

Rome and Alexander the Great

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 17 Jun 2003

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 17 Jun 2003, 18:34

Crush wrote:

It is true that Latium is not numbered among the armies of Xerxes. This is not surprising. In 478 BC, Rome's republic was about 30 years old -- Rome was only about 100 years beyond an age of legend. 150 years later, Rome was not even considered worth the trouble for Alexander the Great or his heirs to conquer.

Not to give you a hard time, and granted there is always argument between historians, but I just read a book, THE FATES OF NATIONS: A BIOLOGICAL THEORY OF HISTORY (1980), where the author Paul Colinvaux wrote that Alexander avoided Rome as too tough (and possibly "too poor"?) for a proper victim of a war of aggression. According to Colinvaux, the war of aggression requires that the aggressor have a technological edge over the victim, and the victim must have a resource that the aggressor wants. The Macedonian phalanx famously carved up the Persians, showing the edge; the Persian empire had land and wealth.

Oh, I see I'm not really arguing with you after all! Since I put in the "too poor" part it falls under the rubric of "not worth the trouble" in your message. I.e., it would have been trouble, since the technological edge favoring Macedonia over Rome was slight if it existed at all, and the potential rewards were much less than those offered by the pesky Persians.

In other news, I've just started a new round of auctions for Lexicons and boxes of uncollected Wolfe stories.

=mantis=

Sirius Fiction

booklets on Gene Wolfe, John Crowley

<http://www.siriusfiction.com/>

eBay Auctions <http://cgi6.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewSellersOtherItems&userid=mr.sirius>