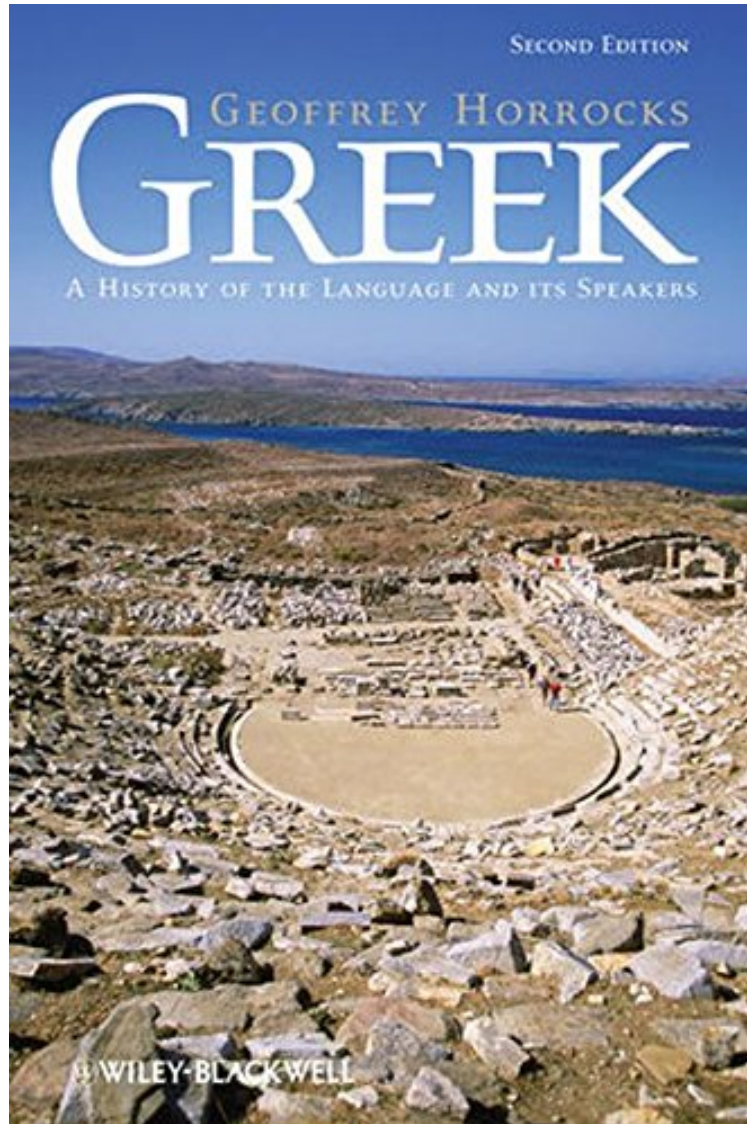


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Greek: A History of the Language and its Speakers

Geoffrey Horrocks

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Greek: A History of the Language and its Speakers, Second Edition reveals the trajectory of the Greek language from the Mycenaean period of the second millennium BC to the current day. Offers a complete linguistic treatment of the history of the Greek language Updated second edition features increased coverage of the ancient evidence, as well as the roots and development of diglossia Includes maps that clearly illustrate the distribution of ancient dialects and the geographical spread of Greek in the early Middle Ages

"Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers." (Choice, 1 February 2011) "one of Horrocks' greatest achievements is the skill with which he demonstrates the special value of the history of Greek, thinking about the Greek language in terms of breadth and depth that are unusual among linguists working on Greek." (Bryn Mawr Classical , 9 May 2011) The only proper history of Greek from the earliest evidence up to the present day, Horrocks's book is a major achievement and fills a large scholarly and pedagogical gap. Joshua T. Katz, Princeton University "Horrocks has outdone himself. The 1st edition was as good an overview of the entire history of Greek as there is, yet this 2nd edition improves on that, with added material on all periods of Greek. This important work is well-written, informative, and interesting." Brian D. Joseph, The Ohio State University Horrocks offers an exemplary, and unique, survey of the development of the Greek language from its Mycenaean beginnings to the present day, with a particular emphasis on the reasons for Greeks' linguistic conservatism. Widely read and much praised in its first edition, this expanded and revised second edition is to be recommended even more highly to all those interested in Greek of any period. Elizabeth Jeffreys, University of Oxford

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Greek: A History of the Language and its Speakers traces the trajectory of the Greek language from the Mycenaean period of the second millennium BC to the current day. Widely celebrated upon its original release, this greatly expanded Second Edition explores the evolution of the Greek language in its regional and social heterogeneity and in both its spoken and written forms. Beginning in the ancient world with the emergence and dominance of the Attic dialect in the 5th and 4th centuries BC, the book goes on to examine the subsequent development of the language during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The text explores the tension between written varieties and evolving forms of the vernacular and the resultant 2000 years of diglossia -- the ever-growing gulf between what was said and what was written, and the linguistic consequences. Other topics addressed include the ancient Greek dialects, epigraphic and literary; the impact of the adoption of Greek by the Macedonians, Romans, and as a lingua franca in the East; the role of Greek in the development of Latin and modern European languages; and the position of different forms of Greek in the medieval Byzantine state. Finally, more recent problems of establishing a standard language and education system in the independent Greek state that emerged in the early 19th century are revealed, as well as the ongoing legacy of diglossia into the 1970s. Unmatched in breadth of material and scholarly rigor, Greek: A History of the Language and its Speakers, Second Edition, remains the essential resource on the development of the Greek language.