

were thriving, the army fought as efficiently as ever, taxation was not immoderate, and cultural life experienced an unprecedented time of vigorous growth. The only significant trouble (apart from the barbarians) were rich landlords who could evade paying their taxes. Many phenomena which previous generations regarded as signs of degeneration, like shameless adulation of the emperor, all-pervasive corruption, or oppression of the farmers, now receive a rationalistic explanation.

The new positive view of late antiquity is certainly refreshing, and should be especially welcomed by many European countries which have lately been taught that an overgrown public sector is leading their economies to an inevitable doom. Whatever implications this may have for the Blair government or the Scandinavian Social Democratic Parties, personally I am puzzled by the notion that the new doctrine (without explicitly saying so) takes us very far from any structural explanations for the Fall of the Roman Empire. In practice we are left with the Assassination Theory. It almost appears that if Valens had not made a few stupid strategic mistakes at Adrianople, or if Theodosius the Great had not died prematurely leaving behind two ungifted sons with a crowd of incompetent advisers, we would still be living in the Roman Empire. As far as I can see there is nothing in the volume to refute this inference which tacitly emerges from the individual sections. Evidently, some of that will be clarified in the next volume, which is already in press. It will doubtless dispel my present uncomfortable feeling that I have been left alone amidst the melancholy ruins of a once powerful empire without being told how and why it all came to pass.

*Antti Arjava*

ROBERT J. BUCK: *Thrasybulus and the Athenian Democracy. The Life of an Athenian Statesman*. Historia Einzelschriften 120. Franz Steiner Verlag Stuttgart 1998. ISBN 3-515-07221-7. 139 p. DEM 56.

This handy monograph has been written to fill a gap, to place Thrasybulus, son of Lycus, in relation to his social context. As the author reminds us, the problem is how to put any leader into his proper relationship to his community, since the facts are blurred by our own attitudes, our own culture, restricted sources etc. In spite of these problems historians try to write books about single persons, as Buck (B.) does. He usually faces with style all the problems which he states in chapter 1, Introduction: sources and scholarship.

Thrasybulus was one of the most important Athenians from 411 to 389 BC. when he was murdered in his tent by angry inhabitants of Aspendus in Pamphylia after some Athenian soldiers had made several acts of brigandage in their territory. In his laconic comment on Thrasybulus' death, Xenophon writes that Thrasybulus was μάλα δοκῶν ἀνὴρ ἀγαθὸς εἶναι (*Hell.* 4.8.31). This comment seems to be one of the main reasons for B. to write this book. It is a unique comment by Xenophon in *Hellenica*, and it reflects well B's own attitude towards Thrasybulus. He regards Thrasybulus as the ablest commander in all the campaigns in the Hellespont.

B. describes the primary political and military history of the highly discussed period. He does not give much new information or fresh interpretation, but as a concise

history of these events, the book is useful. The style is well balanced, and sources and later studies are discussed to some extent.

The book has seven chapters which are chronologically arranged. Historically important battles play a substantial part in B's description, but his competence in Boeotian history gives most to the reader. The final chapter 7 is a short conclusion with the title Thrasybulus and Athens, 450–389. On the whole, the life of Thrasybulus is registered whenever it has been possible, but the results are what one expected: a competent description of Athenian politics during this period, but the person and role of Thrasybulus still remain rather vague. It would have been interesting, if the meaning of the phrase *aner agathos* were analysed in a deeper way. The epigraphic evidence of this and of a little later period would have yielded interesting examples concerning *andragathia* and its use on inscriptions. That may have thrown light on the social context which Xenophon had in mind when he used that expression.

*Martti Leiwo*

*Prosopographia Imperii Romani saec. I. II. III. Pars VI. Consilio et auctoritate Academiae Scientiarum Berolinensis et Brandenburgensis iteratis curis ediderunt Leiva Petersen†, Klaus Wachtel, adiuvantibus M. Heil, K.-P. Johnne, L. Vidman†. Apud Walter de Gruyter & Co., Berolini – Novi Eboraci MCMXCVIII. DEM 210.*

Novum Prosopographiae Imperii Romani volumen in manibus habere maxime est memorabile non solum propter illustrissimam ipsius operis vetustatem, sed etiam ideo, quod fere semper diu exspectandum est, dum novus fasciculus edatur. Iam decem anni transierunt, postquam volumen prius (N–O) publici iuris factum est. Quod tamen temporis spatium longinquius, ut scriptores operis in praefatione narrant, partim eo explicatur, quod Rei publicae Germanicae Democraticae collapsu etiam Academia (nunc Berolinensis-Brandenburgensis nuncupata) denuo constituenda erat. Accedit, quod duo studiosi de Prosopographia edenda optime meriti diem supremum obierunt Ladislaus Vidman a. 1989 et Leiva Petersen a. 1992. Sunt autem aliae quoque res, quae catalogos, qui ex titulis aliisque fontibus componuntur, multum morantur. Nuntii enim ad viros mulieresque honestiores pertinentes novi, tituli praesertim, sine intermissione cumulantur, magis magisque tam de viris ipsis mulieribusque quam de familiis in ephemeridibus aliisque operibus scribitur, et ita editores Prosopographiae saepius periculum adeunt, ne res quaedam omittantur, cum omnia nova non magni tantum sed etiam minoris momenti in Prosopographia includi debeant. Praeterea a scriptoribus id exspectamus, ut voces aequas et libratas iudicio et ratione componerent. Mora illa ex eo quoque facile intellegitur, quod Prosopographia nunc ad litteram P pervenit ideoque hic fasciculus necessario voces paginasque multo plures continet quam ii, qui proxime editi sunt. Multa enim nomina gentilia tam magni momenti quam usitata (*Petronius, Plautius, Pompeius, Pomponius* etc.), plurimi homines nomine Graeco incipiente a P instructi atque alii complures clari nobilesque in tabulas referendi erant (inter scriptores commemorari possunt Papinius ille Stadius, Pausanias, Persius, Petronius, Phaedrus, Philo, Plinii maior minorque, Plutarchus, Porphyrius, Sextus denique Propertius). In universum albo alphabetico continentur 1119 voces, 40 stemmata genealogica plurimaeque aliae adnotationes. Voces primo a Vidman et Petersen compositae postea saepius auctae sunt additamentis intra uncas rectangulos positae.