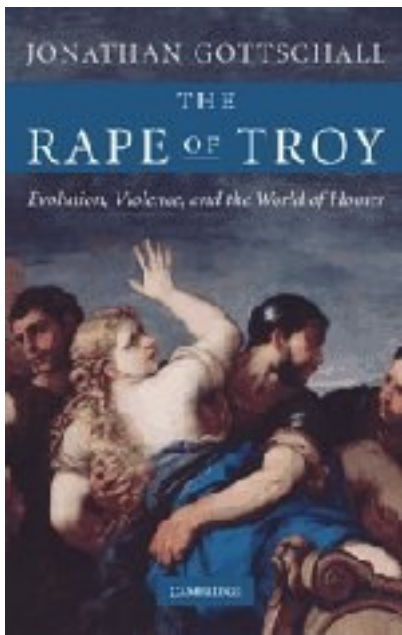


The Rape of Troy



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Review

'Gottschall escorts us to the rich but sparsely inhabited borderland between anthropology, biology, and literary analysis, where he has found gold. The Rape of Troy is an original and important contribution to all three of these fields, and a very good read in addition.' Edward O. Wilson, University Research Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator in Entomology, Harvard University

'There is no way to get bored with Gottschall. He has written a small masterpiece of evolutionary-literary analysis. ... This ability to marry disciplines with confidence and authority is rare and should be cherished. ... As the social anthropologists taught us,

witchcraft and pollution are that which disturbs established categories. Dirt is matter in the wrong place. But we have to risk getting dirty if we are to show how evolutionary science can illuminate great literature. Progress is being made, and Gottschall's remarkable book should inspire us all to do better. Lord knows there are quibbles enough here to keep us all busy, scholars and scientists alike, and that is how it should be. But for a Homeric moment let us be free to wonder and applaud.' Evolutionary Psychology

'Gottschall brings new evidence from anthropology and evolutionary biology to show how Homer's world fits a common pattern where too many young men and not enough women leads to big trouble; think of those who died at Troy, for Helen. This is a fine book in a vigorous style with a delightfully fresh take on an old story. The best book on Homer I've read in years.' Barry B. Powell, Halls-Bascom Professor of Classics Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison

'A rare combination of literature and science, The Rape of Troy presents an innovative study of the world of Homer from the perspective of evolutionary theory. The results are striking, highly readable and guaranteed to provoke much thought on an always topical and urgent question: what are the causes of violence?' Hans van Wees, University College London

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