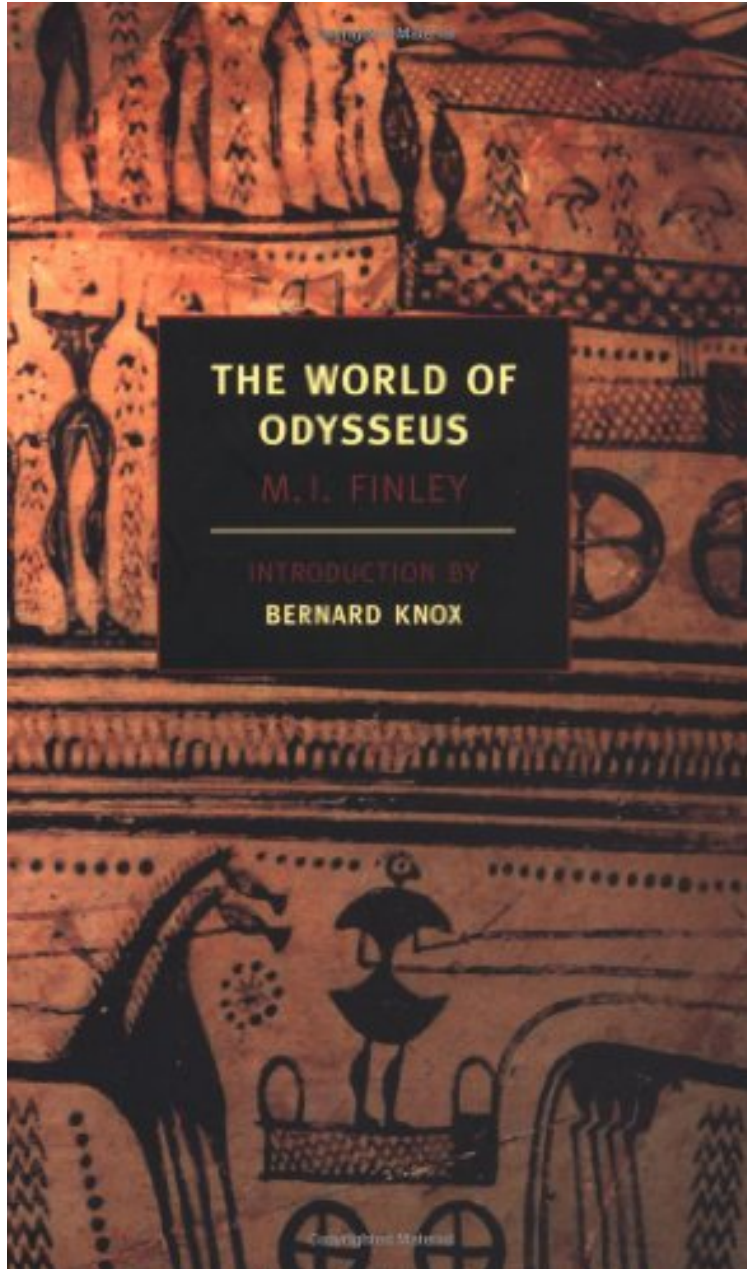


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The World of Odysseus (New York Review Books Classics)

M. I. Finley

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Introduction
By ReaderI read this, of course, in conjunction with *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. As you would expect from the title, this book is a great introduction for anyone who wants to learn more about the world that Homer lived in. Its easy readability makes it a pleasure to read, and it definitely enhances your understanding of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great supplement to the text itself.
By barkeaterOriginally published in 1954, revised in 1978, this little book is both interesting and pretty damned thorough. Knox's introduction is, like all his work, first class. If "*The Odyssey*" for you is more than some cool stories, you should read this book.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and informative
By BrontinaI am reading this book while re-reading the works of Homer and it is extremely helpful. This book provides lots of information and insights on social relationships, customs, economy in ancient Greece. It is helping me better understand literature that I love and the world in which its heroes moved and interacted with each other. Great reading! You can tell that the author has an immense knowledge of the era, but is able to convey it in a light, easy-to-access way. I would suggest this book to anyone interested in ancient Greek culture.

The World of Odysseus is a concise and penetrating account of the society that gave birth to the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*--a book that provides a vivid picture of the Greek Dark Ages, its men and women, works and days, morals and values. Long celebrated as a pathbreaking achievement in the social history of the ancient world, M.I. Finley's brilliant study remains, as classicist Bernard Knox notes in his introduction to this new edition, "as indispensable to the professional as it is accessible to the general reader"--a fundamental companion for students of Homer and Homeric Greece.

About the AuthorM. I. Finley (1912-1986), the son of Nathan Finkelstein and Anna Katzellenbogen, was born in New York City. He graduated from Syracuse University at the age of fifteen and received an MA in public law from Columbia, before turning to the study of ancient history. During the thirties, Finley taught at Columbia and City College and developed an interest in the sociology of the ancient world that was shaped in part by his association with members of the Frankfurt School who were working in exile in America. In 1952, when he was teaching at Rutgers, Finley was summoned before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and asked whether he had ever been a member of the Communist Party. He refused to answer, invoking the Fifth Amendment; by the end of the year he had been fired from the university by a unanimous vote of its trustees. Unable to find work in the US, Finley moved to England, where he taught for many years at Cambridge, helping to redirect the focus of classical education from a narrow emphasis on philology to a wider concern with culture, economics, and society. He became a British subject in 1962 and was knighted in 1979. Among Finley's best-known works are *The Ancient Economy*, *Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology*, and *The World of Odysseus*.
Bernard Knox (1914-2010) was an English classicist. He was the first director of Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC. Among his many books are *The Heroic Temper*, *The Oldest Dead White European Males*, and *Backing into the Future: The Classical Tradition and Its Renewal*. He is the editor of *The Norton Book of Classical Literature* and wrote the introductions and notes for Robert Fagless translations of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.