

Israel and the Assyrians undermines the popular interpretation of Deuteronomy as an anti-imperial, subversive tract. The book draws on theories of adaptation and allusion to provide the theoretical foundation for a discussion of subversion and its detection and thereby tests the idea of subversive intent against the social context in which it would have functioned. It contains detailed textual analyses of Deuteronomy 13 and 28 in relation to the Succession Treaty of Esarhaddon and other ancient Near Eastern curse and treaty traditions. It also reflects on the historical circumstances of the seventh century BCE, with particular attention to questions of bilingualism of authors and audiences. The book's argument challenges the pre-exilic dating of Deuteronomy and problematizes the Israelites' wider relationship with the Assyrian Empire.

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