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Civitates Hispaniae : urbanisation on the Iberian peninsula during the High Empire

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The principal aims of this book are to provide a comprehensive reconstruction of the urban systems of the Iberian Peninsula during the High Empire and to explain why these systems looked the way they did. While some chapters focus on settlements that were cities or towns from a juridical point of view, the implications of using a purely functional definition of towns are also explored. Key themes include continuities and discontinuities between pre-Roman and Roman settlement patterns, the geographical distribution of cities belonging to various size brackets, economic relationships between self-governing cities and their territories, and the role of cities as nodes in road systems and maritime networks. In addition, it is argued that a considerable number of self-governing communities in Roman Spain and Portugal were polycentric rather than based on a single urban centre.

Pieter Houten (1984) obtained his BA and Research MA degrees in History at Utrecht University. *Civitates Hispaniae* is the result of his doctoral work within the ERC-funded project 'An Empire of 2000 Cities' carried out at Leiden University between 2013 and 2018.

P.H.A. Houten

Civitates Hispaniae



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*Urbanisation on the
Iberian Peninsula during the
High Empire*