

Karl-Joachim Hölkeskamp, Sema Karataş, Roman Roth (eds.),
Empire, Hegemony or Anarchy? Rome and Italy, 201–31 BCE,
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In 2019, Franz Steiner Verlag has published *Empire, Hegemony or Anarchy? Rome and Italy, 201–31 BCE*, a volume containing articles on Rome’s relationship with its immediate neighborhood—namely, Italy—between 201 and 31 BCE. This interval, undoubtedly crucial for the politics of the Apennine peninsula, can be divided into two phases. During the first phase of almost seventy years (201–133 BCE), the inhabitants of Italy (Roman citizens, settlers, colonists, inhabitants of *municipi* and Roman *socii*) did not wage wars in their immediate surroundings; in turn, during the second phase, they experienced more than a century of civil conflict (133–31 BCE). After the bloody struggle against Hannibal during the Second Punic War (218–201 BCE), Rome and Italy *sensu lato* had to deal with the war’s sociopolitical and economic aftermath, by necessity rearranging their mutual relations: according to some modern historians (such as A. J. Toynbee), the fallout of the Second Punic War profoundly influenced the 201–133 BCE interval and most likely contributed to the subsequent civil wars. Toynbee’s seminal work on that topic, *Hannibal’s Legacy: The Hannibalic War’s Effects on Roman Life*, published over sixty years ago, has since been complemented by new research on the Roman-Italian interrelationships that shifted the scholarly focus from Rome’s drive towards imperialistic hegemony to concurrent happenings in local Italic communities. This paradigm shift came about through reexamination of surviving texts of ancient authors and, above all, through application of new research methods and admission of epigraphic, archaeological and numismatic evidence.

The reviewed volume consists of articles written by researchers representing various academic centers in France, Germany, South Africa, the United States and the United Kingdom. The diversity of adopted approaches to the subject matter directly translates into the internal division of the book into three parts.

Part One, *Conceptualising Rome’s Italian Empire*, contains two articles: J. R. Patterson, “The Roman Conquest of Italy and Republican City of Rome” (pp. 23–54); and C. Ando, “Hannibal’s Legacy. Sovereignty and Territoriality in Republican Rome” (pp. 55–81). The authors examine physical and symbolic traces of Italic presence in Rome. The physical evidence of the Italic influence comes from temples and other buildings, founded by Roman chieftains with spoils seized after their victories in the Apennine wars, whereas the symbolic evidence surfaces in Italic elements present in the Roman coinage of the II–I c. BCE. Furthermore, the authors discuss how the presence of

the Italic element brought about changes in the political and legal concepts of the ruling Republic.


In turn, the second part, *Before Roman Italy: Territories and Societies, 201–91 BC*, comprises four articles: R. Roth, “The Expansion of the Citizenship and Roman Elite Interests in Regional Italy, c. 200–91 BC. A Structural Perspective” (pp. 85–106); M. Bloder-Boos, “Adorning the City. Urbanistic Trends in Republican Central Italy” (pp. 107–129); St. Bourdin, “Les ligues italiennes de la soumission à Rome à l’intégration” (pp. 131–146); and S. T. Roselaar, “Between Rome and Italy. Hegemony, Anarchy and Land in the Late Second Century BC” (pp. 147–164). In this part, the researchers focus on individual political organisms in Italy (colonies, regional and communal Italic unions, etc.) and their reactions to specific Roman actions.

The final section of the book, *Integrating the Italian Romans, 91–31 BC*, also consists of four articles: G. Bradley, “State formation and the Social War” (pp. 167–189); W. Blösel, “Die ‘politische’ Integration der Italischen Neubürger in den römischen Legionen vom Bundesgenossenkrieg bis zur Triumviratszeit” (pp. 191–219); S. Karataş, “The Integration of *domi nobiles* at Rome. A Case Study” (pp. 221–236); and F. Santangelo, “Municipal Men in the Age of the Civil Wars” (pp. 237–258). Articles found in this section examine interfaces of integration between inhabitants of Italy and Rome (army, municipia and municipal elites—*domi nobiles*) and pockets of centrifugal forces (as exemplified by the *bellum sociale*) still present in the Apennine social milieu at the dawn of the imperial era, the said milieu soon to be rearranged according to the Augustan paradigm of *Tota Italia*.

The authors have appended bibliographies for each article, with the “Introduction” (pp. 9–19) authored by R. Roth. Unfortunately, the volume lacks indices of names and geographical terms that would be of immense use to its readers.

Empire, Hegemony or Anarchy? Rome and Italy, 201–31 BCE provides the reader with an updated and comprehensive perspective on the complex relationship between Rome and the inhabitants of Italy, indicating that local Italic communities were not simply integrated into the Roman hegemony; instead, they established diverse and often somewhat egalitarian relations with the *Urbs*.

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