

# Excursion (this year): Palermo

## Monreale



Palatine Chapel

# Last/next year:

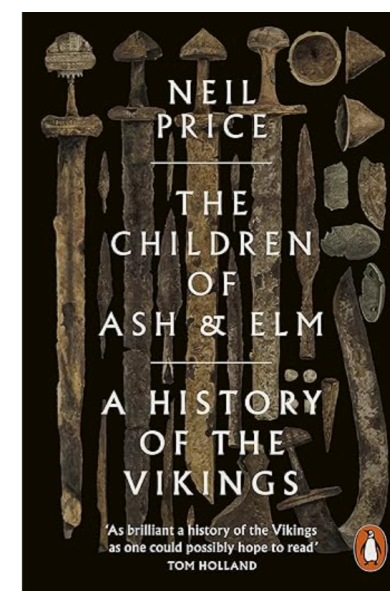
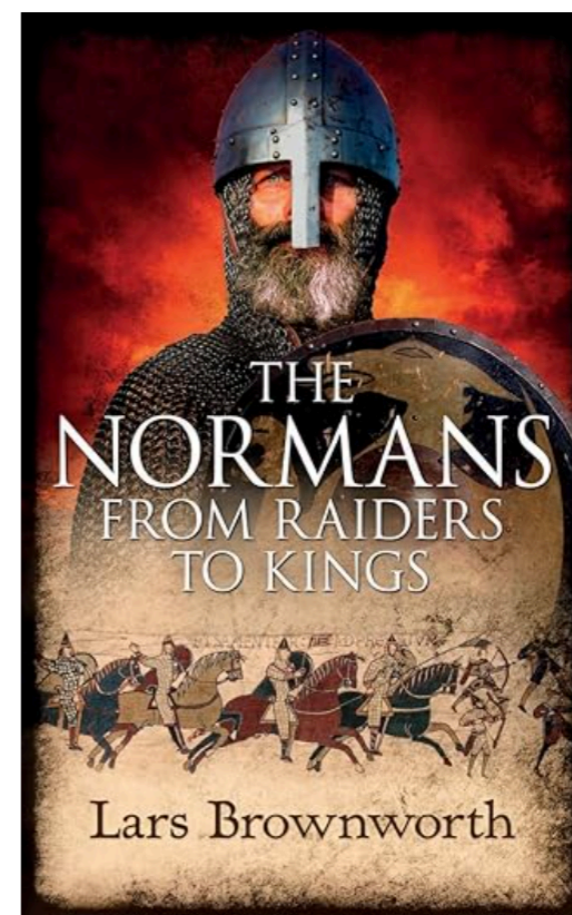
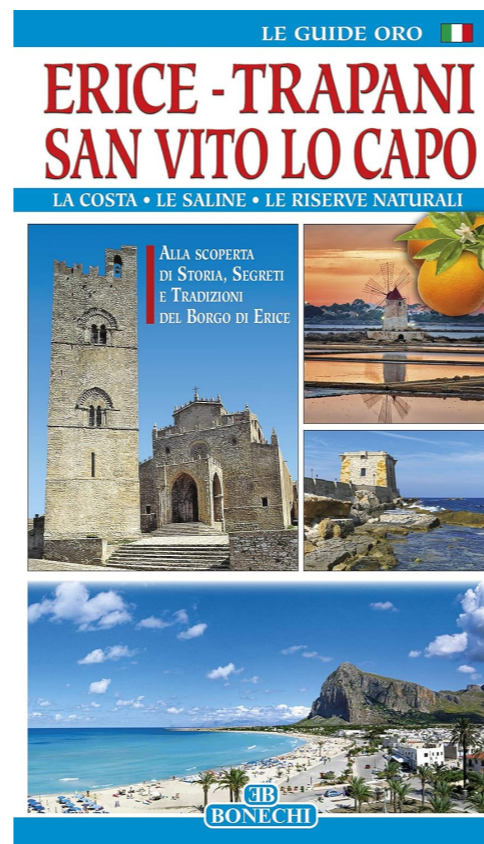
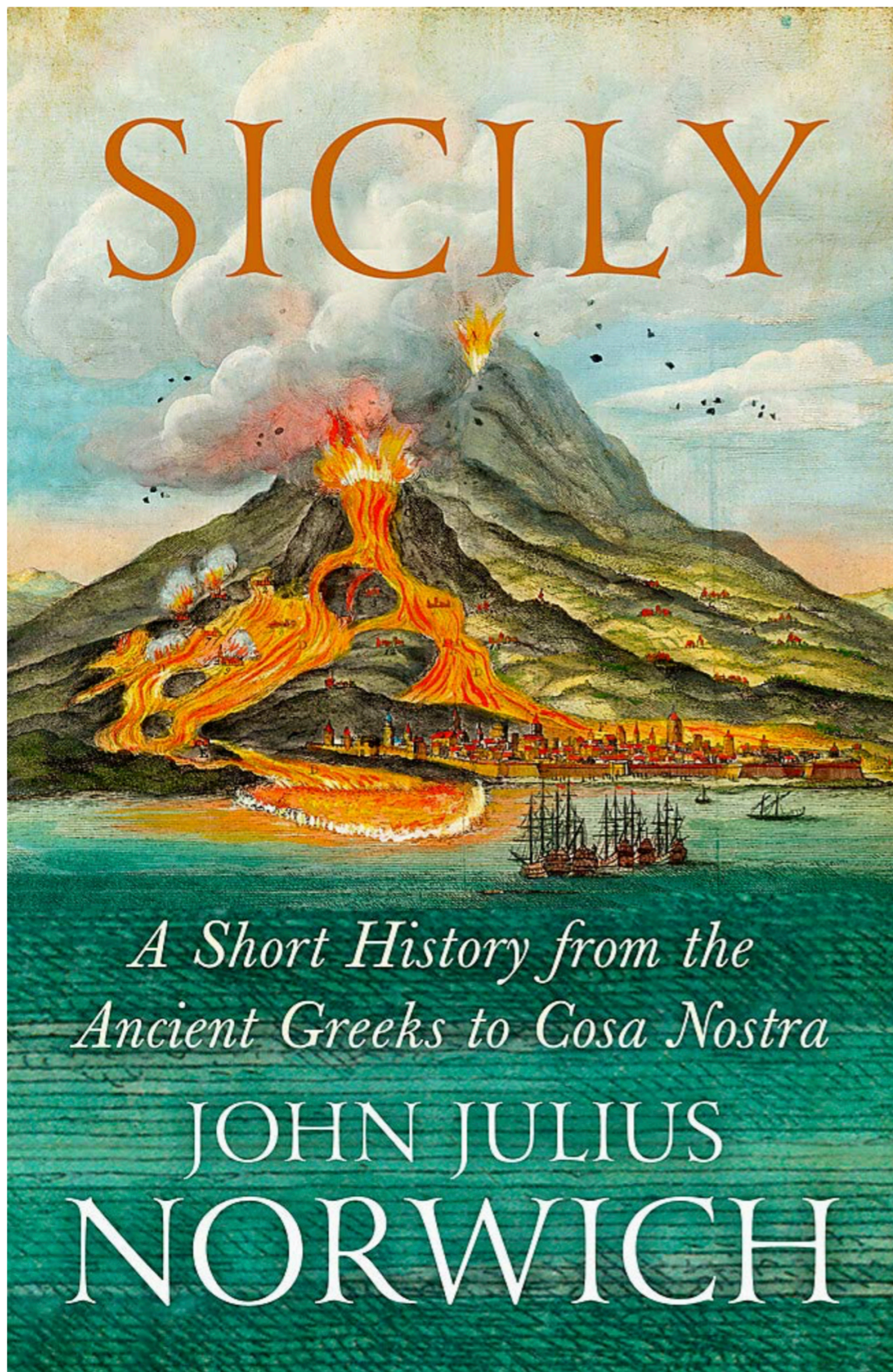
## Segesta



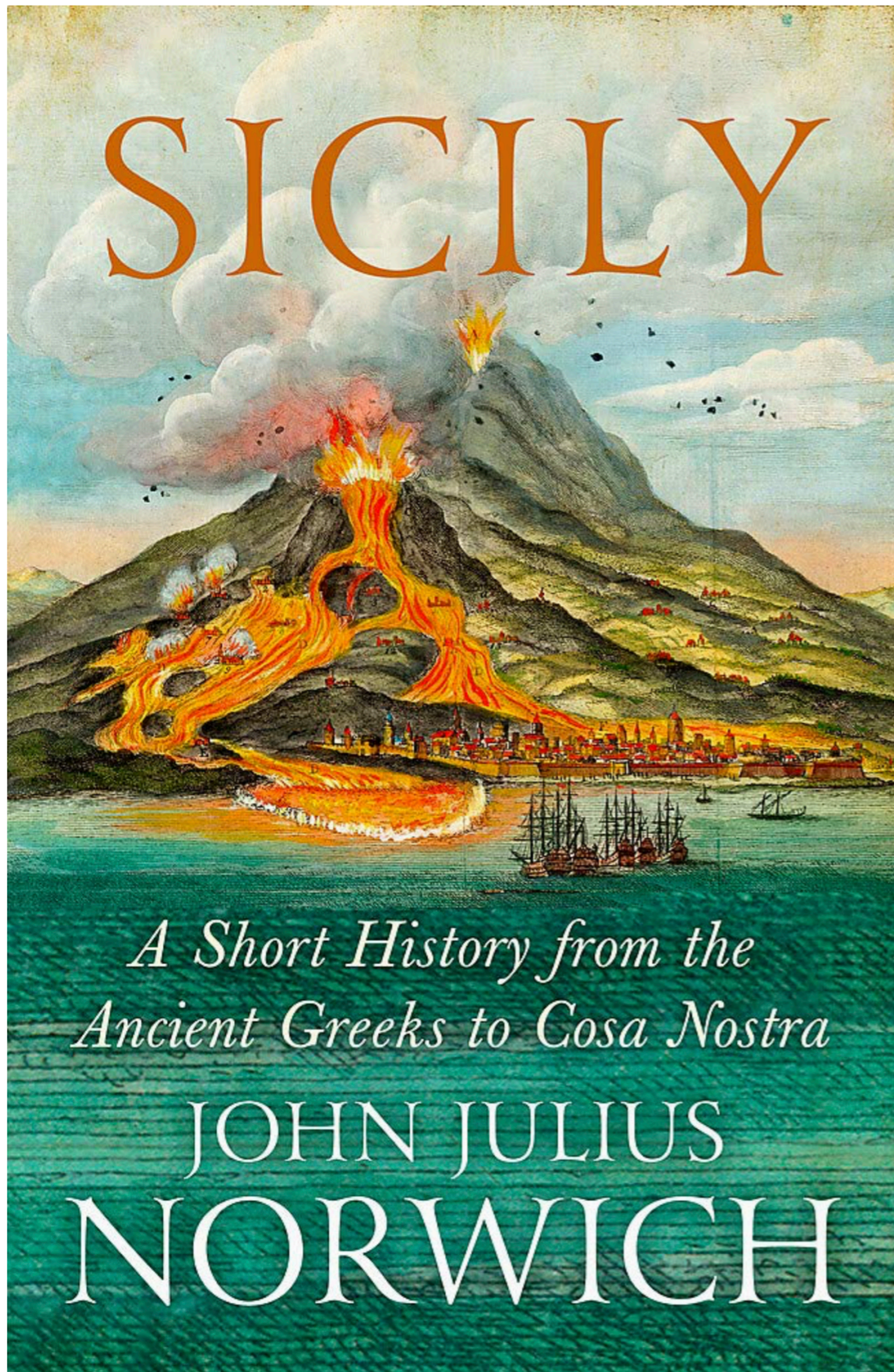
Selinunte

# Sicily - a short history

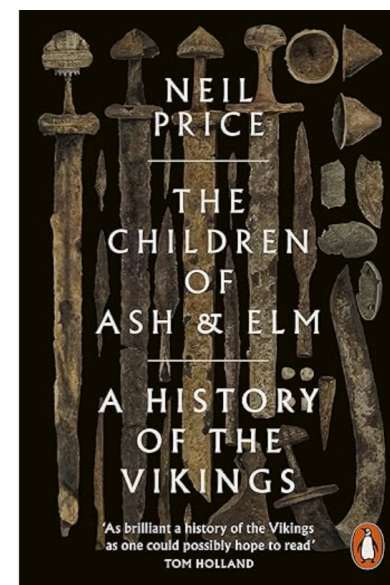
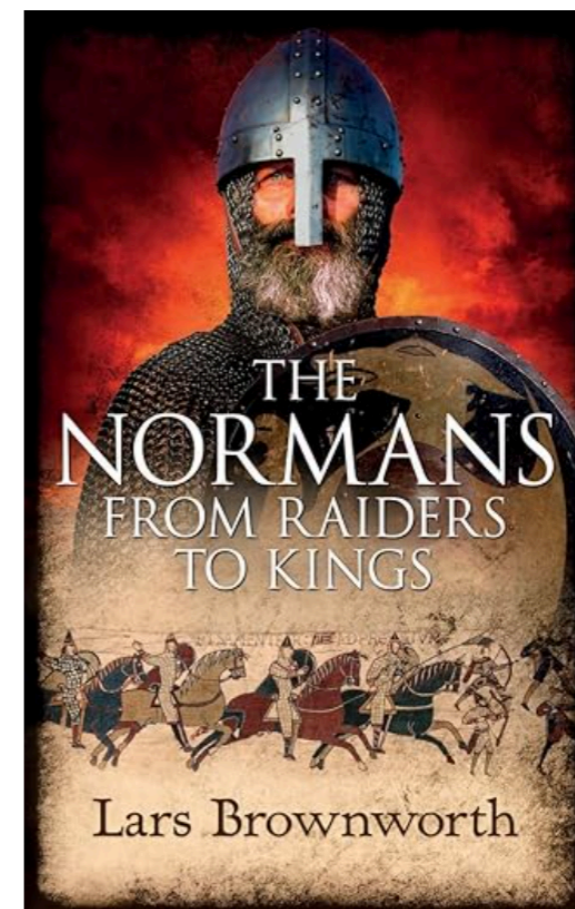
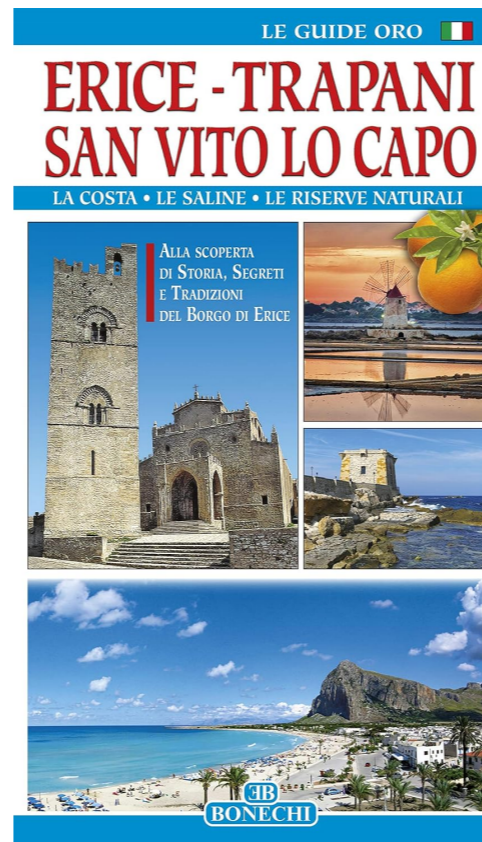
# Literature and take home message



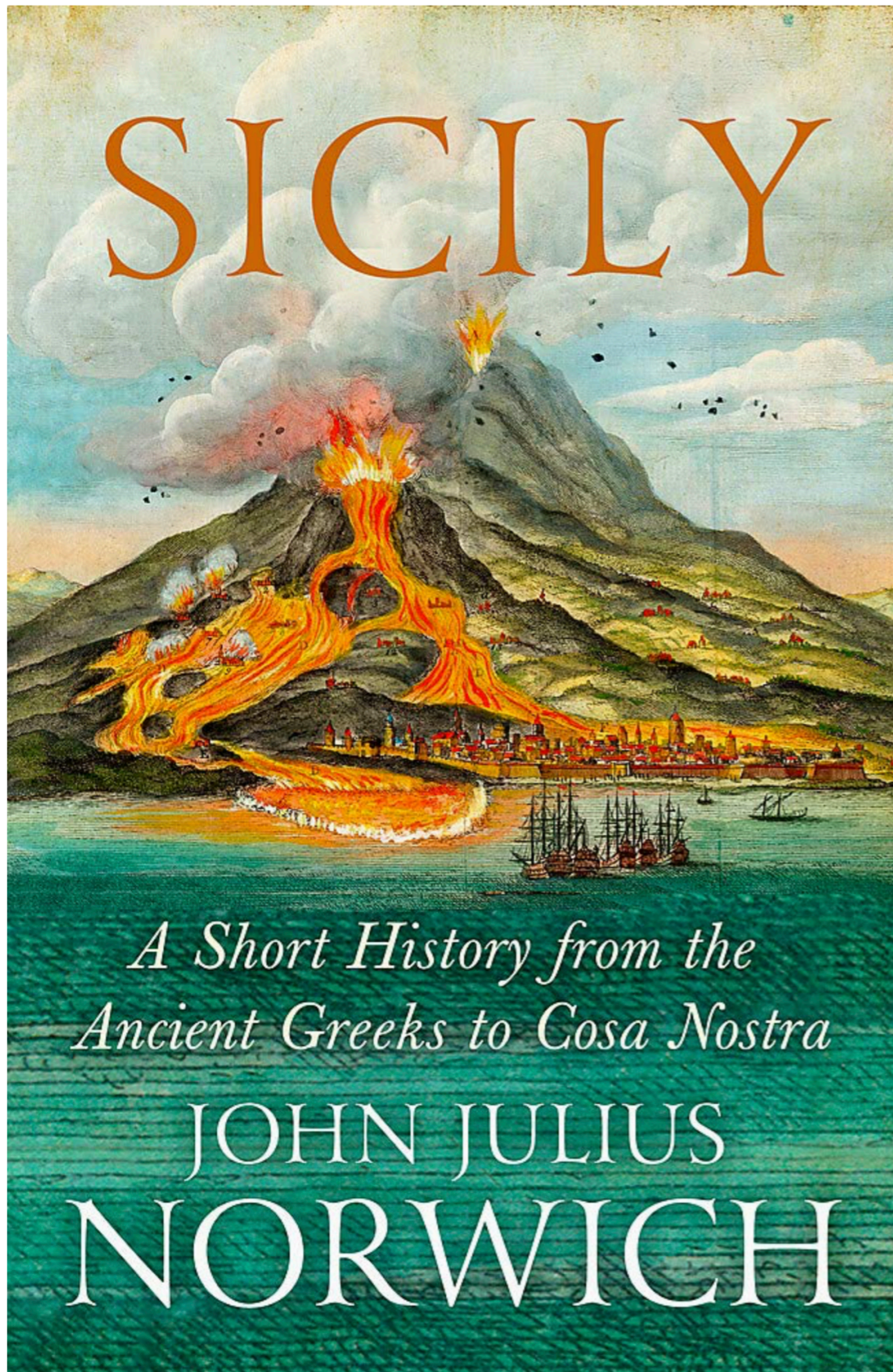
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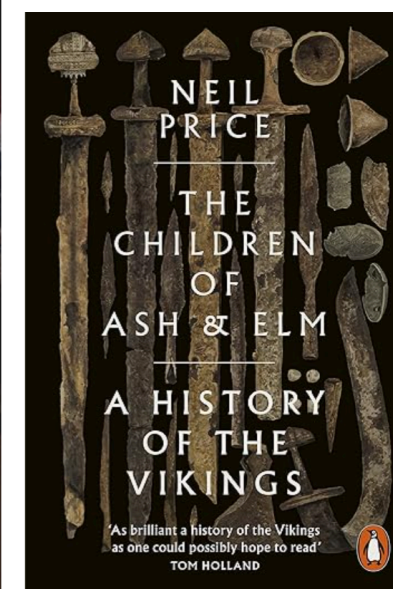
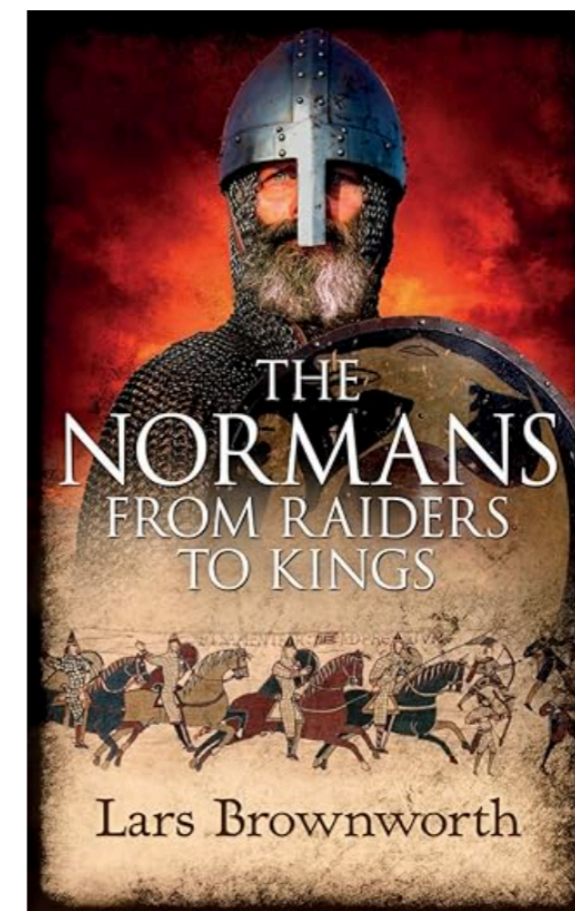
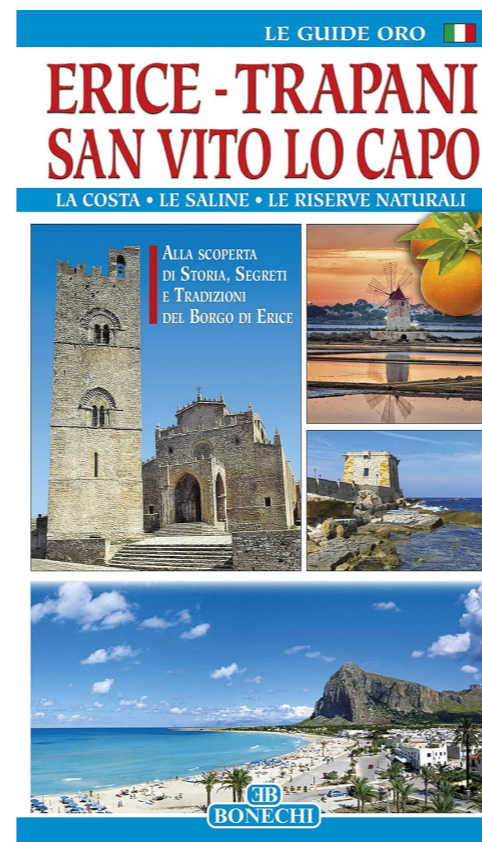
- Religious tolerance pays off !



# Literature and take home message



- Religious tolerance pays off !
- Calling foreign powers for help can be dangerous.....



# Geographic overview



- Sicily is right in the middle

# Pre-Greek period (before 734 BC): Elymians



- Segesta: one of largest cities of Elymians
- Eryx (Erice): religious centre for various **goddesses of love**

Elymians: Iruka  
Phoenicians: Astarte  
Cathagians: Erech  
Greeks: Aphrodite  
Romans: Venus Erycina

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○



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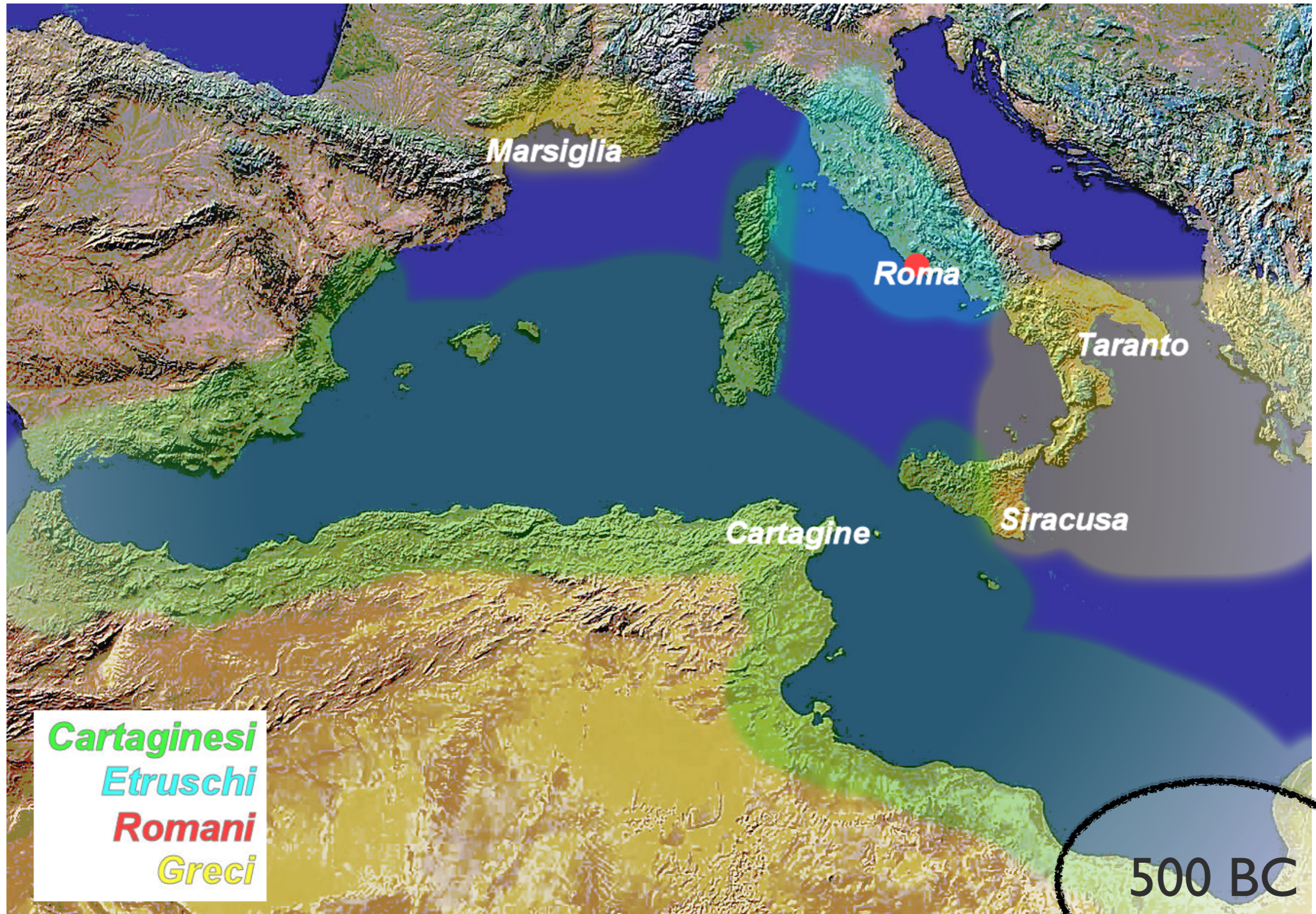
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various goddesses of love

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—————→ anagogia - katagogia

# Ancient times: Greeks, Carthago and Rome



Gemeinfrei, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=947435>

# Historic roots - the Greek: Gelon (540-478 BC)



By I, Abu America, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2495362>

- Magna Graecia: never a nation, composed of >1000 city states panhellenism (olympic games), but also many wars
- first landings at Naxos (734 BC), Agrigento and Gela (688 BC)
- introduced olive and vine —> flourishing communities
- 485 BC under Gelon: Syracuse becomes most important town

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Cultures in Sicily, c. 431 BC

Lipara

Messina



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# Historic roots - Syracuse vs Carthage



- Global: Syracuse vs Carthage - local: old rivalry between Segesta and Selinunte
  - 450 BC: Segesta and Athens become allies
  - 415 BC: Segesta/Athens loose against Syracuse
  - 409 BC: Segesta/Carthage destroy Selinunte
  - 398 BC: Erice conquered by Carthage
  - 307 BC: Segesta flooded by Syracuse
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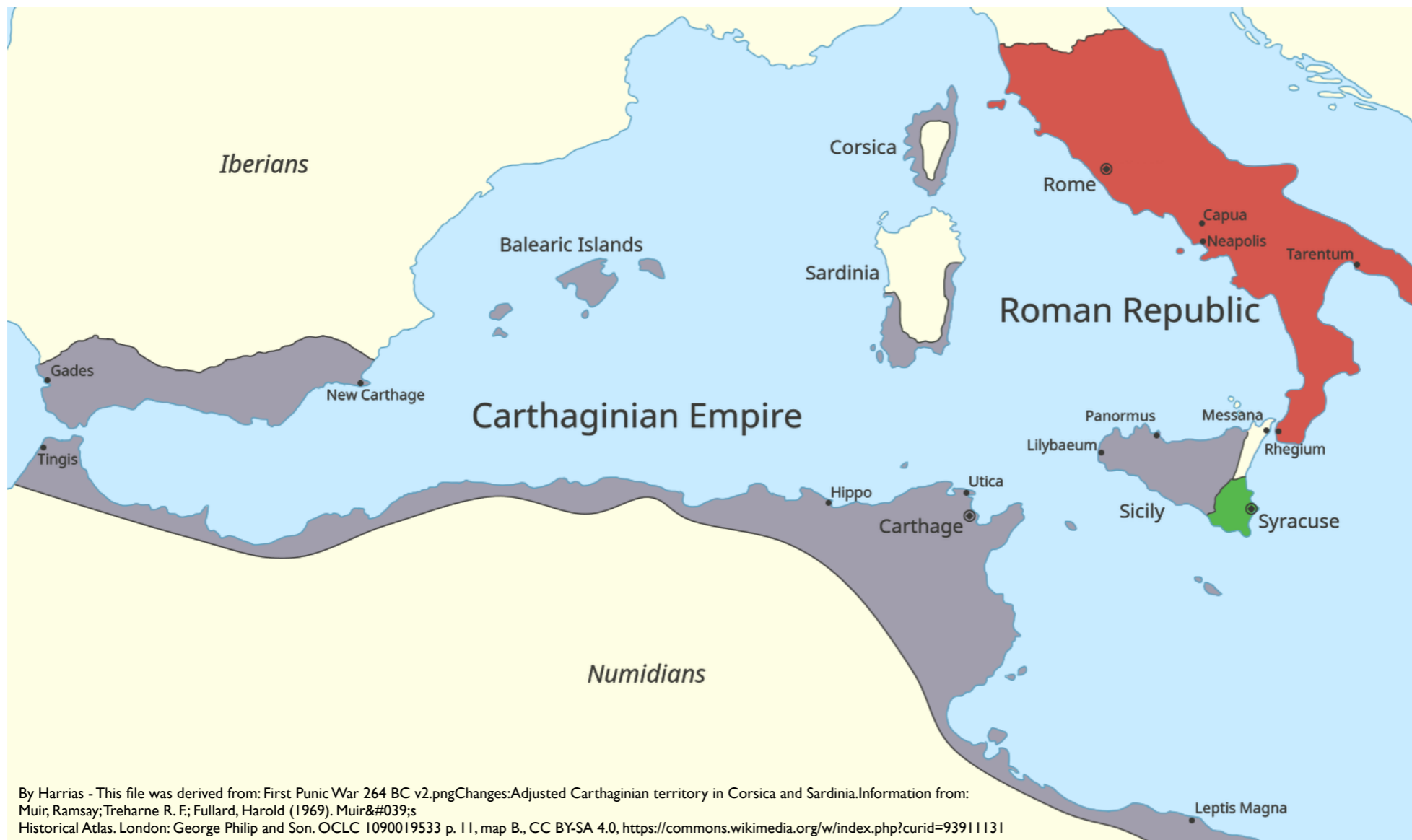


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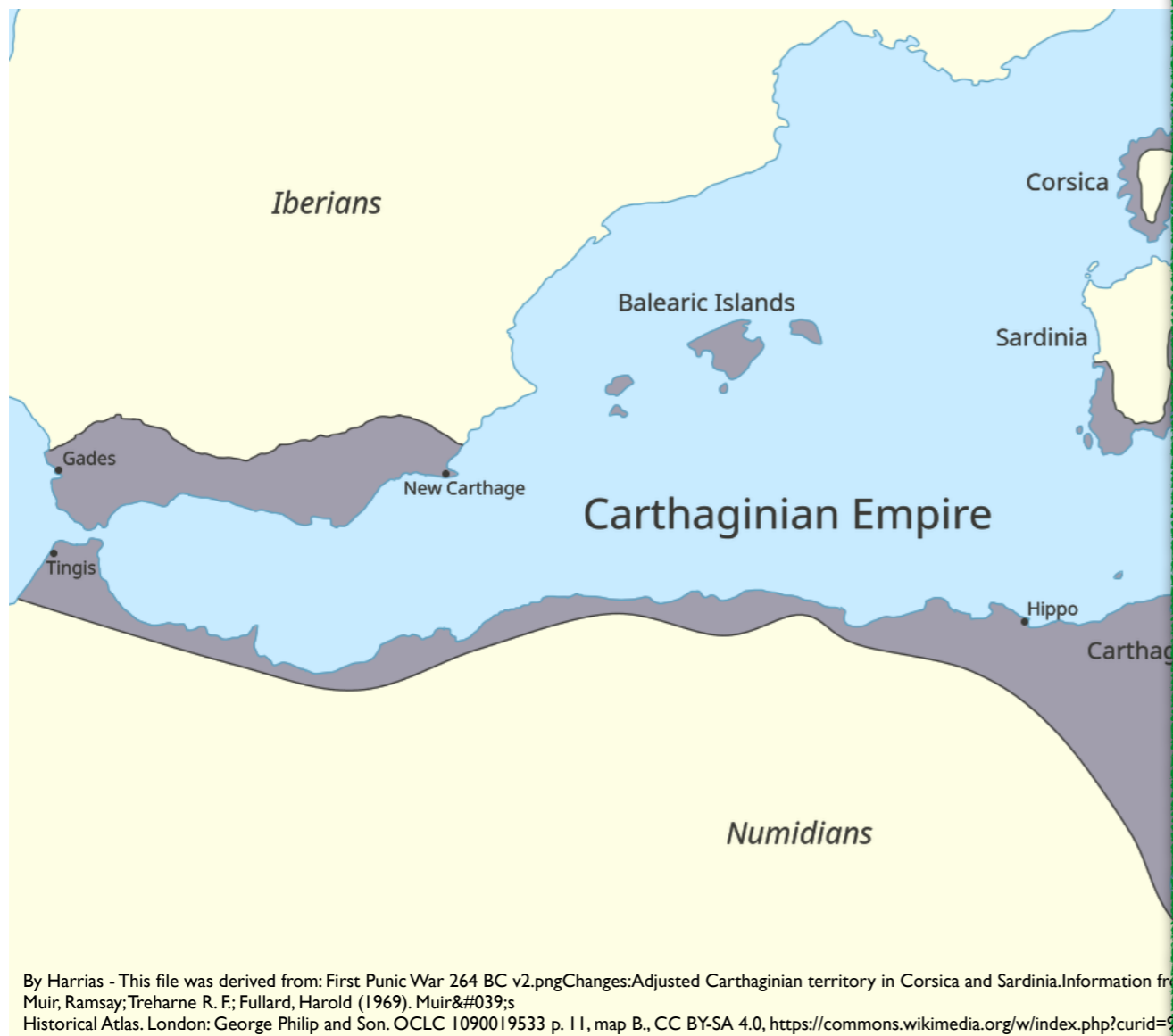
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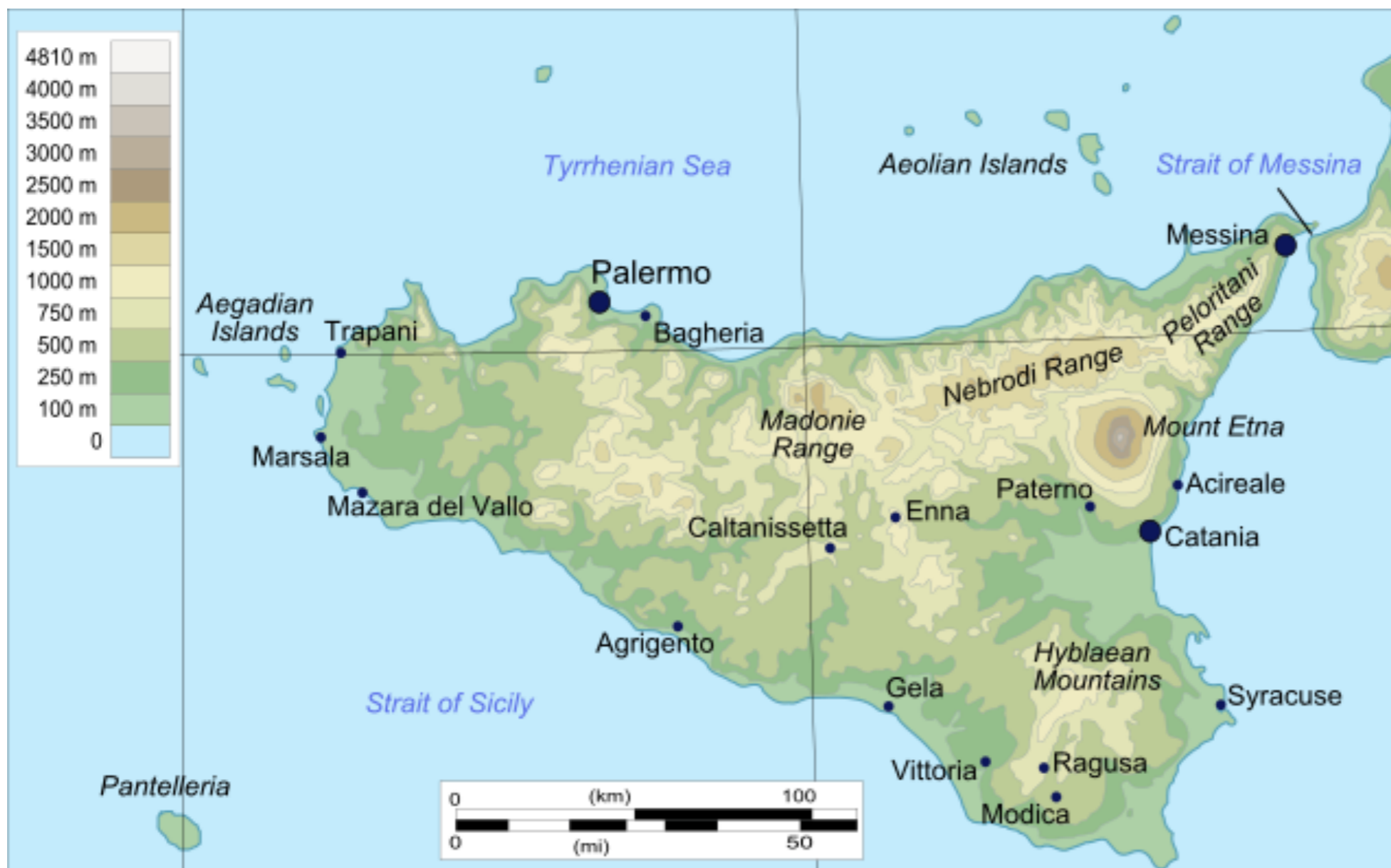
- 263 BC: last Greek ruler of Sicily/Syracuse, Hieron II (306-215 BC), joins Rome - and East-Sicily gradually becomes the granary of Rome
- western part of Sicily is battle ground for 1st Punic war (241 BC)
- last city (Syracuse) falls to Rome in 2nd Punic war (212 BC)

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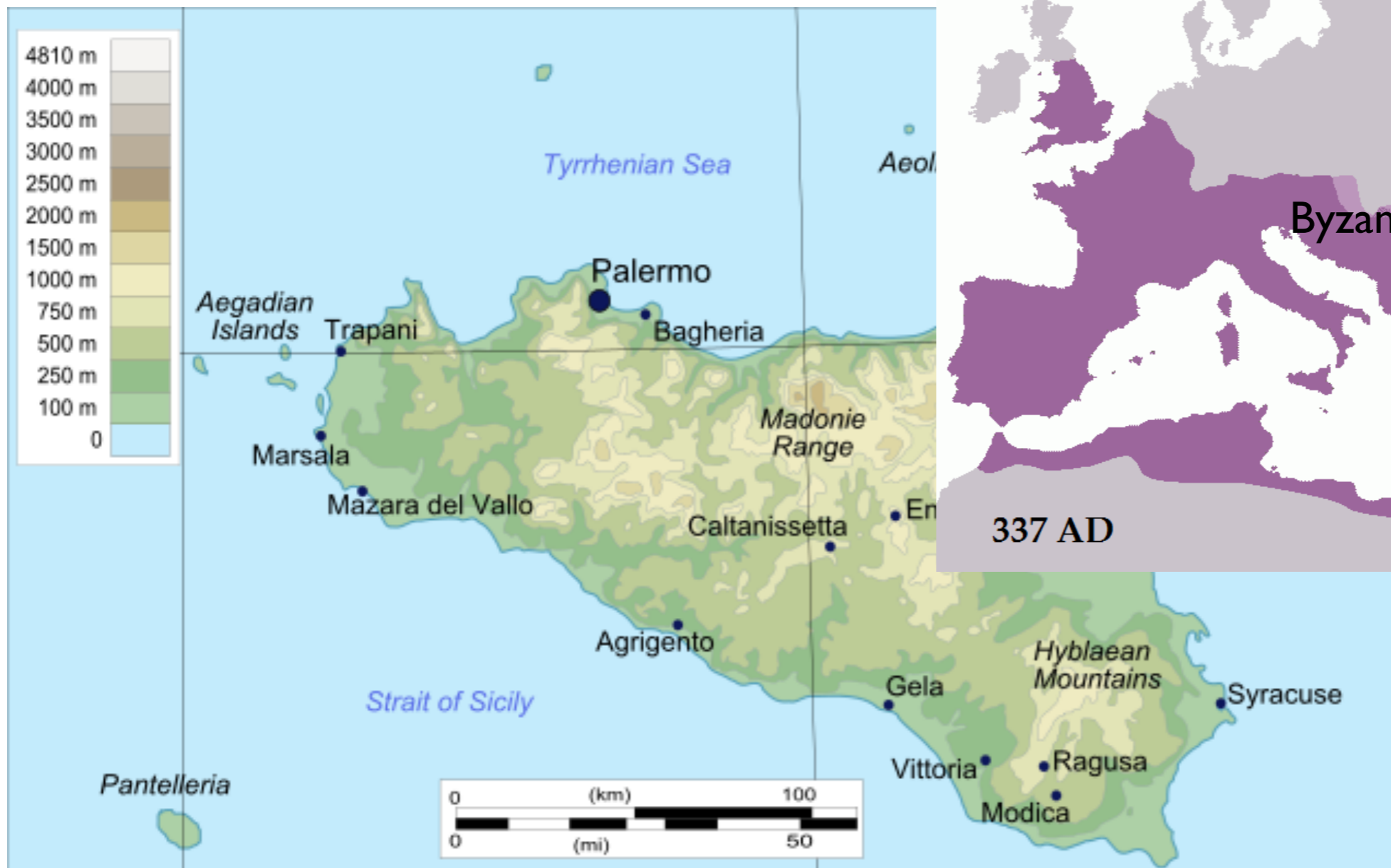
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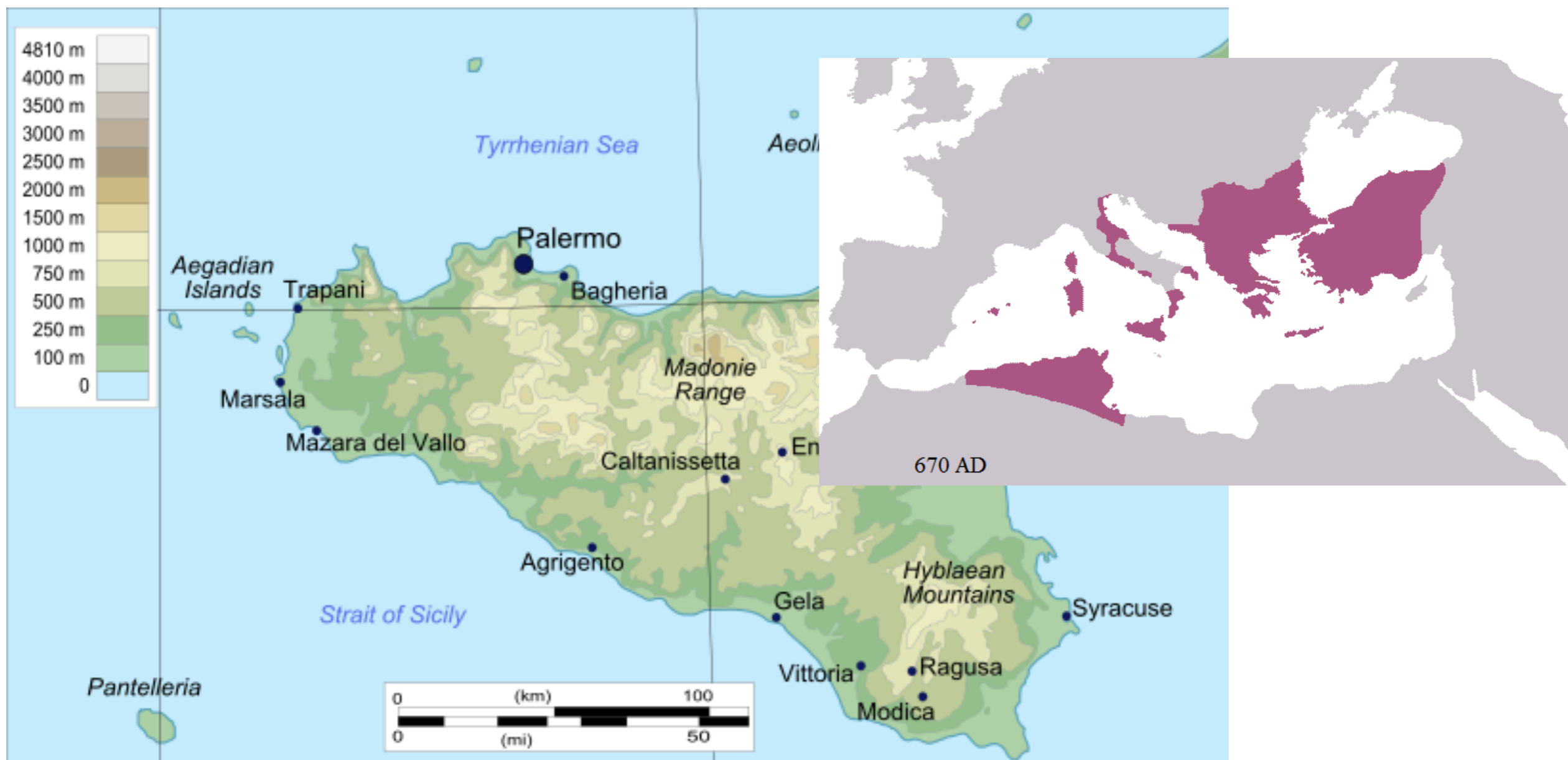
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- 4th century: Constantin chooses Christianity as state religion
- 533: Sicily becomes part of Byzantine (East Roman) empire
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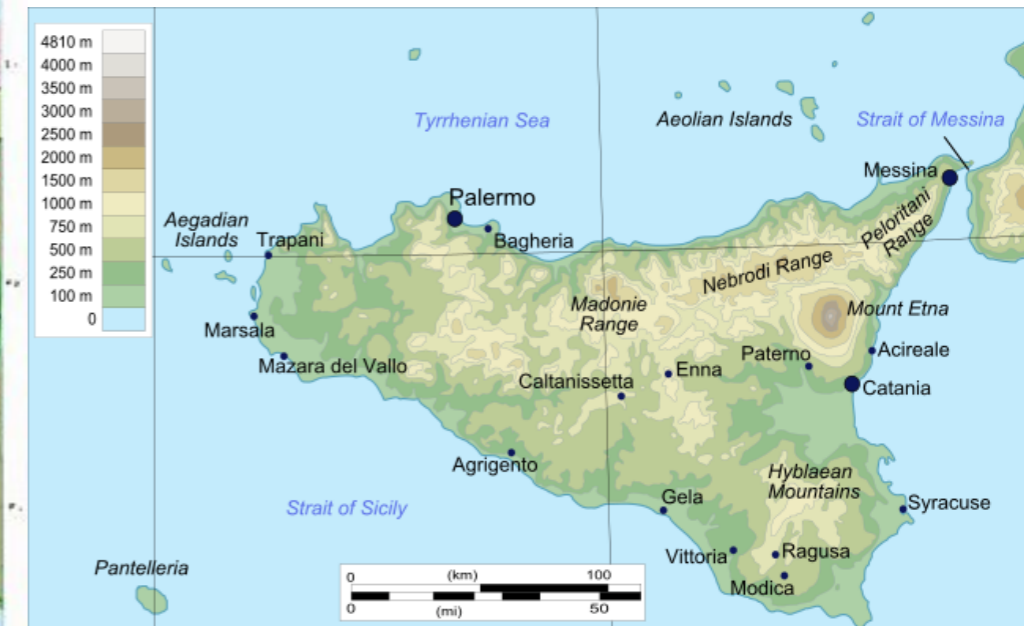
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4810 m  
4000 m  
3500 m  
3000 m  
2500 m  
2000 m  
1500 m  
1000 m  
750 m  
500 m  
250 m  
100 m  
0



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# Historic roots - the Arabs (Saracens)



- 827: Sicily becomes Arabic (last Greek ruler: Euphemios)
- Palermo becomes a Metropolis
- Sicily becomes a major trading center of the Mediterranean



# The Normans I - Robert and Roger I (1072-1101)



- Normans take over in Sicily in 1072
- Erice conquered 1076: fortress becomes important
- Guiding principle of rule: tolerance and understanding
- Sicily becomes major economic force

Source: [medium.com](https://medium.com)

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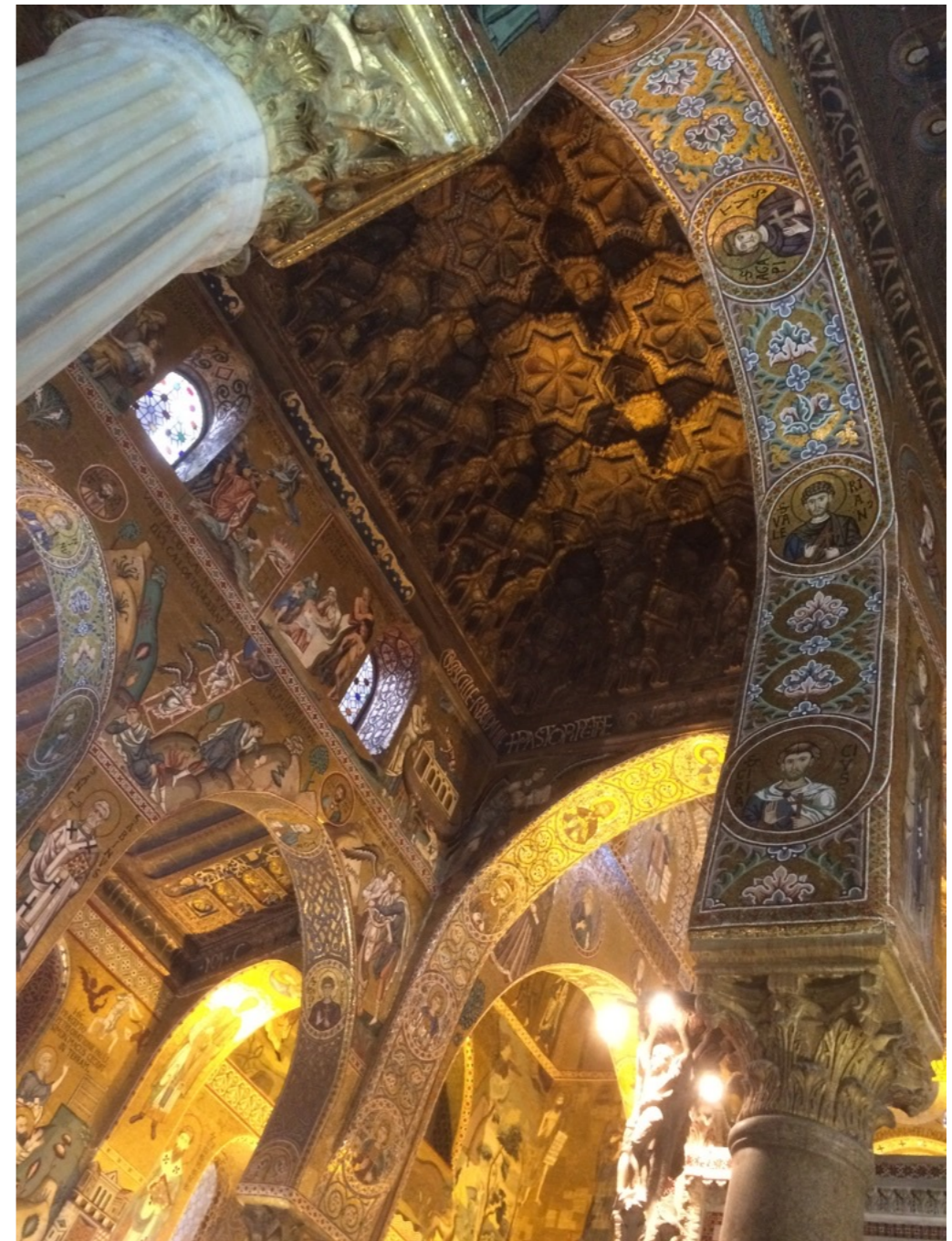
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# The Normans II - Roger II (1101-1154)



- Sicily becomes kingdom under Roger II in 1130
- His court was the most brilliant in 12th century Europe!

# The Normans III - the Palatine Chapel



Build 1129-1140 as part of the Palazzo dei Normani

- Western (Latin) floor plan, Byzantine (Greek) mosaics, Islamic stalactite roof

# The Normans IV - Monreale (William II. | 1166-1189)



- Built for size
- Cloister has Arabic-style arches and columns
- Last and greatest religious foundation of Norman Sicily

# Excursion

- 08:00 Start at Porta Trapani
- 10:00 Monreale (guided tour)
- 12:00 Lunch at Giardino Aranci
- 13:30 Bus to Palermo
- 14:00 Palermo (on your own)
- 18:00 Leave Palermo



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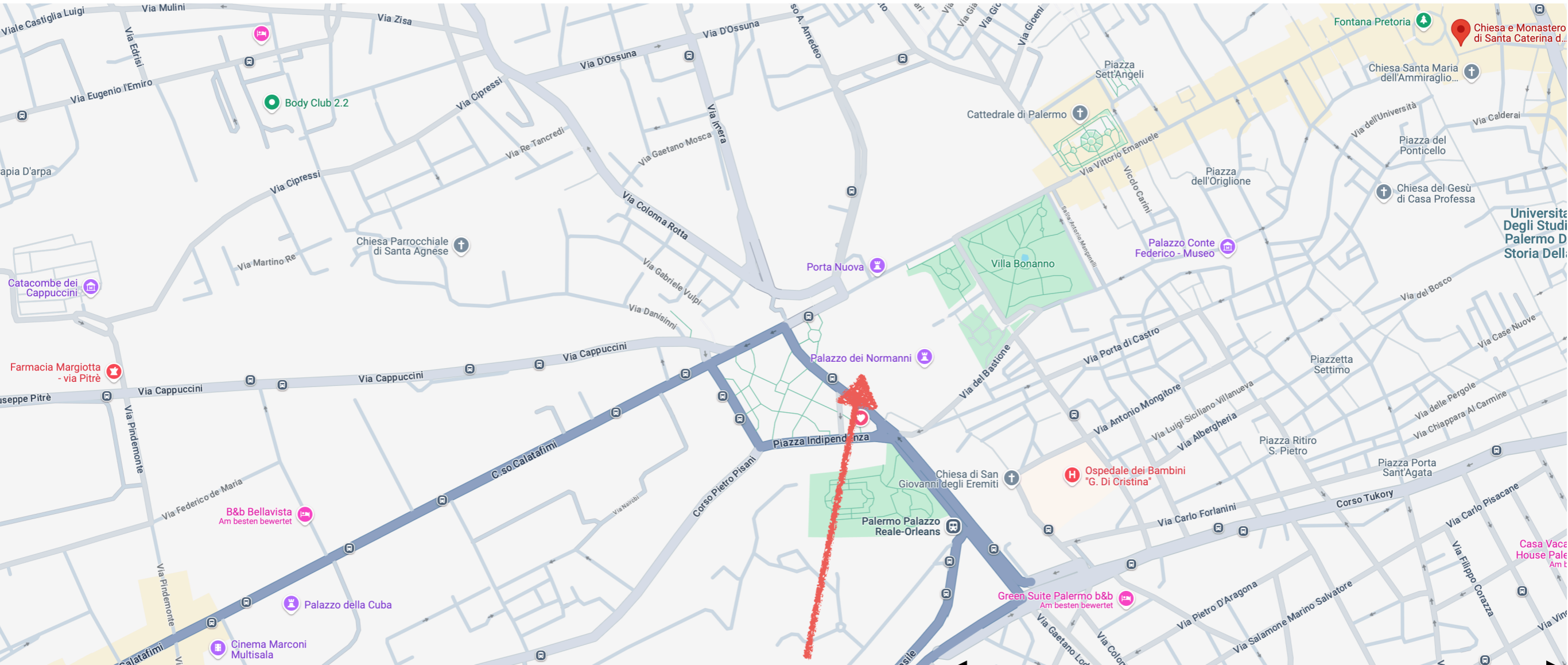
# Excursion



1 km

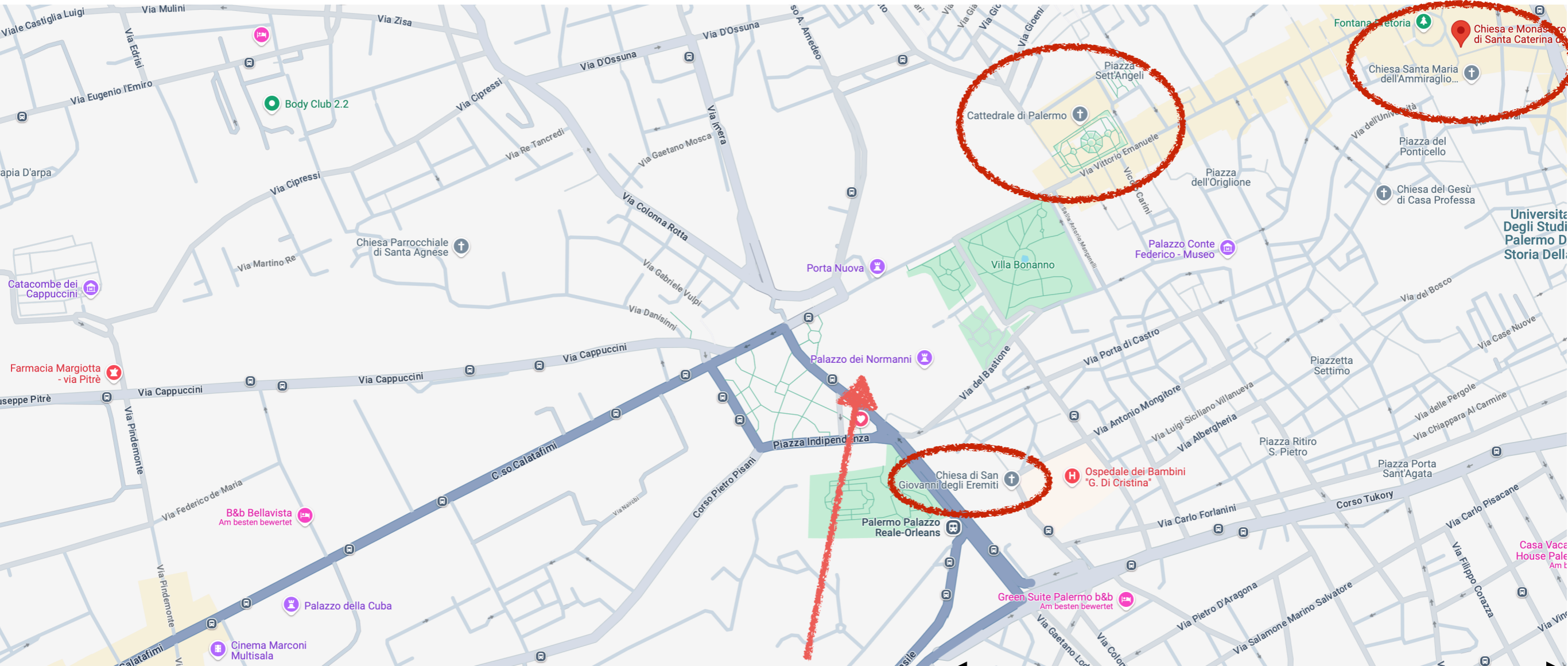


# Excursion



1 km

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1 km



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