Comparing the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Empires

The Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires are usually studied separately, or else included in broader examinations of the Hellenistic world. This book provides a systematic comparison of the roles of local elites and local populations in the construction, negotiation, and adaptation of political, economic, military, and ideological power within these states in formation. The two states, conceived as multiethnic empires, are sufficiently similar to make comparisons valid, while the process of comparison highlights and better explains differences. Regions that were successively incorporated into the Ptolemaic and the Seleucid state receive particular attention and are understood within the broader picture of the ruling strategies of both empires. The book focuses on forms of communication through coins, inscriptions, and visual culture; settlement policies and the relationship between local and immigrant populations; and the forms of collaboration with and resistance of local elites against immigrant populations and government institutions.

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COMPARING THE
PTOLEMAIC AND SELEUCID
EMPIRES

Integration, Communication, and Resistance

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Contents

List of Contributors  page vii
Preface  xiii
Note on Abbreviations  xiv

Introduction  1
Christelle Fischer-Bovet and Sitta von Reden

PART I CITIES, SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION  15
1 Imperial metropoleis and Foundation Myths: Ptolemaic and Seleucid Capitals Compared  17
1A Alexandria  18
1B Seleucid Royal Cities  33
Sitta von Reden and Rolf Strootman

2 Reassessing Hellenistic Settlement Policies: The Seleucid Far East, Ptolemaic Red Sea Basin and Egypt  48
2A Reassessing Settlement Policies in the Hellenistic Far East  49
2B Reassessing Ptolemaic Settlement Policies: Another Look at the poleis  64
Rachel Mairs and Christelle Fischer-Bovet

3 The Integration of Indigenous Elites and the Development of poleis in the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Empires  86
Philippe Clancier and Gilles Gorre

4 Contextualizing a Ptolemaic Solution: The Institution of the Ethnic politeuma  106
Patrick Sänger
Contents

Part II Communication and Exchange

5 Imperial and Indigenous Temporalities in the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Dynasties: A Comparison of Times
   5A The Seleucid Horizon and Indigenous Elites
   5B Indigenous Elites and Ptolemaic Dynastic Time
   Paul Kosmin and Ian Moyer

6 The Visual Representation of Ptolemaic and Seleucid Kings: A Comparative Approach to Portrait Concepts
   Ralf von den Hoff

7 Monetary Policies, Coin Production, and Currency Supply in the Seleucid and Ptolemaic Empires
   7A The Seleucid Empire
   7B The Ptolemaic Empire
   Panagiotis P. Iossif and Catharine C. Lorber

Part III Collaboration, Crisis, and Resistance

8 Legitimizing the Foreign King in the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Empires: The Role of Local Elites and Priests
   8A The Egyptian Priests and the Ptolemaic King
   8B The Babylonian Priests and the Seleucid King
   Stefan Pfeiffer and Hilmar Klinkott

9 Antiochus III, Ptolemy IV, and Local Elites: Deal-Making Politics at Its Peak
   9A The Greek Elites and the Crisis of the Ptolemaic Empire
   9B The Greek Elites Before and During the Seleucid-Roman War
   Boris Dreyer and François Gerardin

10 Regional Revolts in the Seleucid and Ptolemaic Empires
   Sylvie Honigman and Anne-Emmanuelle Veïsse

Bibliography

Index
Contributors

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vii
viii

List of Contributors

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List of Contributors


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List of Contributors

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List of Contributors

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Preface

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Note on Abbreviations

We refer to editions of papyri and ostraca according to the abbreviations used in the Checklist of Editions of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca and Tablets, available online at papyri.info. Abbreviations of epigraphic corpora generally follow the list of the Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum, and C. Lorber, Catalogue of Ptolemaic Coins. Part 1: Ptolemy I to IV (New York, 2018) serves as the reference for numismatic abbreviations. Unless specific comments from editors are mentioned, editions of all such texts and coins are not included in the bibliography. For ancient authors we follow the abbreviations used in the Oxford Classical Dictionary, 4th edition. Finally, Greek names and proper names are given Latinate forms for well-known historical figures and places but a more authentic transliteration for lesser-known people and places.