

Urban Space in Historical Geography:
Collective Perception and Territoriality

MONOGRAFÍAS DE GAHIA

8

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PREFACE

The volume *Urban Space in Historical Geography: Collective Perception and Territoriality* stems from the period of research that I carried out in Germany as a Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, where I dealt in particular with the urban world in Strabo's *Geography*. The development of this investigation has given rise to the desire to bring together international scholars of the ancient world to broaden the discussion on the theme of the city and address it from different perspectives, opening the field of inquiry to other issues related to the concepts of territoriality and urban settlement and also involving experts from the modern world.

The following authors have participated in this miscellany: Mariachiara Angelucci (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt / Università degli Studi di Pavia), Cinzia Bearzot (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano), Serena Bianchetti (Università degli Studi di Firenze), Anke Breitung (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), Encarnación Castro-Páez (Universidad de Málaga), Gonzalo Cruz Andreotti (Universidad de Málaga), Daniela Dueck (Bar Ilan University), Francisco Javier Gómez Espelosín (Universidad de Alcalá de Henares), Marc Domingo Gygas (Princeton University), Ekaterina Ilyushechkina (Russian State University for Humanities, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration), Fabio Minazzi (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria), Giuseppe Muti (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria), Silvia Panichi (Università degli Studi di Perugia), Monika Schuol (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel), Alexandra Trachsel (Universität Hamburg), Mattia Vitelli Casella (Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna).

This volume consists of five parts, thematically organized on the basis of the authors' contributions. Given the starting point and the inspiration behind the research, as well as the centrality of Strabo's work for those who deal with historical geography, the first part, entitled "Urban Space and the *Geography* of Strabo", is that which includes the largest number of contributions and is dedicated in particular to Strabo's work. The first contribution takes up the theme

of the representation of Arcadia and its cities, bearing particularly in mind how the phenomenon of synoecism is treated in order to show how the description of space is strongly influenced by the political ideology of the geographer. The poverty of information in describing the foundation of the cities and their development does not do justice to their importance and this is not accidental but due to Strabo's negative view of the Arcadian Confederation and of the Theban hegemony. Alexandra Trachsel is specifically concerned with Thebes and its failed hegemony. The author makes a comparison between the ways in which Thebes and Troy are depicted and assessed by Strabo and how he links the two urban entities to Rome. The third, fourth and fifth contributions of this first session deal specifically with the parts of the *Geography* related respectively to Spain, Illyricum and Italy. Encarnación Castro-Páez analyses how cities are chosen and described in Book III, letting Strabo's criteria and perspective emerge, without neglecting to dwell on the characteristics of the chorographic depiction of the territory, essential to understand the author's approach to the Iberian Peninsula. Similarly, the urban settlements are the focus of the contribution of Mattia Vitelli Casella, who consistently takes into account the places mentioned by Strabo, focusing on the terminology used. The author emphasises how there is no systematic choice to indicate the sites with a specific term, although the urban reality is central to the *Geography* nor is there a desire to harmonise the data from different sources. It is precisely the centrality of the city as a territorial marker and the importance of the economic factor, necessarily linked to that of the road network, which leads Silvia Panichi to consider the theme of the *viae romanae*. They constitute the point of reference for the treatment of the cities of inland Italy, for which in particular the proximity to the road network is a crucial factor of importance. As Daniela Dueck points out in the following paper, there are no empty spaces in the *Geography*, which highlights in every part the signs of human action and presence on the territory. Her article considers how the geographer treats spatial gaps between inhabited regions and comes to the conclusion that uninhabited territories are not significant in his eyes. In fact, cities are the constitutive elements around which the description of the different regions of the populated world is structured.

The second part, as can be seen from the title "Urban Space in Cartography", is about urban centres in cartographic representations. Serena Bianchetti's article highlights the difference between the western and eastern parts of Eratosthenes' map. Because of the importance of the Mediterranean and of Egypt at the time of the Alexandrine, the meridians and parallels of the western part are identified by historically important cities, while the reference points for Asia, for which he had less information available, are mountains and rivers. Monika

Schulz deals with the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, considering how the urban centres are depicted and whether their importance plays a significant role in their representation. What emerges is that the map does not allow for the identification of less or more urbanised areas in many of its parts nor for the identification of a hierarchy within the categories “city” or “village”, especially for the regions east of the Euphrates, while the development of infrastructure in the Imperial period is evident.

The third part, “Urban Topography and the Expedition of Alexander the Great”, contains two papers dealing with topographical issues related to Alexander the Great’s expedition. Cinzia Bearzot’s article takes into account the information that ancient authors have handed down about the expedition in the lower course of Indus and discusses the possible identifications of the archaeological site of Banbhore with the places mentioned in the sources, concluding by touching on the problem of “Alexander’s port”, mentioned in Arrian’s *Indike*. Although the Macedonian king’s enterprise was essentially a military action, the places he encountered did not fail to impress the historians whom he took with him. Francisco Javier Gómez Espelosín seeks to bring out the impressions they left in their works. The towns appear as milestones that mark the advance of the troops but there is also no lack of curiosities and information about topographical characteristics of places.

The fourth part, entitled “Territoriality, Political Perception and Identity”, opens with the contribution of Marc Domingo Gygax, who, starting from the epigraphic evidence of some decrees of the cities of Xanthus, Telmessus and Limyra, considers the issue of the distinction between citizens and *perioikoi*. The author analyses whether this is a geographical classification and whether it also has political implications in terms of institutions and citizenship rights, coming to the conclusion that behind this classification lies a complex political organization of the territory of the polis, in which local identities are preserved. The theme of identity is also the focus of the contribution of Gonzalo Cruz Andreotti, who stresses how civic and ethnic features are perceived as being part of the same identity structure of a political nature, aimed at ensuring administrative, territorial and military cohesion. Ekaterina Ilyushechkina deals with the geography of Gaius Iulius Solinus and analyses in particular its initial part, which is an *excursus* on the mythical origins of Rome and its history until Augustus, highlighting that the cultural memory has a political purpose and is intended to emphasise the role of Rome, now at the head of the whole world.

The volume concludes with a section of three articles devoted to “Urban Space in Modern Times”. Fabio Minazzi presents the city as an ideal principle of history in Carlo Cattaneo’s nineteenth-century work, in which Asian cities

appear as clearly differentiated from European and Western ones. The author stresses how, according to Carlo Cattaneo, Italian municipalities in particular played an essential role in the formation of modern science. The following contribution by Giuseppe Muti deals with the historical-geographical evolution of the city of Como and the Lake region through the study of the tourist phenomenon and the social production of space, dwelling on the moments of crisis and on those of growth and development. The last article, finally, by Anke Breitung deals with the theme of the relationship between man and the environment from a neo-phenomenological perspective, highlighting the importance of atmospheres and feelings in the perception of urban space.

I would like to thank the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for giving me the opportunity to carry out research in Germany, and Prof. Michael Rathmann for hosting me at the Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. My special thanks go to the International Association "Geography And Historiography in Antiquity" (GAHIA) and to the scientific committee of the series "Monografías de Gahia" for having welcomed and financed this volume, to Prof. Francisco J. González Ponce, Prof. José María Candau Morón and Prof. Antonio Luis Chávez Reino of the University of Seville, Prof. Francisco Javier Gómez Espelosín of the University of Alcalá de Henares and Prof. Gonzalo Cruz Andreotti of the University of Málaga. Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to all the authors who accepted, both enthusiastically and professionally, the invitation to participate in this miscellany through their contributions.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviated references to Greek authors and to collections of fragments and to epigraphic and papyraceous sources follow the usage of the *Diccionario Griego-Español* of the CSIC. For Latin authors, the abbreviations of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* have been used. Abbreviated references to general works follow the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (4th edition). Journals and periodicals are cited according to the usage of *L'Année Philologique*.

- ANRW *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt. Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung*, I-XXXVII, edd. H. Temporini, W. Haase, Berlin 1974-1994
- BNJ *Brill's New Jacoby*, ed. I. Worthington, Brill Online
- CIL *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, 1863-
- FGrHist Felix Jacoby, *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*, I-III (15 vols.), Berlin-Leiden 1923-1958; voll. IV-, edd. G. Schepens, S. Schorn, H.-J. Gehrke, Leiden/Boston/Köln 1998-
- FHG C. & T. Müller, *Fragmenta historicorum Graecorum*, I-V, Parisiis 1841-1870
- GGM C. Müller, *Geographi Graeci Minores*, I-II, Parisiis 1855-1861
- IG *Inscriptiones Graecae*, I-XIV, Berlin 1873-, 1913-2, 1981-3
- RE *Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*, hg. von G. Wissowa, W. Kroll, K. Witte, K. Mittelhaus, K. Ziegler unter Mitwirkung zahlreicher Fachgenossen, voll. I-XXIV, I A – X A, Suppl. voll. I-XV, Stuttgart/München 1893-1980
- SEG *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, Leiden 1923-
- Syll.³ *Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum*, I-IV, ed. W. Dittenberger, Berlin 1915-1924³
- TAM *Tituli Asiae Minoris*, I. *Tituli Lyciae lingua Lycia conscripti*, ed. E. Kalinka, Wien 1901; II. *Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti*, ed. E. Kalinka, 3 fasc., Wien 1920-1944; III. *Tituli Pisidiae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti*, ed. R. Heberdey, Wien 1941; IV. *Tituli Bithyniae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti*, ed. F. K. Dörner, with the assistance of M.-B. von Stritzky, Wien 1978; V. *Tituli Lydiae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti*, vols. 1-2, ed. P. Herrmann, Wien 1981-1989; vol. 3, ed. G. Petzl, Wien 2007

