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The Crusader World - Adrian Boas 2015-10-14

The Crusader World is a multidisciplinary survey of the current state of research in the field of crusader studies, an area of study which has become increasingly popular in recent years. In this volume Adrian Boas draws together an impressive range of academics, including work from renowned scholars as well as a number of though-provoking pieces from emerging researchers, in order to provide broad coverage of the major aspects of the period. This authoritative work will play an important role in the future direction of crusading studies. This volume enriches present knowledge of the crusades, addressing such wide-ranging subjects as: intelligence and espionage, gender issues, religious celebrations in crusader Jerusalem, political struggles in crusader Antioch, the archaeological study of battle sites and fortifications, diseases suffered by the crusaders, crusading in northern Europe and Spain and the impact of Crusader art. The relationship between Crusaders and Muslims, two distinct and in many way opposing cultures, is also examined in depth, including a discussion of how the Franks perceived their enemies. Arranged into eight thematic sections, The Crusader World considers many central issues as well as a large number of less familiar topics of the crusades, crusader society, history and culture. With over 100 photographs, line drawings and maps, this impressive collection of essays is a key resource for students and scholars alike.

The Cambridge Companion to Constantinople - Sarah Bassett 2022-03-17

The collected essays explore late antique and Byzantine Constantinople in matters sacred, political, cultural, and commercial.

Niketas Choniates - Alicia Simpson 2013-09-26

Simpson uncovers the complex manuscript tradition and transmission of Niketas Choniates' History, an important historical Byzantine text. Investigating issues related to historical narrative and imperial biography, the volume explores the historian's sources and the literary models and historical concepts which guided him.

Relics, Shrines and Pilgrimages - Antón M. Pazos 2020-03-04

Since Late Antiquity, relics have provided a privileged spiritual bond between life and death, between human beings and divinity. Royalty, nobility and clergy all tried to obtain the most prestigious remains of sacred bodies, since they granted influence and fame and allowed the cult around them to be used as a means of sacralization, power and propaganda. This volume traces the development of the veneration of relics in Europe and how these objects were often catalysts for the establishment of major pilgrimage sites that are still in use today. The book features an international panel of contributors taking a wide-ranging look at relic worship across Europe, from Late Antiquity until the present day. They begin with a focus on the role of relics in Jacobean pilgrimage, before looking at the link between relics and their shrines more generally. The book then focuses in on two major issues in the study of relics, the stealing of relics (*Furta Sacra*) and their modern-day scientific examination and

authentication. These topics demonstrate not only symbolic importance of relics, but also their role as physical historical objects in material religious expression. This is a fascinating collection, featuring the latest scholarship on relics and pilgrimage across Europe. It will, therefore, be of great interested to academics working in Pilgrimage, Religious History, Material Religion and Religious Studies as well as Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Cultural Studies.

Beards, Azymes, and Purgatory - A. Edward Siecienski 2022-09-30

"In 1576, as the Protestant Reformation continued to sweep across Western Europe and Catholic prelates tried to stem the tide through diligent application of Trent's reforming agenda, the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, Charles Borromeo (1538-84) penned a letter to his clergy. In order to restore the Church to its former glory, he enjoined his "beloved brethren" to "bring back good observances and holy customs which have grown cold and been abandoned over the course of time." Chief among them, he wrote, was the custom, which although ancient, had been "practically lost nearly everywhere in Italy . . . I mean the practice that ecclesiastical persons not grow, but rather shave the beard, . . . a custom of our Fathers, almost perpetually retained in the Church" that was "replete with mystical meanings."--

The Medieval Chronicle 13 - 2020-04-28

Alongside annals, chronicles were the main genre of historical writing in the Middle Ages. Their significance as sources for the study of medieval history and culture is today widely recognised not only by historians, but also by students of medieval literature and linguistics and by art historians. The series *The Medieval Chronicle* aims to provide a representative survey of the on-going research in the field of chronicle studies, illustrated by examples from specific chronicles from a wide variety of countries, periods and cultural backgrounds.

Byzantium and the West - Nikolaos Chrissis 2019-02-11

The interaction between Byzantium and the Latin West was intimately connected to practically all the major events and developments which shaped the medieval world in the High and Late Middle Ages – for example, the rise of the 'papal monarchy', the launch of the Crusades, the expansion of international and longdistance commerce, or the flowering of the Renaissance. This volume explores not only the actual avenues of interaction between the two sides (trade, political and diplomatic contacts, ecclesiastical dialogue, intellectual exchange, armed conflict), but also the image each side had of the other and the way perceptions evolved over this long period in the context of their manifold contact. Twenty-one stimulating papers offer new insights and original research on numerous aspects of this relationship, pooling the expertise of an international group of scholars working on both sides of the Byzantine-Western 'divide', on topics as diverse as identity formation, ideology, court ritual, literary history, military technology and the economy, among others. The particular contribution of the research presented here is the exploration of how cross-cultural relations were shaped by the interplay of the thought-world of the various

historical agents and the material circumstances which circumscribed their actions. The volume is primarily aimed at scholars and students interested in the history of Byzantium, the Mediterranean world, and, more widely, intercultural contacts in the Middle Ages.

Cultures of Empire: Rethinking Venetian Rule, 1400–1700
- 2020-07-27

This book investigates perceptions, modes, and techniques of Venetian rule in the early modern Eastern Mediterranean (1400–1700) between colonial empire, negotiated and pragmatic rule; between soft touch and exploitation; in contexts of former and continuous imperial belongings; and with a focus on representations and modes of rule as well as on colonial daily realities and connectivities.

History of the Adriatic - Egidio Ivetic 2022-05-27

The Adriatic is 'the small Mediterranean' – a sea within a sea, part of the Mediterranean and at the same time detached from it, a largely enclosed sea with stunning coastlines and a long history of commercial, political and cultural exchange. Silent witness to the flow of civilizations, the Adriatic is the meeting point of East and West where many empires had their frontiers and some overlapped. With Italy on one side and the Balkans on the other, the Adriatic is the area where the Latin West became intertwined with the Greek and Ottoman East. This book tells the history of the Adriatic from the first cultures of the Neolithic Age through to the present day. All of the great civilizations and cultures that bordered and crossed the Adriatic are discussed: Ancient Greece and Rome, Byzantium and the Holy Roman Empire, Venice and the Ottomans, Catholicism, Orthodox Christianity and Islam. Byzantium was replaced by Venice, queen of the Adriatic, which reached its zenith at the beginning of the sixteenth century and maintained commercial and military hegemony in its Gulf, sharing the sea with the Turks, the Habsburgs, the Pope and the Spanish vice-kingdom of Naples. It was Napoleon who ended Venice's reign in 1797. In the nineteenth century, the Austrian Empire prevailed, and Central Europe reached the Mediterranean through the Adriatic. United Italy placed its most symbolic frontier in the eastern Adriatic, clashing with Austria-Hungary in the First World War. The twentieth century was marked by the prolonged conflicts and eventually peace between Yugoslavia, Albania and Italy. Today the Adriatic is a region increasingly integrated into the European Union, experiencing a new era of cooperation following the dramatic collapse of Yugoslavia. Across centuries, this book illustrates the rich cultural and artistic heritage of diverse civilizations as they left their mark on the cities, shores and states of the Adriatic.

Political Economies of Empire in the Early Modern Mediterranean - Maria Fusaro 2015-05-05

Early modern European economic development seen through the interaction of two major players in the Mediterranean economy: Venice and England.

Economic and biological interactions in pre-industrial Europe, from the 13th to the 18th century - Istituto internazionale di storia economica F. Datini. Settimana di studio 2010

Bibliophilos - Charalambos Dendrinos 2021-06-08

The present volume is a Festschrift in honour of the distinguished Byzantinist Costas N. Constantinides. The title of the volume, *Bibliophilos: Books and Learning in the Byzantine World*, reflects Professor Constantinides' major contribution to the fields of Greek palaeography, editions of Byzantine texts, Byzantine history, scholarship and education, and Cypriot manuscripts and culture. The volume is introduced by a preface and a *tabula gratulatoria* dedicated to the honorand, followed by twenty articles, written by seasoned and younger scholars, who are former colleagues and students of Professor Constantinides. These articles, which appear

in alphabetical order, offer new material and shed fresh light to the study of Greek manuscripts, binders and scribes, and the life, works and activities of Byzantine scholars, teachers and students, providing editions of unpublished texts, including letters and poems, and exploring various aspects of Byzantine and Cypriot history, literature, art, science and culture. In the process the authors often challenge earlier views and offer new interpretations and insights. *Bibliophilos* is a book for the student, teacher and scholar of Byzantium in particular, and for every bibliophile in general. *Acta et Diplomata e R. Tabulario Veneto, chronologico ordine ac principum rerumque ratione inde a recessiore tempore usque ad medium seculum XV., summatim regesta, studio et opera Prof. A. S. M.* - A. S. MINOTTO 1870

Storia documentata dei corpi militari veneti e di alcuni alleati, milizie di terra, negli anni 1848-1849 - Edoardo Jäger 1880

Sacred Plunder - David M. Perry 2015-06-18

In *Sacred Plunder*, David Perry argues that plundered relics, and narratives about them, played a central role in shaping the memorial legacy of the Fourth Crusade and the development of Venice's civic identity in the thirteenth century. After the Fourth Crusade ended in 1204, the disputes over the memory and meaning of the conquest began. Many crusaders faced accusations of impiety, sacrilege, violence, and theft. In their own defense, they produced hagiographical narratives about the movement of relics—a medieval genre called *translatio*—that restated their own versions of events and shaped the memory of the crusade. The recipients of relics commissioned these unique texts in order to exempt both the objects and the people involved with their theft from broader scrutiny or criticism. Perry further demonstrates how these narratives became a focal point for cultural transformation and an argument for the creation of the new Venetian empire as the city moved from an era of mercantile expansion to one of imperial conquest in the thirteenth century.

The Culture of Latin Greece - Vladimir Agrigoroaei 2022-12-30

The author and six historical characters of his own choosing tell tales and guide you through the artistic and literary maze of Latin-occupied Greece. They show you patterns, influences, and dissimilar evolutions in what appears to be a 13th-14th century cultural conundrum.

The Templars and the Shroud of Christ - Barbara Frale 2015-10-13

The most powerful military religious order of the Middle Ages and their sacred treasure. For a certain period in history, the Knights Templar—the most powerful military religious order of the Middle Ages—secretly guarded the Shroud of Turin. Worshipped in a relentlessly secret manner, and known in its intimate nature by only a handful of the order's officials, the swathe of fabric was kept in the central treasury of the Knights Templar, who were known for their expertise in the field of relics. The precious cloth's history and whereabouts were known only to the highest dignitaries of the secretive order. In an era of widespread doctrinal confusion in much of the Church, the Templars considered the Shroud to be a powerful antidote against the proliferation of heresies. Easy to read and thoroughly researched, this book tracks the Templars from their inception as warrior-monks protecting religious pilgrims to the later fascination with their secret rituals and incredible wealth, which ultimately led to their dissolution and the seizing of their assets. Following the Shroud's pathway through the Middle Ages, Vatican historian Barbara Frale has gone back in time, to the dawn of the Christian era, to provide a new perspective on the controversial relic. The author also includes

several photos of the Shroud itself that reveal in startling detail a human face, mysterious writing, and marks of a crucifixion that many have claimed identify it as the true burial shroud of Jesus of Nazareth.

Byzantium in Dialogue with the Mediterranean - 2019-03-25

Byzantium in Dialogue with the Mediterranean. History and Heritage shows that throughout the centuries of its existence, Byzantium continuously communicated with other cultures and societies on the European continent, as well as North Africa and in the East.

San Marco, Byzantium, and the Myths of Venice - Henry Maguire 2010

Henry Maguire, emeritus professor of art history at Johns Hopkins University, works on Byzantine and related cultures. He has written extensively on Venetian art and the church of San Marco.

Identities and Allegiances in the Eastern Mediterranean after 1204 - Judith Herrin 2016-09-17

This volume of studies explores a particularly complex period in Byzantine history, the thirteenth century, from the Fourth Crusade to the recapture of Constantinople by exiled leaders from Nicaea. During this time there was no Greek state based on Constantinople and so no Byzantine Empire by traditional definition. Instead, a Venetian/Frankish alliance ruled from the capital, while many smaller states also claimed the mantle of Byzantium. Even after 1261 when the Latin Empire of Constantinople was replaced by a restored Greek state, political fragmentation persisted. This fragmentation makes the study of individuals more difficult but also more valuable than ever before, and this volume demonstrates the very considerable advances in historical understanding that may be gained from prosopographical approaches. Specialist historians of the Byzantine successor states of the period, and of their most important neighbours, here examine the self-projection and interactions of these states, combining military history and diplomacy, commercial and theological contacts, and the experiences and self-description of individuals. This wide-ranging series of articles uses a great diversity of sources - Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Latin, Persian and Serbian - to exploit the potential of the novel methodology employed and of prosopography as an additional historical tool of analysis.

The Fourth Crusade - Donald E. Queller 1999-09-02

This revised and expanded edition of *The Fourth Crusade* gives fresh emphasis to the events in Byzantium and the Byzantine response to the actions of the Crusaders.

Quarta crociata - Gherardo Ortalli 2006

Forms of Conflict and Rivalries in Renaissance Europe - David A. Lines 2015

Cultural and intellectual dynamism often stand in close relationship to the expression of viewpoints and positions that are in tension or even conflict with one another. This phenomenon has a particular relevance for Early Modern Europe, which was heavily marked by polemical discourse. The dimensions and manifestations of this *Streitkultur* are being explored by an International Network funded by the Leverhulme Trust (United Kingdom). The present volume contains the proceedings of the Network's first colloquium, which focused on the forms of Renaissance conflict and rivalries, from the perspectives of history, language and literature.

The Basilica of Torcello and Santa Fosca's - Antonio Niero 1978

A Companion to Latin Greece - 2014-11-27

The Companion to Latin Greece offers an overview of the history of the Latin states that were founded on former lands of the Byzantine Empire following the conquest of Byzantium by the armies of the Fourth Crusade.

Byzantium and Venice - Donald M. Nicol 1992-05-07

This book, the first of this scope to have been published, traces the diplomatic, cultural and commercial links between Constantinople and Venice from the foundation of the Venetian republic to the fall of the Byzantine Empire. It aims to show how, especially after the Fourth Crusade in 1204, the Venetians came to dominate first the Genoese and thereafter the whole Byzantine economy. At the same time the author points to those important cultural and, above all, political reasons why the relationship between the two states was always inherently unstable.

Medieval and Early Modern for Central and Eastern Europe -

City of Fortune - Roger Crowley 2012-01-24

"The rise and fall of Venice's empire is an irresistible story and [Roger] Crowley, with his rousing descriptive gifts and scholarly attention to detail, is its perfect chronicler."—The Financial Times The New York Times bestselling author of *Empires of the Sea* charts Venice's astounding five-hundred-year voyage to the pinnacle of power in an epic story that stands unrivaled for drama, intrigue, and sheer opulent majesty. *City of Fortune* traces the full arc of the Venetian imperial saga, from the ill-fated Fourth Crusade, which culminates in the sacking of Constantinople in 1204, to the Ottoman-Venetian War of 1499–1503, which sees the Ottoman Turks supplant the Venetians as the preeminent naval power in the Mediterranean. In between are three centuries of Venetian maritime dominance, during which a tiny city of "lagoon dwellers" grow into the richest place on earth. Drawing on firsthand accounts of pitched sea battles, skillful negotiations, and diplomatic maneuvers, Crowley paints a vivid picture of this avaricious, enterprising people and the bountiful lands that came under their dominion. From the opening of the spice routes to the clash between Christianity and Islam, Venice played a leading role in the defining conflicts of its time—the reverberations of which are still being felt today. "[Crowley] writes with a racy briskness that lifts sea battles and sieges off the page."—The New York Times "Crowley chronicles the peak of Venice's past glory with Wordsworthian sympathy, supplemented by impressive learning and infectious enthusiasm."—The Wall Street Journal

Coinage and Money in Medieval Greece 1200-1430 (2 vols.)

- Julian Baker 2020-10-20

In *Coinage and Money* Julian Baker offers a complete monetary history of medieval Greece, encompassing numismatic and documentary sources, and contributing to the general historiography.

I Libri Commemorativi Della Repubblica Di Venezia -

Riccardo Predelli 2012-02-02

This eight-volume set of summaries of state documents (commemorativi) of Venice, spanning eight centuries, was published between 1876 and 1914.

Commercial Exchange Across the Mediterranean - David Jacoby 2023-07-07

The customary treatment of Mediterranean trade from the 11th to the mid-15th century emphasizes the predominance of western merchants and the commercial exchange of spices and eastern raw materials for western woollens and other finished products. The studies in this collection, the sixth by David Jacoby to be published in the *Variorum* series, adopt a different perspective. They underscore the economic vitality of various countries bordering the eastern Mediterranean, their industrial capacity, the importance of exchanges between them, and the important contribution of the merchants based in that region to trans-Mediterranean trade. They also illustrate the role of hitherto neglected commodities, such as timber, iron, silk and cheese, in that trade.

Enrico Dandolo and the Rise of Venice - Thomas F. Madden 2003-09-15

Winner of the 2005 Otto Grundler Award, the International Congress on Medieval Studies Between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries, Venice transformed itself from a struggling merchant commune to a powerful maritime empire that would shape events in the Mediterranean for the next four hundred years. In this magisterial new book on medieval Venice, Thomas F. Madden traces the city-state's extraordinary rise through the life of Enrico Dandolo (c. 1107–1205), who ruled Venice as doge from 1192 until his death. The scion of a prosperous merchant family deeply involved in politics, religion, and diplomacy, Dandolo led Venice's forces during the disastrous Fourth Crusade (1201–1204), which set out to conquer Islamic Egypt but instead destroyed Christian Byzantium. Yet despite his influence on the course of Venetian history, we know little about Dandolo, and much of what is known has been distorted by myth. The first full-length study devoted to Dandolo's life and times, *Enrico Dandolo and the Rise of Venice* corrects the many misconceptions about him that have accumulated over the centuries, offering an accurate and incisive assessment of Dandolo's motives, abilities, and achievements as doge, as well as his role—and Venice's—in the Fourth Crusade. Madden also examines the means and methods by which the Dandolo family rose to prominence during the preceding century, thus illuminating medieval Venice's singular political, social, and religious environment. Culminating with the crisis precipitated by the failure of the Fourth Crusade, Madden's groundbreaking work reveals the extent to which Dandolo and his successors became torn between the anxieties and apprehensions of Venice's citizens and its escalating obligations as a Mediterranean power.

Caterina Cornaro - Candida Syndikus 2013

Caterina Cornaro (1454-1510) came from one of the most important Venetian families of her time and became the last queen of Cyprus. On the occasion of the fifth centenary of her death, an international conference was held in Venice in September 2010 - organised by the two editors of this volume. During that interdisciplinary event, well-known scholars from the fields of history, art history, literary history, archaeology, Byzantine studies and musicology presented the results of their most recent research across a broad subject area. The queen's biography and myth were traced, as well as the reception of this historical figure in art and on stage. Stress was laid upon socioeconomic and cultural phenomena resulting from the close contact between Venice and Cyprus during the Renaissance period, and also in focus was the literary production at Caterina's court 'in exile' in Venice and the neighbouring mainland. The present volume offers a collection of the conference's papers. The book contains the papers (in Italian, English and French) by / Il volume contiene i contributi (in lingua italiana, inglese e francese) di Monica Molteni, Candida Syndikus, Martin Gaier, Ursula Schadler-Saub, Lina Bolzoni, Rotraud von Kulesa, Tobias Leuker, Daria Perocco, Benjamin Arbel, Gilles Grivaud, Catherine Otten-Froux, Chryssa Maltezou, Tassos Papacostas, Lorenzo Calvelli, David Michael Metcalf, Arnold Jacobshagen, Angel Nicolaou-Konnari. Caterina Cornaro (1454-1510) venne da una delle più importanti famiglie veneziane del suo tempo e diventò l'ultima regina di Cipro. In occasione del quinto centenario della sua scomparsa si è tenuto in settembre 2010 un Convegno Internazionale di Studi, organizzato dalle due curatrici di questo volume. Autorevoli specialisti nei campi della storia, storia dell'arte, storia della letteratura, archeologia, musicologia e degli studi bizantini hanno presentato - in un'ottica interdisciplinare - le loro ricerche più recenti su un vasto ambito tematico. Questi atti ne raccolgono i risultati. Si ripercorre la biografia e il mito della regina Cornaro nonché la ricezione della figura storica nell'arte e sul palcoscenico. Vengono inoltre messi in

risalto vari fenomeni socioeconomici e culturali nello stretto contatto tra Venezia e Cipro durante il periodo del Rinascimento. Infine, viene presa in considerazione la produzione letteraria alla sua corte 'in esilio' a Venezia e in Terraferma.

Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages (500-1300) (2 vols) - Florin Curta 2019-07-08

Winner of the 2020 Verbruggen prize This book offers an overview of the current state of research and a basic route map for navigating an abundant historiography available in 10 different languages. The book is also an invitation to comparison between various parts of the region over the same period.

The Latin Renovatio of Byzantium - Filip Van Tricht 2011-05-23

This book offers a new perspective on the Latin take-over of Byzantine territories after the crusader sack of Constantinople in 1204, arguing that the new rulers very consciously aimed at continuing the Eastern Empire, drawing many Byzantines to their side.

Identity(ies) - ANA PAULA ARNAUT 2017-11-20

At a time when the world watches in horror the unfolding drama of millions of refugees and the anxiety of identity figures prominently among globalization's many side effects, this is certainly a very timely book, with contributions that address the momentous issues at hand in ways that are not just varied but also surprisingly illuminating. It seems only appropriate that the book starts and ends ("Whoever is not Greek is a barbarian"; "The Women of the Other and us") with well contextualized, historical / theoretical reflexions on the unfailingly self-serving construction and ultimate appropriation of "the other", be it the supposedly inarticulate savage of neighboring barbarian shores or the haunting background presence of Arab women - the barely acknowledged half of the West's reified "Rest". In fact, although the chronological distance between the two historical moments is such as to discourage hasty generalizations, the continuities and the potential relevance are just too striking to be ignored.

Late Antique and Medieval Art of the Mediterranean World - Eva R. Hoffman 2009-02-09

Late Antique and Medieval Art of the Mediterranean World is a much-needed teaching anthology that rethinks and broadens the scope of the stale and limiting classifications used for Early Christian-Byzantine visual arts. A comprehensive anthology offering a new approach to the visual arts classified as Early Christian-Byzantine Comprised of essays from experts in the field that integrate the newer, historiographical research into 'the canon' of established scholarship Exposes the historical, geographical and cultural continuities and interactions in the visual arts of the late antique and medieval Mediterranean world Covers an extensive range of topics, including the effect that converging cultures in late antiquity had on art, the cultural identities that can be observed by looking at difference of tradition in visual art, and the variance of illuminations in holy books

Religion and religious institutions in the European economy, 1000-1800 - Istituto internazionale di storia economica F. Datini. Settimana di studio 2012

Eastern Trade and the Mediterranean in the Middle Ages - Thomas Sinclair 2019-12-06

At the end of the High Middle Ages in Europe, with buying power and economic sophistication at a high, an itinerary detailing the toll stations along a commercial artery carrying eastern goods (from China, India and Iran) towards Europe was compiled, and later incorporated in the well-known trading manual of the Florentine bank official Pegolotti; Pegolotti was twice stationed in the city of Famagusta in Cyprus, which lay opposite the city of Ayas where the land route ended. The Il-Khanid capital, Tabriz in Iran, attracting

expensive merchandise such as spices and silk from a variety of origins, was the road's starting-point. To demonstrate the importance of the route in its own time, parallel and contemporary routes in the Black Sea and the Levant are traced and the effect of trade on their cities noted. To compare the Ayas itinerary (1250s to 1330s) with previous periods the networks of commercial avenues in the previous period (1100-1250) and the subsequent one (1340s to 1500) are reconstructed. In each period the connection of east-west trade with the main movements of the European economy are fully drawn out, and the effects on the building history of the three main Italian cities concerned (Venice, Genoa and Florence) are sketched. Attention then turns to the Pegolotti itinerary itself. The individual toll stations are identified employing a variety of means, such as names taken from the Roman itineraries (Peutinger Table and Antonine Itinerary) and archaeological data; this allows the course of the track to be followed through diverse topography to the city of Sivas, then across plains and through passes to Erzurum and finally to

Tabriz. A picture is drawn of the urban history of each major city, including Sivas, Erzurum and Tabriz itself, and of the other towns along the route.

Short-term Empires in World History - Robert Rollinger
2020-06-04

The volume will focus on a comparative level on a specific group of states that are commonly labelled as "empires" and that we encounter through all historical periods. Although they are very successful at the very beginning, like most empires are, this success is very ephemeral and transient. The era of conquest is never followed by a period of consolidation. Collapse and/or reduction to much smaller dimension run as fast as the process of wide-ranging conquest and expansion. The volume singles out a series of such "short-term empires" and aims to provide a methodologically clearly structured as well as a uniform and consistent approach by developing a general set of questions that guarantee the possibility to compare and distinguish. This way it intends to examine not only already well established empires but also to illuminate forgotten ones.