
This collection of ten articles examines the Greek world under the rule of the Romans with special attention to Greek cultural identity. The question of the Greek East as an integrated, yet segregated part of the Roman Empire deserves more scholarly attention and this book presents an interesting and deserving contribution to it.

A short preface by the editors introduces the theme of the volume as well as all the essays and the research projects that resulted in the book. The focus of the volume is the political, cultural, and religious activity of Greek oligarchs in relation to Roman rule. The editors emphasize that understanding the diversity of the Greek world is of key importance. It is not just the socio-political structures of Achaea and Asia that should be studied, but also those of, for instance, the Near East.

The essay by Cristina Rosillo-López discusses Greek responses to Roman Republican power through the second and first centuries BC. The essay creates a background for the themes discussed in the following chapters. Rosillo-López traces the development and strategies of Greek self-representation by focusing on the visits of Hellenistic kings to Rome and persuasive rhetoric and special legislation in favor of Greeks.

Elena Muñiz Grijalvo’s essay focuses on Greek religion and identity in the works of Greek authors. Religion was used to express Greekness as well as elite and civic identities. Juan Manuel Cortés Copete focuses on the names of Greek provinces in the work of Cassius Dio in his essay. He discusses the case of Hellas in particular, a name that Dio uses but that did not exist as a name for any Greek province in the eyes of Roman authorities. The name Hellas reflects the Greek willingness to define themselves under Roman rule.

The essay by Arminda Lozano shifts the focus from Greece to Asia Minor. The essay discusses the integration of the temples of Asia Minor into the Roman administrative system by using the work of Strabo as its source. Lozano emphasizes that the Romans continued a secularization process of the temples begun by Hellenistic kings.

Ted Kaizer focuses on the town of Dura-Europos under the rule of the Romans in his essay. The town on Rome’s eastern frontier was influenced by Hellenistic and Parthian rule before the Romans and kept the ‘Oriental’ features of its identity throughout the Roman period.

The following two essays, the first by Elena Calandra and the second by Fernando Lozano and Rocío Gordillo, turn attention to the representation of imperial power in Greece and trace the...
reactions of the Greeks to it. Calandra’s essay traces images of members of the Roman imperial family in Athens from Hadrian to Valerian and Gallienus. The essay by Lozano and Gordillo discusses the imperial cult in the Delphic League.

Greg Woolf’s essay brings forth a different perspective on Greeks under Roman rule. It discusses the presence of Greek intellectuals – ‘archaeologists’ as the author calls them – in the city of Rome in connection with Roman imperialism in the west. Greek intellectual power is also the focus of the last two essays in the collection. Both analyze the views of Greek authors about Roman rule. Maurice Sartre discusses the opinions of Strabo and Plutarch about Roman rule in Asia Minor specifically. Francesca Fontanella’s essay provides a new reading of Aelius Aristides’ views of the Romans and their power over Greeks.

The ten essays in the collection succeed well in bringing forth the diversity of Greek viewpoints and reactions to Roman rule emphasized in the preface of the book. Certain views still dominate the studies: the focus of the essays is on the viewpoint of the Greek elite male, brought forth in many cases by Greek authors such as Plutarch, Strabo, Cassius Dio and Pausanias. Views other than these will hopefully be covered in future studies. The essays present an important perspective on the multifaceted processes and practices of ruling the Greek World.

Sanna Joska


This volume is a revised edition of the original 2006 edition by the same publishers. This thorough but compact roundup of Constantinian politics, religion, society and culture is an important addition to any student library.

The volume is comprised of five separate sections: “Politics and Personalities” (Section I); “Religion and Spiritual Life” (Section II); “Law and Society” (Section III); “Art and Culture” (Section IV); “Empire and Beyond” (Section V). These sections are preceded by the Introduction (by Noel Lenski, pp. 1–13) and a chapter on the “Sources for the History of Constantine” (by Bruno Bleckmann, pp. 14–34). In the Introduction, Lenski explains the scope of the book and discusses briefly but competently some open questions concerning Constantine. The varying views on Constantine from Gibbon through Burckhardt to the present could have deserved a separate chapter. Bleckmann’s short survey of the sources is excellent.

Section I comprises “Before Constantine” (by Simon Corcoran, pp. 35–58); “The Reign of Constantine” (by Noel Lenski, pp. 59–90); “The Dynasty of Constantine Down to 363” (by Robert M. Frakes, pp. 91–110). Corcoran discusses the period preceding Constantine and the Diocletianic reforms, whereas Lenski continues with Constantinian political and military history. This section is concluded by Frakes’s account of the dynastic developments after Constantine.

Section II consists of “The Impact of Constantine on Christianity” (by Harold A. Drake, pp. 111–136); “The Beginnings of Christianization” (by Mark Edwards, pp. 137–158); “Traditional Religion” (by A. D. Lee, pp. 159–182). Drake and Edwards concentrate on Christianity during