

BOOK REVIEW

Wandering Greeks: The Ancient Greek Diaspora from the Age of Homer to the Death of Alexander the Great. By ROBERT GARLAND. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2014. Pp. xxi + 319. Hardcover, \$35.00. ISBN 978-0-69116-105-1.

Migration is a particularly 'hot' political issue at the moment and Garland explicitly frames his book on the ancient Greek diaspora in terms of modern debates about immigration. The volume's scope extends beyond its modern comparanda, however, and it offers a wide-ranging exploration of mobility within the archaic and classical Greek world. Garland sets out to demonstrate that, far from being the exception, the mobility of both individuals and groups was a fundamental part of the Greek experience.

The book opens with a Preface and a Prolegomena, both of which cover similar ground and focus on modern attitudes toward migration. The first substantive chapter offers a brief sketch of how 'wanderers' were characterized in a range of Greek literary genres. This is followed by eight chapters each considering a different category of migrant in Greek antiquity: "The Settler", "The Portable Polis", "The Deportee", "The Evacuee", "The Asylum-Seeker", "The Fugitive", "The Economic Migrant", and "The Itinerant". The volume concludes with a chapter on Repatriation, and an overall Conclusion. A guide to further reading, and five appendices are also included: a discussion of terminology, a catalogue of Athenian cleruchies and colonies, a catalogue of deported groups, a catalogue of prominent exiled individuals, and a catalogue enslaved groups who were forcibly relocated.

The volume contains a great deal of interesting material, covering an impressive range across the archaic and classical Greek world. The way in which this material is organized, however, leaves many questions unanswered. While Garland identifies eight distinct categories of migrant, he does not always offer clear definitions for each group, and indeed there appears to be some overlap between the categories. For example, it is not clear what the distinction is between asylum-seekers and fugitives. To add to this confusion, some ancient examples are cited for more than one category. For example, the Deinomenid mass resettlements on

Sicily are discussed under not only “The Portable Polis” (69–71), but also “The Deportee” (86–87), and “The Evacuee” (112–113). A fuller exposition of terminology would have been helpful, both in relation to these chapter classifications and also to the ancient vocabulary of migration.

Garland cites an impressive range of examples to illustrate his points. This breadth has perhaps inevitably come at the expense of depth, and examples are not discussed in detail. A closer reading of the literary source material may have allowed for more nuanced discussions of individual episodes of migration; a similar result could have been achieved by greater recourse to the extensive corpus of relevant epigraphic material, the large quantities of pertinent archaeological evidence, and the vast body of local and fragmentary authors which lie outside the familiar standard canon.

For example, the discussion of Phocaeen relocation in response to the Persian conquest (61–64) is drawn from a straight reading of the episode in Herodotus (1.164–65). Opportunities are lost for exploring the correspondence between the principles and the realities of civic relocation (by considering archaeological evidence from the site of Phocaea), and for investigating how the literary trope of relocation was used by Herodotus (by engaging in a close and critical reading of the text).

The book is engaging and accessible for a general audience, but the lack of notes and detail may be frustrating for a more specialist reader. The maps are useful, but it is not always clear what the images of coins contribute to the argument. The guide to further reading is disappointingly brief, and excludes many important relevant works. The appendices are particularly useful, and will doubtless be of great value for future research on the subject. While many questions remain unanswered concerning the nature, extent, perception and peculiarity of ancient Greek mobility, the book’s central argument can no longer be doubted—mobility was far more common than has traditionally been assumed.

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