

Rome's Enemies (5): The Desert Frontier.

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Text by David Nicolle

Colour plates by Angus McBride

Review by Martin Smith

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C: Nubia, 3rd-4th centuries AD

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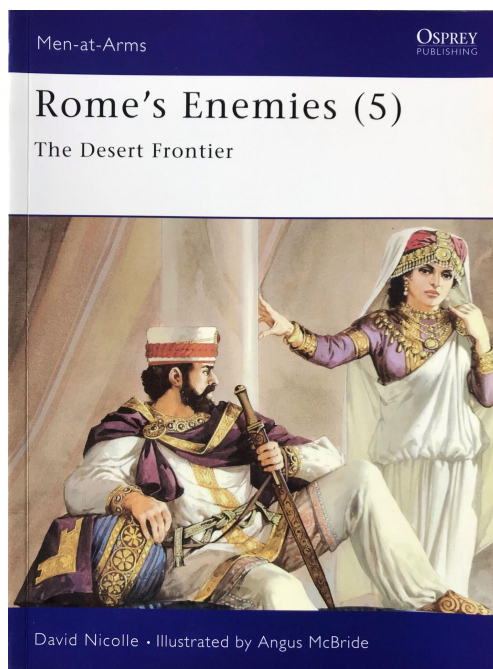
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Comments:



This Osprey benefits from the input of two leaders in their fields: David Nicolle, a very well respected military historian and Angus McBride, whose colour plates are legendary.

Though brief, as to be expected from an Osprey-sized work, the text gives an informative, broad overview of the nations and tribes with whom the Roman Republic and Empire interacted over the years on its desert borders - desire for cross-border trade being a common factor in most theatres.

Mentions are made of a wide variety of peoples encountered, from Numidians, Berbers and Libyans in northern Africa to the Nile nations such as Meroe and Nubia, as well as the border peoples of the Levant and Arabia, Palmyra, Hatra and Petra. No one army is

detailed at length, but the text does a good job of introducing the reader to a plethora of peoples less well known to most wargamers.

The atmospheric colour plates are, as always with the late, Mr. McBride, an absolute pleasure to view and the book might be said to be worth the cover price for the plates alone.

This is another well balanced Osprey, serving as a fine introduction to a lesser-known subject.

Recommended.