Eberhard Sauer. "Introduction (Sasanian Persia: Between Rome and the Steppes of Eurasia)"

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Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/50176>

DOI: 10.4000/abstractairanica.50176

ISBN: 1961-960X

ISSN: 1961-960X

Publisher:

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Electronic reference

Parsa Ghasemi, "Eberhard Sauer. "Introduction (Sasanian Persia: Between Rome and the Steppes of Eurasia)""", *Abstracta Iranica* [Online], Volume 40-41 | 2019, document 52, Online since 30 December 2019, connection on 21 April 2021. URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/50176> ; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.50176>

This text was automatically generated on 21 April 2021.

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Eberhard Sauer. "Introduction" in Eberhard W. Sauer (ed.). *Sasanian Persia: Between Rome and the Steppes of Eurasia*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017, p. 1–18

- 1 In the introduction, Sauer highlights the results of the 12 contributors' articles in various fields of studies such as history, archeology, and other archaeological subdisciplines such as archaeobotany, zooarchaeology and environmental archeology. The combination of deferent subjects indicates that Sauer has thoroughly read the articles and made his own arguments and conclusions.
- 2 Sauer also discussed the result of the new findings in northern part of the Sasanian empire especially around the Caspian Sea (Gorgan, Darband, and etc.). Sauer concluded that the high management of the Sasanian government, especially their policy in economy based on agriculture and trade, population growth and safeguarding the borders of the empire. Through building the grand scale defensive infrastructures such as Gorgan wall and establishing the new cities, they made this empire more powerful and long-lasting. Interestingly, he compared the Sasanian empire with its most powerful rival, Roman. Some examples of this comparison included: shortage of publication and studies, the imperil policies, economy and population growth, diverse culture and religion, influence in other realm, military infrastructure, and city construction. Sauer argues that some of the developments and innovation in Sasanian era are more advanced than its contemporary rivals. This fascinating analysis is useful to those who are interested in the Sasanian period.

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