

Military historians acknowledge that the abduction and sexual assault of women was a regular part of widespread warfare in the ancient Mediterranean (Chaniotis, van Wees 1992 and 2004, Pritchett, Ducrey, Harris, Schaps, Volkmann), but they have not ventured to analyze the methods, aims, and magnitude of such violence. Further, scholars who have studied rape in antiquity concentrate primarily on heterosexual rape as a civil crime during peacetime (Deacy and Pierce eds., Laiou ed., Omitowoju), not as part of a wartime destruction of communities and of ensuing tyranny afterwards over female captives. Finally, slaves in antiquity were usually war captives or descendants thereof, but even though scholars of ancient slavery and prostitution recognize that female prostitutes in antiquity mostly were slaves in origin (McGinn, Herter), they have not explored how wartime sexual violence was militarily deployed in order to subjugate conquered women and girls, a purpose that involved transforming many of them into slaves and prostitutes. Hence our understanding of wartime sexual assault in antiquity and of ensuing facets of female subjugation remains an important topic to explore, for it is pivotal to comprehending the fundamental interrelations between warfare, wartime sexual violence, slavery, and prostitution in antiquity. I work to elucidate this topic in two ways.

First, drawing on numerous texts that span from Homer and Herodotus to early Byzantine histories, I explain several prevalent methods by which women and girls were captured, assaulted, and dominated through ancient warfare from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity. These include 1) acquisition techniques, such as people-hunting methods in the countryside, search and seizure in houses and in walled communities, and surprise attack by sea in coastal areas; 2) sorting and subdividing the captives by sex, age, and attractiveness and/or noble birth; 3) various patterns and intensity of sexual assault, such as public gang rape of females not among those chosen as attractive and/or well born and allocating the latter individually as each status warrior's own rape prize or as a mercenary's form of pay; 4) fear tactics both during and after conquest, such as deliberately killing male family members in front of the captives, the use of death threats and weapons during sexual assault, beating captives into submission, and forcing them into lewd behavior at symposia; 5) deracinating female captives, such as removing them from their homeland or moving in and occupying the captives' lives, houses, and community after killing off the menfolk; 6) humiliating them, such as by stripping off their clothing upon capture and stripping them of their former names and native languages (e.g., renaming a Sicel girl from Hykkara 'Lais' or calling Thracian girls and women 'Thrattra'); and 7) compelling the captives to sexually serve their captors by night and in skilled or menial capacities by day. These show that the violent sexual domination of captive girls and women was an integral and organized aspect of ancient military conduct.

Second, I argue on philological grounds that the above methods of female subjugation prove to be far more visibly an intrinsic feature of warfare in the ancient Mediterranean than hitherto appreciated, at least as narrated in Greek. Contrary to the prevalent view, the Greek verb  $\alpha\phi\nu\delta\rho\alpha\pi\omicron\delta\iota\omega\zeta\epsilon\sigma\theta\alpha\iota$  and its cognates, when used to refer to captive women and girls, does not signify merely the mercantile transaction of 'selling captives into slavery', nor does it signify an asexual 'reducing to enslavement' (LSJ). Rather, it signifies 'ravaging' captive girls and women by the above complex of ruthlessly violent practices that are sexual at core, with slavery and prostitution being the ensuing fate for many of the girls and women. Insofar as  $\alpha\phi\nu\delta\rho\alpha\pi\omicron\delta\iota\omega\zeta\epsilon\sigma\theta\alpha\iota$  is ubiquitously documented as a central function and purpose of ancient warfare, especially against women and children of the enemy, the alien, or the opposing faction, it follows that purposeful and degrading

sexual violence was the standard military modus operandi by which armies of the Greeks, Macedonians, Romans and other ethnic groups transformed many of the daughters, sisters, wives, and mothers among the conquered into the whores and slaves of the conquerors.