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978-0-521-19419-8 - Illyricum in Roman Politics 229 BC-AD 68

Danijel Dzino

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## ILLYRICUM IN ROMAN POLITICS

229 BC–AD 68

Illyricum, in the western Balkan peninsula, was a strategically important area of the Roman Empire where the process of Roman imperialism began early and lasted for several centuries. Dzino here examines Roman political conduct in Illyricum; the development of Illyricum in Roman political discourse; and the beginning of the process that would integrate Illyricum into the Roman Empire and wider networks of the Mediterranean world.

In addition, he also explores the different narrative histories, from the Romanocentric narrative of power and Roman military conquest, which dominate the available sources, to other, earlier scholarly interpretations of events.

DANIJEL DZINO is Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide.

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*Mojoj balerini, princezi i sireni Ariel,  
od njezina princa  
To my ballerina, princess and mermaid Ariel,  
from her prince*

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## *Acknowledgments*

This book had a long maturing period, and it is finally here with all its good and bad aspects. It started as my PhD thesis ‘Illyrian Policy of Rome in the Late Republic and Early Principate’ at the University of Adelaide. After the thesis was passed, I understood (and it took me some time) that the thesis has a fundamental flaw: Illyricum did not exist as a geo-political system, as the thesis pompously assumed – it was constructed as such by the Romans!

Scholarly work does not exist per se and I am in significant debt to numerous colleagues and friends. First, to my supervisors, Ron Newbold and Ann Geddes: Ann for looking after me in my undergraduate years and during my Masters thesis, Ron for making me look at ancient history from unusual and unexpected angles. I am grateful to all the staff and students from the Classics department at the University of Adelaide for creating a good working environment and especially to Han Baltussen for heaps of useful advice and intellectual challenges, and to Barbara Sidwell for all her help in editing the book, support, coffees and all the perfect days, past and still to come.

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Finally, thank you Barbara, for all your love, faith and support.

*Table of events mentioned in the book.  
All dates BC, except where noted*

393	Illyrian dynast Bardylis I defeats Amyntas III, the king of Macedonia.
387	Sack of Rome by the 'Gauls'.
384	Syracusan navy defeats the league of the Iadastinoi in the battle at Pharus.
360/59	Philip II of Macedon defeats Bardylis I.
334	Alexander I of Epirus crosses into Italy to fight the Lucanians and Brutii.
285	La Tène movements in south-eastern Europe: Macedonian king Ptolemy Ceraunos killed in battle by the 'Gauls'.
280	Pyrrhus of Epirus invades south Italy.
279	Raid on Delphi by the 'Gauls'.
232 (or 230)	Epirote monarchy dissolved and the federation formed.
231	Illyrian-Aetolian war and Illyrian victory, death of king Agron.
230	Illyrian attacks on Elis and Messenia, the capture of Phoenice and Corcyra, siege of Issa, the murder of the Roman envoys.
229–228	The first Illyrian war.
221	The first Histrian war.
220	Scerdilaidas allies with the Aetolian league against the Achaean league.
220 or 219	Scerdilaidas becomes ally of Philip V against the Aetolian league.
220–217	The Social war of Philip V against the Aetolian league.

*Table of events*

219	The second Illyrian war, Demetrius of Pharus escapes to Macedonian court.
218	The second Punic war begins, Hannibal in Italy.
217	The war of Scerdilaidas and Philip V. Hannibal wins at Lake Trasimene.
Winter 217/16	Scerdilaidas becomes ally of Rome.
216	Hannibal wins at Cannae.
215	The alliance of Macedonia and Carthage. The first Macedonian war begins, Demetrius of Pharus killed, Philip V briefly captures Oricos.
214–213	Philip captures Lissus, and subjugates the Parthini and Atintanes.
212	Philip campaigns in Illyria.
209–208	Illyrian counter-offensive against Philip V.
205	The peace of Phoenice, the end of the first Macedonian war.
202	The end of the second Punic war.
200–197	The second Macedonian war.
181	The second Histrian war.
178	The third Histrian war, dissolution of Histrian kingdom.
170–169	The third Macedonian war.
168	The third Illyrian war.
167	The peace of Scodra.
159 (or 156)	Cornelius' (?) defeat by the Segesticani.
156–155	The campaigns of Figulus and Scipio Nasica (the first Dalmatian war).
148 or 147	Macedonia <i>provincia</i> .
135	The war with the Ardiaei and Pleraei.
129	The campaign of Tuditanus and Pandusa against the Taurisci, Carni, Histri and Iapodes.
119	The campaign of Cotta and Metellus Diadematus (?) against the Segesticani.
118–117	The campaign of Metellus Delmaticus (the second Dalmatian war).
115	The campaign of Scaurus against the Taurisci.
113	The Cimbri defeat the Romans at Noreia.
102	The Cimbri in northern Italy (defeated by Marius 101).

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87–82	The first Roman civil war of Sulla against the Marians.
84	Cinna and Carbo in Liburnia.
78–76	The campaign of Cosconius (the third Dalmatian war).
67	Pompey's 'war on piracy'.
60	<i>Lex Vatinia de imperio Caesaris</i> , Illyricum attached to Cisalpine Gaul.
59–50	Caesar pro-consul of two Gauls.
54	The raid of the Pirustae on southern Illyricum.
51	The raid of the Iapodes on Aquileia.
50	The Delmatian alliance captures Promona (the fourth Dalmatian war, the conflicts lasting almost without interruption 50–33).
49–44	The Civil Wars of Caesar and Pompey.
49	Pompeian defeat at Pharsalus, the siege of Salona by Pompeians, the defeat of C. Antonius at Curicta.
48	Cornificius appointed as Caesarian commander in Illyricum.
Winter 48/47	Gabinius defeated by the Delmatae.
47	The naval battle at Tauris, Pompeian defeat and Issaeian capitulation.
46	Sulpicius Rufus commander in Illyricum.
45	Vatinius pro-consul of Illyricum.
44	Ceasefire with the Delmatae, Caesar killed, Illyricum added to Brutus' <i>provincia</i> , Vatinius deserted by his legions, senator Baebius killed by the Delmatae in renewed conflict.
43–39(?)	Salona taken by the Delmatae.
39–38	Pollio recaptures Salona.
35	Octavian's campaigns against the Iapodes and Segesticani.
34–33	Octavian's campaign against the Delmatian alliance.
31	The battle of Actium.
c. 30	Illyricum established as public (senatorial) pro-consular province. Tamphilus Vaala Numonianus first pro-consul known by name (some time after 30).
27	New constitution promulgated in Rome, principate established <i>de facto</i> .

xvi	<i>Table of events</i>
16	Pro-consul of Illyricum Silius campaigns in Val Camonice, the Pannonii and Norici in Histria.
15(?)	The submission of the Scordisci, the annexation of Noricum (assumed date).
14	The unrest of the 'Pannonians'.
13	Agrippa sent against the 'Pannonians'.
12	<i>Bellum Pannonicum</i> , phase 1: the campaign of Tiberius and Vinicius against the Breucian alliance.
11	<i>Bellum Pannonicum</i> , phase 2: the campaigns in the Dinaric Alps (the alliances of Daesitiates, Mezaei), Illyricum becomes imperial province.
10–9	<i>Bellum Pannonicum</i> , phase 3: the final conquest.
10 BC–AD 6	Lentulus, Sex. Apuleius, ... vinicius (?), Domitius Achenobarbus imperial legate in Illyricum.
AD 6	<i>Bellum Batonianum</i> starts.
AD 7	Germanicus sent with reserves, Mons Claudius, battle at Volcaean marshes.
Winter AD 7/8	Tiberius in Siscia.
AD 8	The submission of Bato the Breucian at Bathinus river, the murder of Bato the Breucian.
AD 9	The surrender of Bato the Daesitiate.
AD 14	The death of Augustus, the mutiny of Danubian legions.
AD 14–20	Dolabella governor of Illyricum (or only Dalmatia).
AD 16–17	Dolabella's roads ( <i>via Gabiniana</i> and Salona – <i>ad fines provinciae Illyrici</i> ) completed.
AD 17–20	Second mission of Drusus in Illyricum, probable date of division of Illyricum.
AD 19–20	Dolabella's roads (Salona – <i>castellum (Hedum)</i> , Salona – <i>civitas Breucorum</i> , Salona – Siscia) completed.
AD 42	Saturninus' mutiny.
AD 43–45	Legion rotation in Pannonia, IX Hispana leaves, VIII Augusta and XV Apollinaris replaced with XIII Gemina and X Gemina.
AD 56–57	Legion rotation in Dalmatia, VII moved to Moesia.

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MACEDONIAN KINGS

Demetrius II Aetolicus (239–229)  
Antigonus III Doson (229–221)  
Philip V (221–179)  
Perseus (179–168)

ILLYRIAN KINGS

*Ardiaean dynasty*

Agron (–231)  
Teuta regent for Pinnes (231–228)  
Demetrius regent for Pinnes (228–220)  
Pinnes (220–after 217)

*Labeatan dynasty*

Scerdilaidas (after 217–before 205)  
Pleuratus (before 205–c. 181)  
Genthius (c. 181–168)