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
Constantine and Lee discusses the opposite side and the often uneasy relation of Christianity with the other religions.

Section III deals with “Bureaucracy and Government” (by Christopher Kelly, pp. 183–204); “Civil Law and Social Life” (by Caroline Humfress, 205–225); “Economy and Society” (by George Depeyrot, pp. 226–254). Kelly stresses the importance of Constantine’s administrative reforms, which were to have an impact on Roman governance for a century to come. In contrast, Humfress points out Constantine’s conservative stance on civil legislation. Depeyrot sums up Constantine’s efforts to keep the failing economy afloat.

Section IV consists of chapters on “Perspective in Art” (by Jaś Elsner, pp. 255–277); “Architecture of Empire” (by Mark J. Johnson, pp. 278–297); “Constantine in Legendary Literature” (by Samuel N. C. Lieu, pp. 298–324). Elsner discusses briefly the artistic developments of the period and the problems of labeling late antique art as art in decline, as has been done for the past centuries. There is some relief for Elsner’s lament concerning the absence of a late antique corpus of private portraiture: Martin Kovacs’ Kaiser, Senatoren und Gelehrte: Untersuchungen zum spätantiken männlichen Privatporträt (Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag 2014, reviewed in this volume), and, of course, the LSA-database based in Oxford. Johnson lists the most important examples of Constantine’s imperial building program, emphasizing that Constantine did build what he was supposed to have built. However, during this period there was probably more architectural innovation than Johnson lets us believe. Lieu concludes the section with a discussion of Constantine in legendary literature, such as the Sylvester Legend, the Donation of Constantine and the Conversion of Helena.

Section V includes “Warfare and the military” (by Hugh Elton, pp. 325–348); “Constantine and the Northern barbarians” (by Michael Kulikowski, pp. 347–376); “Constantine and the Peoples of the Eastern Frontier” (by Elizabeth Fowden, pp. 377–398).

This volume was published at about the same time as Jonathan Bardill’s Constantine, Divine Emperor of the Christian Golden Age (Cambridge University Press, New York 2012. See review: Arctos Vol. 51, 2017). Together these two volumes, especially because they contradict each other in some details, give a comprehensive picture of Constantine and his reign in its proper context. However, this volume seems to be aimed mainly to Anglophone readers and the otherwise very good “Further Reading” sections accordingly do not offer more advanced students capable of reading languages other than English the possibility of becoming acquainted with up-to-date research literature in Italian, German and French.

Juhana Heikonen


This conference acta – the conference was held at Durham University (UK) 20–25 June 2015 – includes guest lectures held at the same university in the same year. The volume can be seen as a good supplement to the Oxford handbook on animals in antiquity edited by Steven Campbell in 2014, containing many of the same writers.