

# **ILLYRIAN POLICY OF ROME IN THE LATE REPUBLIC AND EARLY PRINCIPATE**

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## *Abstract*

This thesis examines the development of Roman Illyrian policy, from the late Republican hegemony over the region to the establishment of permanent imperial frontiers on the Danube and the beginning of the process that would integrate Illyricum (the area between the Adriatic Sea and the River Danube) into the Roman Empire. This thesis has two principal aims. Firstly, on the regional, ‘microscopic’, level it defines and explains the development of Roman policy in Illyricum. Secondly, on the global, ‘macroscopic’, level it examines some of the mechanisms of Roman policy-making, and fits Illyrian policy into the wider picture of Roman foreign and later provincial policy. Ultimately, the thesis recognizes and explains the reasons for a major change in Roman strategic interests from the Eastern Adriatic coast to the interior of the western Balkans in the late Republic and early Empire. Despite the problems of deficient sources, this thesis observes Roman Illyrian policy as essentially a political interaction between Rome and the entire regional geopolitical system of Illyricum, rather than defining it through Roman interactions with individual polities inside the system, or as part of the system.

## *Declaration*

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text

I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being available for loan and photocopying.

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## *Acknowledgments*

It was a long and dangerous voyage from snow and mud of the turbulent *civitas Daesitiatum* to perpetual calmness of the *terra Australis*. And, as it was not enough, I dared to prolong the voyage in a different direction, by internal quest in time for something so vague and undetectable as Roman Illyrian policy. It was an amazing experience to follow thoughts of so many excellent scholars and even add something of my own to the scholarship. Nowadays no scholarly work is possible without scholarly collaboration. Firstly, it is my duty and pleasure to thank my supervisors, Dr. R. F. Newbold and Dr. A. G. Geddes whose support and help were crucial in the making and polishing of this thesis. My thesis would certainly have taken much more time without the Australian Postgraduate Award, and thanks to the Research Abroad scholarship given by the University of Adelaide, I was able to undertake research in the modern-day Illyricum. My stay and lecture given in Iader is entirely due to Dr. Smiljan Gluščević from the Archaeological Museum and Prof. Slobodan Čače from the Ancient History department. I would also like to thank Dr. Siniša Bilić-Dujmušić for giving me access to his Masters thesis. The time spent with Prof. Čače was an amazing scholarly experience immeasurable by any standard. My stay in the *civitas Daesitiatum* could not have been possible without my mother Ljubica and the grandparents. I would like to thank to Prof. Zdravko Marić, Mr. Adnan Busulandžić and the staff of the library of the Zemaljski Museum for all their help in my research. Also, I would like to acknowledge all the help and resources I received in the National and University library in the *civitas Varcianorum*. The comments of Prof. T. S. Burns from the Emory University, who kindly shared his time and experience with me during his stay in Adelaide, are much appreciated. The support I received in the department from the start of my study to the completion of this thesis is simply difficult to forget.

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*dis manibus Nenadi Ostoici optimi  
viri et materni avi mei*