Reform of state administration during the reign of Augustus

Roman law reflected in non-legal antic relics

Abstract

The period of the late republic and the early principate was a time of many political, social and legal changes in the history of the ancient Roman state. In a relatively short period of time, the old state institutes collapsed and were fundamentally reformed or replaced with new ones. This thesis mainly focuses on the issue of reforms in selected areas of public law, namely the areas of state administration, tax administration and financial administration. In the field of state administration, the attention is paid to the reform of the provincial order, which had to be adapted to the new constitutional order of the state in which the princeps dominated, and the beginnings of the centralized offices of the Roman Empire, which were founded by Augustus, and which, under the rule of his successors, were further formalized and expanded into highly specialized bureaucratic bodies. In the field of tax administration, attention is paid both to the difficulties of the tax system of the late republic and its comparison with the tax system of Augustus' principate, while attention is paid both to tax collection and individual newly introduced taxes in their relation to new needs of the reformed financial administration of the empire, which more than ever relied on ever more expensive roman army. One of the motives for the reform of financial law was also the newly created position of the princeps. His position within the constitutional system of the empire was as unprecedented as the newly emerging dualism of state finances, not quite clearly divided into finances of the state and those of the emperor. And because legal reforms are not an isolated phenomenon, but rather a phenomenon arising from the current state and needs of society to which the rules in question applies, a special section is devoted to the person of Augustus himself, which is necessary to understand the motives of Augustus in the implementation of those reforms in question themselves.

Keywords: Augustus, principate, administrative reforms