

Significant Legal and Social Phenomena during the Reign of Emperor Augustus

Abstract

This thesis focuses on Emperor Augustus, who can be considered one of the most significant figures not only in Roman but also in world history. It examines both his rise to power and the subsequent restructuring, legal reforms, and other actions of this important historical figure.

The first section focuses on the historical context following the assassination of Julius Caesar and the gradual rise to power of Octavian, adopted by Caesar in his will. This chapter examines the peak crisis period of the Roman Republic, events following the publication of Caesar's will, key conflicts, and the formation of the Second Triumvirate and the subsequent conflicts among its members, which directly led to Augustus' final seizure of power over the entire empire. Emphasis is placed on the battles of Philippi and Actium as events that led to the elimination of powerful rivals of Augustus.

The second section recapitulates Augustus' military reforms. The army was a crucial component of his rise to power. These reforms were carried out to create a functional, efficient, and professional army that both secured the empire's borders and expanded them. This segment focuses on the functioning and changes within the Roman army, including the permanent legions, the Praetorian Guard, and auxiliary units known as auxiliaries. The work also examines the financing of the legions, conditions for enlistment, organization of units, their operation, retirement benefits, and veterans, as well as the establishment of the military treasury (*aerarium militare*).

The third section delves into the social reforms initiated by Emperor Augustus. This section includes reforms in family law, marriage, and social policy. After a long period of civil wars, Roman society was in decline, and these legal initiatives aimed to strengthen moral values and increase the birth rate among Roman citizens—at least, that was Augustus' hope.

The fourth section deals with criminal law and its reforms. This section analyzes changes in the Roman legal system, the introduction of new laws, and the adjustment of existing legal norms to strengthen justice and public order. Special attention is given to reforms concerning public safety, corruption, and criminal proceedings.

The fifth section focuses on significant events of that time that influenced Augustus' reign and the formation of the Roman Empire. This section discusses the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest, the birth of Jesus Christ, and, given our local faculty's relevance, the planned campaign in the territory of present-day Czech Republic.

This thesis aims to provide a comprehensive view of Emperor Augustus' rise to power and his later reign, explaining his social, criminal, and military reforms within the historical context, including their practical application and impact on the Roman Empire. The work explores Augustus' transformation of the Roman state and the establishment of *Pax Romana*, laying the foundations for further prosperity of the Roman Empire.

Klíčová slova: [3 klíčová slova v anglickém jazyce]

Emperor Augustus

Augustus' Legal Reforms

The Roman Army during the Principate