

ANALYTIC SUMMARY

Enrique HERNÁNDEZ PRIETO

After their defeat in the First Punic War, the Carthaginians, led by the Barcids, initiated the extension of their domains in Spain. Their movements did not slip by the Romans, who developed a series of diplomatic maneuvers. The first possible contact with Hamilcar was followed by an agreement with his successor Hasdrubal. Unlike these measures, that would have favored a climate of dialog between both powers, the approximation of Rome to Sagunto, and Hannibal's assault against the second one, produced unleashed tensions that finally culminate with the declaration of a new conflict. The aim of this paper is to analyze the evolution of the diplomatic relationships between Rome and Carthage during the interwar period, paying special attention to their motivations, premeditation and efficiency, as well as to the perceptions that they could provoke in both sides.

Keywords: Roman diplomacy, Second Punic War, Ebro Treaty, *Saguntum*.

José Manuel ALDEA CELADA

The I century B. C. has been one of the most studied periods of the Roman History. It is due to the abundance of literary sources and the actual historical interest aroused by being one of the periods that brings more political and social transformations, with a highly significance in shaping the Principate and the Roman imperial structure. In this paper, we shall focus on a specific area, the public religion. We will briefly comment the different historiographical theories in order to understand the use made of concepts such as crisis and decline. We also include the analysis of two Sibylline oracles issued at the end of the Republic as possible evidences of that crisis of late Republican religion.

Keywords: Roman religion, late Republic, sybilline oracles, historiography.

Sabino PEREA YÉBENES

Taking as a start point the opusculum by Lucian of Samosata entitled *Alexander or The false Prophet*, we call attention on some autophone oracles sent by this controversial oracular shrine in Abonuteichos: with singular attention to oracle given to imperial legate *Sedatius Severianus*, in war against the parthians (Luc. *Alex.* 27), and the so called «oracle of the two lions» (Luc. *Alex.* 48), requested by the emperor Marcus Aurelius shortly before the beginning of the military campaign against the barbarians Cuaui and Marcomanni. The rising of divinatory practices and the popularization of «holy men» in this time are symptoms—rather than having relation with crisis— of spiritual changes in the religious beliefs of the period. In the case studies analyzed here, these changes are also transferred to the political field: the war in the frontiers, which also show or announced far-reaching structural changes, with barbarian attacks becoming more systematic and effective who harassed the Roman power across the natural barrier of the Danube. We relate the «oracle of lions» with the scene XII (destroyed, but preserved in a drawing of the XVII Century) of the Aurelian Column in Rome.

Keywords: Lucian of Samosata, Alexander of Abonuteichos, Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Oracles, War, Sedatius Severianus, Armenia, Barbarians, Aquileia, Crisis in religion and politics, Plague, Oracle of the Lions, Aurelian Column (scene XIII).

Gonzalo BRAVO CASTAÑEDA

The crisis of the third century is a historical problem overall, on which historians have treated during decades, and even centuries. However the traditional historical problem (on army, money, and slaves, in this time) has been replaced by a new debate: are there new sources for information? Is there here a new historiographical myth? Was there really a crisis? If so, what is to name the different situations of crisis? For answering these enquiries is necessary the knowledge of ancient sources, literary and archaeological, but the analysis of several theories about it is useful also. Besides, in the new debate historians cannot do without other data, specially those referred to the archaeological results, which have changed radically the historical discourse on the crisis in the last decades. In this sense, one could speak of a really paradigm change between historians with collaboration of other research lines. In short, up-dated information about the elements and reasons of this debate will be found here.

Keywords: crisis, historical crises, the Third Century, historiographical myth, imperial Rome, Roman historiography, transformation, historiographical debate, paradigm change

Dario NAPPO

World during the third century AD had on the international trade between Rome and the East (Arabia, India, China). In order to do so, I have studied the area of the Red Sea, ruled for almost seven centuries by the Roman (later Byzantine) Empire. Such area played the pivotal role to connect the Western and the Eastern Worlds, because from the shores of the Red Sea the Roman vessels would leave once a year to the East.

Usually, the history of this trade has been divided in three phases. One phase of boom and development, happened between the end of the first century BC and the end of the second AD; a phase of steady decline, occurring during the third century AD; finally, a partial recovery, started in the IV century AD and lasted more or less until the beginning of the VI, during which the level of the trade never reached the peaks occurred during the imperial age. This article focuses mainly on the second phase, trying, through an analysis of the available evidence, to verify whether the concept of 'crisis' is the most appropriate one to describe what occurred during the third century, or it should be rather changed with the idea of a gradual 'transformation' from one phase to the other.

Keywords: Rome, India, trade, economy, Red Sea, crisis.

Manuel RODRÍGUEZ GERVÁS

The demonstrated prosperity of the African provinces during a good part of the 4th and 5th centuries was not inconsistent with a profound existential crisis in large strata of the population. The correspondence of Augustine of Hippo, especially that written during the last decades of his life, describes social situations that, given their frequency, cannot be understood as simple occurrences relating to the moment, but rather the reflection of inequally productive and social structures. The macroeconomic parameters in Africa point to a development of agriculture, strength in exports and a definite strengthening of the citizen model. However, the bishop's correspondence adds nuances to this picture of prosperity and stability. It can be concluded that although in Africa and specifically in the region of Hippo there was no crisis in production, it is possible to verify, through Augustine's letters, that an existential crisis was taking place in certain social groups: farmers and, associated with them, other traditionally vulnerable groups, such children as women.

Keywords: North Africa, Augustine of Hippo, Late Empire, Social History, relations of dependence.

Carmen María DIMAS BENEDICTO
Enrique GOZALBES CRAVIOTO

In the present work there are analyzed some aspects of the crisis of the End of the Roman Hispanias, at the same time it makes an approach to the vision that this process could have at that time, from the testimony of some writers.

Keywords: Barbarian invasions, visigoths, Orosius, Hydatius, Salvian, Isidor of Hispalis.

Luis R. MENÉNDEZ BUEYES

During the period known as Late Antiquity, populations of Germanic origin begin to settle in the Italian Peninsula, notably among them a population of ostrogoths and lomgobards. This essay attempts to outline the state of medicine and medical practice in lomgobards communities during this time, and trace, through written sources and an analysis of the known the *Historia Langobardorum* of Paulus Diaconus. This analysis will help to reveal the precarious state of health at this time, one characterized by a series of widespread diseases, a high infant mortality rate, and certain serious pathologies.

Keywords: Lomgobards, pathologies, infectious disease, leprosy, zoonoses, mental disease.

Pau VALDÉS MATÍAS

The boom of the theories of international relations in classical studies can be verified by the publication of Burton's *Friendship and Empire. Roman Diplomacy and Imperialism in the Middle Republic (353-146 BC)*. In the present paper we highlight its key points and discuss some of its problems concerning classical sources and its criticism to the realist theory.

Keywords: Review, Constructivism, Realism, International relation theory, Imperialism, Rome.

José Antonio MARTÍNEZ MORCILLO

The importance of L. Aemilius Paullus Roman Expansion in the first half of the second century B.C. is shown by his victory at Pidna. However, in previous years, he held the Praetorship in Hispania Ulterior and the Consulship in Liguria, where he defeated some indigenous peoples. The study of the terms applied to the defeated population in these areas would offer a new comparative context on both sides of the Mediterranean, which must be considered in the light of Rome's foreign policy and management of the war.

Keywords: Roman Republic, imperialism, *ius belli*, *oppugnatio*.

Antonio D. PÉREZ ZURITA

In this paper we analyze the participation of the magistrates of the municipalities and colonies of the Western provinces of the Roman Empire in the imposition and administration of fines. Through the epigraphic testimonies we study the crimes that were subject to fines, how much they cost, the impact they had on *pecunia communis* and how those revenues were spent. We will also have the opportunity to discuss the involvement of the magistrates and local senates in administrative and judicial proceedings arising from the imposition of a fine, especially in relation to the jurisdictional boundaries of the municipal institutions.

Keywords: Roman magistrates; local administration; imposition of fines.

Barbara SCARDIGLI

The article examines five episodes concerning four figures (Emilius Lepidus, Cato Uticensis, Cassius Longinus and Alcibiades), presented by Valerio Massimo (3,1) in relation to the topic of *De Indole*. Precocious qualities and singular attitudes can also be seen in many other young people in the Antique period and, in the end, only Alcibiades and Cato fit into the proposed topic.

Keywords: *De Indole*, Valerius Maximus, Emilius Lepidus, Cato Uticensis, Cassius Longinus, Alcibiades.

César FORNIS

In the 16th century the ancient Sparta was, as a state, an explicit political reference not only for theorists who, with their strong links to the classical past, sought above all social and constitutional stability for Renaissance republics with ambitious geopolitical designs, but also for others who opposed in their writings the growing support for absolute monarchy. As an idyllic and timeless society, formed by citizens who were models of freedom and civic virtues, Sparta was also veiled inspiration for utopians who dreamed of a better, ideal world, a refuge in which to escape the corrupt and mundane reality surrounding them.

Keywords: Sparta, political model, Utopia, Renaissance, Humanism.