conveyed in prose, and overall, the absence of illustration is a missed opportunity. The book contains just three general maps of the entire area, which show rivers and relief but on a scale which makes them hard to use in support of the more detailed topographical arguments in the text.

In Part IV, F. returns to consideration of the Gulf as *Lebensraum* and *Interactionsraum*. The narrow focus of Part III on the coast itself makes the former more successful than the latter; indeed, F.'s conception of an *Interactionsraum* seems somewhat limited, and here, as throughout the book, political and military history is more prominent than socio-economic. The coastal zones of regions such as Achaia and Phokis were not only settled areas but also bridges between the mountains of the interior and the sea (and in case of Phokis in relation to Euboia, connected sea to sea). Understanding the routes of communication which linked and (in the case of mountain economies) sustained very different modes of life is thus crucial. F. is clearly aware of these issues, offering (in Parts III and IV), for example, careful analysis of the choices involved in the maintenance of Boiotia's links with three seas. But they are not pursued consistently and in the depth necessary to understand the pattern of coastal development in the Gulf area as a whole. Equally, the decision to place the western boundary of the study area at the coast of the mainland, while supported by Strabo, raises certain difficulties in all periods. F. does briefly draw the Ionian islands into discussion of the political and military history of the western Gulf from the late fifth century onwards, when the westwards shift of power implicated them in most major events. Clearly, it would be possible to extend the area implicated in a study of the Gulf very widely indeed, and boundaries have to be drawn somewhere. But there is a feeling of self-imposed constraint which could easily have been overcome by more systematic, if inevitably selective, reference to the impact of links with the Ionian islands, the Adriatic, and Italy upon Gulf settlement and the nature of the activity conducted along the Gulf over time.

In short, this monograph is a valuable addition to a growing body of scholarship on maritime zones. It is not a definitive account of the Gulf area, although since this would probably be impossible, it would be unfair to imply criticism in this respect. F. tells part of a highly complex story very well and presents rich material and well-defined questions that will sustain research for many years to come.

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ACARNANIA

O. Dany: *Akarnanien in Hellenismus. Geschichte und Völkerrecht in Nordwestgriechenland*. Pp. xi + 363, map. Munich: Verlag C. H. Beck, 1999. Paper. ISBN: 3-406-44880-1.

D.'s monograph is the first survey of Hellenistic Akarnania since E. Oberhummer's multi-period study of a slightly larger region of north-west Greece in 1887. The prominence of the central Greek states in regional and inter-regional political affairs during the third and second centuries B.C. would be sufficient reason to merit an in-depth study. But a comprehensive review of Akarnania presents special challenges for the historian. Compared with many other parts of the Greek mainland, where modern development has kick-started rescue excavations, leading to re-evaluations of the data, there have been few artificially induced discoveries, and even fewer

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research-oriented projects aimed at defining the distinctive characteristics of this remote rural province. The most significant long-term work in the region has concentrated on the surviving remains of Stratos, the principal urban centre and focus of the Akarnanian confederation, where separate projects directed by the Greek Archaeological Service, the Finnish Institute in Athens, and the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut are in progress. The modest volume edited by P. Berktold, J. Schmid, and C. Wacker, *Akarnanien. Eine Landschaft in der Antike* (Würzburg, 1996), goes some way towards filling the void, but the serious researcher is left with numerous imponderables.

In these circumstances, D. has chosen to organize his study around a series of historical encounters. A short introduction looks at sources (pp. 1–20). Part 1, which constitutes the historical narrative, occupies two-thirds of the volume (pp. 21–239). Part 2 is composed of 'Einzelstudien', in effect appendices: on the Akarnanian confederation (pp. 240–75) and on the silver coinage associated with the latter (pp. 276–310), followed by a catalogue (pp. 311–39). Since this is a lightly revised doctoral dissertation, the absence of photographs, plans, and other illustrations is understandable, but nonetheless regrettable. There is a brief prosopographical index and a list of ancient sources after the bibliography, together with a single, simplified regional map.

The historical analysis begins with Akarnania in the time of Philip II and Alexander III. The primary documentary sources focus on issues outside the region, and refer to it in piecemeal fashion: the interventions of the Athenians and Spartans in Akarnanian affairs during the 420s B.C.; Agesilaos of Sparta's invasion in 389; accessions to the Second Athenian League; Philip II's attack on Kassope in 342; the beginnings of Aitolian expansion as a consequence of that confederation's enhanced leverage through its powerful ally, Macedon. Diodoros' narrative of the final decades of the fourth century provides further scope, as the successors of Alexander exploited the rapidly inflating territorial disputes between the Akarnanian and Aitolian confederacies for their own political agendas, with Akarnania and its outlying island Levkas eventually serving as stepping stones to Pyrrhos' Italian campaign (pp. 34–68). D. presents the limited data conscientiously, utilizing epigraphic sources where possible to illuminate the political outline. But the principal objects of his interest are the Akarnanian–Aitolian alliance, which D. argues should be dated to 271 or 270 B.C. (pp. 69–86); the partition of Akarnania between Epirus under Alexander II and Aitolia several decades later (in 243 B.C.? p. 102); and the re-emergence of the Akarnanian confederacy after the fall of the Aiakid dynasty of Epirus in 232 B.C. (pp.120–49).

The re-emergence of the Akarnanian confederacy took place at a time when the affairs of north-west Greece were becoming ensnared in Roman foreign policy. D. believes that there was a genuine Akarnanian appeal to Rome (in 239 B.C.), as Justin later claimed (28.1–2), and feels obliged to explore at some length the broader political background of the next fifty years. Akarnania was a player on this wider stage, albeit a very junior one, but D. argues that this rôle reflects the practical constraints that small and medium-sized states operated within (pp. 136–239).

D. argues that the Akarnanian confederacy was, at least from the fifth century B.C. onwards, not an undifferentiated 'Stammstaat' or 'Stammesverband', but a political entity with true federal characteristics (a 'Bundesstaat'), with formal constituent parts, many of which were *poleis* (p. 251). A systematic federal organization would have to have a territorial dimension, and in this respect the evidence we dispose of at present is simply inadequate to confirm his proposition. He considers the archaeological

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evidence for urban development in the introduction, emphasizing the fact that, according to a topographic survey conducted by W. M. Murray, many of the region's civic circuit walls were constructed in the late fifth or early fourth century (p. 9). He is right to draw attention to the organizational implications of these major projects. The silver coinage of the region also points to the existence of common exchange agreements. D.'s definitions of federal status will not satisfy many constitutional historians. The development of collective institutions is difficult to trace, and doubtless involved a series of changes, as D. admits. He makes good use of epigraphic evidence to explore the identities and affiliations of officials, including the college of *strategoi*, *synedroi*, hipparchs, and other named magistrates. This discussion makes a very useful contribution to the current revival of scholarly interest in the socio-political structures of *ethne* (pp. 240–65, 270–5).

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THE CARIAN UPLANDS

P. Debord, E. Varinlioğlu (edd.): *Les hautes terres de Carie*. With A. Bresson, P. Brun, R. Descat, K. Konuk (Ausonius Publications, Mémoires 4.) Pp. 329, maps, pls., ills. Bordeaux: Diffusion de Boccard, 2001. Cased, €73. ISBN: 2-910023-20-6.

This splendid publication deals with a little known and underexplored region: the part of Karia north of the Keramic Gulf, between Keramos and Idyma in the south, and Muğla, Pisye, and Panamara in the north, with a slight sideways bulge to the west to allow for inclusion of the site of Sekköy (equidistant between Mylasa and Keramos, and arguably belonging more to that western part of Karia in which Mylasa dominated than to our 'hautes terres'). Visited by few travellers (on whom see R. Descat, pp. 21–2) and archaeologically underexplored, these mountainous uplands of central Karia are often dismissed as having no great historical interest because of the lack of major cities, the forbidding and steeply mountainous coast of the Keramic Gulf which makes access to its hinterland virtually impossible (see e.g. Fig. 1 on p. 11; the photo on p. 3, Fig. 4, shows not the Karian Chersonnese in the background but the northern shore, i.e. it looks north, not south, with the Bay of Gökova on the right = east), the very few routes through to the Maeander Valley, and the poverty of the small upland plateaus. The present book, the fruit of many years of systematic exploration and recording in the late 1980s and early 1990s by a French–Turkish team (P. Debord, A. Bresson, P. Brun, R. Descat, and K. Konuk all of Bordeaux University, joined by E. Varinlioğlu of Antalya University), does much to dispel such notions and succeeds spectacularly well in bringing out the region's density of settlement (even along the coast) and its complex infrastructure. Most of the evidence is presented in two main sections, which together form the core of the book: **3**: 'Les Sites', written largely by P. Brun with the collaboration of Debord, Bresson, and Descat on some of the sites; and **5**: 'Inscriptions grecques et latines', by A. Bresson with P. Brun and E. Varinlioğlu (**4** contains a brief overview of the coinage found in the region by K. Konuk). The site descriptions are extensive, well-illustrated with excellent photographs, maps and line drawings. Many of these sites have been seen and described before, in particular by W. R. Paton and J. L. Myres ('Karian Sites and

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