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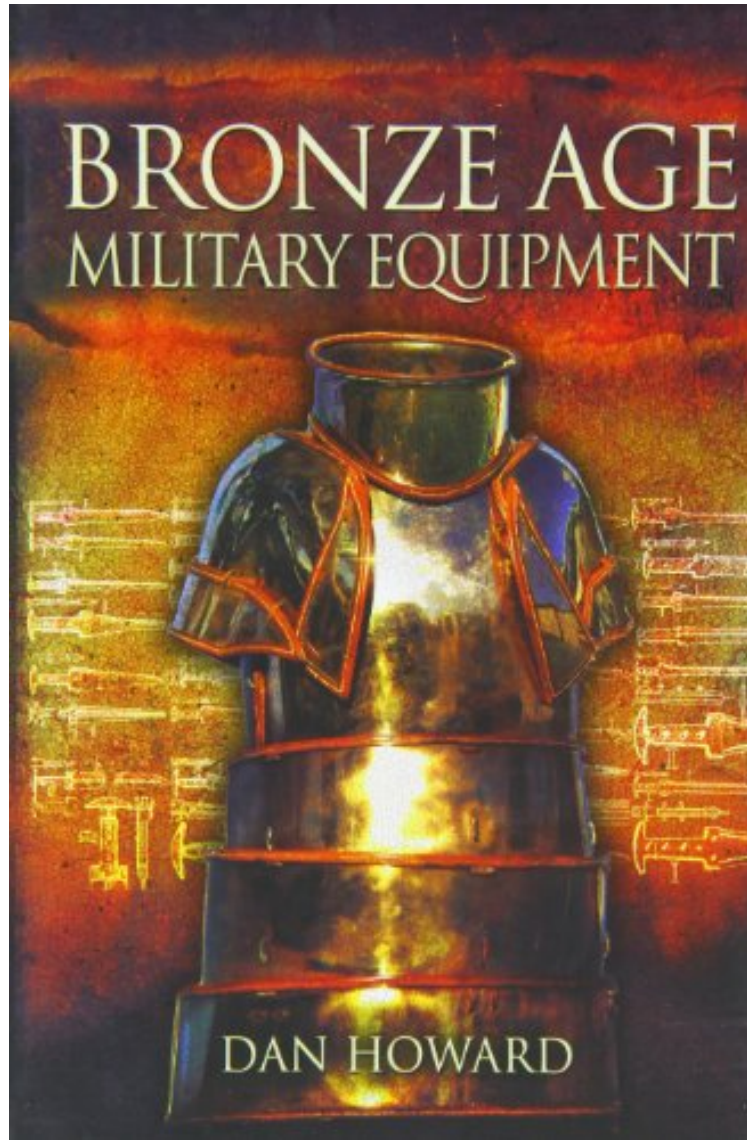
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by analysis of modern reconstructions. And some of these reconstructions were done by the author himself. Rating? Invaluable. Definitely 5 stars. A must-read for any military history enthusiast interested in the mentioned period. But there are still some points to criticize. First of all, the title is somewhat misleading. It says nothing about the states/cultures/areas, researched by author. So I expected some world-wide analysis. But unfortunately this book says nothing about the military equipment of bronze age China, India, steppe peoples (i.e. Andronovo culture). This book concentrates heavily on Mycenaean civilization, Egypt, Mittani, Hittites... And that's it. A lot of research, yes, but not enough research for such a loud title. There is also a big chapter in this book, dedicated to analysis of the Iliad. While an interesting read, this chapter looks purely speculative to me. Looking for historical clues in the work of fiction, written centuries after the events mentioned in it, is not worth it IMHO. It's like looking for a black cat in a dark room, when it is, most likely, not there. Archaeology is the way, not counting the number of terms used by Homer to describe a shield. Catalogue of ships may (or may not) be authentic, but descriptions of armour and shields... May be as realistic, as Geoffrey of Monmouth's depiction of king Artur :)

This book is a fascinating discussion of the development of the military equipment of the earliest organized armies. Dan Howard describes the development of weapons, armor and chariots, how they were made and their tactical use in battle. Spanning from the introduction of massed infantry by the Sumerians (c. 26th century BC) through to the collapse of the chariot civilizations (c. 12th century BC), this is the period of the epic struggles described in the Old Testament and Homer's Iliad, the clashes of mighty empires like those of the Babylonians, Egyptians and Hittites.

The main strength of this book is Howard's determination to stick to provable facts. He gives a very convincing explanation. A very valuable piece of work. A splendid overview of the current state of knowledge on the military equipment of these early civilisations. WWW.HISTORYOFWAR.ORG About the Author Dan Howard is a historical author who offers great insight into the Bronze Age, the battles they fought and the weapons they fought them with.