

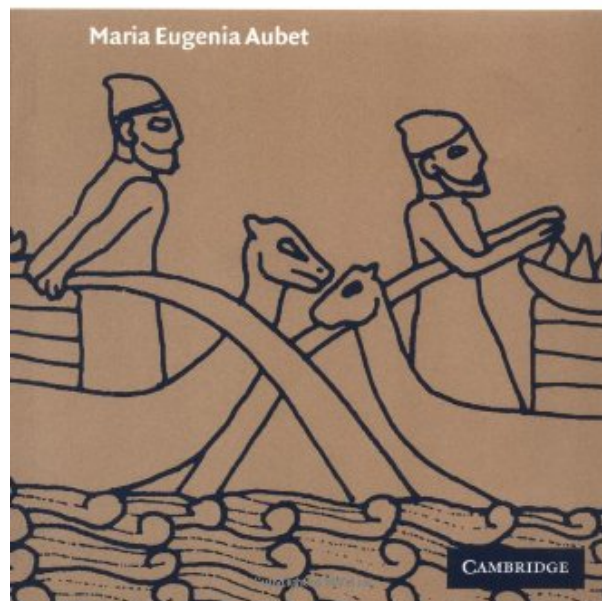
THE PHOENICIANS AND THE WEST: POLITICS, COLONIES AND TRADE BY MARIA EUGENIA AUBET



The Phoenicians and the West

Politics, Colonies, and Trade

Second Edition



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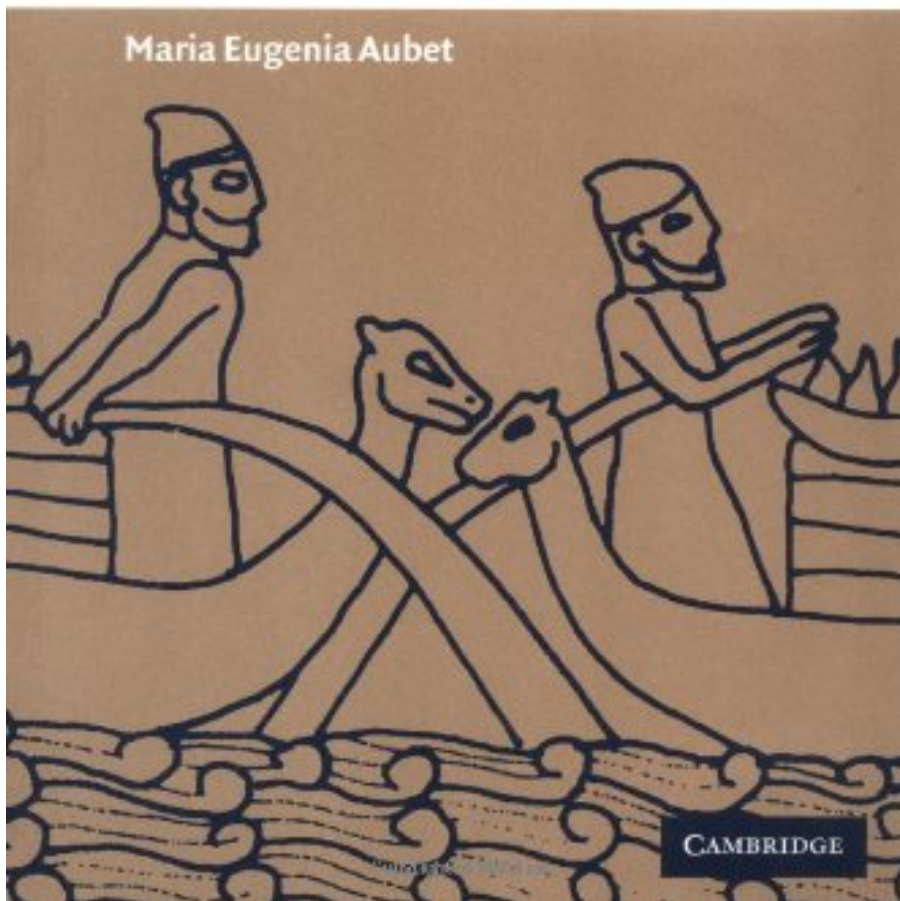


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Review

"Aubet's book is sensible, sound, sane, and comprehensive--quite an achievement in Phoenician studies. She offers a superb overview of all aspects of Phoenician history and culture, making full use of new archaeological evidence as well as recent work on Phoenician art, religion, and political institutions." *Journal of the American Oriental Society*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Spanish

About the Author

Maria Eugenia Aubet is Professor in the Department of Archaeology, Universidad Pompeu Fabra. Her other publications include *Tartessos* (1990) and *Les Orants de Carthage* (1974).

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This updated version of Maria Eugenia Aubet's highly praised book (1993) incorporates the most recent research findings on the ancient civilization of Phoenicia and includes an updated bibliography. The Phoenicians established the first trading system in the Mediterranean basin between the eighth and sixth centuries B.C. Continuous archaeological research over the past decades has transformed our understanding of Phoenicia, its colonies and their relationship to local communities. First Edition Hb (1993): 0-521-41141-6 First Edition Pb (1996): 0-521-56598-7

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Most helpful customer reviews

24 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

Very thorough.

By Mark Howells

This is an interesting book which describes the Phoenician expansion into the Western Mediterranean from the eighth to sixth centuries B.C. The focus is the Iberian Phoenician settlements on either side of the Pillars

of Hercules with Gadir (Cadiz) as the main attraction. As the written record of the Phoenicians themselves did not survive, this work relies primarily on archaeological information and the small body of sources written by the Phoenicians' neighboring cultures (the Greek Homer's epic poetry, the Jewish Old Testament, etc.).

There is much discussion about the social, political, and economic reasons for the Phoenician expansion westward. In addition, the form which this expansion took - from informal trade to outright colonization is explored. A large part of the book is devoted to the competing historical theories regarding this expansion in which the author is obviously well-grounded.

Who engaged in the trade and expansion- the palace, the temple, or independent merchants? How was it organized? What were the ships like? What were the commodities traded? How were Phoenician relations with the indigenous peoples handled? All these questions are answered.

There is obviously comparison between the original Phoenician settlements in the West and those of her daughter colony Carthage which succeeded them. The emphasis in this work is on the Phoenician period rather than the following Punic period of settlement. This is done to give the Phoenicians' initial accomplishments in the West due credit rather than have them overshadowed by Carthage.

With the book's emphasis on the Iberian peninsula, the Phoenician enclaves in the central Mediterranean such as on Malta, Sicily, and Sardinia do not get much attention. I would have enjoyed more comparison between the Phoenician settlements and the subsequent Greek colonies in the West as well.

An interesting read on a little-known but highly-influential ancient people. And don't forget to thank them for this alphabet while you're at it.

11 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Very poor research....

By History reader

The Phoenicians are fascinating people and deserve a good telling of their history. Unfortunately this is not it. After acknowledging significant errors in the first edition, the author simply added new evidence contradicting older parts of the book. For example, destruction by the Sea Peoples is said to have resulted in Tyre being 'founded' after 1200 BC. But later it is admitted that Tyre was not destroyed by the Sea Peoples, so the city existed before that date. Nevertheless, the earlier error is still used as the basis for claiming that the Phoenicians of Tyre made no westward expansion across the Mediterranean until a later time. Unfortunately this edition still contains many significant errors, but now with contradictions. Phoenicians (2000) by Markoe and other books are better sources.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

An important work on Phoenicia!

By Mark

Maria Eugenia Aubet is a Spanish Archeologist who has made a significant contribution to the history of the maritime trade and colonies of the Phoenicians. Phoenicia, now modern-day Lebanon, was the home of the Biblical Canaanites, who, because of contraction of their land from Israelite and other invasions, turned outward to the Mediterranean Sea for survival. In trading with so many diverse nations, the Phoenicians developed a 22-letter alphabet based on sound, the basis of our alphabet of today.

This book is scientific and well-presented. My only regret is that she could have spent more time on the development of the alphabet.

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