

The volume is very useful for all students of interstate relations, international law and diplomacy as well as the history of the period. For epigraphic analyses, there are references that will guide those who are interested further.

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KAIUS TUORI: *The Emperor of Law. The Emergence of Roman Imperial Adjudication*. Oxford Studies in Roman Society & Law. Oxford University Press, Oxford 2016. ISBN 978-0-19-874445-0. IX, 482 pp. GBP 90.

Although Roman emperors held both political, religious, and legislative powers, the state lacked specifically defined form of government. Further, the relations between the senate and the emperor were never distinctively specified. In his study, K. Tuori has succeeded to go behind these blurring elements of the Roman state and division of powers with his profound examination of imperial adjudication and its gradual development.

The main questions are, how the imperial jurisdiction developed and what kind of judges the emperors were? The historical narratives which reflected these developments are brought to the foreground of the study, and the changes and contributions of these narratives are at the scope of the study. Using these narratives and finding out how they developed as well as how the different actors – emperors and petitioners – benefitted from the narratives created by contemporary society, is a new approach to this source material.

Although the late republican world differed greatly from the practices of the high empire, the foundations for the imperial jurisdiction and jurisprudence were created during this era. Therefore the jurisdiction of Julius Caesar is an interesting research subject in chapter one. His activities were at the centre of the late republican discussions: what kind of ruler Caesar wishes to be and how he tries to find a balance between a prudent judge and a tyrant-king. Tuori takes Cicero's *Pro Ligario* under scrutiny and studies the many aspects of this defence speech.

In chapter two, Tuori proceeds to discuss the first emperor Augustus and his complex way of using the jurisdiction. Was he a lenient father figure or a monstrous tyrant, was a question already asked by the contemporaries. This dilemma is especially clearly exposed when considering the strange affair of Ovid's banishment. Tuori's clever insight into this case provides the reader new aspects of the Augustan culture, and the emperors' sovereignty. As Tuori points out, Augustus' adjudicative

power was not based on the old or traditional continuations, but it became evident through complex discourses presented by contemporary authors or Augustus himself. Beginning from Augustus, the place where the imperial lawcourt was situated, raised questions about its legitimacy and emperor's righteousness. In case the litigations took place at the imperial bedchamber instead of a public floor, it was disputed if this was a justified procedure. This theme about space and law is considered carefully throughout the study.

An insane or a mad emperor was a supreme judge of his citizens all the same. This contrast between a tyrant and a wise emperor really became evident from the emperor Tiberius onwards, as Tuori discusses in the chapter three. The topos of an insane sovereign, who is ready to murder and confiscate by virtue of his mere whim, is clearly present in the narratives from Tacitus and Suetonius to Dio Cassius and Herodian. However, these narratives developed through the time and served for different purposes, as Tuori points out in his conclusion.

The era of the Antonine emperors, and Hadrianic use of jurisdiction in particular, is the subject of the chapter four. Before Hadrian, incoherence troubled the practices of the imperial jurisdiction. Hadrian appears as a wise and deliberate judge under whose authority we find a volume of constitutions and descripts, and decisions of legal cases of various kinds. However, as Tuori's discussion reveals, the practice of how and when the emperor ruled on the cases stay debatable, and the later quotations, by jurist Ulpian for example, may have changed the emphasis in deciding which legal matters were important and which were less so. The ideal of the imperial judge was already outlined by the first century authors, like Seneca in his *De clementia*. Tuori's debate on whether Hadrian attained this ideal in his imitation of a cultivated Hellenic sovereign provides us a useful and important discussion about the so called 'good emperors' of the Antonine dynasty.

In the chapter five, Tuori analyses the Severans' exercise of power. As it becomes clear from the evidence, the convention that the court provided an arena for the emperor and his subjects to meet each other, continued during this period. As a prominent figure in the imperial politics, the empress Julia Domna rightly receives attention in Tuori's analysis. Also her philosophical circle – participated by the several contemporary jurists, poets and philosophers – is mentioned, and its influence on the Severan adjudication and legislation is considered briefly. The question of the empresses' possible contribution and influence in the imperial adjudication is not a specifically articulated theme in the study. However, this reader was delighted that this challenging topic was analysed anyhow – although cursorily.

In the conclusive chapter (p. 292 onwards) Tuori presents main findings of his study and goes through the development of the imperial adjudication. In his study, Tuori gives voice also to the citizens of the provinces in analysing the sources which introduce to us the petitioners and the suitors of provincial origin. This and the other materials are exceptionally well treated throughout

the study. The author carefully considers what the tradition and the gradually developing narratives signified for the Romans and what kind of modern conclusions might blur our understanding about the imperial jurisdiction and the emperors as the adjudicators. Chapters are well structured and text proceeds fluently. One minor stylistic detail is found in page 272, where the mother of the emperor Severus Alexander is styled in Greek Mamaia. This is indeed correct, but the Latinised formulation, Julia Mamaea, is the established formulation (maybe this is just a misprint). In an excessively detailed appendix, Tuori presents the evidence case by case. The layout of the appendix is somewhat exhausting but this probably cannot be avoided for the sake of the printing practicalities. However, the list of the legal cases provides a valuable research tool and collection of evidence for the scholars working with the questions of imperial adjudication and imperial power. Throughout the study, the illustrations provided by J. Heikonen enlighten the reader and support the treatise well by directing the reader's mind to the places where the court hearings took place or the emperors used their judicative power. All in all, this volume is absolutely worth of reading and taking as a permanent cornerstone of the history of the Roman imperial legal praxis.

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Maritime Transport Containers in the Bronze–Iron Age Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean. Edited by STELLA DEMESTICHA – A. BERNARD KNAPP. Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology and Literature 183. Åströms förlag, Uppsala 2016. ISBN 978-91-7081-211-8. IX, 241 pp. EUR 60.

Stella Demesticha and Bernard Knapp have compiled a selection of 11 papers that were held at the 2016 annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists in Glasgow. The resulting book *Maritime Transport Containers in the Bronze–Iron Age Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean* offers a comprehensive view into the research related not only to different kinds of vessels used by the maritime economies during the Bronze and Iron Ages in the Mediterranean, but also to the ancient Mediterranean trade and trade routes themselves. Despite this review being written as much as four years after the book's initial publication, the volume is still very much up to date and quite useful for anyone interested in this field. It should be added that for a more cohesive account the monograph *Mediterranean Connections: Maritime Transport Containers and Seaborne Trade in the Bronze and Early Iron Ages* (New York 2016) is also available, written by the two editors of the present volume.

The term Maritime Transport Container (MTC) is surprisingly difficult to define. Attempts to categorise the vast assembly of different relevant vessels is a thread that runs through all the