



Exploratio: Military & Political Intelligence in the Roman World from the Second Punic War to the Battle of Adrianople

By N. J. E. Austin, N. B. Rankov

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Exploratio is the first ever survey of Roman military and civil intelligence. The authors examine in detail the operation and gradual development of Roman intelligence-gathering from shaky beginnings to a high level of excellence. They identify who gathered it, and for whom.

This study shows the effects of intelligence on policy formation at various levels from the purely local through to the global. The consequences of various instances of the mishandling of information are uncovered. Austin and Rankov also demonstrate that intelligence gathering was not necessarily directed from Rome, but had for practical reasons to be carried out and processed on the frontiers themselves.

Exploratio is important reading for all students and teachers of Roman history. It will also appeal to those with a general interest in military or diplomatic history.

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Review

'Through the evidence of literary and epigraphic material, the authors make this a fascinating and readable discussion of the more shadowy parts of the Roman bureaucracy.' - *Book News Summer 96*

'Exploratio considers six centuries of Roman military and political intelligence, based on the literary and epigraphic evidence, with exemplary care and in meticulous detail' - *Greece & Rome Volume 43*

About the Author

N. J. E. Austin is a Senior Lecturer in Classics at Massey University in New Zealand. He also has considerable military experience in military intelligence from active service. N. B. Rankov is a Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History at Royal Holloway College, University of London. He has published widely on Roman administrative structures.

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