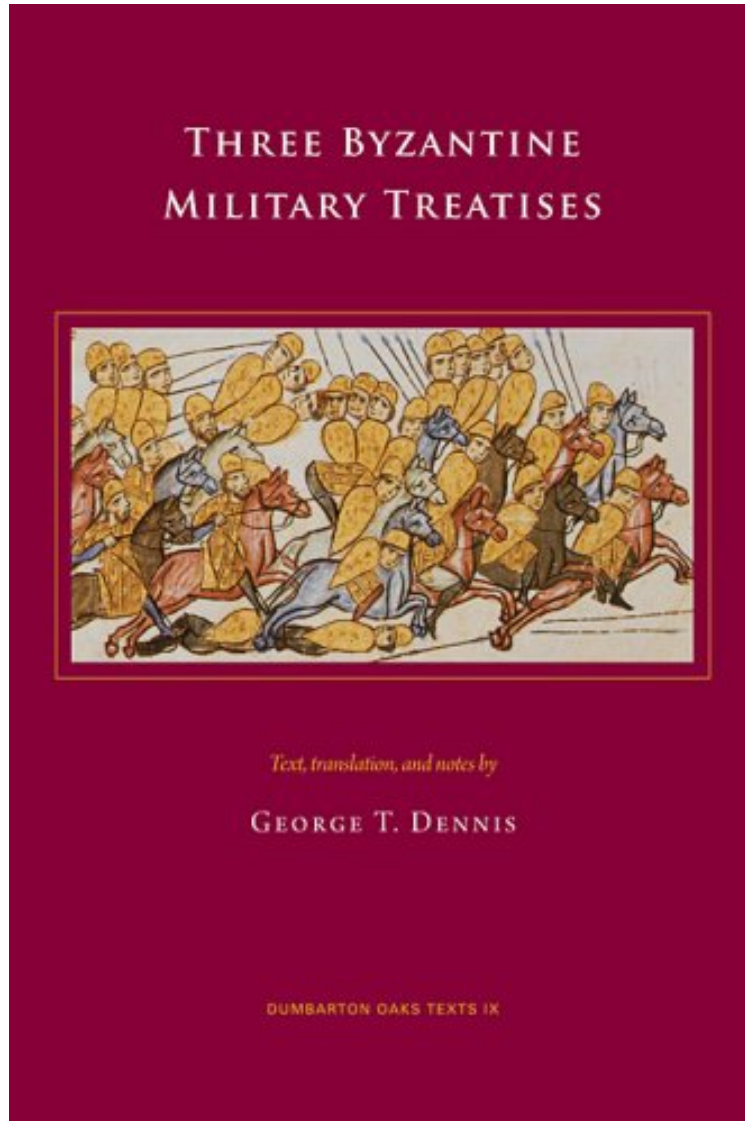


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From Brand: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection : Three Byzantine Military Treatises (Dumbarton Oaks Texts) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Three Byzantine Military Treatises (Dumbarton Oaks Texts):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Essential translationBy AIThis is an important translation of three military manuals which enable a better understanding of Byzantine military thought in the tenth century. The translation is paired with the edited Greek text, which is always useful to have in order to compare the translation with the original text. There is no commentary, but Fr. Dennis included the diagrams found in the original manuscripts.

The critical apparatus and Greek index make this an excellent resource for those who wish to concentrate on the original language. While the manual on skirmishing and the one on campaigning are geographically focused, a general outline of doctrine and operational maneuver can be discerned which can be applied to the Byzantine army in general around this time. Care must be taken in applying these concepts generally, especially with regard to the details at the tactical level. While the Byzantine army did not undergo an RMA, there were significant changes in doctrine and methodology between areas of operations as well as in time. In other words, the army wasn't stagnant in its development. This translation is an important tool for any researcher looking for a detailed understanding of Byzantine army operations for this time period, or a general understanding of Byzantine operational art in general. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Another excellent Dumbarton Oaks text. By Kirialax. As usual, I am reviewing the edition, not the respective works contained within. Once again, George Dennis has produced a superior work on Byzantine military manuals. This edition includes an anonymous 6th c. 'Treatise on Strategy' that was probably written by an army engineer; a vivid 10th c. treatise on skirmishing with the Arabs on the eastern frontier, and another 10th c. work on campaign organization. Each is introduced in a brief essay, but this is not McGeer's *Sowing the Dragon's Teeth: Byzantine Warfare in the Tenth Century* (Dumbarton Oaks Studies) - there is little in terms of notes to accompany the text. However, this flaw is more than made up for by the publication of the Greek text in a critical format, as there are scholarly notes to the Greek. These notes are of little use to most people, and will only aid those who are studying the text in Greek, so this may or not be your book depending on what you're looking for. There is a great Greek index, although its English companion is somewhat lacking. Dennis also reproduces the original figures of camp layouts found in the text, so this is essentially an academic critical Greek text with a smooth, clean English translation. Scholars will find the critical apparatus useful, and students will have little trouble accessing the translation. The middle text, the one Dennis calls "On Skirmishing" is also an extremely good text for understanding Byzantine warfare in general. The very fact that it is produced here in a critical edition with an English translation makes this book essential. This is an excellent book.

Threatened on all sides by relentless enemies for a thousand years, the Byzantines needed ready armies and secure borders. To this end, experienced commanders compiled practical handbooks of military strategy. Three such manuals are presented here. The Anonymous Byzantine Treatise on Strategy was written by a retired combat engineer around the middle of the sixth century, while Skirmishing and Campaign Organization and Tactics date from the late tenth century and concern warfare in the mountains along the Syrian frontier and campaigns in the rugged terrain of the Balkans. These treatises provide information not only on tactics and weaponry but also on the motivations of the men who risked their lives to defend the empire.

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