

02 - THE TRANSITION FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE

During the course of its history the Roman republic changed profoundly from a small city state into a supreme Mediterranean power, stretching from the Atlantic in the west to Syria in the east by the time of what we term the late Republic. The consequences of this development, including the increase in the number of slaves and spoils of conquered territories turned into provinces, rural impoverishment and civil discord were the cause of tremendous changes which effectively resulted in the Republic outgrowing its limitations. This workshop aims to address the complex issues of the transitional period between the final period of the Republic and that of the early Empire, while taking into consideration the vast number of research subjects which it offers.

PAPERS

1. The crisis of the late Republic

The late second century BC, with the political activity of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus and their opponents, would shape the complex political situation through to the effective end of the Republic. The political ideology of the Gracchi and machinations of later ambitious individuals from the time of Marius and Sulla to that of Octavian would eventually lead to the change of the political system.

2. Octavian Augustus and the establishment of Principate

The dissolution of the complicated political situation of the late Republic left Octavian without rivals for power. However, as a keen politician, he decided to conceptualize his authority within the framework of republican ideology.

3. Governing an Empire: consequences

This topic aims to examine the influence of Rome's expansion on its social and political development in the last few centuries of the Republic and the consequences it had on the later dissolution of the Republic.

4. Roman expansion during the early Empire: successes and setbacks

Augustus led campaigns that further extended Roman influence: all of Iberia was brought under Roman domination, as well as Galatia, while Mauretania was given the status of a client kingdom, over the Alps the Romans annexed Noricum and Raetia and the Parthians recognized Roman protectorate over Armenia. However, the consolidation and provincial organization of Germany proved to be more complicated, as well as Illyricum: in AD 6 Pannonia and Illyricum revolted which took three years to subjugate. In AD 9 Arminius raised the Germans against the governor Varus and destroyed him and his three legions. The participants are encouraged to write case studies of particular topics, focusing on their political, military and social aspects.

5. The influence of the mystery religions

What is referred to under a common denominator of "mystery cults" was in fact rarely uniform; however, they do share a certain number of structural resemblances. Their doctrines were based on revelation, their followers were required to pass preliminary initiation and adhere to a certain kind of regimen, they were inclusive and they all held out similar messages of hope to their believers. Their popularity in Roman society is intertwined with other aspects of Hellenistic cultural influence. Another trait they share is the degree to which Roman authorities in republican and early Principate times tried to control them. Most cults of this kind were required to maintain their cult site outside the *pomerium*, and were often subject to special interest from the emperors: Tiberius banished the Egyptian cults and Claudius similarly dealt with Judaism, while reforming the liturgy of Cybele and Attis.

6. The change in the status of women

By the end of the Republic, marriage *sine manu* supplanted the marriage *cum manu* of earlier times, with the role of the guardian designated to a particular woman gradually losing its importance. At the beginning of the empire, marital laws associated with Augustus' program of social reform sacrificed the role of the guardian to prolific marriages, and mothers of three children were exempt from guardianship. The significance of this for Roman female population is a topic which deserves careful examination.