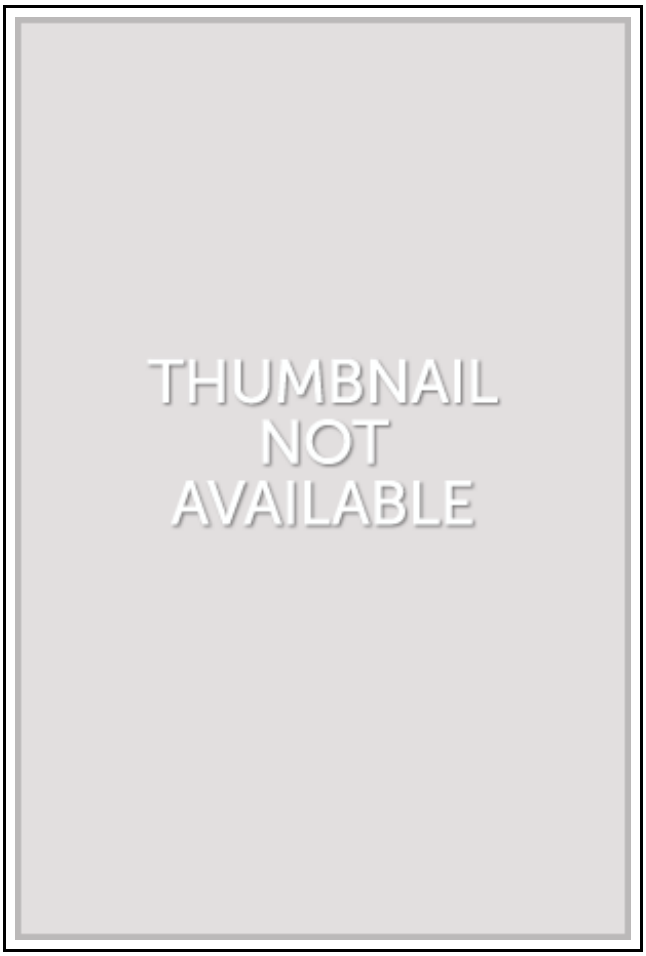
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(Michale Shields)

THE ATHENIAN EMPIRE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF PERICLES (PAPERBACK)

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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In conjunction with the founding of democracy, Athens ushered in the Golden Age of the Ancient Greeks, which saw the invention or mastery of everything from mathematics and engineering to philosophy and art. And among the Athenians, none were as influential as Pericles, the West s first great statesman. Leading Athens for upwards of 40 years between the Second Persian War and the Peloponnesian War, Pericles has become an idealized figure over the last 2,000 years, but he was a polarising figure among his contemporaries. According to some, he was an honest and upstanding politician, while for others he was the lowest kind of demagogue, a political opportunist whose ability to wriggle free of criticism was best summed up by the typically pithy comment of his rival Thucydides (not to be confused by the famous historian of the same name, one of the main sources for Pericles s life). When asked who the better fighter was, Thucydides replied, Pericles - even when he loses, he still convinces the Athenians he s won. As Strategos, Pericles was Athens commander-in-chief, and the chief architect of the city s strategy, for a period of roughly two decades. Even in his military capacity, Pericles did not escape more than his fair share of criticism, both during his lifetime and all the way to the present day. His grand strategy, which put Athens on the defensive for much of the Peloponnesian War, has been accused by many critics as being too supine and too reliant on himself as its main architect, so when his death came during the first years of the war, Athens ultimate defeat was inevitable. However, it is worth remembering...

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