

Studies on the history and archaeology of Lydia from the Early Lydian period to Late Antiquity edited by Ergün Lafli and Guy Labarre brings together forty-seven (47) international contributions on the history and archaeology of Lydia. This book, which brings together specialists of Asia Minor in general and Lydia in particular, offers us an assessment of the knowledge acquired to date on a complex territorial ensemble whose geo-historical contours have fluctuated during the period under consideration, with the more or less strong insertion of populations, territories, economies, and religious and cultural forms within or in the orbit of regional or imperial powers from Gyges to Rome and Constantinople. The book is divided into six parts—Lydian in the Third and Second Millennia B.C., Historical and other Aspects of the Lydian Period and the Early Lydians, Historical and other Aspects on Hellenistic and Roman Lydia, Material Culture of Hellenistic and Roman Lydia, Early Byzantine Lydia, *Varia anatolica occidentalia*, Selected Abstracts on Recent Research in Lydia—the works take stock of the state of scientific knowledge and the current dynamics of research dedicated to Lydia in order to offer readers a temporal and spatial journey within the historiography devoted to this specific space.

From the introduction, the editors set the framework and objective of the book, which aims to offer a variety of points of view on a particular space with a long history marked by alternating phases of great political and cultural stability interspersed with periods of political, social, economic and cultural upheaval that have led to profound changes in the face of certain subsets of this space, which is no longer seen today as a homogeneous block reacting monolithically to historical changes.

The multifactorial approach which is at the heart of this editorial project aims to offer a dynamic synthesis, i.e. a set of proposals in which the sum of the individual approaches results in a nuanced, momentary and evolving picture, as underlined by most of the conclusions of the contributions and even more so by the texts which make up the last part of the book, which does not close the reflection but opens it up to new issues and new knowledge about a region which is constantly being rediscovered.

The mineral wealth, including gold, forests, agriculture and “Sardonian” craftsmanship constituted an economic manna for Lydia, which its various masters were able to take

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advantage of in the context of exchanges with more or less close neighbours. The early use of money, the development of major roads from the Persian period onwards, and a policy of exports attested by material finds in Lydia itself and outside the territory covered by the studies in this book show that this area with its varied contours played a role as a nodal platform in the interconnection of the regions of the Mediterranean East to the central Near East, which should encourage us to think of this region as a more open space than we may have thought in the past.

However, the integration of Lydia into a vast economic and geopolitical framework did not prevent the development of minor regions that remained, within the multiscalar framework of Lydian area, cultural conservatories that archaeologists and historians are trying to understand and put in synergy. The rediscovery of this buried world, which really began in the 19th century under the *aegis* of the German school, then expanded with the work of the American school, is today an area of research and international collaboration in which Americans, Germans, Spaniards, French, Italians, but above all Turks, who are reclaiming a national heritage, are working together to improve our knowledge of this multi-century world and its historical, archaeological, heritage and cultural development. It is therefore necessary to thank the editors and contributors of this book for the contribution that this publication constitutes. *Verba uolant, scripta manent.*