

Frontiers of the Roman Empire Ffiniau'r Ymerodraeth Rufeinig

David J. Breeze

The Roman Frontiers in Wales Ffiniau Rhufeinig Cymru

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The authors / Yr awduron

Professor David J. Breeze has published several books on Roman frontiers and the Roman army. He is a former chairman of the International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies

Mae'r Athro **David J. Breeze** wedi cyhoeddi sawl llyfr ar ffiniau'r Ymerodraeth Rufeinig a'r fyddin Rufeinig. Mae'n gyn-gadeirydd Cyngres Ryngwladol Astudiaethau Ffiniau Rhufeinig ac arweiniodd y tîm a lwyddodd i enwebu Mur Antoninus fel Safle Treftadaeth y Byd

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Mae **Peter Guest** yn archaeolegydd a numismatydd sydd wedi treulio'r rhan fwyaf o'i yrfa yn ymchwilio i Gymru Rufeinig. Mae wedi cyfarwyddo nifer o brosiectau arolygu a chloddio pwysig yng Nghaerllion ac mae hefyd wedi cyhoeddi *Iron Age and Roman Coins from Wales*

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CYNNWYS

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1. Reconstruction of the fortress of Isca at Caerleon, c. AD 120

Adluniad o gaer Isca yng Nghaerllion, c. 120 OC

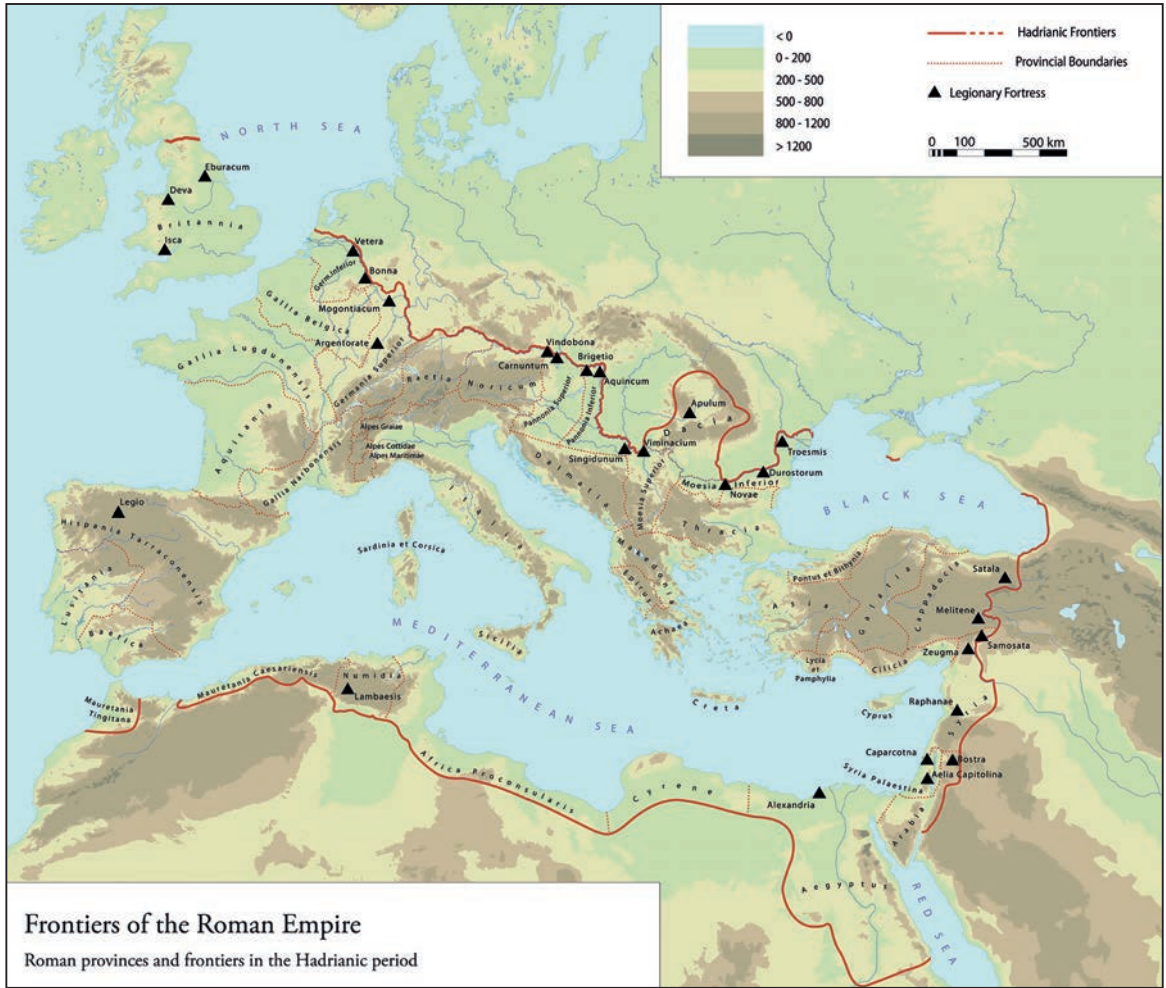
Foreword

The frontiers of the Roman Empire together form the largest monument of one of the world's greatest ancient states. They stretch for some 7,500 km through 20 countries which encircle the Mediterranean Sea. The remains of these frontiers have been studied by visitors and later by archaeologists for several centuries. Many of the inscriptions and sculptures, weapons, pottery and artefacts created and used by the soldiers and civilians who lived on the frontier can be seen in museums. Equally evocative of the lost might of Rome are the physical remains of the frontiers themselves. The aim of this series of books is not only to inform the interested visitor about the history of the frontiers but to act as a guide-book as well. The remains of the Roman frontiers in Wales are unique in the Roman Empire. Unlike the well-known defensive linear boundaries such as Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall in northern Britain, the forts and fortresses in Wales formed a dynamic offensive frontier designed to deal with the fierce natives. More than 60 stone and timber fortresses, forts and fortlets are known, some of which seem to have been occupied for only a few years, while others remained in use for far longer. They tell the story of the long and brutal war against the Celtic tribes and, after their final and complete victory, the army's policy of 'occupation-in-depth' when up to 25,000 legionaries and auxiliaries were stationed in Wales. We hope the readers of this book will enjoy discovering the fascinating story of the Roman conquest of Wales almost 2,000 years ago.

Rhagair

Gyda'i gilydd, mae ffiniau'r Ymerodraeth Rufeinig yn ffurfio heneb fwyaf un o wladwriaethau mawr y byd. Maen nhw'n ymestyn am tua 7,500 cilometr drwy 20 gwlad sy'n amgylchynu Môr y Canoldir. Mae olion y ffiniau hyn wedi'u hastudio gan ymwelwyr, ac yn ddiweddarach gan archaeolegwyr, ers canrifoedd lawer. Mae llawer o'r arysgrifau a'r cerfluniau, arfau, crochenwaith ac arteffactau a grëwyd ac a ddefnyddiwyd gan filwyr a phobl gyffredin a oedd yn byw ar y ffiniau, i'w gweld mewn amgueddfeydd. Atgof yr un mor gryf o rym colledig Rhufain yw olion ffisegol y ffiniau eu hunain. Nod y gyfres hon o lyfrau yw goleuo'r ymwelydd sydd â diddordeb am hanes y ffiniau ynghyd â bod yn ganllaw iddynt. Mae olion ffiniau Rhufeinig Cymru yn unigryw yn yr Ymerodraeth Rufeinig. Yn wahanol i'r ffiniau llinellol amddiffynnol adnabyddus fel Mur Hadrian a Mur Antoninus yng ngogledd Prydain, bwriad caerau ac amddiffynfeydd gorllewin Prydain oedd creu ffin ymosodol ddeinamig i fynd i'r afael â brodorion ffyrnig. Nodwyd dros 60 o amddiffynfeydd a chaerau bach a mawr, o garreg a phren, rhai wedi cael eu defnyddio am rai blynyddoedd yn unig, ac eraill am gyfnod llawer hirach. Maen nhw'n adrodd hanes y rhyfel hir a milain yn erbyn y llwythau Celtaidd a pholisi'r fyddin, wedi'r fuddugoliaeth derfynol a chyflawn, o feddiannu trylwyr, pan leolwyd hyd at 25,000 o lengfilwyr a milwyr ategol yng Nghymru. Gobeithio y bydd darllenwyr y llyfr hwn yn mwynhau darganfod hanes diddrol y Rhufeiniad yn goresgyn Cymru bron i 2,000 o flynyddoedd yn ôl.

David J. Breeze, Peter Guest



2. Map of the Roman empire under the Emperor Hadrian (AD 117–138)
Map o'r Ymerodraeth Rufeinig dan yr Ymerawdwr Hadrian (OC 117–138)