

# Provincial and Municipal Administration in the Roman Province of Dalmatia.

## Abstract

The subject of the thesis is the provincial administration and the local and municipal authorities in the Roman Province of Dalmatia from a legal historical point of view. It focuses on the following topics:

- The Roman control of the territory, the formation of the Dalmatia Province, its characteristics, its further development, and the population of the province.
- Governors of the province – findings about the governors of the Dalmatia Province according to the sources discovered to date.
- Other municipal authorities representing central power – listed according to existing sources, their status and competence.
- Judiciary of the province – exercise of judicial power, jurisdiction of municipalities under individual courts, examples of court decisions from available sources.
- The army of the province – legions deployed around the province territory, *provincia inermis*, auxiliary corps.
- Local self-government, municipal administration of individual towns in the region in the d period, their characteristics, especially the degree of their autonomy, the organisation of public authority and their relations with Rome:
  - a) *coloniae* – role, origin, internal organisation
  - b) *municipia* – role, origin, internal organisation
  - c) *civitas* – role, origin, internal organisation
  - d) other types of municipalities

The thesis is divided into two main parts. The first discusses legal historical phenomena occurring throughout the province, its structure is based on the subject matter and it has a general character. The second part covers individual cities of *colonia* or *municipium* status and is divided

by territory into seven areas. This section is descriptive and focuses on standardised basic information about the individual municipalities.

Regarding the time specification of the thesis, attention is paid mainly to the period from the creation of the new province of Dalmatia in 9 AD to the division of the Roman Empire into eastern and western parts in 395 AD. However, these time limitations are not definitive, as earlier and later events are also taken into account if relevant.

The geographical focus of the thesis is the entire area of the former province of Dalmatia, including the later province of Praevalitana. The borders of the province were defined after the Bellum Batonianum in 9 AD and apart from a minor change by the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, remained unchanged until the reforms of the Emperor Diocletian, when the original province was divided into two new provinces – Dalmatia and Praevalitana.

The defined subject of the thesis was also the basic methodical guideline for its drawing up. The thesis does not aim for a general historical study of the respective region during Roman domination, but rather to provide a study of social phenomena which fall within the subject matter of legal history. The general historical findings are discussed and processed only to the extent that allows the fulfilment of the basic objective and the subject of the thesis.

Another basic methodological principle was to process only legal historical phenomena which are sufficiently documented by primary sources. The aim of the thesis is not to fill in the gaps in the history of social phenomena that would otherwise fall within the scope of the thesis. The subject matter of the general part of the thesis thus emerged only from the research on primary sources and the related secondary literature.

The third principle was to always proceed as much as possible from primary sources. The most important of these are published inscriptions, and to a lesser extent also literary sources. The latter include mainly literary sources of a legal character, especially *Corpus Juris Civilis*, *Codex Theodosianus*, *Lex Iulia Municipalis*, *Lex Irnitana*, *Laterculus Veronensis*, *Notitia Dignitatum* and the *Institutes* of Gaius.

Published inscriptions played the most significant role in the creation of the thesis. The inscriptions were processed using the Epigraphic Database Heidelberg, which virtually encompasses the province of Dalmatia in its entirety, including recently published inscriptions. To date, it contains 7,652 inscriptions from the province of Dalmatia.

**Key words:** Roman Province – Dalmatia – Public Administration