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This publication represents the first true examination of the Roman Navy as an independent arm of the military. Though many may perceive the Roman Empire as a primarily land-based organisation, an empire forged by the formidable legions of infantry, the truth is that it was as much a maritime empire as that of the British in the nineteenth century, and in fact the Roman Navy was the most powerful maritime force ever to have existed. It secured the trade routes and maintained the communications that allowed the Roman Empire to exist; and it brought previously untouchable and unreachable enemies to battle and enabled the expansion of Imperial power into areas thought hitherto inaccessible. This book, featuring detailed reconstructions of the ships themselves, provides an engaging survey of the craft, their crewmen, and the navy's major contribution to the Empire's growth.

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Editorial Review

Review

Both welcome and useful. [...] This is a narrative history as well as a focused study of the development of the ships, officers, and crews and the overall naval establishment. Recommended. --Choice

[There is an] enormous amount of material contained in this excellent work by Michael Pitassi, which for the first time seeks to examine all aspects of the much neglected subject of Roman naval power. [It is] an academically very rigorous work of considerable substance written for both professional scholars and for those who are approaching the subject for the first time. It deserves to be on the shelves of all those with a passion for ancient naval warfare. --Journal of Mediterranean Studies

The first comprehensive history of Roman fleets from their inception to the end of the Roman empire in the West. [...] An interesting and handy overview of military Rome on sea and river. --Ancient Warfare

About the Author

Mike Pitassi is an independent scholar.

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