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Greek Tyranny

By Sian Lewis

Liverpool University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Greek Tyranny, Sian Lewis, The tyrants of Greece are some of the most colourful figures in antiquity, notorious for their luxury, excess and violence, and provoking heated debates among political thinkers. Greek Tyranny examines the phenomenon of autocratic rule outside the law in archaic and classical Greece, offering a new interpretation of the nature of tyranny. The development of tyrannical government is examined in theory and in practice, embracing lesser-known rulers such as the tagoi of Thessaly and the Hecatomnids of Halicarnassus, as well as canonical figures like the Pisistratid rulers of Athens and the Dionysii at Syracuse. The book considers the different forms which sole rulership took - the violent usurper, the appointed magistrate, the general and the Hellenistic king - and the responses which tyranny evoked, both from the citizens of the polis and from intellectuals such as Plato and Aristotle. Lewis replaces the longstanding theory of an 'age of tyranny' in Greece with powerful new arguments, suggesting tyranny was a positive choice for many Greek states.



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Reviews

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