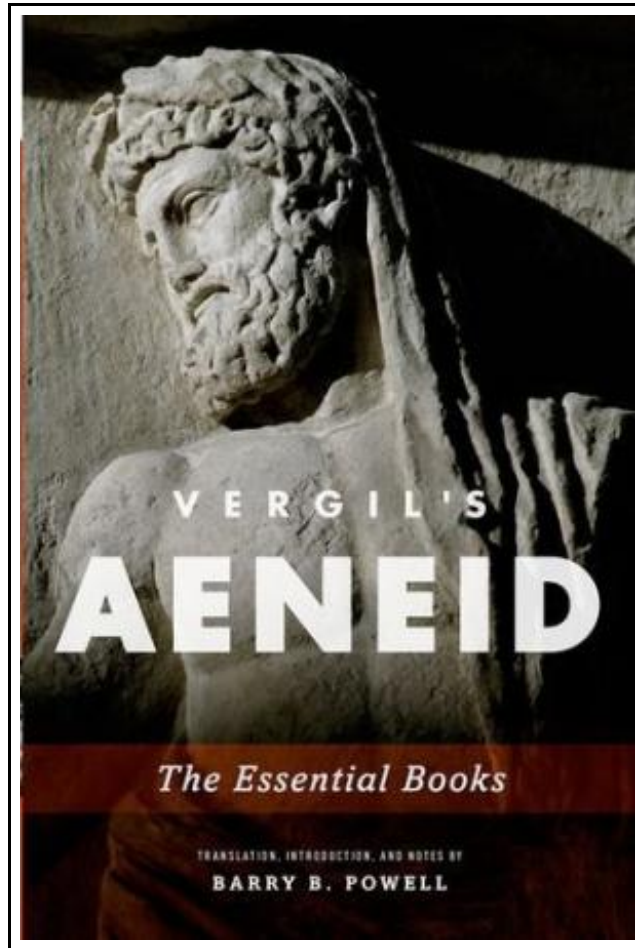


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Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 233 x 166 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Barry Powell, acclaimed translator of the Iliad (OUP, 2013) and the Odyssey (OUP, 2014) now delivers a graceful, lucid, free-verse translation of the most important books and passages of the Aeneid in a pleasant modern idiom. On-page notes explain obscure literary and historical references, while the rich visual program lightens the text and educates students in the history of Western art by presenting a single topic as represented over 2,000 years. The Aeneid s first sentence charts the poem s historical plot, taking us in one sweep of seven lines from Homer s Troy to Augustus Rome. These two layers of time are felt all the way through the poem, from the distant past of Aeneas heroic and quasi-mythological time, over 1100 years before Vergil, down to the now of Augustus Rome, when Vergil was writing the poem between 30 and 19 BC, a period of ongoing political experimentation. The story of Aeneas-moving from one continent to another, undergoing and enforcing great transformations in the process-transplants contemporary Augustan preoccupations with transition, continuity, and change into the remote time of the poem s action. In the course of the poem we move from the East to the West, from Troy to Italy, as Aeneas moves from being a Trojan towards being something else, a kind of Roman in embryo. The poem s migratory movement, together with its wholesale assimilation of Homer, acts out another great transition, the transition of Greek culture to Italy: just as the people of ancient Italy become the inheritors of Troy, so the people of Vergil s Italy become the inheritors of Greece. The very location of the poem in time is transitional, at the pivot between...

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