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Sea Peoples Of The Bronze Age Mediterranean C.1400 BC-1000 BC (Elite)



Synopsis

Sea Peoples of the Bronze Age and Mediterranean features the latest historical and archaeological research into the mysterious and powerful confederations of raiders who troubled the Eastern Mediterranean in the last half of the Bronze Age. Research into the origins of the so-called Shardana, Shekelesh, Danuna, Lukka, Peleset and other peoples is a detective 'work in progress'. However, it is known that they both provided the Egyptian pharaohs with mercenaries, and were listed among Egypt's enemies and invaders. They contributed to the collapse of several civilizations through their dreaded piracy and raids, and their waves of attacks were followed by major migrations that changed the face of this region, from modern Libya and Cyprus to the Aegean, mainland Greece, Lebanon and Anatolian Turkey. Drawing on carved inscriptions and papyrus documents - mainly from Egypt - dating from the 15th-11th centuries BC, as well as carved reliefs of Medinet Habu, this title reconstructs the formidable appearance and even the tactics of the famous 'Sea Peoples'.

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Customer Reviews

This Osprey volume provides the reader with the most up to date research surrounding the mysterious group commonly referred to as the Sea Peoples; a confederation of migrants that played an influential role during the Late Bronze Age period of the Eastern Mediterranean. Prior to the release of this publication, the de facto often cited research was that of N.K. Sandars's 1985 title, 'The Sea Peoples: Warriors of the Ancient Mediterranean 1250 - 1150 BC'. The problem with this

title is that despite being an excellent source for the topic in question, it is a bit outdated. In recent decades we have unearthed many new clues on this most volatile period of ancient history. This is where this recent title comes into the picture. The authors of this latest research introduce the reader to the historical background of these Sea Peoples and the sources to which they derive. This is followed by the mostly inconclusive identification of each mentioned ethnic group or clan. The authors then highlight their appearances as it has been preserved in ancient artifacts and mostly Egyptian inscriptions. The rest focuses on their military tactics and exploits. Do not let the 60 pages fool you. It's content is complete and to the point. It needs to be noted that none of this research is new but instead produces a consolidated and near complete source of what we know of these intriguing peoples. What we do know is that at random points during the Late Bronze Age, waves of migrants spread throughout the Eastern Mediterranean. Some brought wives and children to resettle and start new lives away from what may have been a troubled home. While others were simply looking for work, possibly as soldiers or mercenaries for hire.

This is a fascinating volume about the so-called "Sea Peoples" the "Vikings" of their time and a mixed bunch of sea raiders who attacked the coasts of Asia Minor, the Levant and Egypt at the end of the Bronze Age. They are largely known to us through mostly Egyptian and, to a lesser extent, Hittite sources and sources from the Middle East seaboard. As this title makes clear, they had various names which presumably corresponded to people of different origins although not very much is known about them. Numerous theories have been formulated regarding these origins, with these sea raiders coming from Sardinia, Sicily, Illyria, Crete, Cilicia and Cyprus while others being Achaeans from the Aegean and Greece. Various groups may have come from each and every of these locations and they sought to raid more prosperous areas to the south and east, in particular Egypt, Canaan and what is nowadays Lebanon and Syria. As the title also mentions, but only in passing, there has been and still is much debate among specialists of the period as to what caused these raids which turned into invasions, conquests and settlements. This is part of the wider issue about the "collapse" of the Bronze Age (over at least a couple of centuries), the end of the so-called palatial culture (in the Aegean) and the beginnings of the Iron Age. Here again, the authors skim over the issue, because discussing it at length and laying down all of the various theories is simply not the purpose of this title and there is simply not enough space to do the topic justice anyway. What this title does offer you, however, is an overview of these Sea People and of some of their most well-known feats, whether attacks on the Hittites or on Egypt or service as mercenaries for Egypt.

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