

The Roman Policy towards the kingdom of Mauretania

Abstract:

This paper deals with the Roman policy towards the Kingdom of Mauretania since the war between Rome and Jugurtha the Numidian king (112 BC - 106 BC) when Mauretania began to occupy a place in the Roman politics. This policy began with a Roman attempt to win the Mauritanian King, Bocchus I, to its side, - or, at least, to guarantee his neutrality-, in its conflict with the Numidian King, a stage that culminated in Rome winning its conflict with Jugurtha with the help of the Mauritanian king. Since then, Mauritania has played an important role in Roman politics; it became an ally and friend of Rome and an influential force during the first civil war between Marius and Sulla (88-86 BC). Sulla was able to win the loyalty and friendship of both kings of Mauretania. Mauretania also played a part During the Second Civil War (49-46 BC), which broke out between Gnaeus Pompeius and Julius Caesar, in which the two Kings of Mauritania, Bogud, and Bocchus II, supported Caesar, or during the third civil war between Marcus Antonius and Gaius Octavius (33 BC- 30 BC), in which Bogud supported Antonius, while Bocchus II supported Octavius. The study also deals with the period in which Mauretania was merely in a state of an "interregnum" (33 BC to 25 BC), and tries to answer the important question of the status of Mauritania and whether it was a Roman province during that period and the Roman policy towards Mauritania in the period when Mauritania turned into a client kingdom (25 BC - 40 AD) and became loyal to Rome. Also why did not Octavius finally annex Mauritania to the Roman provinces and just appointed Juba II to the throne of Mauretania as a client king?

This study deals also with the assassination of Ptolemy, the son of Juba II king of Mauritania, by the Emperor Gaius Caligula (AD 37-41), and Finally, the annexation of Mauritania to the Roman Empire in AD 42 by Emperor Claudius (AD 41-54) and then its split it into two separate provinces in 44 AD.