

259–283). Après 354 (« Athènes et les Cyclades après 354, un empire équilibré », p. 285–306), l'A. considère que « les Cycladiens ont compris le pouvoir d'Athènes – dont les îles restent le seul pré carré –, y ont trouvé avantage et l'ont accepté en tant que tel ». Même après Chéronée, lorsque c'est la flotte macédonienne qui repousse l'invasion perse des Cyclades (p. 312–314), et malgré le silence des sources, l'A. pense que les Athéniens sont restés dans l'Archipel, et il soutient la présence des Insulaires aux côtés des Athéniens jusqu'à la guerre Lamiaque (p. 314–316). On a parfois le sentiment qu'il mériterait une couronne du peuple des Athéniens εὐνοίας ἔνεκα!

Enfin, au chapitre des regrets, il faut dire quelques mots du style de l'A. (en particulier dans les p. 183–239), avec sa multiplication des formules creuses ou incompréhensibles (p. 224: « l'enrichissement et la corruption... auraient eu tendance à engendrer une forme critique pour les chantres de la tradition spartiate »), d'adverbes à contresens, son usage erratique des temps. Il est regrettable que la hâte de publier défigure à ce point un travail intéressant dans son sujet, bien documenté dans sa bibliographie, résultant à l'évidence d'une passion personnelle et d'un travail considérable : sa valeur scientifique, son appareil critique (bibliographie, cartes et indices) en imposera la lecture à ceux qui voudront faire le point sur la question, mais c'est dommage qu'il soit ainsi déparé.

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▷ DAWSON, HELEN: *Mediterranean voyages: The archaeology of island colonisation and abandonment*. Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press 2013. (Institute of Archaeology Publications 62) 400 p., illustrated. ISBN 9781611329940.

Dawson's *Mediterranean Voyages* is a remarkable book. It embarks on a study of the reasons and the mechanisms that drove the colonisation and abandonment of the Mediterranean islands in prehistory. It manages to take the reader on a fascinating mental voyage along the Mediterranean Sea but also through several strands of thought about the islands, the islanders and their destinies.

Recent decades have seen a burgeoning of research on the sea and on the various aspects of life by the sea in antiquity: insularity and island colonisation, seascapes, exploitation of marine resources are some of the most common themes. Dawson's work, which began as a PhD thesis, is one of the most recent examples of this trend. It is a comparative study of the archaeology of colonisation, abandonment and resettlement of the Mediterranean islands in prehistory, offering a fresh take, new data and a new theoretical perspective on a line of research that began in the 1980's and has remained active ever since, with a series of important

works such as EVANS (1973),¹ CHERRY (1981),² PATTON (1996),³ BROODBANK (2000),⁴ FITZPATRICK (2004),⁵ RAINBIRD 2007⁶ and KNAPP 2008⁷ to name but a few.

Dawson takes a pan-Mediterranean perspective to explore the causes, processes and effects of island colonisation and abandonment through the millennia by bringing together a panorama of theoretical perspectives to the interpretation of a vastly rich and varied archaeological record from 147 islands. This record has been created in over a century of archaeological research, under a wide variety of research agendas, and has been published in different degrees of detail.

The book has a logical structure, where chapters on theory alternate with chapters presenting the physical evidence, thus succeeding in effortlessly blending theory and data. The first chapter provides a short introduction to the basic notions that are developed in the book and it is followed by a chapter on the physical and cultural spaces of the Mediterranean. Here, Dawson's skill in amassing, synthesising and clearly presenting large amounts of disparate data begins to unfold. She introduces paleogeography, island resources and the physical and technical background of sailing in an exceptionally clear manner, where the physical and the cultural blend effectively. This blending and the presence of the 'people who act as a binding agent' (p. 41) is actually one of the recurrent themes and a particularly refreshing aspect of this study.

In the third chapter, which is one of the most central in the book, theories of colonisation are presented in detail. The ideas developed in island studies are critically presented in Dawson's lucid, eloquent style. She highlights those issues that she considers useful for her own study. The themes of isolation and interaction and of 'landscape learning' and 'place making' are prominent ones; the role of the islander's perception of islands, the notions of networks between islands and mainland coasts and the importance of the recognition of local dynamics in the search for pan-Mediterranean trends are also important issues. She pays particular attention to the semantics of the various terms used in the relevant literature, exploring their ability to express the multi-level approach she proposes. Dawson

- 1 J.D. EVANS, *Islands as laboratories for the study of culture process*, in: C. RENFREW (ed.), *The explanation of Culture Change: Models in Prehistory*, London 1973, 517–20.
- 2 J.F. CHERRY, *Pattern and process in the earliest colonization of the Mediterranean islands*, *Proceeding of the Prehistoric Society* 47, 1981, 41–68.
- 3 M. PATTON, *Islands in time: island sociogeography and Mediterranean prehistory*, London 1996.
- 4 C. BROODBANK, *An Island Archaeology of the Early Cyclades*, Cambridge 2000.
- 5 S.M. FITZPATRICK (ed.), *Voyages of Discovery: the archaeology of islands*, Westport 2004.
- 6 P. RAINBIRD, *The Archaeology of Islands*, Cambridge 2007.
- 7 A.B. KNAPP, *Prehistoric and Protohistoric Cyprus: Identity, Insularity, and Connectivity*, Oxford 2008.

provides a detailed critical presentation of CHERRY'S model of colonisation⁸ and BROODBANK'S work in the Aegean (2000), both researchers having cast a long shadow over colonisation studies. She discusses possible colonisation triggers as they are viewed by various researchers in different parts of the Mediterranean and presents the possible usefulness of genetic studies.

This chapter leaves the reader overwhelmed by the potential of such a wide range of ideas in understanding why people chose to move to certain islands at the time they did. The physical factors which were described in the previous chapter and were much favoured by the earlier wave of island colonisation studies (biogeographical) are here complemented by a multitude of cultural factors. In this framework, the author could probably find additional useful guidance in a distinct set of works, which rarely find their way into the island colonisation literature, despite the fact that they often highlight most emphatically, the cultural and historical intricacies involved in people's decision to inhabit or abandon certain areas, being them islands or coastal sites. Also they do it in a level of detail that we could never expect to find in prehistoric studies. These are historical works on the Mediterranean islands, or island groups, from more recent periods. CONSTANTAKOPOULOU'S *The Dance of the Islands* (2007)⁹ offers a good example. She discusses how political and religious affairs became the moving forces that shaped the sense of insularity among islanders in Classical Aegean. Remaining in the same geographical area, research on Venetian and Ottoman history might illuminate the various driving forces such as domination, networks of power and commerce etc (e.g., DIMITROPOULOS 2004).¹⁰

In the fourth and fifth chapters Dawson unfolds a narrative of early occupation and abandonment of all Mediterranean islands (innovatively including several near the North African coast) beginning at the west and systematically moving towards the east. This is based on archaeological data, amassed from a very large body of publications, some primary and some not. Certain trends begin to be apparent (these are analysed in following chapters). What strikes the reader as important is the uneven quality of the archaeological data and that this generally improves, the more recent the archaeological research is. In discussions on the early colonisation and abandonment of large islands such as Sardinia or Mallorca on the

- 8 E.g., CHERRY 1981 (n. 1), also J.F. CHERRY, *The First colonization of the Mediterranean Islands: A Review of Recent Research*, *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*, 3(2), 1990, 145–222; J.F. CHERRY, *Mediterranean island prehistory: what's different and what's new*, in M. FITZPATRICK (ed.), *Voyages of Discovery: the archaeology of islands*, Westport, 2004, 233–48.
- 9 C. CONSTANTAKOPOULOU, *The Dance of the Islands: insularity, networks, the Athenian Empire and the Aegean World*, Oxford 2007 (Oxford Classical Monographs).
- 10 D. DIMITROPOULOS, *Les sociétés insulaires de la mer Egée au temps de la domination ottomane: routes communes et trajectoires séparées*, *The Historical Review / La Revue Historique* 1 (2004) 113–25.

Western Mediterranean, controversies over dating lead to great uncertainty as to the early presence of humans on them. By contrast, more robust field research (including dating) on Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean leads to a much clearer and definite picture of early colonisation, abandonment and re-colonisation. In cases, recent research has radically changed our knowledge, as is the case with Paleolithic and Mesolithic Crete.

Navigation through the masses of data in these two chapters is made easy with very useful maps, dating tables and references. One might notice some rare cases of omission of certain key references, such as the final publications of the Mesolithic cave of Cyclops at Youra in the Sporades and of the Mesolithic open-air site of Maroulas on the island of Kythnos.¹¹ But these are works that only became available a short time before the publication of *Mediterranean Voyages* and their absence is understandable.

Chapter 6 provides a synthesis of the archaeological data and a first attempt to interpret them in light of the theoretical discussion in Ch. 3. The west-east geographical ordering is maintained in this chapter as well, with the discussion focusing on regional trends. Dawson claims that all through the Mediterranean, the Neolithic appears to have been the key period for colonisation although the archaeological record testifies to the existence of several earlier and later instances. Colonisation is seen not as a smooth 'wave of advance' type of process (p. 156); in order to understand it we need to take into account the relevant importance of different factors at a regional or even local level.

Dawson discusses the importance of islands' configuration and she analyses the different colonisation strategies that might have been at play on each island or group of islands at specific points in time, viewing colonies as 'activity sites'. Visitation/utilisation, permanent settlement, and establishment are viewed as different, often complementary goals, all related to colonisation. They could all have occurred on the same island/site, or some of them might, but they all fall within the intention of colonisation. Dawson analyses each of them in their own right drawing examples from the extensive data base presented in earlier chapters.

In the next chapter (Ch. 7) the author makes one of the most important contributions of this book, that is the analysis of the concept of abandonment. Dawson believes that the abandonment of islands (or of settlements on islands) should not be viewed as failure to establish a colony, but rather as an adaptive choice on the part of humans, which offered solutions in particular problems. Abandonment is rarely discussed in island colonisation studies and Dawson contributes into the

11 A. SAMPSON, A.M. KACZANOWSKA, J.K. KOZLOWSKI (eds.), *The Prehistory of the Island of Kythnos (Cyclades, Greece) and the Mesolithic Settlement at Maroulas*, Kraków 2010; A. SAMPSON (ed.), *The Cave of Cyclops: Mesolithic and Neolithic networks in the Northern Aegean, Greece, II, Bone tool industry, dietary resources and the paleo-environmental and archaeometrical studies*, Philadelphia 2011 (Prehistory Monographs 31).

theorization of the concept, drawing extensively on globe-wide ethnographic studies, and discussing both environmental and cultural factors as possible triggers for abandonment. She concludes that abandonment was probably a ‘multi-causal’ phenomenon, in the same way as colonisation itself. Here, many of the notions discussed in previous chapters are brought forward again.

The following chapters 8 and 9 wrap up Dawson’s exploration of early island colonisation and abandonment by condensing the observations made in earlier chapters and by highlighting the observed trends and her interpretations. Variability in the colonisers’ needs, intentions and world-views are fully appreciated as crucial factors in the colonisation/abandonment process, but their archaeological visibility is, according to the author, still less than adequate. That is why in these concluding chapters, the more clearly defined and more easily visible physical aspects of the islands appear as more prominent.

Perhaps here, in this somewhat anticlimactic observation, lies the bigger contribution of this wonderful book in colonisation studies. In a fascinating and competent way Dawson introduces the reader to the world of early mariners: the search for new lands, for new resources, for new homes, the shedding of roots in these new places, the up-rooting, the periodic visitations, the opening up of a world of possibilities to the inhabitants of this early, sparsely populated Mediterranean. And yet, Dawson demonstrates that we can delve into this world only as much as the quality of our data will allow us. The old data are there and Dawson has used them to the full. We are, however, left with a desire for more focused and nuanced research on islands, for research designs that will address the complex issues of colonisation and abandonment. Reading this book, such choices seem unavoidable.

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▷ KAREV, YURY : *Samarqande et le Sughd à l’époque ‘abbāsside. Histoire politique et sociale*, Paris : Association pour l’avancement des études iraniennes, 2015 (*Studia Iranica*, Cahier 55). 376 p., 15 fig. ISBN 9782910640415.

Il libro oggetto di questa recensione consta di sei capitoli a cui vanno aggiunte l’introduzione e la conclusione, la bibliografia posta all’inizio (così come la tavola delle traslitterazioni per l’alfabeto arabo e quello cirillico) e due indici in chiusura dell’opera (uno dedicato ai nomi di persona e uno ai termini geografici).

L’autore è uno storico nonché archeologo ben noto per le sue indagini condotte a Afrasyab (la Samarcanda pre-mongola) in quanto membro della missione franco-uzbeca attiva in loco dal 1989 e per le sue pubblicazioni sulle pitture karakhanidi scoperte proprio in quel sito e altri studi su Abu Muslim. Profondo conoscitore del territorio, in quest’opera Y. KAREV dà prova di grande abilità nel maneggiare tanto le fonti arabe, persiane e cinesi quanto la letteratura critica in russo