Abstract

The Military Aspect in the Three cities and the five cities provinces in Libya during the Roman period (from 27 .B.C- 300 A.D): A Comparative Study between the Literature and the Archaeological Sources

Roman North Africa has produced a considerable amount of documentary, Some of the material illuminates the role of the army in society and much of this has not been exploited by military historians. The military role of the army in guarding against external threats or launching expeditions out of Tripolitania or in the crises in the North Africa.

This study aimed to shed light on the military history of Rome in Libya by highlighting the conditions of the two regions: the three cities and the five cities in the Romania period, i.e. in the period of Emperor Augustus to the end of Severan family. This period was rich in military events and military changes with respect to Rome's relationship with the residents of three cities and the five cities. That resulted in prompting Rome to establish known a border system known as limitanei, which caused many problems and difficulties and it had a direct impact on the hierarchy of the Libyan tribes residing in Libya at that time and how that influenced the impact on the geographical environment of the region as a whole, especially that the Romanian defensive system formed the most prominent feature of the two provinces along the lines of defensive systems deployed in Africa.

The beginning of the first century AD was considered as a consolidation of the Roman border system in all Romanian counties in North Africa, including the regions of the three cities and five cities. It happened since the time of Emperor Augustus and witnessed many improvements until culminating in the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus and during those years Rome intended to extend its influence through the Diplomatic side in the formation of relationships with dwelling tribes on its border or through its military force by building castles, forts, palaces and observation points.

This study also aimed to find out the similarities and differences in the border system that was prevailed in that time all over the Romanian empire. However, that system was different as sites and surrounding environments were also different. For example, the defensive system in the five cities was of clear milestones which were represented in the forts, castles and palaces. This system has become an important witness on military history and proximity the distance between those sites with each other unlike what was found in the other sides based on archaeological and literary sources in this study

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