

PREINDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES II

Empires of the preindustrial era in the Mediterranean and the Near East

Introduction, definition and historical context of the term "Empire". Reference to Michael Mann's theory on four sources of power (ideological, economic, military, political). Presentation of four historical paradigms of imperial power: New Assyrian State, State of the Achaemenides, Roman State, Byzantine State. Appearance and development of their characteristics. Ideological/religious mechanisms, economy and taxation, the role of the military power, the political elites. The peculiar example of the 1st Athenian Hegemony.

The reversal of the venture: imperial power and gender relations.

Learning outcomes

The objective of the lesson is the historical introduction to the procedures and ways through which the imperial formations are interwoven with the relevant time-space conditions. Certain historical paradigms have been chosen in order to illustrate the political, military, and social perplexity of the concept of the Empire, as well as to supply the Students with footholds of comparative reading of other historical eras' documentation.

Indicative Bibliography

M. Mann, *Οι πηγές της κοινωνικής εξουσίας*, Αθήνα, Πόλις 2009

M. Humbert, *Πολιτικοί και κοινωνικοί θεσμοί της αρχαιότητας*, Αθήνα, Σάκκουλας 2012

Empires, περιοδικό *Ιστορείν*, 5, 2006.

Ian Morris – W. Scheidel (επιμ.), *The dynamic of ancient empires*, Oxford University Press 2010

F.-H. Mutschler – A. Mittag (επιμ.), *Conceiving the Empire*, Oxford University Press 2008

M. Hardt – A. Negri, *Η αυτοκρατορία*, Αθήνα, Scripta, 2002

Assessment

Final oral exam. Students are advised to present written essays.