

The making of the middle sea



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Cyprian Broodbank

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Revue de presse

Winner of the Wolfson History Prize 2014

More comprehensive, more finely grained, more vivid, more subtle and more compelling than anything previously written on the period up to classical antiquity ... [Broodbank's] hawk's-eye perspective combines vast vistas with sharply sighed details; he selects evidence with an unerring discretion and words with daring élan. The vitality of his work carries the reader through 600 big, closely printed pages packed with data and bristling with intellectual challenges. --Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, Literary Review

For anyone who teaches, conducts research or carries out fieldwork in the history of the wider Mediterranean world, The Making of the Middle Sea offers an invaluable and beautifully illustrated resource, incomparable in its scope, depth and originality ... the most remarkable achievement in Mediterranean history since Braudel ... set to become the standard work in this field ... The coverage of this volume is truly daunting, an unprecedented work of scholarship; it is unlikely ever to be matched in such a concise yet informative and up-to-date manner. This masterful synthesis belongs on the shelves of every student and scholar of the Mediterranean. --History Today, A.Bernard Knapp

The book I'd like for Christmas. --Melvyn Bragg, Books of the Year, The Observer

Quite extraordinary ... I am even fuller of admiration for this achievement that I was then [when I wrote the jacket endorsement] ... Constantly demanding and provocative ... the author is a supremely gifted writer ... mightily impressive ... massively superb ... I can do nothing but urge readers of this Review to go out at once and read this remarkably handsome, well-conceived and reasonably priced book ... Maps, charts, line-drawings and photos simply pullulate throughout, being both very well chosen and of a very high quality. -- The Cambridge Humanities Review

This tour de force is astonishing for quite how much information he has read, digested, marshalled and presented, and for its heady combination of being enlightening, entertaining and constantly thought-provoking ... Many congratulations to the author and his publisher Thames & Hudson, who have produced a truly magnum opus, with 672 pages and masses of stimulating diagrams, maps and pictures for £34.95 - astonishing value. --The Anglo Hellenic Review

Imposing and engaging ... A major intellectual feat ...This is one of those rare books - I can think of no other - in which the treatment of prehistoric times moves seamlessly into the historic period of the ancient world. It is to be applauded as a major work which sets new standards in scholarship, coherence and readability. -- Colin Renfrew, Times Literary Supplement

Astonishingly extensive and holistic ... a must for anyone fascinated by the history of the Mediterranean. -- Current World Archaeology

Extraordinary ... Broodbank brilliantly illuminates periods of Mediterranean history that have been passed over rapidly in most accounts ... very impressive ... the striking ability to provoke and stimulate, while drawing together vast amounts of material over many millennia, means that The Making of the Middle Sea is a book that will be relished by general readers as well as by academics ... a tremendous achievement, enhanced, as one would expect from Thames & Hudson, by many hundreds of excellently chosen illustrations. A work of exceptional range, insight and interest. --Standpoint, David Abulafia

Wonderfully sweeping and oddly unputdownable ... highly recommended. --William Dalrymple, The Observer

Already hailed as a masterpiece of archaeological and historical writing, this book gives the reader a magnificent overview of ancient peoples and their interaction. --Minerva Présentation de l'éditeur The Mediterranean has been for millennia one of the global cockpits of human endeavour. World-class interpretations exist of its Classical and subsequent history, but there has been remarkably little holistic exploration of how its societies, culture and economies first came into being, despite the fact that almost all the fundamental developments originated well before 500 bc. This book is the first full, interpretive synthesis for a generation on the rise of the Mediterranean world from its beginning, before the emergence of our own species, up to the threshold of Classical times. Extensively illustrated and ranging across disciplines, subject matter and chronology from early humans and the origins of farming and metallurgy to the rise of civilizations - Egyptian, Levantine, Hispanic, Minoan, Mycenaean, Phoenician, Etruscan, early Greek - the book is a masterpiece of archaeological and historical writing. Biographie de l'auteur Cyprian Broodbank is currently Professor of Mediterranean Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, and has recently been appointed the next John Disney Professor of Archaeology at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge. He will take up the post in October 2014. His previous book, An Island Archaeology of the Early Cyclades, won the 2001 Runciman Award and the 2002 AIA James R. Wiseman award.

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