



(IL) Legitimacy in Late Roman Republican Dictatorships and Dictatorships in Postcolonial Africa: An Interface.

... legibus faciendis et rei publicae constituendae causa. (...dictator for the making of Laws and for the setting of the constitution)

Abstract

The terms Dictatorship usually applies to a form of governance in which absolute power in the state is thrust on or appropriated by an individual or group of persons without effective constitutional limitations. In ancient Rome, especially during the later republic, it was a designation granting a temporary magistrate official extraordinary powers to enable him deal with emergency situations. In contemporary times, however, and in particular, post-colonial Africa, this word along with its myriad connotations has constituted a nightmarish experience for the continent and her peoples. Africa and her peoples have witnessed both brands of dictatorial forms of governance-military and civilian. The continent has remained incarcerated by this aberration since independence from her colonizers. One may then wonder, what confers legality on Africa's tyrannical rules today or at any point in time?

Keywords: Republican Rome, Senate, Dictatorship, Postcolonial Africa, military government

Speaker: Prof. Peter K. T. Grant