
Ich verzichte auf weitere grundsätzliche Kritik und lasse in strengster Auswahl nur paar Bemerkungen zu einzelnen Namen folgen.


Heikki Solin


In the introduction, the editor, Victor Davis Hanson, defines the book as being aimed primarily at complementing the classic work edited by Peter Paret, Makers of Modern Strategy, and its predecessor Makers of Modern Strategy: Military Thought from Machiavelli to Hitler edited by E. A. Earle and dating to 1943. Hanson sees the Makers of Ancient Strategy as a prequel complementing the "series". The book contains articles about ancient generals, strategists and war with the timeline varying from the Greco-Persian wars to the Later Roman Empire with a welcome look also at subcategories that are often relegated to footnotes, such as urban warfare. The articles in the book also aim to consider the relevance of ancient strategy and warfare to modern times and modern conflicts.

The articles are well written and often captivating, serving, at the very least, as worthy introductions to their subject. The attempt to reach a dialogue with issues of modern warfare and strategic studies, however, fails to impress. Most of the contributors are clearly outside their comfort zone and field of expertise when trying to connect their subject matter to today's
conflicts, and consequently often draw simplistic conclusions that, at times, have the air of artificial additions. That is a pity since these outliers detract from the worth of the articles. The forced connections of ancient events especially to the particulars of US involvement in Iraq or reference to, for example, a private military contractor company already renamed by the time of the printing (Blackwater has been renamed Xe since early 2009) will shorten the period for which the book is relevant. Perhaps a careful culling of the more specific claims and clumsy comparisons from the articles and a separate concluding discussion would have served the volume's original goal better? Maybe the more modern conclusions should have been left for the reader to make. Even so, some authors succeed in bridging the millennia, by avoiding the minutiae of strategic studies, like Peter Heather in his excellent piece on the Later Roman Empire.

The editor's stated aim of complementing and providing accessibility to the less well-known (to the general public) wars and warfare as examples of strategic thinking and warfare is a laudable one. The proof-reading has been careful and the standard of production of the volume is high. The further reading offered at the end of the articles nicely serve classroom use or the interested general reader. Even with its relative weaknesses the book is a worthwhile read and some of the articles would do well as reading material on courses of ancient warfare or even modern strategic studies.

Joonas Sipilä


Sklaverei und Freilassung in der griechisch-römischen Welt is an introduction to slavery in the Greco-Roman world, beginning with the Mycenean period and ending with Christian era and emperor Justinian. The book aims at providing a differentiated picture of a multi-faceted phenomenon.

The first of the book's five chapters provides an overview of the slavery discourse in antiquity, as well as scholarship on the subject since the 17th century. Herrmann-Otto summarises and comments on the most important currents and debates in the field and notes how they often have been connected to political and colonial issues. What follows in chapters 2 through 4 is an introduction to slavery in Greek and Roman cultures as well as in Late Antiquity. The Greek world is first approached, as may be expected, from the Mycenean and Homeric eras, after which the reader is presented with Greek slavery and its relationship to democracy, occupations of Greek slaves, and special forms of slavery as, e.g., the Spartan helot system. The chapter closes with an overview of the Hellenistic Levant. The Roman republic, slave revolts and slaves in Italian agriculture precede the treatment of slaves in the urban Roman context, after which follows a discussion of slaves and slave families in private households, and slaves' roles in society. The last subchapter sheds light on legal and societal perspectives on slavery and manumission. The final chapter deals with slavery and the Jewish and Christian religions in late antiquity and in imperial legislation.

As will be evident from the sketch of its contents above, Sklaverei und Freilassung covers an exhaustive scope of issues in a relatively limited space. Discussions of Greek and