

An example of an abstract and bibliography which scored a first class mark. Feedback included the comment that it was a workable thesis, with a clear aim and that the abstract could include a bit more on what the student wanted to show by this examination. The bibliography is very good and well formatted.

Roman and Parthian intervention in the affairs of the Armenian Monarchy
in the Early Imperial Period and how these fit into the wider political
situation in the Middle East.

Abstract

To the best of the authors knowledge there is no monographic work focusing on the later Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia and the decades before the Arsacid 'official' take over in 66CE, a pity and a problem for Ancient Armenian studies. The collapse of the Artaxiad dynasty in Armenia coincides with the start of the centuries long stand-off in the Near east between the Romans and later Byzantines and the Parthians and later Sassanians. The borders of this conflict rarely changed and Armenia was always the focal point of both sides ambitions. The Artaxiad dynasty gave Armenia both its first taste of empire and prestige under Tigranes the Great and, a few decades later, its first real taste of servitude to foreign powers, its almost hopeless position of utter powerlessness in the face of the might of the Parthian and Roman empires. Tigranes' defeat at the hands of the Romans is only the start of the end for the Artaxiads, a further 70 years separate the two. Artavasdes II, the son of Tigranes, reigned over the period of the two Roman civil wars, a time of intense confusion in inter-state relations and later executed by Marc Antony is the key figure this dissertation shall be looking into. The later kings of the Artaxiad dynasty do not reign for a significant time, thus individual notice is not required, the last kings of the dynasty were considered mere puppets by Rome, another feature of the dynastic buffer states in the Roman East.

The end of the Artaxiad dynasty is followed by a number of different influences on the Armenian kingship, with Caucasian kings fighting to control Armenia with the Arsacid dynasty of Parthia, culminating in the Neronian wars of 58-63 CE. The conclusion of these wars left the Armenian throne in Arsacid dynastic hands, after the uncertainty of the kingship in the mid-first century CE.

This work will try as far as is possible to collate the scattered information on the later Artaxiads and the different kings not belonging to a major dynasty between the Artaxiad and Arsacid dynasties, in Armenia to evaluate and analyse the ways in which the Roman and Parthian empires interfered with and influenced the monarchy and control of Armenia.

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