one urban settlement in particular (Contrebia Belaisca) has produced the longest inscriptions in the Celtiberian language as well as evidence of social, legal, and economic relations with the Romans in the early and mid-first century B.C. (p. 3). The inclusion of this area would have provided a further testing ground (and indeed important evidence) for C.'s picture of gradual and uneven acculturation, and one which has been the subject of significant recent archaeological and linguistic investigation (A. Beltrán and A. Tovar, *Contrebia Belaisca I* [Zaragoza, 1982]; M. A. Díaz Sanz and M. M. Medrano Marqués, *AEA* 66 [1993], 243–8).

The second context which seems to hinder rather than to help C.'s analysis is theoretical. In his first chapter, C. dismisses a series of possible models for 'Romanization' before stating a preference for an 'integration model', which he commends for recognizing a more intimate and bonded relationship between indigenous and Roman cultures than the other models; for recognizing that the result was a culture that was neither 'indigenous' nor 'Roman' but a new product; and for minimizing the 'Roman-versus-indigene' dialectic by seeing both cultures as constituent parts of a unified whole (p. 14). This is all very well as far as it goes; but it ignores discontinuities within and between the cultures termed 'indigene' and 'Roman' in order to emphasize the continuities. In one sense the indigenous population of the area did indeed reckon the Roman way superior to their own: they had been defeated by the Romans in a series of lengthy wars. Further, though other models might be criticized for stressing the importance of the élite in the process of acculturation at the expense of the lower classes, C. himself notes frequently that in many ways it was the élite which took the lead (thus, for example, pp. 129, 136, 143, 147–8, 167). Above all, though the 'integration model', presented as two overlapping circles, suggests that each culture contributed to the 'new product' while retaining elements of its own, it underestimates the obvious difference between the nature of the two: there were an enormous number of Romans outside Celtiberia, but relatively few Celiberians, and while the new Roman–Celtiberian culture might be widespread in Celtiberia, it was not be found in Rome.

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SOUTHERN SPAIN

E. W. HALEY: Baetica felix. *People and Prosperity in Southern Spain from Caesar to Septimius Severus*. Pp. xx + 277, maps, ill. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003. Cased, US$45. ISBN: 0-292-73464-6.

The Roman province of Baetica played a key rôle in the history of the Roman empire. This was particularly true of the early empire, when rich individuals from such cities as Italica, Hispalis, and Corduba swelled the ranks of the equestrian and senatorial orders, and Trajan and Hadrian became emperor. The wealth that underpinned this development was rooted in Baetican agriculture. The richness of this was evident in the results of Ponsich's survey of Roman rural settlement in the lower Guadalquivir valley in the 1970s, and in the production and distribution of olive oil and fish sauce from the province across the Roman empire. Many scholars have argued that these developments were largely driven by, and benefited, élites at the level of decurions and above. In this ambitious new book, Evan Haley takes advantage of much new epigraphic and archaeological information to argue that the *pax romana* in Baetica

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also benefited a very substantial mid-spectrum population, or middle-stratum, with a property qualification lying between 5,000 and 200,000 sesterces, as well as the élite. In order to achieve this, the book seeks to outline the material impact of Rome upon Baetica in the form of rural settlement and the production of olive oil, fish sauce, metals, and ceramics, and then to tackle the question of who built the settlements, who benefited from this production, and why.

Following an introduction in which H. places his enquiry in the context of other arguments about social and economic change in the Roman empire, much of the book is taken up by surveys of the historical, epigraphic, and archaeological evidence for settlement, production and trade under the late Republic (Chapter 1), Augustus (Chapter 2), the Julio-Claudians (Chapter 3), and the flavians (Chapter 4), before making the argument (Chapter 5) that it was Vespasian's promulgation of *ius latii* that provided the main stimulus for the wealth creation that underpinned the creation of the 'middle stratum'. He then goes on (Chapter 6) to list in detail the epigraphic and historical evidence for all those individuals involved in specific wealth-producing activities, particularly those *honesti* outside the *ordo*. He then concludes that there was a period of genuine economic growth in Baetica between 25 B.C. and A.D. 170, which increased the wealth and income of a far broader section of the population than had been hitherto assumed.

One of the strengths of H.'s approach is that he attempts a holistic view of both the historical and the archaeological evidence, the only forward in major regional analyses of this kind, as studies by Alcock and Woolf have shown. There is very little doubt that he has a very good command of the evidence, particularly the stone inscriptions and amphora stamps that lie at the core of his arguments. Indeed, his comments about the organization of olive oil production and those involved are the most valuable part of the book. They enhance and rationalize important earlier works by scholars such as Chic, Caballos, and Remesal Rodríguez. Furthermore, the meticulous catalogue of 'wealthy Baetici' (Chapter 6) draws together and makes accessible much disparate and useful evidence. He is also very well informed about recent archaeological discoveries—no easy task given that publication of is disparate and often not easily accessible. Finally, his attempt at arguing through his conclusions in the context of current historical approaches to the economic and social history of the Roman empire is laudable (Chapter 7).

A major limitation of the book is its unsophisticated treatment of the archaeological evidence. While H. is scrupulous in citing the published details from a range of sites, he is sometimes over zealous in reading too much in to what are often only short provisional statements by archaeologists, particularly when they are talking about chronology. In other cases, he is too dogmatic in his treatment about negative evidence—as in stating that there is no evidence for the existence of villages in Baetica (p. 77): careful reading of some published survey results suggests otherwise. A greater disappointment is in the way in which he analyses, marshals, and uses the evidence in his arguments. While he is well aware of the large amount of available survey data from the region, he selects individual sites to illustrate points or trends and treats the reader to long descriptions unrelieved by a single plan or photograph! At times, this interrupts the flow of his arguments which are then harder to follow. Furthermore, it removes sites from their all important regional context. While there are many unresolved issues about the inter-comparison of survey data in general, there is little doubt that H. could have distilled more and clearer information by a more sympathetic analysis of the survey data—Alcock's analyses in *Graecia Capta* come to mind. A more critical discussion of site ranking, together with comparative histograms and phased

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distribution maps would have enabled his results to have been presented with more clarity. Indeed, the single map provided is over-reduced and does not mention many of the sites and regions discussed in the book.

One issue which stems from this is regional difference within the province. Sustained analysis of available survey evidence makes it clear that there are very marked contrasts in patterns of settlement, production, and cultural development from the Sierra Morena, to the Sevillan Campiña, the Tierra Llana de Huelva, the Subbetica Córdobesa, etc. While H. is clearly aware of this and is to be commended in his scrupulousness in citing towns and rural settlements from across the province, one has the impression that he sees these as subordinate to a provincial norm that is somehow distinctively 'Baetican'. It could be argued instead that the distinctiveness of the province was its variety, and that a closer evaluation of regional differences needs to be taken into account when analysing the social and economic development of Baetica.

Notwithstanding these issues, H.'s reading of the evidence from Baetica does raise some questions about the impact of Roman demands upon key Mediterranean provinces. His concept of the 'middle-stratum' is a timely reminder that élite-centred analyses of the provinces are reductive, that the percolation of wealth down provincial social hierarchies is an issue that needs to be looked at more closely, and that non-élites need to figure more prominently in our analyses of the Roman provinces. However, a more balanced treatment of the subject is still needed.

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ROMAN FAMILY LAW

B. W. Frier, T. A. J. McGinn: *A Casebook on Roman Family Law*. (American Philological Association Classical Resources Series 5.) Pp. xxii + 506. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. Cased, £60. ISBN: 0-19-516185-8 (0-19-516186-6 pbk).

This is a book intended in the first place as a teaching tool. It contains 235 legal texts, mostly brief and mostly from the *Digest*, which the authors have selected as 'cases' to introduce to students the basic elements of Roman law on family life and organization. The material is arranged under five rubrics—basic concepts, marriage, *patria potestas*, succession, tutelage, and the status of children and women—each of which is broken down into subcategories such as dowry, *peculium*, and undutiful will. This allows the main principles and concepts of Roman family law to be understood in logical and cumulative fashion. Each text is given in Latin and English translation with appropriate explication and questions suitable for students' independent reflection and classroom discussion. A short but stimulating introduction outlines the rise of interest over the last generation in the history of the Roman family and the issues involved with law as a relevant source of information. A concise bibliography provides access to the major secondary works in the field (instructors will need to add some recent titles, particularly Tim G. Parkin, *Old Age in the Roman World* [Baltimore, 2003], Beryl Rawson, *Children and Childhood in Roman Italy* [Oxford, 2003], and, for demographic refinements, Robert Sallares, *Malaria and Rome* [Oxford, 2002]); and help is also given with bibliography on Roman law at large, the names and

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