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978-1-107-02817-3 - *Libertas and the Practice of Politics in the Late Roman Republic*

Valentina Arena

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LIBERTAS AND THE PRACTICE OF POLITICS IN THE LATE ROMAN REPUBLIC

This is a comprehensive analysis of the idea of *libertas* and its conflicting uses in the political struggles of the late Roman Republic. By reconstructing Roman political thinking about liberty against the background of Classical and Hellenistic thought, it excavates two distinct intellectual traditions on the means allowing for the preservation and the loss of *libertas*. Considering the interplay of these traditions in the political debates of the first century BC, Dr Arena offers a significant reinterpretation of the political struggles of the time as well as a radical reappraisal of the role played by the idea of liberty in the practice of politics. She argues that, as a result of its uses in rhetorical debates, *libertas* underwent a form of conceptual change at the end of the Republic and came to legitimise a new course of politics, which led progressively to the transformation of the whole political system.

VALENTINA ARENA is Lecturer in Roman History at University College London. Her work focuses primarily on Roman political thought, Roman oratory, and their relationship with the practice of politics. This is her first book.

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