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Infrastruktur und Herrschaftsorganisation im Imperium Romanum

English summary: How did the Ptolemies secure their rule when internal and external crises threatened their kingdom from the end of the third century BC onwards? To find out, Patrick Sanger examines the strategies of the politeuma - a type of association as yet only identified as having existed on Ptolemaic territory which is linked to Jewish and other communities bearing foreign ethnic designations. The author reveals a particular aspect of Ptolemaic social, legal and administrative policy, and sheds light on a historical situation in which Jews both supported and profited from a political regime.

German description: Welche Strategien entwickelten die Ptolemaer, um ihre Herrschaft abzusichern, als sich ihr Reich ab dem Ende des 3. Jahrhunderts v. Chr. innen- und außenpolitischen Krisen gegenübersah? Patrick Sanger analysiert die Strategien des politeuma - einer Art von Vereinigung, die bislang nur im ptolemaischen Herrschaftsbereich nachgewiesen und im Zusammenhang mit jüdischen und anderen als auswärtig gekennzeichneten, ethnisch kategorisierten Gemeinschaften dokumentiert ist. Inwiefern die als politeumata konstituierten Gruppen besondere Charakteristika aufwiesen, ob und in welcher Hinsicht der Organisationsform politeuma unter den anderen Vereinigungen ein hervorgehobener Stellenwert einnehmen und soll auf Basis der vorliegenden literarischen, epigraphischen und papyrologischen Quellen thematisiert werden. Der seit 1971 erscheinende Chiron gehört zu den international verbreitetsten althistorischen Zeitschriften. Er publiziert wissenschaftliche Studien aus dem Gebiet der Alten Geschichte im weitesten Sinne, also von der mykenischen bis hin zur frühbyzantinischen Epoche und von der Veröffentlichung
Empires are not an under-researched topic. Recently, there has been a veritable surge in comparative and conceptual studies, not least of pre-modern empires. The distant past can tell us much about the fates of empires that may still be relevant today, and contemporary historians as well as the general public are generally aware of that. Tracing the general development of an empire, we can discern a kind imperial dynamic which follows the momentum of expansion, relies on the structures and achievements of the formative period for a while, and tends to be caught in a downward spiral at some point. Yet single cases differ so much that a general model is hardly ever sufficient. There is in fact little consensus about what exactly constitutes an empire, and it has become standard in publications about empires to note the profusion of definitions. Some refer to size—for instance, ‘greater than a million square kilometers’, as Peter Turchin suggested. Apart from that, many scholars offer more or less extensive lists of qualitative criteria. Some of these criteria reflect the imperial dynamic, for instance, the imposition of some kind of unity through ‘an imperial project’, which allows moving broad populations ‘from coercion through co-optation to cooperation and identification’—The Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity is the first comprehensive reference book covering every aspect of history, culture, religion, and life in Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Near East (including the Persian Empire and Central Asia) between the mid-3rd and the mid-8th centuries AD, the era now generally known as Late Antiquity. This period saw the re-establishment of the Roman Empire, its conversion to Christianity and its replacement in the West by Germanic kingdoms, the continuing Roman Empire in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Persian Sassanian Empire, and the rise of Islam. Consisting of over 1.5 million words in more than 5,000 A-Z entries, and written by more than 400 contributors, it is the long-awaited middle volume of a series, bridging a significant period of history between those covered by the acclaimed Oxford Classical Dictionary and The Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages. The scope of the Dictionary is broad and multi-disciplinary; across the wide geographical span covered (from Western Europe and the Mediterranean as far as the Near East and Central Asia), it provides succinct and pertinent information on political history, law, and administration; military history; religion and philosophy; education; social and economic history; material culture; art and architecture; science; literature; and many other areas. Drawing on the latest scholarship, and with a formidable international team of advisers and contributors, The Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity aims to establish itself as the essential reference companion to a period that is attracting increasing attention from scholars and students worldwide. Late antique sites are often excavated badly and are hardly ever published in full, especially in the East. This volume seeks to provide a critique of this situation and exemplars of best practice. It will be an important reference work for scholars engaged in fieldwork and those seeking to use archaeological evidence in historical discussions. Around 4000 years ago the advanced urban civilizations in Egypt, Mesopotamia and India suddenly collapsed. What happened? Did a prolonged drought cause the
breakdown of social order? Recent discoveries from all over the world strongly support the suspected link of the collapse with climate. The volume presents the findings of more than 40 researchers and provides a review on the relevant information. It appears that a major shift of the precipitation pattern affected many parts of the world at approximately the same time, with disastrous effects on the nomadic populations of Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Can a similar climate shift with a serious adverse impact on society happen again? In a world facing global warming, there could be many lessons to be learned from the experiences of ancient societies.

First collection of essays entirely devoted to the inscription of Diogenes of Oinoanda. The texts of Diogenes of Oinoanda (2nd century AD) who invited his readers to an Epicurean life is the largest ancient inscription ever discovered. Over 70 new finds have increased the number of known wall blocks and fragments to nearly 300, offering new insights into Diogenes’ distinctive presentation of philosophy. This collection of essays discusses the philosophical significance of these discoveries and is the first of this kind entirely devoted to Diogenes of Oinoanda. Particular attention is paid to his philosophical aims and polemical strategies. Diogenes was apparently well aware of still ongoing philosophical debates, engaging in polemics against Presocratic philosophers, Platonics, and especially Stoics. His views about important issues like happiness, fear, old age, and the afterlife are explained on the bases of Epicurean physics and theology, ethics, politics, theory of knowledge, and psychology. Les textes de Diogène d’Œnoanda (Deuxième siècle de notre ère), qui invitait ses lecteurs au mode de vie épicurien, constituent la plus grande inscription antique jamais découverte. Les recherches récentes (plus de 70 pièces) ont porté le nombre de morceaux du mur et de fragments à près de 300, offrant ainsi un nouvel aperçu de la pensée propre de Diogène. Les essais réunis dans ce volume, le premier recueil d’articles entièrement consacré à Diogène d’Œnoanda, examinent la signification de ces découvertes. Ils portent une attention particulière aux intentions philosophiques de Diogène et à ses stratégies polémiques. L’épicurien était manifestement bien averti des débats philosophiques de son temps, engageant lui-même la polémique contre les présocratiques, les platoniciens et, plus spécialement, les stoïciens. Ses idées concernant les problèmes fondamentaux du bonheur, de la peur, de la vieillesse et de la vie après la mort ont pour horizon la pensée épicurienne sous ses différents aspects : physique et théologie, éthique, politique, théorie de la connaissance et psychologie. Contributors: Martin Bachmann (The German Archaeological Institute), Michael Erler (University of Würzburg), Alain Gigandet (University Paris – Est Créteil), Jean-Baptiste Gourinat (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique/University of Paris – Sorbonne/Ecole Normale Supérieure), Refik Güremen (Mimar Sinan University), Jürgen Hammerstaedt (University of Cologne), Giuliana Leone (University of Naples Federico II), Francesca Masi (University Ca’ Foscari of Venice), Pierre-Marie Morel (University of Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne / Institut Universitaire de France), Geert Roskam (KU Leuven), Martin Ferguson Smith (Durham University), Voula Tsouna (University of California), Francesco Verde (La Sapienza University of Rome).Tumuli were the most widespread form of monumental tombs in the ancient world. Their impact on landscape, their allurement as well as their symbolic reference to a glorious past can still be felt today. The need of supra-regional and cross-disciplinary examination of this unique phenomenon led to an international conference in Istanbul in 2009. With almost 50 scholars from 12 different countries participating, the conference entitled TumuliIstanbul created links between fields of research which would not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. The proceedings of TumuliIstanbul revolve around the question of the symbolic significance of burial mounds in the 1st millennium BC in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black-Sea regions, providing further insight into Kurgan neighbours from Eurasia. Im Imperium Romanum bildete der Bau von Straßen, Häfen oder Wasserleitungen in politischer, administrativer und wirtschaftlicher Hinsicht einen Schnittpunkt von imperialen und lokalen Interessen. Die Beiträge des Bandes analysieren
Die Einrichtung von infrastrukturanlagen und deren Verwaltung in den Provinzen im Hinblick auf das Einzugsgebiet von imperialer und lokaler Herrschaftsorganisation. Im Zentrum stehen die Handlungsstrategien der verschiedenen Angehörigen der kaiserlichen Verwaltung sowie der lokalen Funktionsträger. Es werden einerseits die organisatorischen Abläufe und Motive der Handlungen, andererseits die latenten Konfliktpunkte diskutiert und damit die Kommunikation bzw. Interaktion zwischen den Gemeinden und dem Kaiser bzw. seinen Stellvertretern transparent gemacht. Die Ergebnisse des Tagungsbandes leisten damit einen wichtigen Beitrag zum Verständnis der inneren Funktionsstruktur des Reiches. The second half of the seventh millennium BC saw the demise of the previously affluent and dynamic Neolithic way of life. The period is marked by significant social and economic transformations of local communities, as manifested in a new spatial organization, patterns of architecture, burial practices, and in chipped stone and pottery manufacture. This volume has three foci. The first concerns the character of these changes in different parts of the Near East with a view to placing them in a broader comparative perspective. The second concerns the social and ideological changes that took place at the end of Neolithic and the beginning of the Chalcolithic that help to explain the disintegration of constitutive principles binding the large centers, the emergence of a new social system, as well as the consequences of this process for the development of full-fledged farming communities in the region and beyond. The third concerns changes in lifeways: subsistence strategies, exploitation of the environment, and, in particular, modes of procurement, consumption, and distribution of different resources. Environment and Society in the Long Late Antiquity brings together scientific, archaeological and historical evidence on the interplay of social change and environmental phenomena at the end of Antiquity and the dawn of the Middle Ages, ca. 300-800 AD. This is the first monograph devoted solely to the ceramics of Cyprus in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods. The island was by then no longer divided into kingdoms but unified politically, first under Ptolemaic Egypt and later as a province in the Roman Empire. Submission to foreign rule was previously thought to have diluted - if not obliterated - the time-honoured distinctive Cypriot character. The ceramic evidence suggests otherwise. The distribution of local and imported pottery in Cyprus points to the existence of several regional exchange networks, a division that also seems reflected by other evidence. The similarities in material culture, exchange patterns and preferential practices are suggestive of a certain level of regional collective self-awareness. From the 1st century BC onwards, Cyprus became increasingly engulfed by mass produced and standardized ceramic fine wares, which seem ultimately to have put many of the indigenous makers of similar products out of business - or forced them to modify their output. Also, the ceramic record gradually became less diverse during the Roman Period than before - developments which we today might be inclined to view as symptoms of an early form of globalisation. The 28 papers examine questions relating to the extent and nature of Byzantine trade from Late Antiquity into the Middle Ages. The Byzantine state was the only political entity of the Mediterranean to survive Antiquity and thus offers a theoretical standard against which to measure diachronic and regional changes in trading practices within the area and beyond. To complement previous extensive work on late antique long-distance trade within the Mediterranean (based on the grain supply, amphorae and fine ware circulation), the papers concentrate on local and international trade. The emphasis is on recently uncovered or studied archaeological evidence relating to key topics. These include local retail organisation within the city, some regional markets within the empire, the production and/or circulation patterns of particular goods (metalware, ivory and bone, glass, pottery), and objects of international trade, both exports such as wine and glass, imports such as materia medica, and the lack of importation of, for example, Sasanian pottery. In particular, new work relating to specific regions of Byzantium's international trade is highlighted: in Britain, the Levant, the Red Sea, the Black Sea and China. Papers of the 38th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, held in 2004 at Oxford under the auspices of
the Committee for Byzantine Studies. Spanning centuries and the vastness of the Roman Empire, The Last Statues of Antiquity is the first comprehensive survey of Roman honorific statues in the public realm in Late Antiquity. Drawn from a major research project and corresponding online database that collates all the available evidence for the 'statue habit' across the Empire from the late third century AD onwards, the volume examines where, how, and why statues were used, and why these important features of urban life began to decline in number before eventually disappearing around AD 600. Adopting a detailed comparative approach, the collection explores variation between different regions—including North Africa, Asia Minor, and the Near East—as well as individual cities, such as Aphrodisias, Athens, Constantinople, and Rome. A number of thematic chapters also consider the different kinds of honorand, from provincial governors and senators, to women and cultural heroes. Richly illustrated, the volume is the definitive resource for studying the phenomenon of late-antique statues. The collection also incorporates extensive references to the project's database, which is freely accessible online.

Der provinzweite Kaiserkult lässt sich mit S. Price’s Worten als ein „religious system“ oder in Anlehnung an J. Deininger im Sinne einer „politischen Gesamtvertretung der Provinz“ verstehen. Er berührt aber darüber hinaus noch andere Aspekte insbesondere im Bereich der Medien und Geschlechter sowie der Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte. Allerdings stand eine derart umfassende Beschäftigung mit dem provinzialen Kaiserkult bislang noch aus. Vor dem Hintergrund zahlreicher neuer archäologischer, epigraphischer und numismatischer Quellen sowie der Neuausrichtung quellengegebener Fragestellungen beleuchten die Beiträge des Bandes den provinzialen Kaiserkult von seiner Genese bis in die Spätantike. Fragestellungen zur politischen und finanziellen Organisation, Kommunikation in Inschriften und Münzprägungen und Repräsentation im Baulichen sowie im Festwesen entwickeln sich auf mehreren Ebenen lokaler und imperialer Administration. Die generationenübergreifenden Forschungsergebnisse bündeln eine grosse Bandbreite von regionalen Bezeugungen des Kaiserkults von ausserhalb des Reiches im fernen Indien bis an die hispanische Atlantikküste. Damit bietet der Band auch zahlreiche weiterführende Anstosspunkte zum interdisziplinären Austausch. The first book to integrate fully the archaeological study of the landscape with the concerns of colonial and postcolonial history, theory and scholarship, The Archaeology of the Colonized focuses on the experience of the colonized in their landscape setting, looking at case studies from areas of the world not often considered in the postcolonial debate. It offers original, exciting approaches to the growing area of research in archaeology and colonialism. From the pyramids of Old Kingdom Egypt to illicit whisky distilling in nineteenth-century Scotland, and from the Roman roads of Turkey to the threshing floors of Cyprus under British colonial rule, the case studies assist Dr. Given as he uses the archaeological evidence to create a vivid picture of how the lives and identities of farmers, artisans and labourers were affected by colonial systems of oppressive taxation, bureaucracy, forced labour and ideological control. This will be valuable to students, scholars or professionals investigating the relationship between local community and central control in a wide range of historical and archaeological contexts. In two volumes. The Balboura Survey, conducted between 1985 and 1994, investigated the settlement history of a small district in the ancient region of Kabalia in the mountains of southwestern Turkey. Although the survey's focus was on the Hellenistic-Early Byzantine city of Balboura and its western territory, the fieldwork revealed significant prehistoric occupation, and the project included research into Ottoman and recent settlement. Vol. 1: Balboura and the history of highland settlement This first volume of the final publication analyses settlement in the survey area from the Chalcolithic to the 20th century, placing it in the context of the adjoining districts. Major themes include: - the relation of the local prehistoric sites to the long-lived cultures to the north and east, and to the sparse evidence for settlement along the coast to the south; - Balboura's foundation by immigrant Pisidians around 200BC, and the new pattern of small
agricultural settlements which came with it, exploiting land up to 1700m; - the city's attachment to the Roman province of Lycia, its adoption of the civic culture of Hellenistic and Roman Anatolia, and the interplay of alternative ethnicities - Kabalian, Pisidian, Lycian and Roman; - subsistence, climate, and the stability of Balboura’s rural settlement pattern through nearly 1000 years. - the balance between pastoral and settled occupation from the prehistoric period through to the present day. Vol. 2. The Balboura Survey: detailed studies and catalogues This second volume of the final publication contains detailed discussions of the prehistoric pottery and of the Hellenistic and later pottery, which provide a chronological framework for the interpretation of the survey, and a major study of Hellenistic and Roman inscriptions examined during the project, many of them unpublished. Later chapters discuss an early Balbouran soldier who died at Sidon, the fortifications and water supply of the city, funerary monuments, and churches and other early Christian remains. The final chapter discusses problems and methodological issues raised by the survey, which combined extensive and intensive fieldwork. Five detailed catalogues present the Hellenistic and later pottery, the evidence of ancient activity across the city site, the rural sites and their pottery, known inscriptions from the territory of Balboura, and Balbouran funerary monuments. This book compiles a series of case studies derived from archaeological excavation in Greek cultural contexts in the Mediterranean (ca. 800-100 B.C), addressing the current state of the field, the goals and direction of Greek archaeology, and its place in archaeological thought and practice. Overviews of archaeological sites and analyses of assemblages and contexts explore how new forms of data; methods of data recovery and analysis; and sampling strategies have affected the discourse in classical archaeology and the range of research questions and strategies at our disposal. Recent excavations and field practices are steering the way that we approach Greek cultural landscapes and form broader theoretical perspectives, while generating new research questions and interpretive frameworks that in turn affect how we sample sites, collect and study material remains, and ultimately construct the archaeological record. The book confronts the implications of an integrated dialogue between realms of data and interpretive methodologies, addressing how reengagement with the site, assemblage, or artifact, from the excavation context can structure the way that we link archaeological and systemic contexts in classical archaeology. Long-distance trade under Rome is well-understood. But the importance of local exchange has not been fully explored. The volume investigates how inland regions could become prosperous in late antiquity, especially when not integrated in long-range trading networks. Robust local economies emerge, stimulated by both taxation and local market systems. Asia Minor is considered to have been a fairly prosperous region in Late Antiquity. It was rarely disturbed by external invasions and remained largely untouched by the continuous Roman-Persian conflict until very late in the period, was apparently well connected to the flourishing Mediterranean economy and, as the region closest to Constantinople, is assumed to have played an important part in the provisioning of the imperial capital and the imperial armies. When exactly this prosperity came to an end – the late sixth century, the early, middle or even later seventh century – remains a matter of debate. Likewise, the impact of factors such as the dust veil event of 536, the impact of the bubonic plague that made its first appearance in AD 541/542, the costs and consequences of Justinian’s wars, the Persian attacks of the early seventh century and, eventually the Arab incursions of around the middle of the seventh century, remains controversial. The more general living conditions in both cities and countryside have long been neglected. The majority of the population, however, did not live in urban but in rural contexts. Yet the countryside only found its proper place in regional overviews in the last two decades, thanks to an increasing number of regional surveys in combination with a more refined pottery chronology. Our growing understanding of networks of villages and hamlets is very likely to influence the appreciation of the last decades of Late Antiquity drastically. Indeed, it would seem that the sixth century in
particular is characterized not only by a ruralization of cities, but also by the extension and
flourishing of villages in Asia Minor, the Roman Near East, and Egypt. This volume’s series
of themes include the physical development of large and small settlements, their financial
situation, and the proportion of public and private investment. Imperial, provincial, and local
initiatives in city and countryside are compared and the main motivations examined,
including civic or personal pride, military incentives, and religious stimuli. The evidence
presented will be used to form opinions on the impact of the plague on living circumstances
in the sixth century and to evaluate the significance of the Justinianic period. Analyzes the
evolution of a provincial Byzantine urban settlement based on the results of an
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ancient activity across the city site, the rural sites and their pottery, known inscriptions from the
territory of Balboura, and Balbouran funerary monuments. This lexicon provides scholars
and students of Greek civilization with a list, supported by evidence, of personal names
known from literature, inscriptions, papyri, vases, coins, and other objects dating from the
earliest period to the 7th century A.D. It promises to replace the mid-19th-century work of
Pape and Benseler and offer fresh impetus to a wide range of historical and literary
research. Produced under the auspices of the British Academy, the complete lexicon will be
published in six volumes. The history of Byzantium pivots around the eleventh century, during
which it reached its apogee in terms of power, prestige, and territorial extension, only then to
plunge into steep political decline following serious military defeats and extensive territorial
losses. The political, economic, and intellectual history of the period is reasonably well
understood, but not so what was happening in that crucial intermediary sphere, the social
order, which both shaped and was shaped by contemporary ideas and brute economic
developments. This volume aims to deepen understanding of Byzantine society by
examining material evidence for settlements and production in different regions and by sifting
through the far from plentiful literary and documentary sources in order to track what was
happening in town and country. There is evidence of significant change: the pattern of
landownership continued to shift in favour of those with power and wealth, but there was sustained and effective resistance from peasant villages. Provincial towns prospered in what was an era of sustained economic growth, and, through newly emboldened local elites, took a more active part in public affairs. In the capital the middling classes, comprising much of officialdom and leading traders, gained in importance, while the twin military and civilian elites were merging to form a single governing class. However, despite this social upheaval, careful analysis of these various factors by a range of leading Byzantine historians and archaeologists leads to the overarching conclusion that it was not so much internal structural changes which contributed to the vertiginous decline suffered by Byzantium in the late eleventh century, as the unprecedented combination of dangerous adversaries on different fronts, in the east, north, and west. In spite of the growing amount of important new work being carried out on uses of myth in particular ancient contexts, their appeal and reception beyond the framework of one culture have rarely been the primary object of enquiry in contemporary debate. Highlighting the fact that ancient societies were linked by their shared use of mythological narratives, Wandering Myths aims to advance our understanding of the mechanisms by which such tales were disseminated cross-culturally and to investigate how they gained local resonances. In order to assess both wider geographic circulations and to explore specific local features and interpretations, a regional approach is adopted, with a particular focus on Anatolia, the Near East and Italy. Contributions are drawn from a range of disciplines, and cross a wide chronological span, but all are interlinked by their engagement with questions focusing on the factors that guided the processes of reception and steered the facets of local interpretation. The Preface and Epilogue evaluate the material in a synoptic way and frame the challenging questions and views expressed in the Introduction. The Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project has made interdisciplinary practices part of its scientific strategy from the very beginning. The project is internationally acknowledged for important achievements in this respect. Aspects of its approach to ancient Sagalassos can be considered ground-breaking for the archaeology of Anatolia and the wider fields of classical and Roman archaeology. Now that its first project director, Professor Marc Waelkens - University of Leuven -, is at the stage of shifting practices, from an active academic career to an active academic retirement, this volume represents an excellent opportunity to reflect on the wider impact of the Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project. The contributors to the honorific publication build on the methods and practices of interdisciplinary archaeology from a wide variety of angles, in order to highlight the crucial role of interdisciplinary research for creating progress in the interpretation of the human past or nurture developments in their own disciplines. In particular, the contributors consider how the parcours of the Sagalassos Project helped to pave their ways. Contributors are international authorities in the field of Anatolian and classical archaeology, bio-archaeology, geo-archaeology, history and cultural heritage. This volume, featuring sixteen contributions from leading Roman historians and archaeologists, sheds new light on approaches to the economic history of urban craftsmen and traders in the Roman world, with a particular emphasis on the imperial period. Combining a wide range of research traditions from all over Europe and utilizing evidence from Italy, the western provinces, and the Greek-speaking east, this edited collection is divided into four sections. It first considers the scholarly history of Roman crafts and trade in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, focusing on Germany and the Anglo-Saxon world, and on Italy and France. Chapters discuss how scholarly thinking about Roman craftsmen and traders was influenced by historical and intellectual developments in the modern world, and how different (national) research traditions followed different trajectories throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The second section highlights the economic strategies of craftsmen and traders, examining strategies of long-distance traders and the phenomenon of specialization, and presenting case studies of leather-working and bread-baking. In the third section, the human factor in urban crafts and
trade, including the role of apprenticeship, gender, freedmen, and professional associations—
is analysed, and the volume ends by exploring the position of crafts in urban space, considering the evidence for artisanal clustering in the archaeological and papyrological record, and providing case studies of the development of commercial landscapes at Aquincum on the Danube and at Sagalassos in Pisidia. This book accounts for the tumultuous period of the fifth to eleventh centuries from the Fall of Rome and the collapse of the Western Roman Empire through the breakup of the Eastern Roman Empire and loss of pan-Mediterranean rule, until the Turks arrived and seized Anatolia. The volume is divided into a dozen syntheses that each addresses an issue of intrigue for the archaeology of Anatolia, and two dozen case studies on single sites that exemplify its richness. Anatolia was the only major part of the Roman Empire that did not fall in late antiquity; it remained steadfast under Roman rule through the eleventh century. Its personal history stands to elucidate both the emphatic impact of Roman administration in the wake of pan-Mediterranean collapse. Thanks to Byzantine archaeology, we now know that urban decline did not set in before the fifth century, after Anatolia had already been thoroughly Christianized in the course of the fourth century; we know now that urban decline, as it occurred from the fifth century onwards, was paired with rural prosperity, and an increase in the number, size, and quality of rural settlements and in rural population; that this ruralization was halted during the seventh to ninth centuries, when Anatolia was invaded first by the Persians, and then by the Arabs—and the population appears to have sought shelter behind new urban fortifications and in large cathedrals. Further, it elucidates that once the Arab threat had ended in the ninth century, this ruralization set in once more, and most cities seem to have been abandoned or reduced to villages during the ensuing time of seeming tranquility, whilst the countryside experienced renewed prosperity; that this trend was reversed yet again, when the Seljuk Turks appeared on the scene in the eleventh century, devastated the countryside and led to a revival and refortification of the former cities. This dynamic historical thread, traced across its extremes through the lens of Byzantine archaeology, speaks not only to the torrid narrative of Byzantine Anatolia, but to the enigmatic medievalization.

Dedicated to the investigation of fortifications as important and integral elements of ancient built space, the present volume results from the activity of the German based international research network Fokus Fortifikation. Ancient Fortifications in the Eastern Mediterranean and is intended as a guide to research on ancient fortifications and a source of inspiration for new research. Ancient city walls and other fortification structures have long been underestimated. Since the early years of the 21st century, research on ancient fortifications has experienced an international boom, particularly amongst young researchers. They approached the study of fortifications with fresh ideas and new aims, and felt the need to discuss the problems and potentials of these monuments and to develop harmonized research methods and objectives. The outcome is the present bilingual (English and German) book, which offers a condensed view of the network’s extended conversations. The goal is not so much to offer an overview on the development of ancient fortifications, but rather to present versatile and diverse approaches to their research and interpretation and to serve as a kickoff for a new understanding of this category of ancient buildings. The book is divided into two parts: the first part includes 12 chapters on methods of interpretation, documentation, and field project organization; the systematic description and presentation of fortifications; the ‘building experience’; masonry forms and techniques; defensive, symbolic, and urbanistic functions and aspects; on fortifications in written sources, the visual arts, and as a historical source; and on regional and rural fortifications, and regionally confined phenomena. Part two is a catalogue that offers exemplary presentations of fortifications studied by network members; it is arranged in four sections: regions, sites, architectural elements and architectural details. The book is Volume 1 in the new series Fokus Fortifikation Studies. Volume 2 in the series, Focus on Fortification: New Research on
Fortifications in the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East (Oxbow Books), the proceedings of an international conference held in Athens in December 2012, will also appear in 2015. This volume, Overturning Certainties in Near Eastern Archaeology, is a festschrift dedicated to Professor K. Aslıhan Yener in honor of over four decades of exemplary research, teaching, fieldwork, and publication. The thirty-five chapters presented by her colleagues includes a broad, interdisciplinary range of studies in archaeology, archaeometry, art history, and epigraphy of the Ancient Near East, especially reflecting Prof Yener's interests in metallurgy, small finds, trade, Anatolia, and the site of Tell Atchana/Alalakh.

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In Couched in Death, Elizabeth P. Baughan offers the first comprehensive look at the earliest funeral couches in the ancient Mediterranean world. These sixth- and fifth-century BCE klinai from Asia Minor were inspired by specialty luxury furnishings developed in Archaic Greece for reclining at elite symposia. It was in Anatolia, however—in the dynastic cultures of Lydia and Phrygia and their neighbors—that klinai first gained prominence not as banquet furniture but as burial receptacles. For tombs, wooden couches were replaced by more permanent media cut from bedrock, carved from marble or limestone, or even cast in bronze. The rich archaeological findings of funerary klinai throughout Asia Minor raise intriguing questions about the social and symbolic meanings of this burial furniture. Why did Anatolian elites want to bury their dead on replicas of Greek furniture? Do the klinai found in Anatolian tombs represent Persian influence after the conquest of Anatolia, as previous scholarship has suggested? Bringing a diverse body of understudied and unpublished material together for the first time, Baughan investigates the origins and cultural significance of kline-burial and charts the stylistic development and distribution of funerary klinai throughout Anatolia. She contends that funeral couch burials and banqueter representations in funerary art helped construct hybridized Anatolian-Persian identities in Achaemenid Anatolia, and she reassesses the origins of the custom of the reclining banquet itself, a defining feature of ancient Mediterranean civilizations. Baughan explores the relationships of Anatolian funeral couches with similar traditions in Etruria and Macedonia as well as their "afterlife" in the modern era, and her study also includes a comprehensive survey of evidence for ancient klinai in general, based on analysis of more than three hundred klinai representations on Greek vases as well as archaeological and textual sources.

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