Spartiate decline. Leuktra is maladroitly explained by reference to improvement in training and Epaminondas' generalship. Whitby urges Hodkinson's *Wealth and Property* to supplement Cawkwell, but I doubt their views are ultimately reconcilable. Rather, I would have abbreviated Cawkwell and added selections from Hodkinson and from Cartledge or Charles D. Hamilton.

A glossary of Greek terms is helpful for non-specialists, as are the three maps. The volume ends with an 'intellectual chronology', further readings, bibliography, and short indexes.

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THE CORINTHIAN GULF

K. FREITAG: *Der Golf von Korinth. Historisch-topographische Untersuchungen von der Archaik bis in das 1. Jh. v. Chr.* Pp. 504, maps. Munich: tuduv, 2000. Paper. ISBN: 3-88073-574-3.

The gulfs of Corinth and Patras (collectively here the Corinthian Gulf) form a geographically and culturally complex zone of interaction which, despite scholarly attention to surrounding regions, has been surprisingly neglected since the pioneering work of German historical geographers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In connecting the mountain zones of the Peloponnese and central Greece to western sea routes, it links some of the most socially and politically complex regions of Greece with each other and with the wider Mediterranean world. A single monograph cannot fully capture the richness and continuous development of such interconnections over the long timespan here covered. Nonetheless, Freitag's attention to detail and sense of the right questions have produced an admirably thorough and well researched book, which is both a fundamental work of reference and a pointer to future research. Bibliographical omissions are mostly insignificant—no small acheivement, given the growing body of historical and archaeological research conducted in this area.

The book is divided into four parts. A brief introduction presents the history of scholarship on this and similar regions, emphasizing their dual nature as a homeland and a window on wider and different worlds. In Part II, varying perceptions of the region are sensitively explored through analysis of the use of toponyms over time. Part III, the core of the book, is a catalogue of forty-five major sites (and their neighbours) running geographically from west to east and back (an order which imposes an unusual and useful maritime perspective). Attention is paid to the relationships between different site types, with particular regard to the setting of ports and harbours. But when this discussion is pursued in Part IV, difficulties of classification are clear: the distinction between *limen* and *epineion* is particularly problematic, and there is a risk of imposing an overrigid typology. Nonetheless, individual site discussions are well focused. Consideration of Kirrha in relation to Delphi, for example, rests on thorough analysis of published evidence, with sensible conclusions about the comparative evolution of Delphic and outside economic interests in the 'sacred port'. Had F. pursued discussion with those actively engaged in field research in the area (on Corinthian stone export, for example), he might have developed these conclusions still further. More frustrating is the absence of photographs which would easily have conveyed the necessity of Delphic control of this area. Topography cannot easily be

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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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