

Non-Italian Manpower: *auxilia externa* in the Roman Republic

The Subject

This project is concerned with elucidating the nature of Roman imperialism, the development of Roman imperial (provincial) government, and the impact of Roman imperialism upon the subject peoples of the empire. Specifically, I examine the extent to which Rome employed non-Italian troops as a regular part of the army of the Roman Republic (as opposed to Roman citizen legionaries, or Latin and Italian allies). At the local level, this is concerned with understanding basic mechanisms of troop deployment, the problem of how Rome controlled provincial territory, including modes of taxation, and the potential role of the army in processes of cultural change. At the level of empire, this will shed light upon the origins of the more familiar auxiliaries of the army of the Empire, the development of imperial government and conceptions of empire, and the mechanisms for and extent of cultural change under Roman rule before the Principate.

Research Context

This is a new avenue of research which has the potential to unite several different but related fields of study. Within the specific subject of non-Italian manpower there are recent studies of both Spanish and Numidian manpower (Roldán Hervás 1993; Hamdoune 1999), but these have not tackled the phenomenon as an empire-wide development. The study of Roman auxiliaries in general has usually been approached as a distinctive feature of the Roman Empire, with its origins sought in the civil wars of the first century BC, artificially contrasted with Rome's use of Latin and Italian allies in the Republican period. Only Hamdoune has attempted a diachronic study across Republic and Empire. Even the use of the Italian allies as auxiliaries by the Republic is only partially understood, with, for example, mechanisms of payment and enrolment open to debate. The principal studies remain those of Gabba (1976), Illari (1974), and Brunt (1971), all now over thirty years old. In recent years, study has instead focused upon the social and cultural impact of the Roman army under the Empire, particularly auxiliaries, garrisons, and the role of soldiers as a key mechanism of cultural transformation (e.g. Haynes 2001, Pollard 2000). Many of the same questions and approaches deserve to be asked of the Republic (some preliminary work has been done in Spain, e.g. Bosch-Gimpera 1966), but the very existence of these auxiliary elements still needs to be demonstrated in detail as a first step. The standard English book on the Republican army simply notes a minor role for foreign mercenaries (Keppie 1984: 23), while the more detailed French study of Harmand has a superficial ten pages on the general topic (1967: 41-51), which in turn owe much to the limited study of Yoshimura 1961; Krasilnikoff 1996 adds little. For the Republic itself, there has been extensive study of the wider issues of cultural interaction, generally under the label of 'Romanisation', as well as of the development of mechanisms and conceptions of imperial rule (such as provincial government (e.g. Dalheim 1977, Richardson 1986), or geographical conceptions of empire (e.g. Nicolet 1991, Richardson forthcoming)). A comprehensive study of the extra-Italian elements in the Republican army and of their use in Republican imperialism will open up new avenues of research in both these areas, as well as placing our understanding of auxiliaries on a new footing.

Consequently, this study will be of direct relevance to Roman military historians, to students of the Roman empire and Republican imperialism, to cultural historians concerned with mechanisms of cultural change, and to those interested in the Roman Republic in general. It will provide key elements for new models of Republican imperialism and of the development of the Roman army and economy.

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