

Military Service & Political Competition in the Roman Republic

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| Cicero | Phil. 7.VI.16 | patronos centuriarum equitum Romanorum, quo item sine suffragio esse videt, patronos eorum, qui tribuni militares fuerunt, patronos lasti medi. | Lucius (Antonius?) is powerful because many people are on his side; he is a patron of military tribunes |
| Cicero | Phil. 7.VI.17 | quis unquam omnis tribus, quis equites Romanos, qui tribuni militares ? | who else has had so much power as L. (Antonius?) from having support from so many other people (incl. tribunes) |
| <p>Question 1: What was the relationship between military service and election to political office in the Roman Republic?</p> | | | |
| Cicero | Att. 1.19.1-2 | conatur, occidit | Cicero practices restraint and moderation in writing to Brutus, who does not take any chances |
| Cicero | Brit. 89 (304) | Erat Hortensius in bello primo anno miles, ab eo tribunus militum , Sulpicio legato; | Hortensius serves in the army as a soldier, then as a tribune |
| Cicero | Rep. 6.9 | Scipio: "Cum in Africam venissem M. Manilius consilii ad quartam legionem tribunus , ut scitis, militum nihil mihi fuit eximus, quam ut Manilianum conerentem regem, famulus noctuae iusto de castris anteaissimam. | |
| Cicero | Leg. 3.III.6 | Milesis magistratus pariter laeti plures in placita sauto. Militiae quibus laeti erant imperatores exornaque | |
| Cicero | Sen. 18 | Nisi forte ego vobis, qui et miles et tribunus et legatus et consul versatus sum in vario genere bellorum, sentias, quae sint gerenda, praescribo et quo modo | |
| Cicero | Sen. 32 | sum tribunus militaris depugnari apud Theropylas M. Glabronae consule; | |
| Cicero | Div. 1.24 | At vero P. Decius filii Quinti filius, qui primus e Decis consul fuit, cum esset tribunus militum M. Valium tribunum que praetorem nostro exortavit | |
| Cicero | Att. 4.18.4 | haec obviavit Cato et Servilius praetores ad portam et Q. Mucius tribunus . | Pompeius wants a triumph but is opposed by praetors and a tribune (I'm guessing not military, but just in case) |
| Cicero | Att. 5.17.2 | id fit etiam et legatorum et tribunorum et praefectorum diligentia; | Cicero conducts himself frugally in his province; tribunes and other officials follow his example |
| Cicero | Att. 5.20.4 | et Sex. Lucillum, T. Gavi Carpionis incipientis et epistolae hominis filium, tribunum militum sane plagan odiosum acceptum cum re tum tempore | Bibulus attempts some military action but has heavy losses, including his tribune S. Gavius Carpio |
| Cicero | | | S. Gavius Carpio: "a man of wealth and high position" |
| <p>Question 2: What are the contexts in which Greek and Roman writers talk about these men's service?</p> | | | |
| <p>Stage 1: Find references to "junior officers" in the Roman army (<i>tribuni militum</i>, similar to U.S. Army 1st or 2nd Lt.)</p> | | | |
| Cicero | Fam. 5.20.7 | Quod scribis de beneficiis, scio a me et tribunus militaris et praefectos et contubernales duntaxat meos delatos esse; | Cicero says he has sent in his recommendations for good-service rewards for his tribunes and prefects; unfortunately, he has missed the deadline |
| Cicero | Fam. 5.20.7 | qui ambrosia nihil uteretur, de contubernibus tamen et de tribunorum legi non erat | |
| Cicero | Fam. 10.23.5 | apud C. Caesum Vestrum, te, mil., missum ab Antonio ad | |
| Cicero | Fam. 15.4.2 | Cumque ante adventum meum seditione quadam exercitus conturbante illo apud Philometum contosedecor, | |
| Cicero | Q. Fr. 2.13(12).3 | quem fac ut tui liberalitate tibi obligis—est tribunus militum | |
| Cicero | Q. Fr. 2.13.3 | M. Curio tribunatum ab eo petivi—sum Domitius se deinde militum quidem facere etiam in senatu loci Appium con- | |
| Valerius Maximus | 2.4.4 | Hic, cum interrogante tribuno Carbone, qui de T. Gracchi caede ventris, respondit, | Scipio Africanus is asked by Carbo the "tribune" (type?) what he thought about T. Gracchus' death, and Scipio replies it was just |
| Valerius Maximus | 2.20.4 | Tam Cinnam corruptis primo centurionibus ac tribunis , mox etiam spe legationis militibus, ab eo exercitu, qui circa Nidam erat, receptus est. | Cinna wants to enroll new citizens throughout the tribes rather than just a few new ones; he is replaced as consul but uses bribes to corrupt centurions and tribunes to get army support |
| <p>Stage 2: Sit quietly, and think about the evidence (340 entries and growing), and try different ways of categorizing it in search of patterns and divergences.</p> | | | |
| <p>Result 1: "Were Tribuni Militum First Elected in 362 or 311 BCE?" Forthcoming, <i>Historia</i>.</p> <p>"... If we view the right to elect tribunes as a single moment of change at the close of the fourth century, we are better able to evaluate this position in terms of Romans' interest in meritocratic self-representation. The transfer of the selection of tribunes from commanders to the people implies a nuanced appreciation of how men gained power at Rome, an appreciation which it is hard to see in the univalent debates over access to the consulship that dominate the record for the earlier period. The later fourth century provides a more likely climate of reform, driven by the generations who experienced the inadequacies of a 'top-down' approach to ascending the ladder of Roman honors."</p> | | | |
| Valerius Maximus | 4.1.4 | utrumque discussit senatus simul studium tribuendo et tribunus accenditque suae exemplum sequi cogendo atque unius causa fuit | Cincinnatus stops this from happening by being moderate and setting a good example for the tribunes |
| Valerius Maximus | 5.6.7 | tribunus militum admodum inermis stricto gladio motum uniusque militis | |
| Valerius Maximus | 6.1.10 | quo appellat tribuni , cum de sterno nihil negaret, sed spontaneum se facit | |
| Valerius Maximus | 6.1.11 | Libidinosi contentione supplicium M. Laetorii Merqui tribuni militaris accepit | |
| Valerius Maximus | 6.1.12 | Hoc mori C. Marius imperatorem tum, cum C. Lucium secretis suae filium promittenti, quo cum de sterno compellere ausus fuerat. | |
| Valerius Maximus | 6.3.4 | quod ut illi nuntiatum est, ad consule tribuni concurrere collegique tribunorum appellavit. | the consul questions the board of tribunes (type?) about what to do with a drafted soldier who will not report for duty |
| <p>Result 2: Subordinated Heroes. Young Men in the Roman Army (book proposal under consideration with Oxford University Press).</p> | | | |

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