

ABSTRACT

This bachelor's thesis focuses on techniques used by the politicians of ancient Rome for religious legitimisation of their political power and their status. Its aim is to collect evidence of different forms of this phenomenon which can be found in the works of ancient historians.

The initial definition of the topic and field of research, i.e. relations between religious and political spheres in ancient Rome, is followed by a short characteristic of sources (Greek and Roman historiographers and their works). Next three casuistical chapters analyse evidences of particular forms of religious legitimisation of political power. First of these chapters concentrates on the use of religion in political rhetoric; the second and longest one deals with religious prosecution and political blasphemy which can be considered as two of the most interesting phenomena in this topic; the third chapter contains specific examples of how religion was used in the long-term public presentation of concrete political personalities.

Before proceeding to the last chapter, there is a short description of the change of situation at the beginning of principate, when old forms of religious legitimisation disappeared and were replaced by different ones. Last chapter focuses on the possibilities of analysis in the field of religious science, especially in the point of view of sociology of religion.