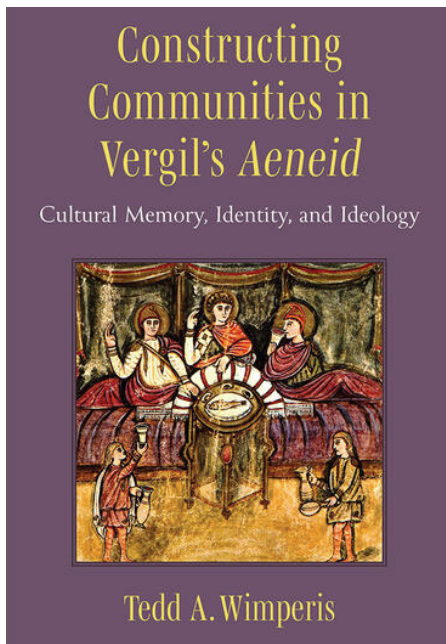




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CONSTRUCTING COMMUNITIES IN VERGIL'S AENEID

CULTURAL MEMORY, IDENTITY, AND IDEOLOGY

Tedd A. Wimperis

Constructing Communities in Vergil's Aeneid: Cultural Memory, Identity, and Ideology presents a new examination of memory, ethnic identity, and politics within the fictional world of this Roman epic, drawing previously unexplored connections between Vergil's characters, settings, and narrative and the political context of the early Roman Empire. This book investigates how the Aeneid's fictive ethnic communities—the Trojans, Carthaginians, Latins, and Arcadians who populate its poetic world—are shown to have identities, myths, and cultural memories of their own. And much like their real-life Roman counterparts, they engage in the politics of the past in such contexts as royal iconography, diplomacy, public displays, and incitements to war.

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Where previous studies of identity and memory in the Aeneid have focused on the poem's constructions of Roman identity, *Constructing Communities* turns the spotlight onto the characters themselves to show how the world inside the poem is replicating, as if in miniature, real forms of contemporary political and cultural discourse, reflecting an historical milieu where appeals to Roman identity were vigorously asserted in political rhetoric. The book applies this evidence to a broad literary analysis of the Aeneid, as well as a reevaluation of its engagement with Roman imperial ideology in the Age of Augustus.

Tedd A. Wimperis is Assistant Professor of Classical Studies at Elon University.



This is a compelling and ambitious book. The author tackles the complex and very timely topic of the construction of ethnic identity and cultural memory in Vergil's *Aeneid* from a methodology influenced by cultural memory studies, historicist approaches to ancient literature and at times postcolonial theory."
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