



and ancient history, Crawford succeeds in presenting the essential information both succinctly and informatively.

The stage having been set, Crawford proceeds to the life of Constantius. If there is one great virtue of his methodology, it is the author's unfailing attempt to balance different aspects of historical inquiry in a relatively brief compass of narrative. This is particularly true of his attention to religious activity and the development of Christian theology in the years after Diocletian's notorious persecutions and Constantine's cruciform victory and dramatic conversion story. Likewise, matters foreign and domestic are neatly balanced. One reason the quarter century after the death of Constantine has not received much in the way of sympathetic historical analysis is the complicated situation of simultaneous civil war with tensions and outright conflict with a renascent Persian Empire. Crawford moves between the drama of Saint Athanasius and the Arian controversy on the one hand, and the resurgent military force of Shapur II with a thorough command of a challenging bibliography of both primary and secondary sources. It is a riveting story, cast on a broad stage of Sasanian imperial ambitions and debates about the divinity of Christ. At the very least, the author convinces his audience that Constantius is a figure of significant interest in early fourth century Roman history; this is not some study of an emperor undertaken merely out of a desire to provide a modern biography of an understudied figure.

There is an extensive section of plates (including numismatic illustrations); an appendix of the consuls of the reign of Constantius, and a valuable listing of the laws known to have been ratified under his rule. Further study is fostered by an especially detailed bibliography, as well as a copious index.

Crawford succeeds in blending the genre of historical biography with military and political, indeed ecclesiastical history, all in a treatment that will be of use both scholars and general readers. This is a book that will be of interest to anyone seeking insights into a turbulent period in Roman history and early Christendom; the degree to which it is occasionally a dense read is a reflection of the complex web of events and personages that is its subject – a web that Crawford does an admirable job of disentangling.

**Kleinreesink, L. H. E. (Esmeralda). *On Military Memoirs. A Quantitative Comparison of International Afghanistan War Autobiographies, 2001–2010*. Leiden / Boston: Brill (Egodocuments and History Series; vol. 10). Pp. xvi, 386; \$ 99.50, ISBN 978-9004322530.**

Reviewed by Magnus Frisch, Philipps-Universität Marburg, [magnus.frisch@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:magnus.frisch@staff.uni-marburg.de)

Kleinreesink's book does not deal with ancient military history, but with literature on contemporary military history. It presents a thorough scientific analysis of fifty-four books written by soldiers from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany having been deployed in Afghanistan, which have been published between 2001 and 2010.

The author's research interest has been motivated by her own experiences as a Dutch air force logistics officer in Afghanistan having written two contributions to the Dutch military anthology *Task Force Urugan* (2009) as well as her own book on her deployment in Afghanistan: *Officier in Afghanistan: Achter de schermen van onze militaire missie* (2012).

Kleinreesink has been an Assistant Professor of Economics (2009-2013) and of Military Logistics (2014-2016) at the Netherlands Defense Academy. She earned her PhD in 2014 with the thesis *On Military Affairs: Soldier-Authors, Publishers, Plots and Motives*, from which the present book seems to have emerged. Besides, she has published various papers on different aspects of contemporary military autobiographies. Currently she is a lieutenant-colonel with the Royal Netherlands Air Force and the leader of a veteran program at the statistics department of the Dutch Ministry of Defense.

Recognizing that on the one hand autobiographical reports from the military operations in the beginning of the 21st century are read by a wider public, but on the other hand there is no reliable, quantifiable comprehensive study of contemporary military memoirs (3-8) Kleinreesink decided to fill the research gaps by a "a complete, but also manageable representation of soldier-authors is researched consisting of every military autobiographical book on Afghanistan published between 2001 and 2010, including all publicly available self-published books from five different Western countries 'with the aim' to enhance knowledge about Western soldier-authors of autobiographical books on their deployment to Afghanistan by using qualitative descriptive coding techniques in combination with statistical analysis to compare military background, plots and explicit writing" (8).

She seeks to analyze the authors, publishers, issues of the books, and the motivation of their authors not only to satisfy an academic interest, but also to figure out information directly relevant for defense policy makers as well as for psychologists and social workers who are working with veterans (9). Therefore, Kleinreesink



structures her book into two parts: one part dealing with the underlying theories, applied methods, and political and military background information (3-126), and another part containing the results of her statistical and literary analysis of the fifty-four books (128-327). Additionally, she presents appendices with flow charts of different kinds of literary plots (330), tables with the NATO codes for the different ranks of soldiers (331-332), and a table of motivations and applied categories (333). There is also an extensive list of references (334-363), an author index (364-367, and a subject index (368-386).

Kleinreesink adopts a mixed-method approach combining qualitative and quantitative research methods described thoroughly and detailed, yet comprehensible and transparent (60-107) in their presentation. She presents and interprets the results of her analysis just as extensively and comprehensible as her methods using diagrams and tables by way of illustration.

In her conclusion she summarizes the knowledge obtained in the previous chapters to answer her research questions in the form of a profile of "the soldier-author"; their publishers; their topics with a focus on truth and censorship, post deployment disorientation, and the plots of the books; the different motivations to write, such as recognition, change, helping others or self-help (281-291). She also gives a recommendation to military forces, how to "react to the production of books by soldier-authors" (291). Kleinreesink ends her book with personal reflections about the limitations of her research with regard to the restriction of the countries analyzed and the applied methods, about the perception of military memoirs by the public, about trends for military memoirs in the future, about the authors of such memoirs, about the role of military memoirs for history as well as for the people's attitude toward war and peace, and finally about approaches for further research (292-309). A final synopsis of the fifty-four books analyzed by Kleinreesink, containing title, information about the author, short summaries, and the cover picture gives the reader a clearer insight of Kleinreesink's object of research (310-327).

Kleinreesink's book provides an excellent overview over the military memoirs written by US-American, Canadian, British, Dutch, and German Afghanistan veterans between 2001 and 2010. As she admits, it would be interesting to compare her results with analyses of military memoirs from other countries involved in the Afghanistan operations such as France and of the French-Canadian memoirs (294-295). This methodical and thorough survey follows a clear research design and structure and is always comprehensible and clear. Thus, it could be

exemplary for other literary studies on military writing, contemporary as well as historical works.

**Armstrong, Jeremy. *Early Roman Warfare: From the Regal Period to the First Punic War*. Yorkshire, England: Pen and Sword Military, 2016. Pp. xvi, 176; \$34.95, ISBN: 9781781592540, hdbk.**

Reviewed by Seth Kendall, Georgia Gwinnett College, [skendall@ggc.edu](mailto:skendall@ggc.edu)

Jeremy Armstrong's *Early Roman Warfare* is a text which is difficult to describe. On the one hand, it is short (the main text is only 170 pages in length), and it is by its author's admission more of a "popular" than a "scholarly" text in which "(e)ndnotes and references have ... been kept to an absolute minimum" (p. xvi). Despite this fact, it seeks to argue that much of what is commonly "known" about Roman history is wrong, and it seeks to offer a "revised model for the development of Rome's earliest armies and the interpretations of the literature, along with the advances in archaeology, which underpin it." In doing so, it covers much of ground, and is actually a more dense read than expected.

Armstrong's thesis is straightforward. In the first place, Armstrong asserts that the literary sources for early Rome are practically useless for early history because in their struggle to make sense of their limited sources, they incorrectly assumed that early Rome operated the same way that the later Republic did both in peace and war, and fashioned their narratives accordingly. Chapter one is devoted to discussion of the problems with the literary tradition, as well as to the scant help derived from archaeology, at least for military matters: finds of equipment or depictions of their use in art are practically negligible and furnish almost no conclusive evidence for who made war, why, and how.

Nevertheless, Armstrong continues, anthropological and sociological techniques can help dispel the anachronisms in the sources, and when these are removed, a new picture (particularly Roman warriors and warmaking) emerges. Chapter two postulates that Latium was once dominated by gentes, or "clans", large, quasi-itinerant families and their satellites who roamed about driving flocks, conducting trade, and making war, which were more often than not raids conducted to acquire moveable spoil. Some of these clans were associated with Rome, but did not necessarily live in the city. The townspeople would, he argues, often form a pact with clan leaders, offering them rudimentary power over the population and whatever military assistance it could provide in exchange for the protection of the clan and the right to lead the community in war. Thus, the gentes fought on Rome's behalf but