

and shortcomings. It is not always easy to follow the complicated argumentation and, in places, the text is somewhat cryptic, but all in all, the book rewards its reader with a feeling of discovering something new, this making the effort worthwhile.

*Tiina Purola*

*The Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic.* Edited by HARRIET FLOWER. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2004. ISBN 0-521-80794-8. XV, 405 pp. GBP 55.

Whereas there is certainly no shortage of works presenting the (political and military) history of the Roman Republic, or of studies devoted to various specific aspects of this period, the Republic is conspicuously less covered than the Empire when it comes to works offering broader insights. Therefore, the volume under review here is very welcome. This anthology by an international team of experts, edited by Harriet I. Flower, examines Roman history and civilization in the period 509-49 BC from a broad variety of perspectives. Here the usual surveys of political and military history, which of course are indispensable, are accompanied with overviews of various aspects of social, economic and cultural themes.

The fifteen contributions to the book, most of them fully annotated, are grouped into five parts. The first part, focusing on political and military history, includes discussions of the Early Republic, the republican constitution, the army and navy, and the crisis of the Republic, authored respectively by Stephen Oakley, Corey Brennan, David Potter and Jürgen von Ungern-Sternberg. The second part, on Roman society, contains accounts dealing with family and household (Karl-Joachim Hölkeskamp), women (Phyllis Culham), economy and law (Jean-Jacques Aubert) as well as religion (Jörg Rüpke). Rome's Empire is the theme of the third part, which features discussions of Roman interactions with some of the peoples that were eventually subdued by the Romans (not solely from the point of view of military history). The growth of Roman power in Italy, and the gradual political and cultural Romanization of the peninsula in the period 338-31 BC, is analyzed by Kathryn Lomas. The Punic Wars, and their significance, are discussed by John F. Lazenby. The establishment of Roman hegemony in the East after the Second Punic War, and Rome's dealings with the Greek World, are addressed by Erich S. Gruen. Part four is devoted to Roman culture. The themes covered are literature (Elaine Fantham), (visual) art in context (Ann L. Kuttner) as well as spectacle and political culture (Harriet I. Flower). Part five is an epilogue on the later political and ideological influence of the Roman Republic, an influence which, as is well known, extends into the present era. This contribution, by Mortimer N. S. Sellers, focuses on the French and American Revolutions.

At the end of the book, there is a timeline, an extensive thematic bibliography and a general index. The book contains a little more than thirty figures (photos in black and white, line drawings and a few maps).

The contributors are drawn from the *crème de la crème* of the field of republican studies, and this reviewer can only note that they provide the quality one is entitled to

expect from them. Designed to be accessible to students and the general reader alike this book is warmly recommended to anyone interested in a vital, formative period of Roman history.

*Kaj Sandberg*

KLAUS BRINGMANN: *Geschichte der römischen Republik. Von den Anfängen bis Augustus*. C. H. Beck, München 2002. ISBN 3-406-49292-4. 463 pp. EUR 34.90.

This book is a remarkably brave attempt by a single individual to provide a synopsis of the historical evolution of a long and extraordinarily dynamic period in Roman history. The half millennium covered by the volume did not only witness Rome's development from a small village to a Mediterranean empire, but also a host of structural changes as to the internal development of the Roman state and society. These include complex social and economic developments as well as the evolution of the republican system itself and, indeed, the eventual disintegration of this political system. The focus of the book is firmly placed on political and military history, and Bringmann addresses other aspects only insofar as these are capable of contributing "zum Verständnis des historischen Prozesses" (p. 6). This conception of the dynamics of history may well be open to debate, but, given the complexity and sheer volume of relevant material (primary sources as well as scholarly works), it is certainly to the benefit of the whole presentation that the author has chosen a clear and well-defined focus. As so often, less is more.

The book is organized in five major sections, the contents of which will be briefly summarized here. In section I, "Rom und Italien" (pp. 9–82), B. examines the period from the beginnings to the inception of the third century BC. Here he discusses the foundation of the city of Rome (including its social and political institutions), the growth of Roman power in Italy down to the conclusion of the Samnite Wars, the constitution of the Classical Republic as well as the emergence of the *nobilitas*. In section II, "Rom und die Mittelmeerwelt" (pp. 83–154), which is essentially an account of the military history of Rome from the Pyrrhic War down to the late second century BC, the author makes a contribution to the ongoing discussion of the nature of Roman imperialism. Refuting the view that Rome's expansion during this period was due to a desire for territorial conquest, B. contends that this expansion should be seen as the product of a defensive grand strategy, which required conquest in order to provide protection for new territories.

In section III, "Die Krise der Republik und ihre Ursachen" (pp. 155–278), which examines the period from the tribunate of Tiberius Gracchus to the domination of Sulla, B. turns to the profound changes Roman society underwent in the wake of the rapid expansion of the preceding period, changes deriving from the economic, social and political consequences of the expansion itself as well as from the increasing contacts with the Greek World. The author analyzes the Greek influences on Roman culture and religion, the impact of the adoption of a monetary economy, the transformation of agricultural production and landholding patterns and its consequences for the military recruitment system. He also deals with the reform attempts of the Gracchi, the struggle between Marius and Sulla and with the dictatorship of the latter.