Maritime trade, Pax Romana, and coastal communities in the Greek East

Guiding questions: What was the effect of Pax Romana on the connectivity patterns in the Eastern Mediterranean, especially among the coastal and island communities? What was the impact on the local economies, identities, human mobility?

Basic chronology:
264-241 BCE 1st Punic War (Rome acquires its first foreign provincia – Sicily).
149-146 BCE 3rd Punic War (Carthage is destroyed and rebuilt as a major Roman port city).
146 BCE Sack of Corinth by Lucius Mummius. Roman province of Macedonia is established.
133 BCE Pergamum is bequeathed to Rome by its king.
75 BCE Julius Caesar is kidnapped by Sicilian pirates and ransomed by 50 talents of gold.
67 BCE Ostia is burned by pirates. Lex Gabinia implemented. Piracy eliminated in 3 months.
62-67 BCE Pompey’s conquests in the East, including Judea, Bithynia, Pontus, Syria, Armenia.
69 BCE Metellus takes over Crete, making it a Roman province along with Cyrenaica.
58 BCE Cato takes over Cyprus, making it a Roman province.
31 BCE The Battle of Actium. Egypt is secured.
27 BCE Pax Romana begins (accession of Octavian Augustus).
180 CE Pax Romana ends (death of Marcus Aurelius)
Key terms: Roman Cyprus, island archaeology, social identity construction, insularity, Romanitas

Key dates:  
- 708 BCE – Assyrian rule
- 545 BCE – Persian rule
- 499 BCE – Ionian Revolt against the Achaemenid Empire, semi-autonomy
- 333 BCE – occupied by Alexander the Great, Ptolemaic rule
- 58 BCE – Roman conquest by Cato, joined to the province of Cilicia
- 48 BCE – gifted by Julius Caesar to Ptolemies after his liaison with Cleopatra
- 30 BCE – re-incorporation into the Roman empire
**Key terms:** insularity, environment, climate, economy (olives, honey, purple dye, healing plants, wine, urbanization and population movement toward the coasts), reuse of archaic Cretan symbols (bull leaping, double-axe or *labrys*)

**Key dates:**
- 2700-1420 BCE – Minoan
- 1420–... BCE – Mycenaen (Linear B)
- 5th century BCE – Gortyn code (civil law)
- late 4th century BCE – collapse of centralized order
- 220 BCE – Philip V’s gets involved in the island affairs, then Romans
- 69 BCE – Crete is conquered by Metellus and joined to *Creta et Cyrenaica*
Travel, migration, and mobility in the Roman Mediterranean

Coast-skirting itinerary from Alexandria to Rome, via Jerusalem, Miletus, and Corinth. 34 days over 3929 km (Orbis)
Bibliography


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**Table 11.1: Regions of origin of migrants buried in Athens**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Cumulative %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specifiable</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Minor</td>
<td>3,045</td>
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<td>38.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>18.19</td>
<td>56.77</td>
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<td>Black Sea</td>
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<td>2.99</td>
<td>60.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Near East</td>
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<td>2.73</td>
<td>63.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balkans</td>
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<td>2.44</td>
<td>65.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Mediterranean</td>
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<td>2.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>0.89</td>
<td>69.93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-specifiable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside of Attica (possibly Greek)</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>16.45</td>
<td>85.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside of Greece</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>14.73</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,709</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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a The category ‘outside of Attica’ includes all attested migrants whose place of origin certainly lies outside of Attica, but may either be another Greek city, or a non-Greek city. E.g., 27, 5, 804 c.e. – Osborne and Byrne 1956, no. 235) from Hendrice, a city attested in Greece, Macedonia, Asia Minor and Syria. The category ‘outside of Greece’ includes migrants who certainly came from a non-Greek location of origin, but whose city of origin could not exactly be determined. E.g., 27, 3, 1149 (– Osborne and Byrne 1956, no. 664) from Ptolemais, a city attested in Egypt, but also in Asia Minor, Libya and Israel.

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Note that the actual number of inscriptions investigated varies across my sections, depending on whether the relevant information was available for a specific question. Graphs and tables specify included Ns.