

THE ANCIENT CITY

Greece and Rome were quintessentially urban societies. Ancient culture, politics and society arose and developed in the context of the polis and the civitas. In modern scholarship, the ancient city has been the subject of intense debates due to the strong association in Western thought between urbanism, capitalism and modernity. In this book, Arjan Zuiderhoek provides a survey of the main issues at stake in these debates, as well as a sketch of the chief characteristics of Greek and Roman cities. He argues that the ancient Greco-Roman city was indeed a highly specific form of urbanism but that this does not imply that the ancient city was somehow 'superior' or 'inferior' to forms of urbanism in other societies, just (interestingly) different. The book is aimed primarily at students of ancient history and general readers, but also at scholars working on urbanism in other periods and places.

ARJAN ZUIDERHOEK is Associate Professor of Ancient History at the Department of History, Ghent University. He is author of *The Politics of Munificence in the Roman Empire: Citizens, Elites and Benefactors in Asia Minor* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and editor, with Paul Erdkamp and Koenraad Verboven, of *Ownership and Exploitation of Land and Natural Resources in the Roman World* (2015).

KEY THEMES IN ANCIENT HISTORY

EDITORS

P. A. Cartledge
Clare College, Cambridge
 P. D. A. Garnsey
Jesus College, Cambridge

Key Themes in Ancient History aims to provide readable, informed and original studies of various basic topics, designed in the first instance for students and teachers of Classics and Ancient History, but also for those engaged in related disciplines. Each volume is devoted to a general theme in Greek, Roman, or where appropriate, Graeco-Roman history, or to some salient aspect or aspects of it. Besides indicating the state of current research in the relevant area, authors seek to show how the theme is significant for our own as well as ancient culture and society. By providing books for courses that are oriented around themes it is hoped to encourage and stimulate promising new developments in teaching and research in ancient history.

Other Books in the Series

- Death-ritual and social structure in classical antiquity*, by Ian Morris 978 0 521 37465 1 (hardback) 978 0 521 37611 2 (paperback)
Literacy and orality in ancient Greece, by Rosalind Thomas 978 0 521 37346 3 (hardback) 978 0 521 37742 3 (paperback)
Slavery and Society at Rome, by Keith Bradley 978 0 521 37287 9 (hardback) 978 0 521 37887 1 (paperback)
Law, violence, and community in classical Athens, by David Cohen 978 0 521 38167 3 (hardback) 978 0 521 38837 5 (paperback)
Public order in ancient Rome, by Wilfried Nippel 978 0 521 38327 1 (hardback) 978 0 521 38749 1 (paperback)
Friendship in the classical world, by David Konstan 978 0 521 45402 5 (hardback) 978 0 521 45998 3 (paperback)
Sport and society in ancient Greece, by Mark Golden 978 0 521 49698 8 (hardback) 978 0 521 49790 9 (paperback)
Food and society in classical antiquity, by Peter Garnsey 978 0 521 64182 1 (hardback) 978 0 521 64588 1 (paperback)
Banking and business in the Roman world, by Jean Andreau 978 0 521 38031 7 (hardback) 978 0 521 38932 7 (paperback)
Roman law in context, by David Johnston 978 0 521 63046 7 (hardback) 978 0 521 63961 3 (paperback)

- Religions of the ancient Greeks*, by Simon Price 978 0 521 38201 4 (hardback) 978 0 521 38867 2 (paperback)
- Christianity and Roman society*, by Gillian Clark 978 0 521 63310 9 (hardback) 978 0 521 63386 4 (paperback)
- Trade in classical antiquity*, by Neville Morley 978 0 521 63279 9 (hardback) 978 0 521 63416 8 (paperback)
- Technology and culture in Greek and Roman antiquity*, by Serafina Cuomo 978 0 521 81073 9 (hardback) 978 0 521 00903 4 (paperback)
- Law and crime in the Roman world*, by Jill Harries 978 0 521 82820 8 (hardback) 978 0 521 53532 8 (paperback)
- The social history of Roman art*, by Peter Stewart 978 0 521 81632 8 (hardback) 978 0 52101659 9 (paperback)
- Ancient Greek political thought in practice*, by Paul Cartledge 978 0 521 45455 1 (hardback) 978 0 521 45595 4 (paperback)
- Asceticism in the Graeco-Roman world*, by Richard Finn OP 978 0 521 86281 3 (hardback) 978 0 521 68154 4 (paperback)
- Domestic space and social organisation in classical antiquity*, by Lisa C. Nevett 978 0 521 78336 1 (hardback) 978 0 521 78945 5 (paperback)
- Money in classical antiquity*, by Sitta von Reden 978 0 521 45337 0 (hardback) 978 0 521 45952 5 (paperback)
- Geography in classical antiquity*, by Daniela Dueck and Kai Brodersen 978 0 521 19788 5 (hardback) 978 0 521 12025 8 (paperback)
- Space and society in the Greek and Roman worlds*, by Michael Scott 978 1 107 00915 8 (hardback) 978 1 107 40150 1 (paperback)
- Studying gender in classical antiquity*, by Lin Foxhall 978 0 521 55318 6 (hardback) 978 0 521 55739 9 (paperback)
- The ancient Jews from Alexander to Muhammad*, by Seth Schwartz 978 1 107 04127 1 (hardback) 978 1 107 66929 1 (paperback)
- Language and society in the Greek and Roman worlds*, by James Clackson 978 0 521 19235 4 (hardback) 978 0 521 14066 9 (paperback)

THE ANCIENT CITY

ARJAN ZUIDERHOEK

Universiteit Gent, Belgium



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521198356

© Arjan Zuiderhoek 2017

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2017

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Zuiderhoek, Arjan, 1976- author.

Title: The ancient city / Arjan Zuiderhoek.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom : Cambridge University Press, 2016. |

Series: Key themes in ancient history

Identifiers: LCCN 2016011203 | ISBN 9780521198356 (Hardback)

Subjects: LCSH: Cities and towns—Rome. | Cities and towns—Greece. | Civilization, Classical. | Greece—History—146 B.C.–323 A.D. | Rome—History—Empire, 30 B.C.–476 A.D. | BISAC: HISTORY / Ancient / General.

Classification: LCC DE86 .Z85 2016 | DDC 307.760938—dc23 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016011203>

ISBN 978-0-521-19835-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-16601-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-19835-6 — The Ancient City
Arjan Zuiderhoek
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

For Irene, Maarten and Yrsa

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xii
1 Introduction: The Ancient City as Concept and Reality	1
2 Origins, Development and the Spread of Cities in the Ancient World	20
3 City and Country	37
4 Urban Landscape and Environment	56
5 Politics and Political Institutions	78
6 Civic Ritual and Civic Identity	94
7 Urban Society: Stratification and Mobility	106
8 The Urban Economy	131
9 City-States and Cities and States	149
10 The End of the Ancient City?	167
<i>Bibliographical Essay</i>	186
<i>Bibliography</i>	191
<i>Index</i>	221

Figures

- 4.1 Plan of Miletus (after 479 BCE)
Source: A. von Gerkan, *Griechische Städteanlagen. Untersuchungen zur Entwicklung des Städtebaues im Altertum* © 1924 Walter de Gruyter, Abb. 6. Reprinted with permission of Walter de Gruyter GmbH page 60
- 4.2 Plan of Priene (later fourth century BCE)
Source: A. von Gerkan, *Griechische Städteanlagen. Untersuchungen zur Entwicklung des Städtebaues im Altertum* © 1924 Walter De Gruyter, Abb. 9. Reprinted with permission of Walter de Gruyter GmbH 61
- 4.3 Plan of Cosa (third and second century BCE)
Source: *Ancient Cities: the Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece, and Rome*, 2nd edn, Charles Gates, © 2011 Routledge, 336, fig. 20.4. Reproduced by permission of Taylor & Francis Books UK 62
- 4.4 Diagram of a Roman legionary fort (*castrum*), Novaesium, Lower Germany
Source: *Ancient Cities: the Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece, and Rome*, 2nd edn, Charles Gates, © 2011 Routledge, 334, fig. 20.3. Reproduced by permission of Taylor & Francis Books UK 63
- 4.5 Five blocks, Olynthus
Source: Robinson, David Moore and Paul Augustus Clement. *Excavations at Olynthus: Part XII: Domestic and Public Architecture (with Excursus I on Pebble Mosaics with Colored Plates, Excursus II on Oecus Unit, Testimonia, List of Greek Words, Etc.)*. Plate I. © 1946 Johns Hopkins University Press. Reprinted with permission of Johns Hopkins University Press. 64

Acknowledgements

This is a short book on a gigantic subject. As is inevitable with books like this, it is based on the detailed research of a great number of scholars past and present. Many colleagues have displayed an interest and have offered a word of advice. I would like to thank a number of people in particular. At Ghent, my fellow ancient historians Koen Verboven, Wim Broekaert, Peter Van Nuffelen, Marloes Deene, Lindsey Vandevoorde and Wouter Vanacker have been a constant source of support and encouragement throughout the period that I was working on this book. I would also like to thank my department colleagues Anne-Laure Van Bruaene, Jelle De Rock, Toon Vrints and Marc Boone, with whom I have now for several years been teaching an MA seminar on comparative urban history. This has been (and continues to be) intellectually very stimulating, as well as good fun, and it has provided me with much food for thought for this book. Paul Erdkamp and Henrik Mouritsen have been so kind as to make some of their work available to me in advance of publication. Above all, however, I am grateful to Peter Garnsey and Paul Cartledge, who not only invited me to contribute a volume to their series, but who also both read through the entire manuscript several times and provided me with numerous insightful comments and suggestions. As a result, this is a much better book than it would otherwise have been. Of course, it should not be presumed that they agree with everything that follows, and I alone am responsible for any errors that remain. Michael Sharp, Elizabeth Hanlon and Chloe Harries at Cambridge University Press have been a great pleasure to work with and were a constant source of support throughout the production process. Joris Angenon kindly helped with the illustrations. Last but by no means least, and on a more personal note, I am grateful to Irene, Maarten and Yrsa for their constant love and support. This one is for the three of you!

Abbreviations

Abbreviations of names and works of Greek and Roman authors follow the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.

<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i>
<i>BICS</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies</i>
<i>BMCR</i>	<i>Bryn Mawr Classical Review</i>
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i>
<i>CJ</i>	<i>Classical Journal</i>
<i>CP</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>CR</i>	<i>Classical Review</i>
<i>CW</i>	<i>Classical World</i>
Fornara	C. W. Fornara, <i>Archaic times to the end of the Peloponnesian War</i> . Translated documents of Greece and Rome, Vol. 1., 2nd edn. Cambridge (1983)
<i>G&R</i>	<i>Greece & Rome</i>
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</i>
<i>ILS</i>	H. Dessau, <i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae</i> . Berlin (1892)
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JRA</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Archaeology</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>MAMA</i>	<i>Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua</i>
Meiggs/ Lewis	R. Meiggs and D. M. Lewis, <i>A selection of Greek historical inscriptions to the end of the fifth century B.C.</i> Oxford (1988)
<i>OGIS</i>	W. Dittenberger, <i>Orientalis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae</i> . Leipzig (1903–1905)
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>

List of abbreviations

xiii

- Syll.*³ W. Dittenberger, *Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum*. 3rd edn.
Leipzig (1924)
- TAPA* *Transactions of the American Philological Association*
- ZPE* *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik*