

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910958990703321
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Titolo	Mediterranean Islands, fragile communities and persistent landscapes : Antikythera in long-term perspective // Andrew Bevan, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, James Conolly, Trent University, Canada
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-35803-5 1-107-23823-4 1-107-34466-2 1-107-34935-4 1-139-51974-3 1-107-34841-2 1-107-34591-X 1-107-34216-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xix, 280 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	304.209182/2
Soggetti	Human ecology - Islands of the Mediterranean Human ecology - Greece - Antikythera Island Archaeology - Islands of the Mediterranean Archaeology - Greece - Antikythera Island Islands of the Mediterranean Environmental conditions Antikythera Island (Greece) Environmental conditions Islands of the Mediterranean Social life and customs Antikythera Island (Greece) Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; 1 Problems and Perspectives; 1.1 Introduction; 1.2 Scales, Agencies and Island Archaeology; 1.3 Fragility and Persistence; 2 Methods and Data; 2.1 Intensive Survey; 2.2 Artefact Study; 2.3 Ethnography and History; 2.4 Geoarchaeology and Ecology; 2.5 Spatial and Computational Modelling; 2.6 Methodological Limitations; 3 A Mediterranean and Island

Environment; 3.1 Geology, Topography and Tectonics; 3.2 Short- and Long-Term Climates; 3.3 Winds, Waves and Currents; 3.4 The Structure of Island Resources; 3.4.1 Harbours and Hydrology 3.4.2 Lithics and Soils 3.4.3 Erosion; 3.5 Plant and Animal Life; 3.6 Summary; 4 Material Worlds; 4.1 Methodological Issues; 4.1.1 The Visible and the Invisible; 4.1.2 Diagnostic Uncertainty; 4.2 Material Timelines; 4.2.1 Earlier Prehistory; 4.2.2 Later Prehistory; 4.2.3 Early Iron Age to Roman; 4.2.4 Medieval to Recent; 4.3 Behavioural Themes; 4.3.1 Cooking, Eating and Drinking; 4.3.2 Transport and Storage; 4.3.3 Conflict and Coercion; 4.4 Abundance and Scarcity; 4.4.1 Production and Acquisition; 4.4.2 Maintenance and Recycling; 4.5 Concluding Remarks

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Sommario/riassunto

Mediterranean landscape ecology, island cultures and long-term human history have all emerged as major research agendas over the past half-century, engaging large swathes of the social and natural sciences. This book brings these traditions together in considering Antikythera, a tiny island perched on the edge of the Aegean and Ionian seas, over the full course of its human history. Small islands are particularly interesting because their human, plant and animal populations often experience abrupt demographic changes, including periods of near-complete abandonment and recolonization, and Antikythera proves to be one of the best-documented examples of these shifts over time. Small islands also play eccentric but revealing roles in wider social, economic and political networks, serving as places for refugees, hunters, modern eco-tourists, political exiles, hermits and pirates. Antikythera is a rare case of an island that has been investigated in its entirety from several systematic fieldwork and disciplinary perspectives, not least of which is an intensive archaeological survey. The authors use the resulting evidence to offer a unique vantage on settlement and land use histories.

