

ABSTRACT

This Bachelor Thesis is focused on the Roman impact on Cherusci in the period from the last two decades of the 1st century BC to 90 AC. The Thesis aims to determine the extent of the impact of the Roman-Cherusci relation on the tribe, which took a friendly as well as hostile form for several times during the researched period. First, the thesis provides an overview of the ancient literary and archaeological sources, of available information about the tribe itself, and of the history of Roman-Cherusci relations. The second part deals with the impact of the Roman presence in Germania on the power of Cherusci chieftains and aristocracy. The internal relations in the tribe, influenced by the Roman luxurious gifts and financial support of the Cherusci aristocrats, are researched. The next chapter focuses on the romanization of the chieftain sons on the example of Arminius and Flavus, the sons of Cherusci chieftain Segimer. The last part deals with the retinue of chieftains, with the Cherusci presence in the auxiliaries of the Roman army, with the Germanic personal guard of the emperors of the Julio-Claudian dynasty (the so-called *Germani corporis custodes*), and with the Roman impact on the Germanic warfare. In the research, the analysis of primary and secondary sources was used. The conducted research found that the Roman empire had an immense impact on the social, cultural, and military aspects of the life of the Cherusci. The power of the tribe's chieftains and aristocracy was heavily influenced by the internal conflicts which were caused by the pro-Roman and anti-Roman stances of individual members of the Cherusci ruling class. Rome was actively deepening those conflicts by supporting the pro-Roman Cherusci aristocrats and later also kings. The efforts to romanize the sons of chieftain Segimer were successful only partially, as only Flavus, the younger of the sons, remained loyal to Rome, whereas his older brother Arminius led an anti-Roman rebellion whilst using knowledge acquired during his military service in Roman auxiliary troops. The research shows that Cherusci soldiers serving in the Roman auxiliaries as well as close business contacts of Cherusci with Roman military camps contributed to the romanization of the tribe. The Roman impact was most evident in the Germanic warfare. The Germanic people not only adapted to the Roman combat tactics, but also adopted it themselves, as well as their military organisation, discipline, and weapons. The research also shows that Cherusci had the same, if not greater impact on the Roman empire, as the Battle of Teutoburg forest meant a major turning point in the Roman foreign policy and thwarted any efforts to make free Germania one of the Roman provinces.

KEYWORDS

Cherusci, Germania, Arminius, Battle of the Teutoburg Forest, Romanization, Auxilia.