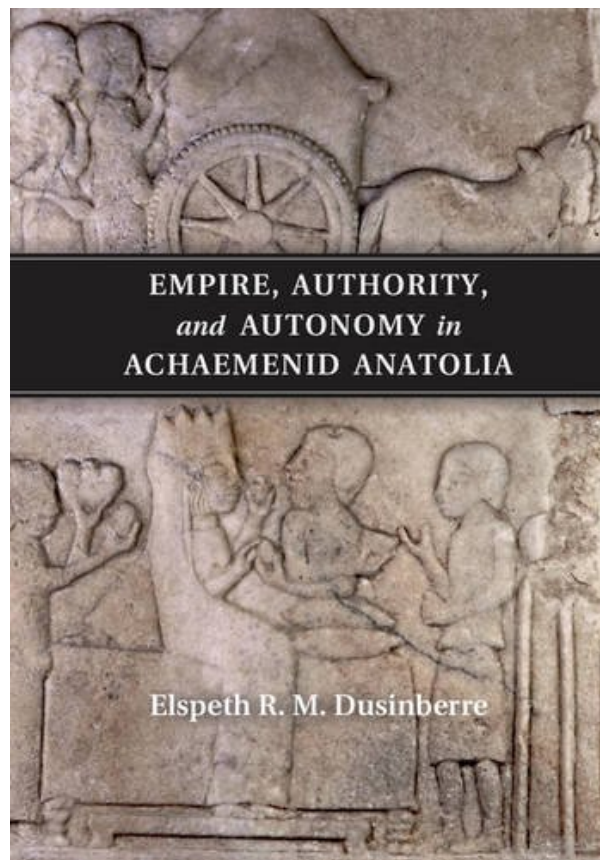


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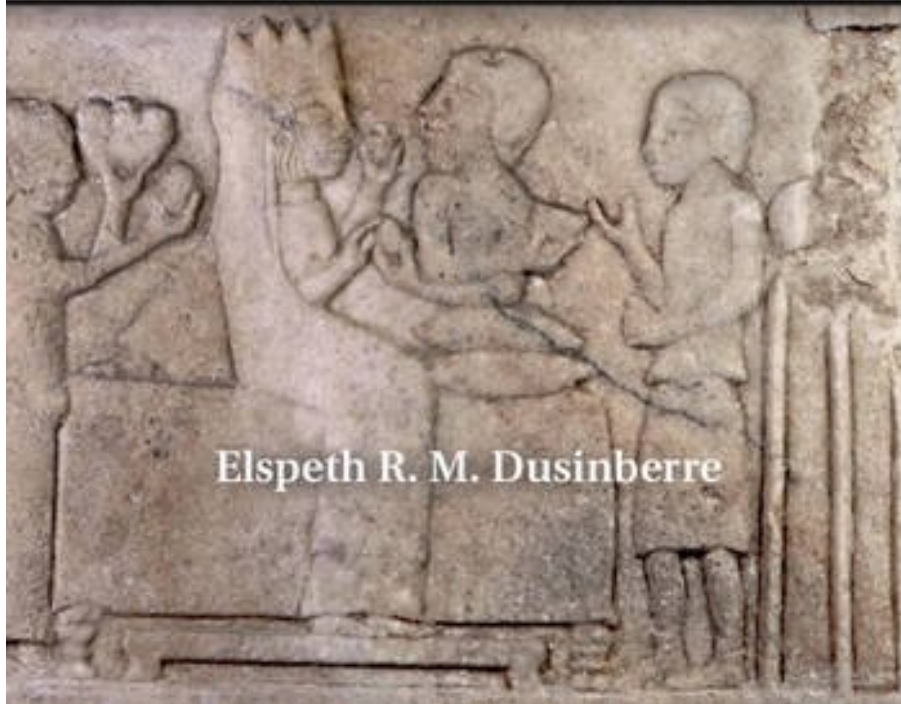


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About the Author

Elspeth R. M. Dusinberre is an Associate Professor in the Classics Department at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has published articles in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, *Ars Orientalis*, *Anatolian Studies* and the *Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research*. She is the author of *Aspects of Empire in Achaemenid Sardis and Gordion Seals and Sealings: Individual and Society*.

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The Achaemenid Persian Empire (550-330 BCE) was a vast and complex sociopolitical structure that encompassed much of modern-day Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan, and included two dozen distinct peoples who spoke different languages, worshiped different deities, lived in different environments, and had widely differing social customs. This book offers a radical new approach to understanding the Achaemenid Persian Empire and imperialism more generally. Through a wide array of textual, visual, and archaeological material, Elspeth R. M. Dusinberre shows how the rulers of the empire constructed a system flexible enough to provide for the needs of different peoples within the confines of a single imperial authority and highlights the variability in response. This book examines the dynamic tensions between authority and autonomy across the empire, providing a valuable new way of considering imperial structure and development.

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About the Author

Elspeth R. M. Dusinberre is an Associate Professor in the Classics Department at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has published articles in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, *Ars Orientalis*, *Anatolian Studies* and the *Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research*. She is the author of *Aspects of Empire in Achaemenid Sardis and Gordion Seals and Sealings: Individual and Society*.

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Balancing bottom-up autonomy with top-down authority while dining and drinking

By A.J. Cave

Sometime around mid-6 century (547 BCE?), Cyrus the Great (559-530 BCE) conquered Lydia and the surrounding region—Asia Minor, now collectively called ancient Anatolia (subdivided into Bithynia, Cappadocia, Caria, Cilicia, Galatia, Lycaonia, Lycia, Lydia, Mysia, Paphlagonia, Pisidia, and Phrygia).

According to Herodotus, the fabulously wealthy Lydian King Croesus had consulted the Oracle at Delphi before deciding to take on the obscure young Anshanite King Cyrus. The cryptic reply of the priestess of Apollo at Delphi was: "If Croesus crosses (River) Halys [the agreed upon border with former Media, now Persia], he will destroy a mighty empire."

That mighty empire turned out to be Lydia—later called Sparda by the Persians.

What happened to the “Anatolians” after they were added to the royal provinces (satrapies) of the Persian Empire is the subject of this engaging scholarly book by the University of Colorado’s Dr. Elspeth Dusinberre, one of the editors of the Persepolis Fortification Archive (currently housed at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago), and among a handful of experts on Achaemenid Anatolia.

The topic might sound of interest to only a few. But at its core, the book—a labor of love and years of intense research—is a fascinating study of exercise of imperial political power and ideology and its implications. Arguably, United States is a modern imperial power with similarities to the ancient Persian Empire.

Right from the start, Dr. Dusinberre discusses the broader considerations of empires and imperialism, and how the newly-minted subjects and citizens of an empire negotiate and renegotiate their personal domains (autonomy) within the authority of such an immense and imposing political power. As the author has noted: “Imperialism is [hardly] a thing of the past.”

The introduction offers a concise overview of the Persian Empire and then delves into how the Anatolians (re)defined themselves within the empire.

It is rather expected to assume that the elite Anatolians aligned themselves with the new Persian world order in their own best interest. But according to the author, the collaboration (or rather acceptance) extended far beyond the elite as reflected in the dining and drinking habits of (almost all) Lydians, who willingly gravitated toward the new(er) Persian customs.

This highly informative book takes another step in filling our knowledge gap about ancient Persians, as well as adding to our knowledge about the ancient Lydians.

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