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Resistance against the Achaemenid Empire: the Egyptian Rebellions of 521 and 487/86 BC

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Stellingen

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Resistance against the Achaemenid Empire: The Egyptian Rebellions of 521 and 487/86 BC

door Uzume Z. Wijnsma

1. Modern scholars have mainly used Greco-Roman histories to study Persian-Period Egyptian rebellions; yet, sources from within the Persian Empire itself provide us with crucial information that such histories lack.
2. Both the Egyptian rebellion of 521 BC and the rebellion of 487/86 BC lasted at least several months longer than what is often assumed.
3. Although the Egyptian rebellions of 521 and 487/86 BC have been characterized as Delta rebellions, their connection to the Delta is dubitable; by contrast, they clearly impacted southern Egypt.
4. The imperial response that followed the rebellion of 521 BC may have led to grievances that laid the groundwork for the rebellion of 487/86 BC.
5. The term “Late Period” reflects an outdated historical framework, which portrays the history of mid-first millennium BC Egypt as of little importance; it should be replaced with more neutral terms, such as the “Saite” and “Persian” periods.
6. One cannot fully understand the history of a province of the Persian Empire without comparing it to at least one other.
7. The idea that the Persian Empire fell into decline during the reign of Xerxes continues to affect Achaemenid Studies.
8. Criticism of orientalism and hellenocentrism in Achaemenid Studies should not result in the wholesale rejection of Greco-Roman histories.
9. The common portrayal of human history as a series of irreversible stages, leading from small egalitarian bands to hierarchical nation-states, is incorrect; there was far more political experimentation than what is often believed.
10. Hypotheses are to historians what headcanons are to fans.