

To conclude, I find this a fascinating topic and a well-written book. Although we may not totally drop the word 'Romanization' from our academic vocabulary, we shall henceforth see it in a much more nuanced way. Whether or not the readers share my doubts about some theoretical perspectives and particular conclusions, they can peruse the main chapters with confidence and satisfaction. It is a work of high scholarly standards.

*Antti Arjava*

ILIAS ARNAOUTOGLU: *Ancient Greek Laws. A Sourcebook*. Routledge, London and New York 1998. ISBN 0-415-14984-3 (H/b), 0-415-14985-1 (P/b). xxvii, 164 p. GBP 12.99 (P/b).

This is a selection of ancient Greek laws which have been preserved verbatim. It is aimed at students, hence only translations are given without the original text. The short introductions provide a minimum of context for each passage and rarely address any substantial problems in the text. Grounds for the dating might have been given at least in cases like no. 2, which has been tentatively dated to the 6th century BC, although the text mentions the archonship of 403/2 BC. The authenticity of laws cited in speeches might also have been briefly discussed. In all, somewhat more information could often have been given, as the book is not too long. However, each passage is accompanied by a list of other relevant ancient texts on the same subject and a bibliography of secondary literature. These together make the collection more useful for advanced scholars as well.

The book is advertised as 'comprehensive', which may be a commercially motivated exaggeration. The sample is undoubtedly large enough, but it remains somewhat obscure how representative it is. By far the largest number of texts derive from the Code of Gortyn, but there are also many passages from the Attic orators and a good number of inscriptions from all over the Greek-speaking world. The principles of selection, as explained by A. (xvi-xvii), are not entirely clear. For example, many omissions (Attic inscriptions, papyri) are justified by the existence of other collections, but the intended audience of students with no Greek may find little help in the *Inscriptiones Graecae* or the *Chrestomathie* (1912) of Mitteis - Wilcken. It is a good choice to give more space for evidence from other cities, and thus balance the usual prominence of Athens. Although there would naturally have been no reason to include examples of Roman law in this collection, more than one Greek city decree from the Roman period could have been incorporated, especially as A. himself stresses that Greek legislation continued for centuries after the conquest. A chart displaying the geographical and chronological distribution of all preserved Greek laws might have given readers an idea of the whole corpus from which A. had selected his material.

The collection gives undergraduates a first introduction to the laws of Greek cities. Others can profit from the suggestions for further reading. If the author had been allowed more substance in the general introduction and in the individual commentaries, the sourcebook could have provided even better insight into its topic.

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