



Altay Coşkun (ed.)

Ethnic Constructs, Royal Dynasties and Historical Geography around the Black Sea Littoral

With the assistance of Joanna Porucznik and Germain Payen

GEOGRAPHICA HISTORICA – VOL. 43

2021. 381 pages with 28 b/w illustrations, 5 maps and 2 tables

€ 66,-

978-3-515-12941-1 SOFTCOVER

978-3-515-12944-2 E-BOOK

Ethnicity is a social construct within an ideological framework, ancient or modern. This wisdom has penetrated most scholarly disciplines, but its reception is delayed in Black Sea studies, where essentialist views still prevail. Nationalism, Rostovtzeff's culture-history and Marxist-Leninist materialism have cast longer shadows on this part of the ancient world. Likewise, the balance between documentary sources and ancient literature needs redressing. The latter has often been either accepted in a positivist manner or rejected due to perceived inconsistencies. More rewarding is to try to understand what exactly the ancient authors knew or intended. In this light, the contributors discuss the concept of Sarmatization, the implications of rural versus urban cults, ethnic hierarchies, interaction patterns in colonial settings, inversions of barbarian stereotypes, cultural affiliations of Bosporan kings, imperial policies of Pharnakes I and II, foreign princes on the Ara Pacis Augustae, the reorganization of Pontos under Pompey and Deiotaros, the sanctuary of Leukothea in Kolchis, Christian urbanism

in Scythia Minor and crop selections of Anatolian farmers. Though selective, the book covers the four coastlines of the Black Sea, ranging from the archaic to the Byzantine periods.

THE EDITOR

Altay Coşkun is Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Waterloo, Ontario. He joined the department in 2009, after gaining his PhD (1999) and Habilitation (2007) at Trier University and holding research positions at Oxford, Trier and Exeter. His interests range from Ancient Anatolia over the Greek poleis, Hellenistic kingdoms, Roman diplomacy and citizenship to the Late Roman state.

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