

Abstract

The topic of my bachelor's thesis is a treatise on Caligula, the third emperor of the Iulian-Claudian dynasty.

In the first part I characterize the primary sources, in particular Philo of Alexandria, Josephus Flavius, Suetonius, and Cassius Dio. From these primary sources, I select Caligula's deeds and assess the objectivity of the source author, taking into account the comments of modern authors. In this thesis, space is also devoted to coins minted under Caligula. I assess whether Caligula's personality traits are reflected in the themes of the paintings and legends.

In a chapter devoted to secondary literature, I address the question of whether modern authors adopt the ancient narrative of Caligula as a mad emperor or, alternatively, attempt to rationalize Caligula's actions in some way. I also briefly examine the portrayal of Caligula in drama, novel and film.

Keywords:

Ancient Rome – Caligula – Coins – History