

Even so, the editors succeed in their introduction to provide a context for the articles that follow. To single out some of the ten articles contained in the volume: The first article, by Fernando Echevarría Rey, discusses technological determinism in the study of ancient warfare. Belief in technological determinism implies that tactics and fighting techniques are determined by technological changes in arms and armour. Rey presents a good case for assuming that warfare is a much more complex issue than the sum of the technological accoutrements of war used. However, the technological determinism the author criticizes so vehemently and so well is partly a straw man; fortunately, instances of a pure deterministic approach tend to be very rare nowadays.

Christopher Tuplin, in an article of 82 pages, presents the longest contribution in the book – more than twice as long as the second longest chapter. The chapter is a judicious and thorough reconsideration of Achaemenid cavalry. Tuplin's conclusions are also worth noting, as he cautions against overestimating the role, effectiveness or importance of the cavalry in the Persian army. The King's cavalry was not that special, although that is how it is still often perceived in modern scholarship. His article is well worth reading for all those interested in the Achaemenid period in general.

Louis Rawlings's piece on the Carthaginian navy is an interesting consideration of the nature of the Carthaginian sea-power and culture and the role of the navy. He succeeds in highlighting how little we actually know about the Carthaginian navy, placing it in a wider context as part of the military culture and as a tool of power politics of the Carthaginians in an interesting way.

The last two chapters, Nathan Rosenstein's on phalanges in Rome and David Potter's on Caesar and the Helvetians, are also worth noting. Rosenstein challenges the orthodox view of the development of the manipular legion. His case rests on theorizing and rationalizing but his arguments are well thought through and logical even though, by necessity, he also makes many suppositions.

Potter focuses on Caesar and the Helvetian campaign as a springboard for a discussion of the introduction of cohorts. He also makes the interesting observation that it is as important to acknowledge the change in the nature of legionary recruitment after the Social War from a system based on social class to a more regional one in explaining the nature of Roman armies as it is to take into account the Marian reforms. He also underlines the way Roman armies in different theatres under different leaders adopted diverse fighting styles.

All in all, the articles in this book constitute an interesting contribution to the ongoing discussion on ancient warfare and are part of the welcome phenomenon of bringing warfare back to the study of war in antiquity.

*Joonas Sipilä*

ALFONSO MELE: *Greci in Campania*. I Quaderni di Oebalus 5. Scienze e lettere, Roma 2014. ISBN 978-88-6687-069-2. XIII, 399 pp. EUR 65.

Con questo volume Alfonso Mele, benemerito studioso della Grecia arcaica e della colonizzazione nonché del mondo italico tra ellenizzazione e romanizzazione, ci offre una sintesi della grecità campana dalle prime colonie alla graduale ellenizzazione delle regioni limitrofe attraverso i rapporti che i greci di Pitecusa, Cuma e Neapolis nonché quelli di Poseidonia ed Elea a sud del Sele mantenevano con i popoli indigeni dell'entroterra. Il volume ha alla base vari lavori pubblicati dall'autore stesso

in precedenza, che vengono elaborati sotto forma di integrazioni, ripensamenti e verifiche. Benché non sembri presentare novità assolute, il libro di Mele rimane un utile contributo sintetico su un argomento che da tempo meritava una trattazione del genere.

*Mika Kajava*

MARTHA C. TAYLOR: *Thucydides, Pericles, and the Idea of Athens in the Peloponnesian War*. Cambridge University Press, New York 2010. ISBN 978-0-521-76593-0 (hb). XII, 311 pp. 3 maps. GBP 50, USD 85.

Martha C. Taylor's book *Thucydides, Pericles, and the Idea of Athens in the Peloponnesian War* is a textual analysis of the classic type of Thucydides' history of the Peloponnesian War, and precisely for this reason I found this book refreshing. It is an accomplished, disciplined and detailed reading of Thucydides' text, meant to strengthen Taylor's main arguments, namely that in his work, Thucydides criticised "Pericles' radical redefinition of Athens as a city divorced from its traditional homeland of Attica" and that "Thucydides ... repeatedly questions and discredits the Periclean vision." (p. 1). Given the fact that Thucydides' account is the most important source of our knowledge of the Peloponnesian War and the power politics of the era, and that Taylor's work is the first to consider the ancient historian as a critic of Pericles' vision of Athens as an empire based on its position as a major naval force of the Greek world, I find Taylor's study one of great importance.

The book is divided into an introduction followed by five main chapters. Taylor begins by analysing Thucydides' account of Pericles' view of Athens as "the sea and the city", an empire not reliant on its geographical status but rather on its citizens' ability to adjust themselves as Athenians of Athens, no matter what their actual location was. To demonstrate her argument, Taylor explores Thucydides' account of Pericles' speeches to Athenians, as well as Pericles' epitaph. In the following chapters, Taylor shows how after his death, Pericles' views still influenced the politics of later Athenian leaders until the end of the Peloponnesian War. Throughout her study, Taylor is able to show how Thucydides, explicitly or implicitly, expressed his disapproval of a view of Athens as a naval empire as well as of the Athenians' weakness of character in abandoning their motherland in exchange for status as a naval force and further, how this sentiment led the Athenians to disasters in Melos, Sicily and Samos.

Thucydides' language is probably most complex in the texts written in Attic prose. Taylor's detailed reading of this author is skilful and carefully considered and her arguments always seem valid. Her analysis thus seems convincing and certainly offers new insights to those studying the contemporary views of Periclean politics. For the benefit of those who do not read Greek, the author quotes Thucydides in English using her own translations. This book will thus be of interest both to classicists and to those interested in the history of political thought as well to those wishing to know more about the foundations of western democracy. A bibliography, an index, and an *index locorum* completes the book.

*Sanna-Ilaria Kittelä*