

The classes of Roman society and their role in the royal era

By

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Abstract

This research deals with the classes of Roman society and their role in the royal era, and from whom the classes of society were formed, as the family was the cornerstone for building this community, the researcher will try to show the following: the noble class and its role in the royal era, as well as the public class and its role in the royal era, as well as the details of each class and the population groups it included, and how was its life, customs, traditions and worship.

Keywords: Roman society; royal era; research group

Introduction

This research deals with the study of the classes of Roman society and their role in the royal era, as this study wanted the uniqueness of the classes of society that appeared in the royal era, which are the "supervisory class" and "the public class" and from these two classes, several classes emerged that had a role at that time.

The researcher used the historical method, which depends on the narration of the events that occurred in that period, and this method analyzes and interprets those events within the time frame specified for writing.

It is known that any research work is not empty of difficulties, which are limited to their severity, a difficulty related to the study method and the method of analyzing ideas, the most important of which are: the scarcity of material, and the lack of events related to society in the royal era.

The classes of Roman society and their role in the royal era

Before talking about the classes of Roman society in the royal era, we must point out that the family is the cornerstone in building any society in the world, and the Roman family was composed of the husband, wife and children, and the position of the individual in Roman society depends on the position of the family to which it belongs (Ayoub, 1996;24), and the husband is the head of the family and its master and aware of all duties towards it, in terms of care and meeting its living needs, as for the wife, her position is great because she is the wife and mother and the one who takes care of the children (Mo'men, 2012: 18)

The Roman family, unlike families in modern societies, included besides the father, mother, and children, servants, boys, and followers (Clientes) (Al-Homsani, 2007:13), and within each house there was the Vestia, a symbol of family unification and permanent gathering, a kind from the private worship of each family (Al-Harari, 2010: 202)

Every head of the family exercises his absolute authority over his family members, including his wife, his unmarried daughters, his sons and their children, and he has the right to beat his wife and children, kill them, or sell them into slavery without fear of the law or accountability from the state, and this power lasted for centuries without limiting it (Francis, 1916, p.p.322-323)

The inhabitants of Rome lived before (1000 BC. M) in the form of a state based on the tribal system, and these organizations usually meet, when necessary, in the form of larger organizations and tribal federations, and each tribe was divided into ten groups, and a group was divided into a number of families and numbered three hundred family. (J. ortolan, :32) The importance of these divisions in the field of worship and government, and each tribe had its own worship, its own religious ceremonies, its priests and its own temple, and all these tribes descended from a common ancestor (Starr, 1965, p.p.460-462)

Each tribe has a council of notables that discusses the affairs of the military and religious group and general issues (Hatoum, 1964, : 508), and this division shows us that the tribe was divided into ten branches, and that the Roman people were divided into (30) branches of the tribe, and each tribe forms a union of its branches and links them common origins and one religion, differing from one tribe to another, but all these tribes were combined with military funding, as each tribe supplied the Roman army with a thousand fighters (J.ortolan, p.p.32-33). Therefore, the defense system formed the first common ground among these tribes.

As for political ties, all those who have the right to vote are present in groups in the tribal branches in order to give their votes in the assemblies of citizens in the various legislative assemblies that existed at the time (Cice'ron, II:20). The most prominent of them (the Senate and the People's Assembly, which includes the Association of Neighborhoods and the Assembly of the Hundred)

After this tribal pluralism, Roman society was divided into a group of classes that represented and formed the main structure of Roman society, as follows:

A / The noble class (Jacques, 1964:84) and its role in the royal era :

This class is also called the nobility (J.J. Ampere, 1864:286), the aristocracy or the patricians class (Colange, 2007: 319), where only the patricians were organized from great families (Gentes), all of whose members bear the name (Gens), which dictated the use of personal names and titles, and these families were divided into smaller families, each of which was subject to the authority of the father of the family (Familius Pater), and each had its own traditions, customs, worship and possessions (Cruze, 1976: 159)

The nobles were made up of the heads of the Latin families (the Latins and the Sabelians) that inhabited the land of Rome first, and this land was called (Ager Romanus), and it is obvious that it was within the possessions of those Latin families and under the protection of these ancient owners of the land, or under the protection of their descendants, the heads of families formed (Earth Owners) The Noble Class in the Early Ages of the Latin Presence (M.Lariche.Et G.Bonjean,1878:41)

Patrician is considered a political and religious group at the same time, and all its members were supposed to descend from one grandfather on the male side, and joining this class was in two ways: birth and adoption (Froux, 1993, vol. 1, p. 173), and its members are from the people of the clan or the noble gentlemen who had the same worship and the same

burial, which is a symbol of the unification of the group, while the customs have differed from one group to another, and besides the nobles, there were groups living with them from slaves and foreigners, and foreigners were like inmates linked to a contract called (Fides) with the master of nobility, and this contract entails the parties in particular the obligation not to offend them as they are subordination to the master (Khalid, 2015: 20)

Historians mention that the nobles are the ones who were chosen by Romulus from among the chiefs of the clans in his tribe to assist him to build Rome, and their number was one hundred, as members of the Senate (Santo Senatorius) (Momen, 2012: 26), and each of these men was named after Patri. (Patres) means father, and in turn their sons and grandchildren were named Patricia, meaning the descendants of the nobles, the condition of the nobles was that they belong to a family belonging to a (member) of the members who make up the Senate (Safadi, 1967, vol. 1, p. 199), and those whose father has not been elected to the Senate are considered to be commoners (M.Lariche.Et G.Bonjean, 1878, p.p.38-40).

Modern theory showed us that derives its conclusion from the study of inherited traditions, which explained the existence of the noble class, and they are alien invaders, perhaps from the Sabines, who colonized the Latium and ruled the Latins, and after this colonization and control, the general Latins placed them in the status of nobility, and what goes into the mind is that these nobles composed of clans who owned lands, thanks to their superiority in the economic aspect because they owned the money or due to their military superiority because they were (knights) (Scullard, H., 1961, p.p.48-50)

After that, they turned their agricultural leadership into political control, and these victorious clans remained: the Manlii, the Vallerii, the Aemaelli, the Kornelli, the Fabii, the Horatii, the Claudii., and Lullii] (Sabour, 1978, pp. 159-160). Five entire centuries provided Rome with military leaders, legal legislation, clergymen, and economists, as it influenced the ruling system from the royal era to subsequent periods (Durant, D. T., Part. 1, vol. 3, p. 43)

The noble class enjoyed wide influence and great privileges in the state, thanks to the wealth of this class, as its members were more numerous and more familiar with the practice of fighting, and thanks to the large number of their followers, their clans were more able to mobilize large numbers to fight the midst of wars (Shaker, 2002, part 1, p. 320). Thanks to their ancient origin, their culture and the availability of opportunities for them, they were better able than others to be the king's advisors in managing the affairs of the city (Durant, D. T., vol. 1, vol. 3, p. 43). Only the noble class had the right to hold public positions and the right to vote on draft laws, and the real estate wealth was concentrated in the hands of the nobles, because the land was owned by the Roman clans that established the systems of the Roman state (Nishi, 1978, vol. 1, p. 91)

The nobility have also preserved their right to some very rare priestly jobs, and to jobs that are predominantly religious, such as the job of the temporary king, for example (Jafar, 1996:73). They are considered the only ones capable of keeping peace between citizens and the gods or between the citizens themselves, and therefore they alone were able to exercise the authority of the impero (Khaled, 2015, p:21). And exploring the will of the gods while they were composing the Senate, and they were doing the judiciary and knowing the formulas of the law that was enacted in the royal era (Colang, 2007, pp. 348-349)

As the city of the nobles and their loyalists was founded by Romulus according to the rites on the Palatine plateau, the nobles benefited from their ancient customs and traditions, and what distinguished them from the other classes was their clothing, which is characterized

by the purple cloak sewn on the shirt from top to bottom in addition to the right to wear the red shoes and they have the right to display the masks or statues of the ancestors of the family embodied in the funeral processions (Hammerton, 1970, vol. 3, p. 161)

The nobles' pride in their birth and lineage was clearly evident through their contempt for the lower classes, It was among the factors that helped to group them into a coherent group, and the main force that linked them to each other most closely was their economic interests (Hassan, 1984: 91). The rule of the states was not the only source of wealth, but there were other ways, most notably trade, despite the existence of a law that prevents members of the Senate who are the nobles from practicing trade, for the reason that they are the notables of the city and they are the ones who issue these laws, so they must not be violated, but they were engage in clandestine trade to employ and invest their money (Al-Safadi, 1976, vol. 1, p. 205)

B: The public class (Plebeines) (Jacques, 1964:87) and its role in the royal era

The public (Plebeines) is the class that makes up the majority of the Roman people, and consists of immigrants who came to Rome in search of refuge and protection, and after them the defeated in the successive battles of the Romans, they joined the Roman population, and the common people represented a lower class controlled by the noble class, and they did not have political rights, and they also did not have any high office or rule in Rome (M.Lariche.Et G.Bonjean,1878,p.42)). So that no commoner can be a statesman in the royal era (Tit-Live, 1897, II, p.1). This class was mentioned in the writings of the Roman historian Titus-Livius (Niccolo, Machiavell, 1882, p. 94) describing them as shepherds.

The common people lived in the same lands as the nobles and their followers, but they had no ancestors or family roots, no religion or followers, and they also did not have any of the civil, religious and political rights (Al-Natour et al., 1990, p. 156), and they were divided into two parts: rural and urban, and general countryside is divided into three categories.

1. Small Land Owners category: They are those who cultivate their lands themselves and export their products, but the emergence of large neighborhoods that were flooding the markets of Rome with their products led to decrease its prices, forcing them to sell their lands to owners of large capitals (Aymar and Aboueh, 1986, vol. 2), p. 1830
2. Land Tenants Category: Workers of this category used to rent lands from members of the Senate, and when they were required to serve in the military, they prepared themselves because they owed allegiance to the members of the Senate (Nishi, 1978, vol. 1, p. 243)
3. 3-Action and Freedom: These people used to perform annual agricultural work in big distance lands or large neighborhoods, and because of their work far from Rome and their preoccupation with agricultural work, it is rarely find them exercising their political rights, but they were obligated to military service when necessary (Imran 1982, p. 250)

As for the urban public, they were also made up of three categories.

1. Followers of the nobles and knights (Sequuntur Nobiles et equites): They are those who practice a specific craft for their own account and thus act as craftsmen or employees who work for a specified wage (Mo'men, 2012, 35)
2. Citizens (Quirites): They are those who do not have any ties to anyone and who earn their livelihood through their continuous efforts in an area of life (Abu Jazieh, 2006, p. 211)
3. Unemployment (Otium): It is the largest category in Rome in terms of number and

they are the most influential in the economic conditions prevailing in society, and they do not have a specific or organized source of livelihood (Al-Homsani, 2007, p. 27)

It is not known what lineage attributed to this class, as they were displaced in the vicinity of the Roman clans and became under the protection of the king after the construction of Rome (Idris, 2006, p.168), opinions differed whether they were of the ancient population, prisoners of war, illegal births, or immigrants who came to Rome and settled there in search of a livelihood (Al-Natour et al., 1990, p. 156)

There are clear differences between the common class and the noble class, which is evident through the area of their residence, where the nobles lived in the city founded by Romulus according to the rites on Alba Latinos Plateau (Colang, 2007: 327). As for the common class, they lived on the top of Mount Aventis, which is the mountain of the common people, and they could not live in the places inhabited by the nobles because of strict laws, and they were not able to obtain land ownership until after three centuries had passed after a great struggle (Al-Natour et al., 1990, p. 156)

Where the skirmishes between the districts remained in complete secrecy during the upheavals of the state, the lands were then offered to the common people by a law enacted on Mount Aventis by the Tiber River (J.J.Ampere, 1889, p.p.17-19)

Research results

1. Roman society in its beginnings was in the form of a state based on the tribal system, and each tribe was divided into ten groups and each group was divided into a number of families until the number reached three hundred families.
2. The noble class represented high class of Roman society, which has privileges only, and the nobles are considered a political and religious group at the same time.
3. As for the public class, the opposite of the notable class, where they do not have the privileges represented by notable class.

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