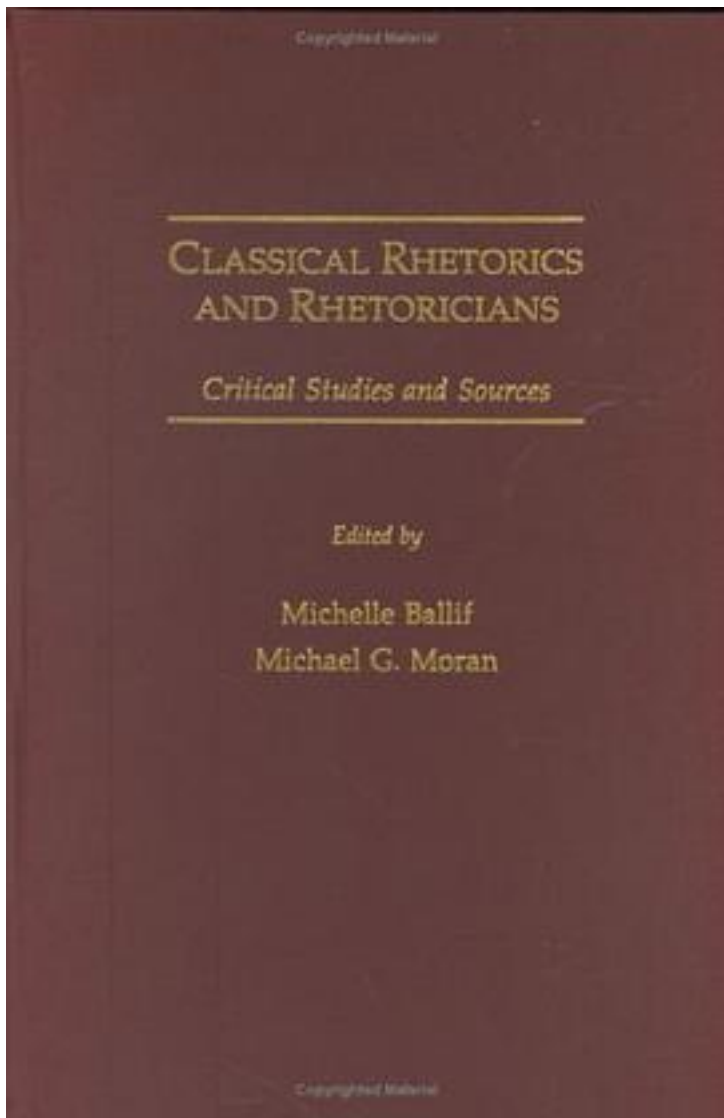


Classical Rhetorics and Rhetoricians



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著者:Ballif, Michelle (EDT)/ Moran, Michael G. (EDT)

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Political speeches and persuasive writing are central to our modern democratic society and are carefully crafted to influence our thoughts and opinions. But what many people do not realize is that the theories behind such works are deeply rooted in the classical world. The great philosophers and statesmen of Greece and Rome formulated rules and strategies for effective argumentation, and their writings shaped the history of Western civilization for centuries. Because citizens of the modern world are exposed to so many attempts to influence their views, the theories of the ancient rhetoricians are as relevant today as in antiquity. This book is a guide to the lives and works of these influential classical figures. Through alphabetically arranged entries on some 60 classical rhetoricians, this volume chronicles the history and legacy of ancient rhetoric. Included are entries on such figures as: Aristotle; Augustine; Boethius; Cicero; Cornelia; Diogenes of Sinope; Diotima of Mantinea; Heraclitus; Homer; Hypatia; Isocrates; Plato; Socrates; and others. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and provides a biography, a discussion of the rhetorician's works, and primary and secondary bibliographies. While some of the figures are relatively minor, others are among the most important names from classical civilization. The volume gives special attention to the contributions of women to ancient rhetoric. An introductory essay sketches the rough outline of classical rhetoric and its influence, while a bibliographical essay identifies the most important general works for further reading.

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