

the analysis into that period. An adumbration of what might be achieved is found in the final chapter by Giardina on the transition to Late Antiquity, which shows how notions such as ‘crisis’ and ‘decline’ as descriptions of the complex history of the Late Empire can, and should, be challenged.

This volume amply sums up the work of the last thirty years or so since Finley, whose own work directly stimulated the most intense period ever in study of the ancient economy. This book is the rock on which to build the next advances. Not the least benefit is the mighty bibliography, which is reasonably comprehensive up to the early years of this century. In a short review it is impossible to give proper weight to the work of all 28 scholars who have contributed; it has been necessary to highlight some of the important general approaches. However, for a book which is so large and detailed, its general conclusion can be summed up in the sentence of just three words in the Introduction (p. 9): ‘The economy grew’.

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### POLIS ECONOMY

MIGEOTTE (L.) *The Economy of the Greek Cities from the Archaic Period to the Early Roman Empire*. Translated by Janet Lloyd. Pp. viii + 200, maps. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009 (first published as *L'Économie des cités grecques*, 2002). Paper, £13.95, US\$19.95 (Cased, £34.95, US\$50). ISBN: 978-0-520-25366-7 (978-0-520-25365-0 hbk).

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This is a translation of the second edition (2007) of M.'s *L'Économie des cités grecques*, including improvements and additions to the original 2002 edition, as well as an updated bibliography geared towards English speakers. It is intended as an introduction to the economy of the Greek *poleis*, archaic, classical, Hellenistic and Roman, aimed both at the interested amateur with little knowledge of ancient history and at students. It is divided into four main parts. The Introduction covers the main sources for the Greek economy and their problems, as well as the major debates, in a clear and concise presentation. The first chapter, ‘The Greek Cities and the Economy’, covers the various basic factors and influences on the economy, such as climate, technology, violence and upper-class views. The second chapter, ‘The World of Agriculture’, gives a series of brief but good discussions on the basis of the Greek economy, covering such issues as labour, crops, hunting, fishing, animal husbandry, property-types, self-sufficiency and the role of the market. The third chapter, ‘Craft Industries and Business Ventures’, briefly presents non-agricultural production and industries, as well as public works, mining, and war-related industries. The fourth chapter, ‘Trade’, discusses in a brief but illuminating manner the diverse issues relating to trade in the Greek world, such as monetarisation, local and international trade, merchants and public intervention in trade. The conclusion is short and presents M.'s own views on the economy. At the end of each chapter, M. includes a small but representative sample of ancient sources, both literary and epigraphic. The book is rounded off with an up to

date short bibliography of material to 2008 and a good general index. The only illustrations are three maps at the beginning of the book covering in some detail Greece, Asia Minor and the Aegean, and in less detail the Levant, Black Sea, Italy, Sicily and the West.

M.'s methodology is set out in the Introduction (p. 6), where he clearly states that he will concentrate on the sources and latest research as well as trying to 'bypass controversies'. In a subject as controversial as the Greek economy the last statement is bound to create controversy on its own account. In truth, M., although obviously more comfortable and in agreement with primitivist arguments and conclusions, as is proven in his conclusion, keeps throughout a cautious attitude, presenting with admirable poise and fairness both primitivist and modernist opinions on a large variety of subjects. This clearly stated concentration on the ancient sources means that some aspects of the economy are covered in greater detail than others, such as public business areas (pp. 100–13) or international agreements (pp. 157–66). However, for the purposes of an introduction to the subject this is both acceptable and useful, as it makes obvious, in an understated but persuasive manner, the problems of the sources and types of information surviving. Similarly some discussions concentrate heavily on certain chronological periods, but M. consistently tries to include material and information from the whole of the extensive chronological range he is covering.

The book's greatest strength is undoubtedly its coverage of so many issues relating to the economy in a clear, concise, structured and easily understandable manner. Some of the discussions are excellent, explaining successfully rather difficult and complicated aspects of the economy, such as self-sufficiency and markets (pp. 85–8), the roles of warfare, piracy and banditry (pp. 24–7), and public, sacred and private space (pp. 46–9).

There are also definite weaknesses. First and foremost, the book's purpose and interest are self-limiting in that it concentrates on the *polis*, thus ignoring Greek and non-Greek kingdoms, tribes and *ethnê* that were as vital a part of the economy as the *polis*. There are only two references to Persia in the whole book, both mainly in passing; and Egypt and Naukratis fare no better. The discussion of the Pangaeum mines (pp. 102–4) suffers from complete ignorance of the role of the Thracian tribes in the area. The book's chronological scope, while a factor in making it a successful introduction, also constitutes a weakness in that it unsurprisingly concentrates on continuities between periods, with little discussion of change or evolution. In some areas, the discussion is too impressionistic, such as in presentation of the geographical setting (pp. 15–18), or too simplistic, as in the discussion of demography (pp. 21–3). There are some arbitrary choices, such as the complete lack of mention of microclimates in the section on geography and climate, the consistent presentation of *miltos* as red ochre without any allusion to the relevant scholarly discussions and disagreements, or the statement that the pentereme was a ship 'with five levels of oarsmen' (p. 111). At times M. is all too happy to present numbers without any discussion or even allusion to their being no more than suppositions. Further, while M. is careful not to be Athenocentric in his discussions and brings to bear evidence and examples from other *poleis*, there is at times a tendency to concentrate on mainland Greece with little reference to the circumstances in Magna Graecia or Asia Minor, as in the discussion of animal husbandry (pp. 73–4). The book's greatest weakness as an introduction is that it is more geared towards the interested amateur than the student, as there

is an almost complete lack of references to modern scholarship (not even when discussing positions in debates), and referencing of ancient sources is erratic.

In general M.'s work fulfils its purpose admirably in that it is a clear, concise introduction with exceptional coverage, successfully avoiding the programmatic presentation of a Finley, an Austin or a Vidal-Naquet.

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## THE GREEK WORLD

CARTLEDGE (P.) *Ancient Greece. A History in Eleven Cities*. Pp. x + 261, figs, maps, pls. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. Cased, £12.99. ISBN: 978-0-19-923338-0.

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C.'s introductory book takes the reader on a tour of the ancient Greek world beginning with the Minoans and ending with the fall of Constantinople, though the main focus is on the archaic and classical periods. The text is framed by an examination of eleven cities which demonstrate particular aspects of Greek history within broadly defined chronological periods (so Knossos – strictly speaking not a city as C. notes – represents the Minoans, Alexandria the Hellenistic period, etc.). The chosen cities take us from east (Miletus, Byzantium) to west (Massalia, Syracuse); they are large (Athens, Alexandria) and small (Mycenae), and represent different types of *politeiai* (monarchy, oligarchy, democracy). An appendix discusses the panhellenic sanctuaries; a glossary and 'who's who' allows readers to orientate themselves.

As a literary conceit this is an excellent way of presenting Greek history which brings to the fore the impact, diversity and longevity of ancient Greek culture. C. guides the reader through the cultural complexities and encourages her to make connections between the cities by revisiting a number of common themes (foundation myths, colonisation, tyranny, warfare). Of course, C. does not confine himself to discussing only the eleven cities: we get detours to Thera, Ai-Khanum, Corinth and, briefly, Halicarnassus. Individuals may have different preferences for which cities ought to be included (Samos would give a different picture of archaic politics; Mytilene another take on the Peloponnesian War), but C.'s choices are perfectly justified. The major benefit of such an approach is, of course, that it shifts the focus from Athens and Sparta, which often dominate introductory books and courses on 'Greek' history (to which I plead guilty), and allows the reader to put these cities in a wider context. This alone makes it highly recommended.

In many ways this book is typical C.: it is erudite, learned and engaging. C. has an impressive breadth of knowledge of the ancient world and beyond, he gives the reader many interesting – often witty – vignettes, and he seeks to place the ancient Greek world in a wider cultural context. All of this is admirable and provides an excellent model for how we, as ancient historians, should present our subject to beginning students and the wider public. As such the book does more than many introductory volumes to make it clear *why* the ancient Greek world is worth reading about or studying in depth. C.'s motivation is explicitly stated in