

# SALEM PRESS

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## **Salem Press Announces the Newest Edition to the *Critical Survey of Mythology & Folklore Series: Deadly Battles and Warring Enemies***

This new title in the *Critical Survey of Mythology and Folklore* series, *Deadly Battles and Warring Enemies*, examines famous clashes and renowned heroes and heroines in folklore and mythology.

Legendary battles between gods and gods, between gods and humans, between humans and fabled beasts, and between humans and humans have fascinated readers for centuries. Salem Press's latest entry in the *Critical Survey of Mythology and Folklore* series, *Deadly Battles & Warring Enemies*, focuses on famous clashes and renowned heroes and heroines in folklore and mythology. These struggles chronicled suffering, bravery, and patriotism as well as indifference, cowardice, and duplicity. People throughout the ages have often compared these mythological wars to the real ones they have been forced to live through.

Readers will find, in the twelve sections of these two volumes, well-known battle myths from Greece, ancient Rome, and Northern and Celtic Europe as well as myths from sub-Saharan Africa, Native North America, East Asia, the Near East, Oceania, (particularly Hawaii), India, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe. Coverage of female warriors from around the world highlights the role women have played in mythological battles throughout history.

While many standard stories have been included, this volume also contains roughly 130 myths about wars and battles that are less widely known. Each section contains an overview of a

region's religious practices, literature, and culture followed by essays that discuss selected stories or deities related to battle, for a total of more than 400 articles, including 100+ new essays.

As with most mythology and folklore, common themes and heroes run throughout the legends of vastly different cultures and time periods, connecting people throughout the ages in their universal experience of war and enmity, even into contemporary story-telling in novels, poems, music, films, and video games. Topics such as gender, cross-cultural meaning, and religion are explored through the lenses of the vengeance, love, loyalty, or devotion to family, tribe, or nation experienced by the humans, gods, and other mythological figures of these stories.

All articles also include a section that surveys films, novels, video games, and comic books that feature the mythical warriors and battles discussed in the write-up. Maps, illustrations, legendary battle items, and poetry round out this volume. Several Finding Guides list content by region and beliefs, in addition to a Subject Index.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FEATURES

- “Maps and Mythological Figures” presents twelve maps and charts detailing the cultural or geographic placement of many of the deities and tales included in the set.
- “Mythology in the Classroom” explains major approaches to studying mythology and folklore.
- A sample lesson plan, focused on battle stories, accompanies the essay on teaching mythology in the classroom. The aim is to provide one model for comparative analysis.
- Separate indexes of battle stories and gods and mythological figures help in locating specific subjects.
- A chronological index of war myths and deities offers supplemental information on the overall coverage of the volume.
- An extensive bibliography of secondary sources arranged by region and source type rounds out the Further Reading sections following each article.

All Grey House encyclopedias come with free online access on the combined Grey House/Salem Press Online Database, <https://online.salempress.com>. Free online access includes an unlimited number of simultaneous users and remote access. Please contact our support staff if you would like to demo any of our online content.

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*Critical Survey of Mythology & Folklore: Deadly Battles and Warring Enemies*

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