

Dominic Rathbone's paper "Merchant Networks in the Greek World: The Impact of Rome" (pp. 299–310) provides a fitting conclusion to the collection of papers, as it examines the influence of the Roman imperial and cultural structure on the networks seen in operation in some of the other articles in the collection, particularly those for maritime commerce. Rathbone teases out three points: the utility of network theory in the absence of documentary sources; second, the activity of minor or private economic activities within the activity sponsored by the Roman state; third, the role of banks in facilitating commerce, providing a legal framework and serving as nodal points "connecting the disparate economic corners of the Roman empire" (p. 307).

What this volume demonstrates is that scholars are accustomed to thinking about networks even without the application of a specifically designed theory. Very few of the papers, explicitly apply the mechanics of network theory to their data following the principles set forth in Collar's paper. Nevertheless new information about connectivity emerges from analysis of texts, epigraphy, pottery, iconography, coins, and the roads themselves. The articles are all written to a high standard and reflection of their authors' erudition. Each stands alone as an examination of its period, but for the most part they adhere to the stated theme as well. The outlier is Collar's paper, which reads like a thesis methodology chapter.³ While detailed regarding the theoretical background, its application is not fully explored. One might have considered placing this article towards the beginning, as it provides a valuable introduction to network theory which is assumed elsewhere. Overall the book succeeds in its stated aim of exploring the potential applications of addressing historical questions by thinking about networks and connectivity in different contexts and with different types of evidence. In this way, the flexibility and adaptability of the methodology has been successfully demonstrated, and readers interested in new approaches may find many of the papers of use.

Marlena Whiting

ADAM SCHWARTZ: *Reinstating the Hoplite. Arms, Armour and Phalanx Fighting in Archaic and Classical Greece*. Historia Einzelschriften 207. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2009. ISBN 978-3-515-09139-9. 337 pp. EUR 64, GBP 65.

Schwartz's dissertation is a detailed and comprehensive contribution to the hot discussion of the nature of Greek hoplite warriors and the battles they fought. Over the past 20 years, it has been increasingly claimed that typical hoplite equipment may have been lighter and allowed freer movement than previously thought, and that hoplites may have fought individually, and that the hoplite phalanx with its often mentioned push (*othismos*) might not have been such a concerted group action as suggested in earlier research. Schwartz seeks to reinstate the older, established interpretation, according to which hoplites formed a heavily equipped infantry fighting and pushing in close formation. This fighting style was determined by the large shield, *hoplon*, that gave the hoplites their name. The study emphasizes the need for a practical approach to hoplites and phalanx fighting, asking "what was physically feasible and practical under the given circumstances?" (p. 13).

³ Now published as *Religious Networks in the Roman Empire: The Spread of New Ideas*, Cambridge 2013.

The Introduction (14 pages) is followed by a chapter on hoplite shields, helmets, armour and weapons, and their practical limitations in combat (77 pages). Schwartz combines textual, archaeological and iconographical evidence to draw a minute picture of the equipment and practical ways of wielding it. He argues that the equipment was rather heavy and unwieldy, not readily suited to single combat, and was specifically designed to offer maximum protection in a dense formation.

The other main chapter discusses the development, practicality, deployment, and push (*othismos*) of the phalanx (99 pages). Schwartz argues that fighting in a phalanx formation goes back to the eighth century BC, i.e. to the time when the special choice of equipment became commonplace. In order to find an illustrative comparison to the hoplite fighting style, Schwarz compares phalanx fighting to equipment and tactics utilized by the Danish riot police. The main result of this comparison is that even modern equipment and shields which are lighter than those of the hoplite limit effective movement and deployment to such a degree that massed and ranked formation with interlocked shields emerges as the most efficient method. Discussion of the push of the phalanx, the *othismos*, is mainly based on somewhat vague examples of mass shoving in non-military situations, e.g. rock concerts, and here the language turns persuasive rather than explicit.

The last chapter discusses the duration of hoplite battles (34 pages), and is based on an appendix inventory of 41 hoplite battles (58 pages). The aim of the discussion of hoplite battles is to show that they were fought in tight phalanxes, and that the length of the actual combat was short, partly because of the constraints of the heavy equipment. Here, Schwarz is using mainly literary evidence. His most relevant and unambiguous conclusion is that the evidence is patchy.

The basic methodology of the book is sound, even if the interpretations are sometimes forced by the argumentative goals. For example, it is a good idea to compare hoplite equipment and phalanx combat with similar modern close combat styles and equipment. But whereas the presentation of hoplite fighting relies on an in-depth analysis of hoplite equipment and a discussion on the possible ways of using this equipment, the equipment and tactics utilized by the Danish riot police seem to lack a similar depth of analysis. Thus, while comparison with known modern examples is a hallmark of this book, it may also demand further study.

Despite the criticism offered above, this book is likely to become a milestone in the discussion of the nature of hoplite equipment and phalanx combat. The merits of the book lie in the detailed presentation of the debate (up to 2006), in the meticulous comparison of written, artistic, archaeological and comparative present-day sources, and in the stress given to the analysis of actual hoplite equipment. This is an excellent introduction to the subject and the inherent problems of interpretation surrounding it.

Ilkka Leskelä

HUGH LINDSAY: *Adoption in the Roman World*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – New York 2009. ISBN 978-0-521-76050-8. XIII, 242 pp. GBP 55, USD 95.

Seeing that adoptions were quite common in ancient Rome, this book deals with a subject which is of some interest and on which there are accordingly some previous studies, although not in English on this scale (for a fairly recent book in German, see below). However, I must