A History of Exile in the Roman Republic

Roman senators and equestrians were always vulnerable to prosecution for their official conduct, especially because politically motivated accusations were common. When charged with a crime in Republican Rome, such men had a choice concerning their fate. They could either remain in Rome and face possible conviction and punishment or go into voluntary exile and avoid legal sentence. For the majority of the Republican period, exile was not a formal legal penalty contained in statutes, although it was the practical outcome of most capital convictions. Despite its importance in the political arena, Roman exile has been a neglected topic in modern scholarship. This study examines all facets of exile in the Roman Republic: its historical development, technical legal issues, the possibility of restoration, as well as the effects of exile on the lives and families of banished men.

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A HISTORY OF EXILE IN THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

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LEWIS AND CLARK COLLEGE
To my parents, Shirley and James Kelly,
and to my wife,
Molly Robinson Kelly
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scholars have attempted to reconstruct and interpret the history of Greco-Roman antiquity for centuries. As a graduate student at Bryn Mawr College investigating several potential dissertation topics, I was pleased to discover that there are still areas of the ancient world that have received very little attention from previous generations of academics. The practice of exile in the Roman Republic is one such topic that has largely escaped detailed examination. In this work, which is a revised and expanded version of my 1999 dissertation, I have tried to look at the major features of exile and, as much as possible, put them into the context of the wider world of the Roman Republic. Even so, this study is not intended to be an all-inclusive treatment of the topic, but rather as a beginning for further investigations of Roman exile.

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