
Studies of the history of the settlement of the Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal regions by the Greeks of Ionia, Aegean and the Mainland continue to face the uphill task of enmeshing inadequate ancient literature (Herodotus, Thucydides, Strabo, Pausanias, Eusebius) with increasing quantities of archaeological evidence, sometimes but not always at variance with these sources. The term ‘colonisation’ itself is fraught with difficulties since it was imposed by mainly 19th century scholarship on a phenomenon which was believed to be identical in intent and form with the then ongoing imperialism of European states such as Britain, France and Imperial Germany. No one subscribes to such a definition today, yet the term remains and it dogs all works devoted to the subject. The title of this volume, notwithstanding, at least takes note of a generic process, and hence affirms a more neutral nuance to the description of establishing *apoikiai*, especially since the focus here is mainly the Archaic period before ‘colonies’ associated with imperialist ambitions of states such as Athens are to be identified. The work as a whole comprises an introductory essay by the editor, followed by twelve others dealing with the various regions affected by the overseas foundations or influences imposed by Mycenaean, Greeks, and Phoenicians; and offers as its intent to provide “in one work an overview of Greek colonies and other Greek settlements overseas” (ix).

Tsetskhladze (“Revisiting Ancient Greek Colonisation”, xxiii-lxxxiii) provides an ample introduction covering many of the issues which are raised later as he himself says: “Nearly every chapter in this volume . . . discusses how colonies were organised and despatched, the arrival of the first colonists, the rôle of religion etc.” (xlvi). However, he does raise the caveat (xxv) of what exactly it is that is under the spotlight, the reasons for such a phenomenon—although subsequent chapters are not always in agreement—dating of sites, their names and the pace of urbanisation, and the extent to which the Phoenicians preceded the Greeks in the West. Hansen (“*Emporion. A Study of the Use and Meaning of the Term in the Archaic and Classical Periods*”, pp. 1-39) takes up the problem attached to the naming of some of these early settlements, and argues that *emporia* are invariably *poleis* and that it is not possible to distinguish between the two, “The only *emporia* which can be traced back into the Archaic period are Naukratis in Egypt and Emporion in Spain, and both seem to have been dependent *poleis*, Naukratis dominated by the Pharaoh, Emporion possibly by its metropolis Massalia . . .” (p. 34).

In Vanschoonwinkel’s first contribution entitled “Mycenaean Expansion” (pp. 41-113) three identifiable stages in Mycenaean contacts around the Mediterranean from the mid-second millennium to about 1100 BC are suggested, and
that exploration and trade was directed more eastwards than to the west except for the Italian peninsula and Sicily. Also clear is that the “essentially commercial dynamic did not in itself lead to the creation of colonies but it does not . . . exclude a Mycenaean presence . . .” (p. 104). However, that presence, never formalised, resulted in little or no remains and so cannot be said to be a precursor to the settlement patterns of the Archaic period. In “Greek Migrations to Aegean Anatolia in the Early Dark Age” (pp. 115-41) Vanschoonwinkel’s second discussion focuses on a relatively small area of activity following the end of the Mycenaean civilisation. Based on archaeological evidence he argues for a Greek presence in Ionia well before the traditional dates (pp. 129-30), while in Aeolia the reverse appears to be true where its “beginnings were very slow and late” (p. 133).

“Th e Phoenicians in the Mediterranean. Between Expansion and Colonisation: A Non-Greek Model of Overseas Settlement and Presence” (Niemeyer, pp. 143-68) is perhaps an unexpected topic here, but is justified on the grounds that it overlaps chronologically with Greek exploration and habitation of the western Mediterranean, and that there are differences in why establishments were set up. These differences and the dating of sites are not, however, as profound as N. argues (p. 148), and in fact Greek and Phoenician objectives were probably quite similar at similar times. Greco’s (“Greek Colonisation in Southern Italy: A Methodological Essay”, pp. 169-200) emphasis is the urban planning of many of the sites in Magna Graecia and Sicily, and identification of territories such as the ‘empire’ of Sybaris. The translation is rather disjointed and unclear (see for example pp. 174-5) while some of the illustrations are barely referenced. In “The First Greeks in Italy” (pp. 201-37) D’Agostino understandably focuses on the foundation and role of Pithecusae and its interaction with the Etruscans and that “it . . . was an emporion ready to welcome external contributions of any type and whose population was made up primarily of artisans and merchants” (p. 224). The beginning of Cumae’s history as a polis is also noted. The maps (pp. 207, 213, 220) are not entirely comprehensible especially if the intended reader is new to the subject, while the illustration (p. 223) is of a very poor quality. Ridgeway (“Early Greek Imports in Sardinia”, pp. 239-52) gives a brief overview of early Greek pottery finds in probably Phoenician sites but indicative of interaction between Euboean and Phoenician traders. Domínguez (“Greeks in Sicily”, pp. 253-357) has an extensive chronological coverage of Greek settlement in Sicily from the earliest arrivals down to the second generation of urban foundations, some apoikiai, some defensive strong points, established by the poleis, notably Syracuse (pp. 256-318). This is followed by a less detailed discussion of interaction and fusion of culture, economy and politics between the Sicilian Greeks and the native communities to the Classical period (pp. 318-42), but showing “the weight of the Greek influence